Mean, Median, Mode and Range Explained

KS2 MATHS | DATA HANDLING | Ages 9-12 | ⏰ 3 min read

What Are Mean, Median, Mode and Range?

When you have a group of numbers, sometimes you want to understand them better. The four tools we use most often are called the **mean**, **median**, **mode**, and **range**. Each one tells you something different about your data.

The Mean (The Average)

The **mean** is what most people call the average. To find it, you add up all the numbers and divide by how many numbers there are. Imagine you scored **8**, **9**, **7**, and **10** marks on four tests. Add them: **8 + 9 + 7 + 10 = 34**. Now divide by **4** (the number of tests): **34 ÷ 4 = 8.5**. Your mean score is **8.5**.

Think of it like sharing sweets equally: if you have **34** sweets and **4** friends, everyone gets **8.5** sweets each.

The Median (The Middle)

The **median** is the middle number when you arrange your numbers in order. Using the same test scores: **7, 8, 9, 10**. The middle two numbers are **8** and **9**, so the median is **8.5**. If you had five scores, the median would be the third number—the one in the exact middle.

Think of it like standing in a line: the **median** is the person standing right in the middle.

The Mode (The Most Common)

The **mode** is simply the number that appears most often. If your test scores were **7, 8, 8, 9, 10**, the **mode** is **8** because it appears twice while the others appear only once. Sometimes there is no mode, or there might be more than one.

Think of it like asking: which flavour of ice cream does everyone pick most often?

The Range (The Spread)

The **range** shows how spread out your numbers are. To find it, subtract the smallest number from the largest number. With scores of **7, 8, 9, 10**, the range is **10 - 7 = 3**. This tells you the difference between the best and worst scores.

Think of it like measuring the distance between the tallest and shortest person in your class.

Why Do We Use All Four?

Each one gives you different information. The **mean** shows the average, the **median** shows the middle, the **mode** shows what's most popular, and the **range** shows how different the numbers are. Together, they help you understand your data much better than just looking at the numbers alone.

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