



A Modal Pupil



Here is a description of a modal pupil who took part in the original *CensusAtSchool* in 2000.

She is a female, 150 cm tall with a right foot length of 22 cm in Year 7 at school and born in England. She lives in a household consisting of four people with one male and one female under 18 and they have not moved in the last year. She has got access to a computer and the Internet at home. At school her favourite subject is Art. She walks to school which is one kilometre away and takes 10 minutes to get there.

Unfortunately when we look at our data we have no such pupil who took part in *CensusAtSchool*!

Now let us look at a description of the modal pupil in 2001.

This time he is aged 12, was born in August and is 160 cm tall with a foot length of 23 cm and blue eyes. He had cereal for breakfast on the day they filled in the online questionnaire and regularly tidies his room at home. His favourite sport is football and he has access to a computer and the Internet at home as well as his own mobile phone.



However once again there is no pupil who fits this description in our database.

1. Try to explain why the modal pupil does not exist.
2. Write a modal pupil description for your class or school.
3. Improve the description by using a selection of means, modes and medians for different variables. Call this the 'Average Pupil'.
4. Discuss your ideas

NB. All figures taken as modal values across the full responses to *CensusAtSchool*.