

Question #19

Key: D

The first two sample moments are 15 and 500, and the first two population moments are $E(X) = .5(\theta + \sigma)$ and $E(X^2) = .5(2\theta^2 + 2\sigma^2) = \theta^2 + \sigma^2$. These can be obtained either through integration or by recognizing the density function as a two-point mixture of exponential densities. The equations to solve are $30 = \theta + \sigma$ and $500 = \theta^2 + \sigma^2$. From the first equation, $\sigma = 30 - \theta$ and substituting into the second equation gives $500 = \theta^2 + (30 - \theta)^2 = 2\theta^2 - 60\theta + 900$. The quadratic equation has two solutions, 10 and 20. Because $\theta > \sigma$ the answer is 20.