

Averages: Mean & Median

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Retrieve and Connect

1. $6 + 9 = ?$
2. $24 \div 4 = ?$
3. $7 + 13 + 5 = ?$
4. $30 \div 5 = ?$
5. How do we work out the mean?
6. How do we work out the median?
7. Find the mean of: 3, 7, 5, 9
8. Find the median of: 4, 9, 2, 7, 8
9. Find the mean of: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{2}$, 2, 3
10. Find the median of: -4, 2, -1, -7, 1
11. The mean of x , $x + 4$, $x + 8$, $x + 12$ is 15, what is the total of all the values?
12. Find the value of x in the previous question

Retrieve and Connect

1. $6 + 9 = 15$
2. $24 \div 4 = 6$
3. $7 + 13 + 5 = 25$
4. $30 \div 5 = 6$
5. How do we work out the mean? Add the values and divide by how many there are.
6. How do we work out the median? Order the data and find the middle value.
7. Find the mean of: 3, 7, 5, 9 = 6
8. Find the median of: 4, 9, 2, 7, 8 = 7
9. Find the mean of: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{2}$, 2, 3 = $\frac{7}{4}$
10. Find the median of: -4, 2, -1, -7, 1 = -1
11. The mean of x , $x + 4$, $x + 8$, $x + 12$ is 15, what is the total of all the values? 60
12. Find the value of x in the previous question $x = 9$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 1

Question: $6 + 9 = ?$

Worked Solution: $6 + 9 = 6 + 10 - 1 = 16 - 1 = 15.$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 2

Question: $24 \div 4 = ?$

Worked Solution: $24 \div 4 = 6$, because $4 \times 6 = 24$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 3

Question: $7 + 13 + 5 = ?$

Worked Solution: $7 + 13 = 20$, and $20 + 5 = 25$. So $7 + 13 + 5 = 25$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 4

Question: $30 \div 5 = ?$

Worked Solution: $30 \div 5 = 6$, because $5 \times 6 = 30$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 5

Question: How do we work out the mean?

Worked Solution: Add all the data values, then divide by how many values there are. For values $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$, the mean is

$$\frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{n}.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 6

Question: How do we work out the median?

Worked Solution: Order the data from smallest to largest. If there is an odd number of values, take the middle value. If there is an even number of values, take the average of the two middle values.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 7

Question: Find the mean of 3, 7, 5, 9.

Worked Solution: $\text{Sum} = 3 + 7 + 5 + 9 = 24$. There are 4 values, so the mean is

$$24 \div 4 = 6.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 8

Question: Find the median of 4, 9, 2, 7, 8.

Worked Solution: Put the values in order:

2, 4, 7, 8, 9.

There are 5 values, so the median is the middle value, 7.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 9

Question: Find the mean of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{2}$, 2, 3.

Worked Solution: Write $2 = \frac{4}{2}$ and $3 = \frac{6}{2}$. Then the sum is

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{2} + \frac{4}{2} + \frac{6}{2} = \frac{1 + 3 + 4 + 6}{2} = \frac{14}{2} = 7.$$

There are 4 values, so the mean is

$$7 \div 4 = \frac{7}{4}.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 10

Question: Find the median of -4 , 2 , -1 , -7 , 1 .

Worked Solution: Put the values in order:

$$-7, -4, -1, 1, 2.$$

There are 5 values, so the median is the middle value, -1 .

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 11

Question: The mean of x , $x + 4$, $x + 8$, $x + 12$ is 15. What is the total of all the values?

Worked Solution: Mean = total $\div$ number of values, so

$$\text{total} = \text{mean} \times \text{number of values} = 15 \times 4 = 60.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 1, Question 12

Question: Find the value of x in the previous question.

Worked Solution: The total is

$$x + (x + 4) + (x + 8) + (x + 12) = 4x + 24.$$

Since the total is 60,

$$4x + 24 = 60 \implies 4x = 36 \implies x = 9.$$

Retrieve and Connect

1. $3 + 7 + 10 = ?$
2. $48 \div 6 = ?$
3. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = ?$
4. $28 \div 4 = ?$
5. Which average requires you to order the data first?
6. Find the median of: 7, 2, 9, 4, 5
7. Find the median of: 3, 8, 1, 6, 4, 10
8. Find the mean and median of: 2, 5, 3, 8, 7. Which is larger?
9. Find the mean and median of: -5, 1, -2, 4, 7
10. The mean of a , $a + 3$, $a + 6$ is 6.
 - ▶ What is the median in terms of a ?
 - ▶ What is the total of the data (use the mean)
 - ▶ Find a

Retrieve and Connect

1. $3 + 7 + 10 = 20$
2. $48 \div 6 = 8$
3. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$
4. $28 \div 4 = 7$
5. Which average requires you to order the data first? **Median**
6. Find the median of: 7, 2, 9, 4, 5 **$= 5$**
7. Find the median of: 3, 8, 1, 6, 4, 10 **$= 5$**
8. Find the mean and median of: 2, 5, 3, 8, 7. Which is larger? **Mean $= 5$, median $= 5$ (equal).**
9. Find the mean and median of: -5, 1, -2, 4, 7 **Mean $= 1$, median $= 1$.**
10. The mean of a , $a + 3$, $a + 6$ is 6.
 - ▶ What is the median in terms of a ? **$a + 3$**
 - ▶ What is the total of the data (use the mean) **18**
 - ▶ Find a **$a = 3$**

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 1

Question: $3 + 7 + 10 = ?$

Worked Solution: $3 + 7 = 10$, so $3 + 7 + 10 = 10 + 10 = 20$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 2

Question: $48 \div 6 = ?$

Worked Solution: $48 \div 6 = 8$, because $6 \times 8 = 48$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 3

Question: $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = ?$

Worked Solution: Using a common denominator of 4,

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 4

Question: $28 \div 4 = ?$

Worked Solution: $28 \div 4 = 7$, because $4 \times 7 = 28$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 5

Question: Which average requires you to order the data first?

Worked Solution: The median. To find it, order the data from smallest to largest and then take the middle value, or the average of the two middle values if there is an even number of values.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 6

Question: Find the median of 7, 2, 9, 4, 5.

Worked Solution: In order:

2, 4, 5, 7, 9.

There are 5 values, so the median is the middle value, 5.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 7

Question: Find the median of 3, 8, 1, 6, 4, 10.

Worked Solution: In order:

1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10.

There are 6 values, so the median is the average of the two middle values:

$$\frac{4 + 6}{2} = \frac{10}{2} = 5.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 8

Question: Find the mean and median of 2, 5, 3, 8, 7. Which is larger?

Worked Solution: Mean:

$$\frac{2 + 5 + 3 + 8 + 7}{5} = \frac{25}{5} = 5.$$

Median: in order 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, the middle value is 5.

So mean = 5 and median = 5; neither is larger, they are equal.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 9

Question: Find the mean and median of $-5, 1, -2, 4, 7$.

Worked Solution: Mean:

$$\frac{-5 + 1 - 2 + 4 + 7}{5} = \frac{5}{5} = 1.$$

Median: in order $-5, -2, 1, 4, 7$, the middle value is 1.

So mean = 1 and median = 1.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 2, Question 10

Question: The mean of a , $a + 3$, $a + 6$ is 6.

- ▶ What is the median in terms of a ?
- ▶ What is the total of the data?
- ▶ Find a .

Worked Solution:

- ▶ The ordered data are a , $a + 3$, $a + 6$, so the median is the middle value, $a + 3$.
- ▶ Total = mean $\times$ number of values = $6 \times 3 = 18$.
- ▶ The sum is $a + (a + 3) + (a + 6) = 3a + 9$. Since the total is 18,

$$3a + 9 = 18 \implies 3a = 9 \implies a = 3.$$

Retrieve and Connect

1. $4 + 11 = ?$
2. $40 \div 8 = ?$
3. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = ?$
4. $72 \div 9 = ?$
5. A shoe shop owner says, "The most popular size last week was size 6." Which average is she using?
6. Find the mode of: 3, 7, 3, 9, 5, 3, 7
7. Find the mode of: 2, 5, 8, 5, 3, 8, 1
8. Find the mean and median of: 4, 7, 2, 9, 3
9. Find the mean, median and mode of: 5, 3, 7, 3, 5, 5, 9
10. The data set is $\{4, 7, 4, x, 7, 3\}$ The **only** mode is 4. Find x and explain your reasoning.

Retrieve and Connect

1. $4 + 11 = 15$
2. $40 \div 8 = 5$
3. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$
4. $72 \div 9 = 8$
5. A shoe shop owner says, "The most popular size last week was size 6." Which average is she using? **Mode**
6. Find the mode of: 3, 7, 3, 9, 5, 3, 7 **3**
7. Find the mode of: 2, 5, 8, 5, 3, 8, 1 **5 and 8**
8. Find the mean and median of: 4, 7, 2, 9, 3 **Mean = 5, median = 4.**
9. Find the mean, median and mode of: 5, 3, 7, 3, 5, 5, 9 **Mean = $\frac{37}{7}$, median = 5, mode = 5.**
10. The data set is {4, 7, 4, x , 7, 3} The **only** mode is 4. Find x and explain your reasoning. **$x = 4$; then 4 occurs three times.**

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 1

Question: $4 + 11 = ?$

Worked Solution: $4 + 11 = 15$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 2

Question: $40 \div 8 = ?$

Worked Solution: $40 \div 8 = 5$, because $8 \times 5 = 40$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 3

Question: $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = ?$

Worked Solution:

$$\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3-1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 4

Question: $72 \div 9 = ?$

Worked Solution: $72 \div 9 = 8$, because $9 \times 8 = 72$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 5

Question: A shoe shop owner says, “The most popular size last week was size 6.” Which average is she using?

Worked Solution: She is using the mode, because the mode is the value that appears most often.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 6

Question: Find the mode of 3, 7, 3, 9, 5, 3, 7.

Worked Solution: Count the frequencies:

3 appears 3 times, 7 appears 2 times, 5, 9 appear once.

So the mode is 3.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 7

Question: Find the mode of 2, 5, 8, 5, 3, 8, 1.

Worked Solution: Count the frequencies:

5 appears twice, 8 appears twice, 1, 2, 3 appear once.

So the data are bimodal: the modes are 5 and 8.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 8

Question: Find the mean and median of 4, 7, 2, 9, 3.

Worked Solution: Mean:

$$\frac{4 + 7 + 2 + 9 + 3}{5} = \frac{25}{5} = 5.$$

Median: in order 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, the middle value is 4.
So mean = 5 and median = 4.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 9

Question: Find the mean, median and mode of 5, 3, 7, 3, 5, 5, 9.

Worked Solution: Mean:

$$\frac{5 + 3 + 7 + 3 + 5 + 5 + 9}{7} = \frac{37}{7}.$$

Median: in order 3, 3, 5, 5, 5, 7, 9, the middle value is 5.

Mode: 5 appears three times, more than any other value.

So mean = $\frac{37}{7}$, median = 5, mode = 5.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 3, Question 10

Question: The data set is $\{4, 7, 4, x, 7, 3\}$. The **only** mode is 4. Find x and explain your reasoning.

Worked Solution: Initially, 4 appears twice and 7 appears twice. For 4 to be the only mode, it must appear strictly more often than every other value.

If $x = 4$, then 4 appears three times while 7 still appears twice, so the only mode is 4.

If x were any other value, 4 and 7 would be tied at two appearances each, or 7 would become the mode if $x = 7$. Hence $x = 4$.

Retrieve and Connect

1. $3 + 4 = ?$
2. $4 \times 8 = ?$
3. $-3 + 8 + (-5) = ?$
4. $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{6} = ?$
5. $-12 \div 4 = ?$
6. $\frac{3}{4} \times 8 = ?$
7. A class votes for their favourite colour. Can you find the mean? Which average should you use instead, and why?
8. Find the mean, median and mode of: $-3, 1, -3, 4, -1, 2, -3$
9. Find the median of: $\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{5}{8}$
10. The ages in a youth club are: 11, 12, 12, 13, 13, 13, 14, 42 Which average would you not use for this example, and why?
11. The mean of $\{x, 3, x, 7, 5\}$ is 6. Find x and state the mode.
12. Five numbers have mean 8, median 7 and unique mode of 5. Two numbers are 5 and 5. Find a possible set.

Retrieve and Connect

- $3 + 4 = 7$
- $4 \times 8 = 32$
- $-3 + 8 + (-5) = 0$
- $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$
- $-12 \div 4 = -3$
- $\frac{3}{4} \times 8 = 6$
- A class votes for their favourite colour. Can you find the mean? Which average should you use instead, and why? **No; use the mode, because the data are categories.**
- Find the mean, median and mode of: $-3, 1, -3, 4, -1, 2, -3$ **Mean = $-\frac{3}{7}$, median = -1 , mode = -3 .**
- Find the median of: $\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{5}{8}$ **$\frac{1}{2}$**
- The ages in a youth club are: 11, 12, 12, 13, 13, 13, 14, 42 Which average would you not use for this example, and why? **Mean, because 42 is an outlier.**
- The mean of $\{x, 3, x, 7, 5\}$ is 6. Find x and state the mode. **$x = 6$, mode = 6**
- Five numbers have mean 8, median 7 and unique mode of 5. Two numbers are 5 and 5. Find a possible set. **$\{5, 5, 6, 7, 17\}$**

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 1

Question: $3 + 4 = ?$

Worked Solution: $3 + 4 = 7$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 2

Question: $4 \times 8 = ?$

Worked Solution: $4 \times 8 = 32$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 3

Question: $-3 + 8 + (-5) = ?$

Worked Solution: $-3 + 8 = 5$, and $5 + (-5) = 0$. So

$$-3 + 8 + (-5) = 0.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 4

Question: $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{6} = ?$

Worked Solution: Using a common denominator of 6,

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{4}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{6}.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 5

Question: $-12 \div 4 = ?$

Worked Solution: $-12 \div 4 = -3$, because $4 \times (-3) = -12$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 6

Question: $\frac{3}{4} \times 8 = ?$

Worked Solution:

$$\frac{3}{4} \times 8 = \frac{3 \times 8}{4} = \frac{24}{4} = 6.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 7

Question: A class votes for their favourite colour. Can you find the mean? Which average should you use instead, and why?

Worked Solution: You cannot find the mean because favourite colour is a category, not a number; adding colours is meaningless. Use the mode instead, since the mode is the most popular category.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 8

Question: Find the mean, median and mode of
−3, 1, −3, 4, −1, 2, −3.

Worked Solution: Mean:

$$\frac{-3 + 1 - 3 + 4 - 1 + 2 - 3}{7} = \frac{-3}{7} = -\frac{3}{7}.$$

Median: in order −3, −3, −3, −1, 1, 2, 4, the middle value is −1.

Mode: −3 appears three times, more than any other value.

So mean = $-\frac{3}{7}$, median = −1, mode = −3.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 9

Question: Find the median of $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{5}{8}$.

Worked Solution: Write each fraction in eighths:

$$\frac{1}{8}, \frac{2}{8}, \frac{4}{8}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{6}{8}.$$

There are 5 values, so the median is the middle value:

$$\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 10

Question: The ages in a youth club are 11, 12, 12, 13, 13, 13, 14, 42. Which average would you not use for this example, and why?

Worked Solution: Do not use the mean, because 42 is an outlier. It pulls the mean upwards so it is not typical of the club. The median or mode would be more representative here.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 11

Question: The mean of $\{x, 3, x, 7, 5\}$ is 6. Find x and state the mode.

Worked Solution: Since the mean is 6 and there are 5 values, the total must be

$$6 \times 5 = 30.$$

The sum of the data is

$$x + 3 + x + 7 + 5 = 2x + 15.$$

So

$$2x + 15 = 30 \implies 2x = 15 \implies x = 7.5.$$

The data are $\{7.5, 3, 7.5, 7, 5\}$, so 7.5 occurs twice and the mode is 7.5.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 4, Question 12

Question: Five numbers have mean 8, median 7 and unique mode of 5. Two numbers are 5 and 5. Find a possible set.

Worked Solution: The total must be

$$8 \times 5 = 40.$$

Since the median is 7, the middle value in the ordered list must be 7. The two 5's must be below it, so the list begins

$$5, 5, 7, \dots$$

The two remaining numbers must add to

$$40 - (5 + 5 + 7) = 23.$$

They must be distinct from each other so that 5 remains the unique mode. Choosing 8 and 15 works, since $8 + 15 = 23$. Therefore one possible set is

$$\{5, 5, 7, 8, 15\}.$$

Retrieve and Connect

1. $3 + 8 = ?$
2. $120 \div 10 = ?$
3. $-6 + (-2) + 5 = ?$
4. Order from smallest to largest:
5. $3\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{3}{4} = ?$
6. $-20 \div 4 = ?$
7. Find the mean, median and mode of: $-6, -2, 4, -3, 7, 0, -2$
8. True or False? "Adding 10 to every value increases the mean by 10 but leaves the median unchanged."
9. The seven values $n - 9, n - 6, n - 3, n, n + 3, n + 6, n + 9$ have a mean of 4. State the median **without calculation**.
10. A set of five positive integers has mean = median = mode = 6.
 - ▶ What is the smallest possible range?
 - ▶ What is the largest possible range?

Retrieve and Connect

- $3 + 8 = 11$
- $120 \div 10 = 12$
- $-6 + (-2) + 5 = -3$
- Order from smallest to largest:
- $3\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{3}{4} = 6\frac{1}{4}$
- $-20 \div 4 = -5$
- Find the mean, median and mode of: $-6, -2, 4, -3, 7, 0, -2$ **Mean**
 $= -\frac{2}{7}$, median $= -2$, mode $= -2$.
- True or False? "Adding 10 to every value increases the mean by 10 but leaves the median unchanged." **True**
- The seven values $n - 9, n - 6, n - 3, n, n + 3, n + 6, n + 9$ have a mean of 4. State the median **without calculation.** **Median $= 4$**
- A set of five positive integers has mean = median = mode = 6.
 - What is the smallest possible range? **1**
 - What is the largest possible range? **12**

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 1

Question: $3 + 8 = ?$

Worked Solution: $3 + 8 = 11$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 2

Question: $120 \div 10 = ?$

Worked Solution: $120 \div 10 = 12$, because $10 \times 12 = 120$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 3

Question: $-6 + (-2) + 5 = ?$

Worked Solution: $-6 + (-2) = -8$, and $-8 + 5 = -3$. So

$$-6 + (-2) + 5 = -3.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 4

Question: Order $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{5}{6}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{3}$ from smallest to largest.

Worked Solution: Use a common denominator of 6:

$$\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}, \quad \frac{5}{6} = \frac{5}{6}, \quad \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{6}, \quad \frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{6}.$$

Ordering the numerators gives

$$\frac{2}{6}, \frac{3}{6}, \frac{4}{6}, \frac{5}{6},$$

so the required order is

$$\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{5}{6}.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 5

Question: $3\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{3}{4} = ?$

Worked Solution: Write as improper fractions:

$$3\frac{1}{2} = \frac{7}{2}, \quad 2\frac{3}{4} = \frac{11}{4}.$$

Then

$$\frac{7}{2} + \frac{11}{4} = \frac{14}{4} + \frac{11}{4} = \frac{25}{4} = 6\frac{1}{4}.$$

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 6

Question: $-20 \div 4 = ?$

Worked Solution: $-20 \div 4 = -5$, because $4 \times (-5) = -20$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 7

Question: Find the mean, median and mode of
 $-6, -2, 4, -3, 7, 0, -2$.

Worked Solution: Mean:

$$\frac{-6 - 2 + 4 - 3 + 7 + 0 - 2}{7} = \frac{-2}{7} = -\frac{2}{7}.$$

Median: in order $-6, -3, -2, -2, 0, 4, 7$, the middle value is -2 .

Mode: -2 appears twice, more than any other value.

So mean $= -\frac{2}{7}$, median $= -2$, mode $= -2$.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 8

Question: True or False? “Adding 10 to every value increases the mean by 10 but leaves the median unchanged.”

Worked Solution: False.

If every value is increased by 10, the new mean is the old mean plus 10. The ordered list is also shifted up by 10, so the median increases by 10 too. Therefore the median is not left unchanged.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 9

Question: The seven values $n - 9$, $n - 6$, $n - 3$, n , $n + 3$, $n + 6$, $n + 9$ have a mean of 4. State the median without calculation.

Worked Solution: The values are symmetric about n , so their mean is n . Since the mean is 4, we have $n = 4$.
The median is the middle value of the ordered list, which is n . Therefore the median is 4.

Worked Solution: Retrieve and Connect 5, Question 10

Question: A set of five positive integers has mean = median = mode = 6. What is the smallest possible range? What is the largest possible range?

Worked Solution: Let the sorted values be $a \leq b \leq c \leq d \leq e$. Since the mean is 6, the total is 30. Since the median is 6, the middle value $c = 6$.

Smallest range: Take all five values equal to 6:

$$\{6, 6, 6, 6, 6\}.$$

Then mean, median and mode are all 6, and the range is 0.

Largest range: Since 6 is the mode, 6 must appear at least twice. The largest range is obtained using exactly two 6's at positions c and d , and choosing the smallest possible distinct positive values for a and b :

$$a = 1, \quad b = 2.$$

Then

$$1 + 2 + 6 + 6 + e = 30 \implies e = 15.$$

The set

$$\{1, 2, 6, 6, 15\}$$

has mean 6, median 6, mode 6, and range $15 - 1 = 14$.