

In your own words explain the difference between a point estimate and an interval estimate of a parameter? Which is better? Why?

Ans.

- **Point estimate** : A point estimate of a population parameter is a single value of a statistic. For example, the sample mean  $\bar{x}$  is a point estimate of the population mean  $\mu$ . Similarly, the sample proportion  $p$  is a point estimate of the population proportion  $P$ .
- **Interval estimate** : An interval estimate is defined by two numbers, between which a population parameter is said to lie. For example,  $a < x < b$  is an interval estimate of the population mean  $\mu$ . It indicates that the population mean is greater than  $a$  but less than  $b$ .

Confidence intervals are preferred to point estimates, because confidence intervals indicate (a) the precision of the estimate and (b) the uncertainty of the estimate