Historical Milestones in Statistical Science

Statistics History · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which mathematician published the first recorded use of the term 'statistics' in his 1749 work 'Statistik'?

A) Gottfried Achenwall
B) Carl Friedrich Gauss
C) Thomas Bayes
D) Adolphe Quetelet

2. In 1900, Karl Pearson introduced which statistical test to determine whether an observed frequency distribution differs from a theoretical distribution?

A) Student's t-test
B) Chi-squared test
C) Analysis of variance
D) F-test

3. Who is credited with inventing the concept of 'regression to the mean' while studying the heights of fathers and sons in 1886?

A) Ronald Fisher
B) Francis Galton
C) William Sealy Gosset
D) Abraham de Moivre

4. Which scientist developed the 't-distribution' in 1908 while working as a chemist for Guinness Brewery in Dublin?

A) Egon Pearson
B) Jerzy Neyman
C) William Sealy Gosset
D) Harold Hotelling

5. The term 'percentile' was first introduced in 1885 by which polymath in a paper presented to the Anthropological Institute?

A) Francis Galton
B) Karl Pearson
C) Charles Spearman
D) Edgeworth

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6. Ronald Fisher coined the term 'variance' in his seminal 1918 paper regarding which specific field of study?

A) Quantum mechanics
B) Agricultural yield
C) Mendelian heredity
D) Economic cycles

7. Which statistician is famous for the 'Neyman-Pearson Lemma', a cornerstone of modern statistical hypothesis testing?

A) Jerzy Neyman
B) Abraham Wald
C) John Tukey
D) George Box

8. In 1718, who published 'The Doctrine of Chances', which was the first textbook dedicated to probability theory?

A) Pierre-Simon Laplace
B) Jacob Bernoulli
C) Abraham de Moivre
D) Thomas Bayes

9. Which distribution did Adolphe Quetelet use in the 1830s to describe the variation in human physical characteristics, such as the chest circumference of Scottish soldiers?

A) Poisson distribution
B) Normal distribution
C) Exponential distribution
D) Cauchy distribution

10. Who developed the sequential analysis method during World War II while working for the Statistical Research Group at Columbia University?

A) Abraham Wald
B) Frank Wilcoxon
C) Bradley Efron
D) C.R. Rao

11. The term 'standard deviation' was first used in place of 'root mean square error' by which individual in 1894?

A) Karl Pearson
B) Francis Galton
C) Ronald Fisher
D) George Yule

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12. Which mathematician's 1812 work 'Théorie analytique des probabilités' established the foundations for modern mathematical probability and its statistical applications?

A) Carl Friedrich Gauss

B) Pierre-Simon Laplace

C) Siméon Denis Poisson

D) Joseph Fourier

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