

School-supervised mathematical exploration · supported focus

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Mathematics:
Applications and Interpretation · SL

Scope and prerequisites

Supported SL focus. First assessment 2021; current through 2028. First-assessment-2029 course is separate.. Remaining guide, assessment and practical requirements retain their recorded holds.

Prerequisites: read the stated quantities and units, use arithmetic and the model conditions below. Each lesson develops its own method before independent transfer.

These are original or explicitly fictional teaching examples, not actual measurements or completed assessed learner investigations.

Planning a mathematical exploration

■ What makes an investigation mathematical?

- A student wants to predict queue waiting time at the school canteen. A useful exploration needs a question, data and mathematics the student can explain.
- This lesson studies **assumption** : A condition adopted to make a mathematical model possible and whose effect should be evaluated.

■ Choose the mathematical structure

- Frame a focused question with measurable variables and a feasible method. Keep a dated record of decisions, sources and mathematical reasoning. Use technology to support analysis, and explain every important output in your own words.
- State the allowed inputs and units before calculating. An equation should express the relationship, not just record a calculator entry.

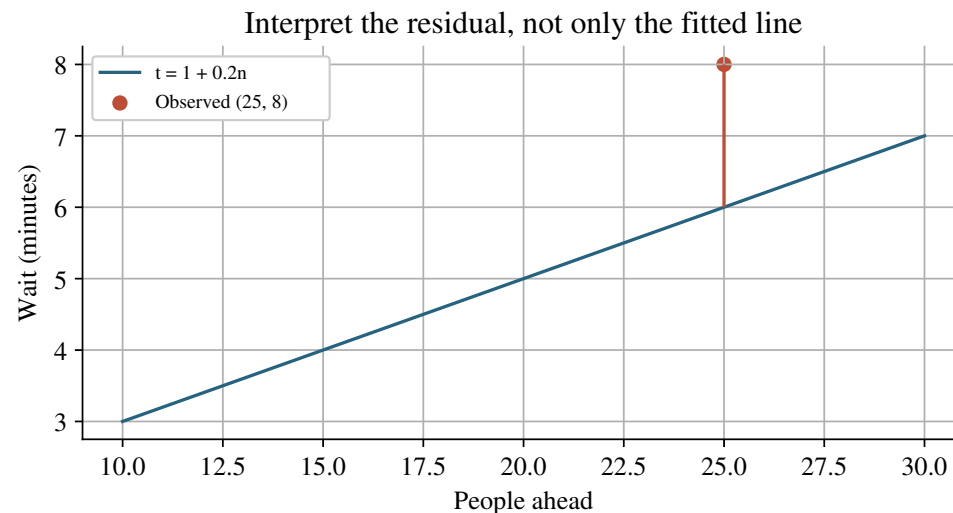
■ Work through a checked case

$$\hat{t} = 1 + 0.2n, \quad e = t - \hat{t}$$

- Check the result against the starting quantities. Substitute into the original relation, or compare the graph and numerical answer where appropriate.

Example:

A pilot records mean waiting times of 3,5,7 minutes when 10,20,30 people are ahead. A first model is $t=1+0.2n$. At $n=25$ it predicts 6 minutes. An actual wait of 8 gives residual 2; investigate varying service rates rather than hiding the mismatch.



■ Test a tempting shortcut

- Do not copy a sample exploration, invent data or manufacture personal engagement. A prediction is not evidence until it is compared with observations. Consent and privacy matter when collecting school data.
- When a shortcut fails, identify the assumption it breaks. Keep an exact value until the requested final rounding.

Warn:

The school-supervised mathematical exploration can be replaced by a timed written mock exam. This claim is false. Explain which definition or assumption it violates.

■ Interpret a new situation

- The school supervises topic approval, checkpoints, authenticity and assessment. For the current 2021 course use the current school's guide and criteria; the 2029 inquiry criteria belong to a different assessment version.
- A complete solution gives the mathematical result and explains what it means. Check that it is possible in the stated context.

■ **Use this in your course**

- Current first-assessment-2021 Applications and Interpretation SL. This is authored concept support; the full guide is needed to certify every objective.
- Give the method before the final answer, and use the paper's calculator and formula rules. Review a wrong answer by locating the first invalid step.

Key:

A condition adopted to make a mathematical model possible and whose effect should be evaluated. Choose the relationship, show the method, check its assumptions and interpret the result.