

Historical Milestones in Statistical Science

Statistics History · Practice Test · 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

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

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