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# Top Tips for displaying data (graphs)

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- 1) The independent variable is always plotted on the x axis (the horizontal axis).
- 1) The dependent variable is plotted on the y axis (the vertical axis).
- 2) Select an appropriate scale for each axes. Remember your graph should cover at least half a page of graph paper.
- 3) Draw a line for each axis and label it. Put in the values for each axis. Write a title on your graph.
- 4) Now plot you points. Be as accurate as you can. Mark the points with either a small cross or a clear dot. Check you plotting to make sure they are correct.
- 5) Draw a line of best fit through your results. The experiment you are doing may require you to join the plotted points together - check with your teacher. Remember the line of best fit could be a straight line or a curve.
- 6) If you have a point which looks way out - it may be an anomalous result and should not be included in the line of best fit.
- 7) You should have a minimum of 5 points to plot.

## A/A\* ONLY

- 8) If you are going to use range bars then you mark with a short horizontal line the highest and lowest value for each point with a small dot on the line for the mean value.
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