

Episode 06 – The consultant task

European section – season 1

The cast

- 1 headmaster ;
- 1 deputy headmaster ;
- 1 school accountant ;
- 1 teacher ;
- 1 representative of the regional council ;
- 1 representative of the parents.

To improve students' test scores on state assessments, administrators from a large school require students to take practice exams. Two outside consultants create and score the open-ended questions from these exams.

Although both consultants use the same general scheme to score student responses, the administrators suspect that the two consultants do not interpret and apply the scheme in the same way, resulting in differences in scores between the exams scored by the two consultants.

The consultants' contracts with the school are up for renewal, and the administrators are trying to decide if they should be renewed. They decide to use the most recent practice exam to compare the scores assigned from each consultant and to decide whether there is a difference in the way the exams are scored.

The administrators select 50 exams scored by the first consultant and 50 exams scored by the second consultant. They find that the average score for the 50 exams scored by the first consultant is 9.7 (out of a possible 15 points), while the average score for the 50 exams scored by the second consultant is 10.3 (out of a possible 15 points).

What should the administrators conclude about the scores assigned by these two consultants?