

# Practice First Midterm Exam

Statistics 200 Fall 2008 (Pfenning)

This is a closed book exam worth 150 points. You are allowed to use a calculator and a two-sided sheet of notes. There are 9 problems, with point values as shown. If you want to receive partial credit for wrong answers, show your work. Don't spend too much time on any one problem.

1. (20 pts.) The Pittsburgh Post Gazette reports: "Babies as young as 6 to 10 months old showed crucial social judging skills before they could talk, according to a study by researchers at Yale University's Infant Cognition Center published last week in the journal Nature. The infants watched a googly-eyed wooden toy trying to climb roller-coaster hills and then another googly-eyed toy come by and either help it over the mountain or push it backward. They then were presented with the toys to see which they would play with. Nearly every baby picked the helpful toy over the bad one...There was no difference in reaction between the boys and girls, but when the researchers took away the large eyes that made the toys somewhat lifelike, the babies didn't show the same social judging skills."
  - (a) This was (i) a sample survey (ii) an observational study (iii) an experiment
  - (b) Circle any of these that were treated as **explanatory** variables:
    - i. gender
    - ii. whether the toy helped or hindered the hill-climbing toy
    - iii. whether the baby picked the helpful toy or the bad one
    - iv. whether the toy had eyes to make it appear lifelike
  - (c) Circle any of these that were treated as **quantitative** variables:
    - i. gender
    - ii. whether the toy helped or hindered the hill-climbing toy
    - iii. whether the baby picked the helpful toy or the bad one
    - iv. whether the toy had eyes to make it appear lifelike
  - (d) Which of these would be important to check before drawing conclusions about babies' preference for individuals who are helpful to them?
    - i. The helpful toy was not painted to look more appealing than the bad one.
    - ii. The researchers who offered the babies the choice of two toys did not know which one had been helpful.
    - iii. both of the above
    - iv. neither of the above
  - (e) Suppose we'd like to use the study's results to draw conclusions about all babies' preference for individuals who are helpful to them. A potential problem would be if they only used babies who were the children of Yale faculty members. This suggests we could have (i) a poor sampling design (ii) a poor study design

- (f) Another potential problem would be if the helpful toy was always offered towards the babies' right hands, and the bad toy towards their left hands. This suggests we could have (i) a poor sampling design (ii) a poor study design

2. (25 pts.) An article entitled **Prevent Migraines Naturally** states that “Patients who took 100 milligrams of the supplement Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10) three times a day had up to 50 percent fewer migraines and less nausea after three months, finds a new Swiss study. Their headaches were also shorter and not as severe. Researchers believe that CoQ10 prevents migraines by boosting energy production in cells.” Identify each of the following as well as you can.
- (a) explanatory variable \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) explanatory variable type: (i) quantitative (ii) categorical (iii) not clear
  - (c) response variable \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) What comparison is being made?
    - i. patients who do or do not take CoQ10
    - ii. patients before and after taking CoQ10
  - (e) Which one of the following additional pieces of information would be **most** helpful in deciding whether CoQ10 is really beneficial for migraine sufferers?
    - i. Was there a control group taking a placebo?
    - ii. Were the patients randomly chosen to participate in the study?
    - iii. How did researchers define a migraine?
    - iv. Were different dosages of CoQ10 tested?
    - v. How realistic was the setting?