

ECONOMICS · CHAPTER 2

Collection of Data (Statistics for Economics)

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS

Full marks here are realistic — aim 5.5-6 out of 6.

TIME TO MASTER**4-5 hrs****HELPLINE****70330 05444****WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

This is the SECOND chapter of Class 11 Economics (Statistics book). Having learnt WHY economics needs data in Chapter 1, your child now learns HOW data is actually collected. The chapter explains the two SOURCES of data — PRIMARY (data you gather yourself for the first time, e.g., through a survey) and SECONDARY (data already collected by someone else, e.g., government reports). It covers the METHODS of collecting primary data (door-to-door interviews, telephone, mailed questionnaires, and forms filled by trained 'enumerators' called schedules), how to design a GOOD questionnaire and test it with a small trial called a 'pilot survey', and the difference between studying EVERYONE (the census method) versus studying a representative PART (the sample method). It ends with the main Indian sources of secondary data — the Census of India (done once every ten years) and the NSSO (National Sample Survey Office). It is mostly definitions and comparisons, so neat point-wise answers score well.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What is the difference between primary and secondary data? Give one example of each.
- What is the difference between a questionnaire and a schedule?
- How is the census method different from the sample method?
- What is the difference between a sampling error and a non-sampling error?
- How often is the Census of India conducted, and what does the NSSO do?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Thinks primary and secondary are different kinds of data rather than different sources of the same data.
- Confuses a questionnaire (filled by the respondent) with a schedule (filled by an enumerator).
- Believes the census method is always 'better' than the sample method.
- Mixes up sampling errors (only in samples) with non-sampling errors (in both methods).
- Says the Census of India is done yearly, or that the NSSO conducts the Census.

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

This is a comparison + definition chapter, not a calculation chapter, so a low score usually means the child is mixing up the look-alike pairs (primary/secondary, questionnaire/schedule, census/sample, sampling/non-sampling). The fix is 15 minutes of writing out the two-column tables from memory each day for a week.

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