



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY
University Examinations for 2020/2021 Academic Year
SCHOOL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS
FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (STATISTICS AND PROGRAMMING0
SST 401: DECISION THEORY

DATE: 12/8/2021

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain the meaning of the following terms as applied in decision theory
- i) States of nature
 - ii) Pay-off
 - iii) Roll-back technique (6 marks)
- b) Differentiate between each of the following terms as applied in decision theory
- i) Decision node and outcome node
 - ii) Marginal profit and Marginal loss (4 marks)
- c) A businessman has three alternatives open to him each of which can be followed by any of the four possible events. The conditional payoff (sh) for each action-event is as shown below;

Alternatives	Payoff conditional on events			
	Q	Q	R	S
A	8	0	-10	6
B	-4	12	18	-2
C	14	6	0	8

Determine which alternative should the business choose, if he adopts the Laplace decision criterion (5 marks)

- d) Morning daily newspaper are placed in an automatic vending machine. The newspaper cost 10 cents each to manufacture and sales for 25 cents each. Any newspapers not sold by the end of the day are of little value and are sent for recycling. If the newspapers are all sold, the machine is not replenished until next day. The overall daily sale including home delivery and all other outlets of newspaper has averaged 80,000 units with a standard deviation of 4000 units. Assuming demand is normally distributed, determine how many newspaper should the company print each daily (5 marks)
- e) A manager has a choice between;
- (i) A risky contract promising sh 7 million with a probability 0.6 and sh 4 million with a probability 0.4 and
 - (ii) A diversified portfolio consisting of two contracts with independent outcomes each promising sh 3.5 million with probability 0.6 and sh 2 million with probability 0.4.
- (i) Construct a decision tree. (7 marks)
 - (ii) Using the decision tree diagram in (i) above and the EMV criterion, help the manager to make a choice. (3 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Bev's Bakery specializes in sourdough bread. Each morning, Bev must decide how many loaves to bake for the day. Each loaf costs \$0.35 to make and sells for \$1.15. Bread left over at the end of the day gets spoiled and is thrown away. Past data indicate that demand is as follows

Number of loaves	Probability
15	0.05
16	0.05
17	0.10
18	0.10
19	0.20
20	0.40
21	0.05
22	0.05

Determine the optimal quantity for Bev to bake to maximize production. (8 marks)

- b) A company has three different security systems models namely: standard, deluxe, and super. An analysis of the probable acceptance of the models has been carried out and the pay –off table is shown below;

Model acceptance	Acceptance probability	Profit sh'000' (Model type)		
		Standard	Deluxe	Super
Excellent	0.2	60	100	20
Moderate	0.5	40	60	80
Poor	0.3	20	0	-40

- (i) Decide which model should be introduced to the market using:
- Expected pay off criterion (4 marks)
 - Maximax decision criterion. (4 marks)
- (ii) In the context of this question outline briefly the limitations of the two decision criteria used. (2 marks)
- (iii) What would be the value of knowing the model acceptance level before making the decision on which model to produce? (2 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Consider the following pay-off matrix table

Event	Act			
	Probability	C1	C2	C3
B1	0.3	10	20	30
B2	0.5	40	-10	20
B3	0.2	20	50	50

- (i) Determine which act to choose using the maximum expected pay-off (4 marks)
- (ii) Determine the expected pay-off under certainty (with perfect information. (4 marks)
- (iii) Using the answers in (i) and (ii) above calculate the expected value of perfect information. (2 marks)
- b) A security company has to decide whether to develop a new type of security device. If it does go ahead, successful completion depends on a research breakthrough. There is thought to be a 60 per cent chance of achieving. If the device is successfully developed, the payoff is a profit of \$900000; if the development is attempted but not completed, there will be a loss of \$400000. All overheads and other sunk costs should be ignored
- i) Draw a decision tree for the information (3 marks)
- ii) Determine the expected monetary value (EMV) of the whole decision (2 marks)

- iii) Explain whether the term “perfect information” mean that the payoff of \$900000 would certainly be achieved (2 marks)
- iv) Calculate the expected value of the perfect information. (3 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) The following payoff table provides the profits for each of four alternatives in each of the three states of nature;

Alternatives	States of nature		
	X	Y	Z
D1	120	60	-20
D2	90	80	100
D3	81	81	81
D4	-50	90	110

The probabilities for the states of nature are; $P(X)=0.8, P(Y)=0.1$, and $P(Z)=0.1$

- (i) Develop the opportunity loss table. (4 marks)
 - (ii) Hence use the Expected opportunity Loss value to determine the best decision. (6 marks)
- b) In the past few years, the traffic problem in Lynn McKell’s hometown have gotten worse. Now, Broad street is congested about half the time. The normal travel time for Lynn is only 15 minutes when Broad Street is used and there is no congestion. With congestion, however, it takes Lynn 40 minutes to get to work. If Lynn decides to take the expressway, it will take 30 minutes regardless of the traffic conditions. Lynn’s utility for travel time is $U(15\text{minutes})=0.9, U(30\text{minutes})=0.7, U(40\text{ minutes})=0.2$
- (i) Determine which route will minimize Lynn’s travel time. (5 marks)
 - (ii) Determine which route will maximize Lynn’s utility. (4 marks)
 - (iii) With a reason is Lynn a risk seeker or a risk avoider. (1 mark)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) An investor is considering two alternatives-stocks A and stock B for which he has ksh 35000 to invest. Stock A offers 0.5 probability of doubling the investment and a 0.5 probability of losing 60 percent of the entire amount. Stock B has a 0.3 probability of doubling the stock and 0.7 probability that 60 percent of the amount invested will be lost.

The investor is considering three options:

- i) To invest the complete amount in stock A
- ii) To invest the complete amount in stock B
- iii) To invest half the amount in stock A and keep half the amount

He has the following utilities for the change in his assets,

Ksh 70000=1, Ksh 35000=0.7, -ksh 10500=0.4 and -ksh 21000=0

Construct payoff utility tables for each option and select the best option.

(10 marks)

- b) A tire manufacturing company wants to select one of three feasible prototypes designs for a new longer-wearing radial tire. The costs of making the tires are as follows

Tire	Fixed cost(sh)	Variable cost per unit (sh)
A	60,000	30
B	90,000	20
C	120,000	15

There are three levels of units sales: 4,000 units, 7,000 units, and 10,000 units; the respective probabilities are 0.3, 0.5 and 0.2. The selling price is sh 75 per tire

- i) Construct the payoff table using total profit as the payoff measure. (4 marks)
- ii) Determine the expected payoff for each act and choose the best. (4 marks)
- iii) Calculate the expected value of perfect information (EVPI). (2 marks)