*A problem-solving and modelling task suitable for students working with* ***Statistics (Focus: Data Interpretation)***

**Modelling Northern Qld**

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**QCAA approach to problem solving and mathematical modelling**

(<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/portal/syllabuses/snr_maths_methods_19_syll.pdf>)

**How important is height for the Townsville Fire players?**

Australian Curriculum Content Descriptors:

**Year 7**

Calculate *mean*, *median*, *mode* and *range* for the sets of data. Interpret these statistics in the context of data. [(ACMSP171)](http://www.scootle.edu.au/ec/search?accContentId=ACMSP171)

1. How important is the height of the Townsville Fire players when compared to other teams? Do you know if this highly successful team tends to be “taller” or “shorter” than other WNBL teams? Add your opinion here before you continue:

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Research & Formulate

1. How would you go about figuring out if a team is “taller” or “shorter” than another team? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Let’s start with some background info about the Townsville Fire and the heights of the current players.**

**The JCU Townsville Fire are a professional female basketball competing in the Australian Women’s National Basketball League (WNBL). They are the only professional sporting team of any discipline in the northern half of Australia.**

The Townsville Fire was established for the 2001/2002 WNBL season by the Townsville Basketball Inc. but folded at the end of the 2010/2011 season. The team was reformed by the 2011/2012 season and made the Grand Finals in the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 seasons. In 2014 Townsville Fire announced that James Cook University would be the principal partner for 3 years and the team would be known as the JCU Townsville Fire for this period.

So who is on the team? In October 2017, these are the players and their heights.

**Table 1. 2017-2018 JCU Townsville Fire Roster**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Number** | **Nationality** | **Name** | **Height (m)** |
| SG | 1 | USA | MINCY, Laurin | 1.83 |
| SG | 3 | Aust | GOODCHILD, Miela | 1.75 |
| PG | 6 | “ | DONNELLY, Mikhaela | 1.73 |
| SG | 7 | “ | ANDREWS, Haylee | 1.75 |
| C | 8 | “ | BATKOVIC, Suzy (Captain) | 1.94 |
| SF | 10 | “ | MURRAY, Mia | 1.84 |
| PF | 14 | “ | GARBIN, Darcee | 1.88 |
| C | 15 | “ | AOKUSO, Zitina | 1.92 |
| SF | 21 | “ | WHITTLE, Marena | 1.80 |
| PG | 22 | “ | WILSON, Kelly | 1.70 |
| PF | 23 | “ | GEORGE, Cayla | 1.93 |
| SG | 24 | USA | WIESE, Sydney | 1.83 |
| PG | 32 | Aust | COCKS, Micaela | 1.74 |

Legend: C – Centre; PF – Power Forward; PG – Point guard; SF – Small Forward; SG – Shooting Guard

1. What do you understand by the term *data*? What data is present in Table 1?

Solve

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1. To analyse the data relating to player heights, we can do a number of calculations. We can calculate the mean, the median, the mode, the range and the maximum and/or minimum scores. Each type of calculation tells us something different about basketballer heights. Think about what each measure can tell you and then complete **the first three columns only** in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Statistical measures | What can we find out with these measures? | Perform some calculations (show your working here or on the next page) |
| What do you understand about these words? | What does this measure tell you about this dataset (heights of players in an WNBL team)? | Calculate for the 13 Townsville Fire players | Calculate for Sydney Uni Flames(top of the table) | Calculate for Canberra Capitals (bottom of the table) |
| Mean | (HINT: Think of another word that is commonly used for *mean*) |  |  |  |  |
| Median |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mode |  |  |  |  |  |
| Maximum |  |  |  |  |  |
| Minimum |  |  |  |  |  |
| Range |  |  |  |  |  |

Lines for your working for Question 4.

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1. Now perform the same calculations for the “Sydney Uni Games” players who were in first place on the Championship ladder at the time these statistics were captured and the “Canberra Capitals” who were in last place. The data you will need is shown below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sydney Uni Games players | Canberra Capitals players |
| **Name** | **Height (m)** | **Name** | **Height (m)** |
| [Walmsley, Susannah](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Susannah_Walmsley&action=edit&redlink=1) | 1.70 | [Bass, Mistie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistie_Bass) | 1.93  |
| [Moffatt, Hayley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayley_Moffatt) | 1.76  | [Magbegor, Eziyoda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eziyoda_Magbegor) | 1.93 |
| [Tupaea, Tahlia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahlia_Tupaea) | 1.75  | [Hurst, Natalie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natalie_Hurst) **(C)** | 1.63 |
| [Hamson, Jennifer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jennifer_Hamson) | 2.00  | [Bourne, Callie](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Callie_Bourne&action=edit&redlink=1) | 1.80 |
| [McLean, Cassidy](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cassidy_McLean&action=edit&redlink=1) | 1.78  | [Gaze, Kate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kate_Gaze) | 1.78  |
| [Wilson, Alex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alex_Wilson_%28basketball%29) | 1.80  | [Jarry, Rachel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Jarry) | 1.85  |
| [Greaves, Shanae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanae_Greaves) | 1.85  | [Wehrung, Abigail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abigail_Wehrung) | 1.78  |
| [Ebzery, Katie-Rae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katie-Rae_Ebzery) | 1.78  | [Paalvast, Chevannah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chevannah_Paalvast) | 1.80  |
| [Boag, Carly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carly_Boag) | 1.88  | [Froling, Keely](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keely_Froling) | 1.88 |
| [Snell, Belinda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belinda_Snell) **(C)** | 1.80  | [Scherf, Lauren](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Scherf) | 1.96  |
| [McSpadden, Lara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lara_McSpadden) | 1.94  | [Rocci, Maddison](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Maddison_Rocci&action=edit&redlink=1) | 1.67  |
| [Taylor, Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia_Taylor) | 1.85  | [Hooper, Jordan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Hooper) | 1.88  |
| [Graham, Sarah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Graham_%28basketball%29) | 1.63  | [Bass, Mistie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistie_Bass) | 1.93  |
| [Walmsley, Susannah](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Susannah_Walmsley&action=edit&redlink=1) | 1.70 | [Magbegor, Eziyoda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eziyoda_Magbegor) | 1.93  |

Lines for your working: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Which combination of statistical measures (mean, median, mode, maximum, minimum, range) would be the best ones to use to compare the heights of the teams? Why?

Evaluate & verify

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1. Which measure/s are not very useful in this kind of situation and why not?

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Communicate

1. Using **at least two different measures** to justify your answer, which team would you say could call themselves the “tallest” team for the 2017/18 season? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. The Townsville Fire and Sydney Uni Games are well above the Canberra Capitals at this stage of the season. Based on your data analysis, would you say that height might be a significant factor for the Canberra Capitals’ poor season so far? Justify your response using some of your previous calculations.

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**Sources for local information**:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Townsville_Fire>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Townsville_Fire_season>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Sydney_Uni_Flames_season>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017%E2%80%9318_Canberra_Capitals_season>