

**QUIZ FIVE**

For the past few years I have been forming an uncharitable hypothesis about one of my colleagues. He is Professor Hide-Smith-Jones who teaches in the Department of Hermeneutic Metaphysics. I believe that he virtually gives away grades and demands almost no work from his students. His courses are widely popular with students and have very high enrollments. What started my suspicions was a number of students who complained about the workload in my courses, who I later discovered were all Hermeneutic Metaphysics majors. A couple of my on-line students explicitly compared my course to Hide-Smith-Jones's courses, accusing me of being unfair and unreasonable. This past weekend I went into Webster and looked at the transcripts for all of my advisees in the past five years. Many of them had taken at least one course with Hide-Smith-Jones. I discovered that on average the grades they earned in his courses were .78 grade points higher than their Eastern grade point averages.

1. Use the tools of inference to the best explanation to assess the quality evidence we have for Johnson's theory that Hide-Smith-Jones is an easy grader who doesn't demand much from his students.
2. Explain a test or experiment that could be conducted to test Johnson's hypothesis.
3. Using inference to the best explanation, show how new data could be discovered that would either help (confirm) or hurt Johnson's theory.