Which way should I drive to work?

Name _____ Date _____

An office manager is trying to decide which is the more efficient route to drive to work – along main roads or via the back streets? There is often less traffic on the back streets but you can't drive as fast.

To help make a decision, the manager keeps a record of journey times for a month. The manager drives via the main roads for the first two weeks and on back streets for the next two weeks

Here are the results:

	Main roads (minutes)	Back streets (minutes)
Mon	22	30
Tue	58	31
Wed	27	31
Thu	60	31
Fri	28	30
Mon	23	30
Tue	23	31
Wed	55	28
Thu	22	29
Fri	22	29

Task A

Work out the **mean** for each route.

The mean is _____ for the main roads and _____ for the back roads.

Discuss it…

- Does the mean tell the whole story?
- Looking at the table – which route is faster most of the time?
- If you had a meeting you could not be late for, which route would you pick?

Task B

Work out the **median,** the **mode** and the **range** for each set of date.

The median is _____ for the main roads and _____ for the back streets.

The mode is _____ for the main roads and _____ for the back streets.

The range is _____ for the main roads and _____ for the back streets.

Discuss

- Why are the **median** and **mode** different from the **mean**?
- What does the **range** tell you about which type of average is likely to give you more information?