



“FRAPPY” {Free Response AP Problem...Yay!}

The following problem is taken from an actual Advanced Placement Statistics Examination. Your task is to generate a complete, concise statistical response in 15 minutes. You will be graded based on the AP rubric and will earn a score of 0-4. After grading, keep this problem in your binder for your AP Exam preparation.

Baby walkers are seats hanging from frames that allow babies to sit upright with their legs dangling and feet touching the floor. Walkers have wheels on their legs that allow the infant to propel the walker around the house long before he or she can walk or even crawl. Typically, babies use walkers between the ages of 4 months and 11 months.

Because most walkers have tray tables in front that block babies' views of their feet, child psychologists have begun to question whether walkers affect infants' cognitive development. One study compared mental skills of a random sample of those who used walkers with a random sample of those who never used walkers. Mental skill scores averaged 113 for 54 babies who used walkers (standard deviation of 12) and 123 for 55 babies who did not use walkers (standard deviation of 15).

Scoring:

(a) Is there evidence that the mean mental skills score of babies who use walkers is different from the mean mental skills score of babies who do not use walkers? Explain your answer.

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(b) Suppose that a study using this design found a statistically significant result. Would it be reasonable to conclude that using a walker causes a change in mean mental skill score? Explain your answer.

E P I

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