

Introduction to Graphs

Chapter 12: Tales by Dots and Lines · Topic 1

Key Concept

Other graph types serve different purposes: a bar graph compares distinct categories (like sales of different products), while a pie chart shows how a whole is divided into proportional parts (like percentages of a budget). Choosing the appropriate graph type for a given data set is an important skill — using a line graph for unrelated categories, or a bar graph for continuous time-based data, would make the information harder to interpret correctly.

Quick Revision Notes

- Graphs visually represent data, making trends and patterns easier to identify.
- Line graphs are best for showing continuous change over time.
- Bar graphs compare distinct categories; pie charts show proportional parts of a whole.
- Choosing the correct graph type for the data is an important skill.

Practice Questions

- 1 Draw a line graph showing the temperature at 6am, 12pm, and 6pm.
- 2 Explain when you would choose a bar graph over a line graph.
- 3 Suggest an appropriate graph type for showing the percentage breakdown of a monthly budget.