Knowledge Organiser

Unit 3 – Spreadsheets

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Summary

In computing, modelling is used to look at large amounts of data to help with scientific or engineering projects. A computer model is a representation of a real-life system or situation, such as the workings of a nuclear reactor or the evacuation of a football stadium.

Simple models can be built in a spreadsheet. A spreadsheet model could be used to plan a school prom. To make sure it came in on budget the spending on food, drinks, entertainment, and the price of tickets could be varied.

A spreadsheet can be used as a modelling tool. The model is controlled by a set of rules introduced by formulae. These rules can be changed easily to vary the model and, for example, provide information about running costs and profit margins.

Spreadsheets are used to store information and data. Once you have your information in a spreadsheet you can run powerful calculations and make charts.

Advantages of using Spreadsheets:

- They can simulate real life events safely.
- When actioned correctly, formula will automatically update the result of a calculation when data in amended.
- Data can be presented in the form of charts and graphs.
- You can carry out "what if?" investigations. For example, the grocer could increase his prices to see the effect on sales and the builder could increase his hourly charge to see the effect on his daily total.

Key Words	
Axis labels	A label for a graph's horizontal or vertical axis that explains what the value relates to.
Cell	An individual spreadsheet box where you enter data.
Cell reference	Names of individual cells (A5 for example).
Column	Cells that go down the spreadsheet page.
Computer model	Predicts and investigates how real-life devices or processes might behave in different situations.
Data	Values, typically letters or numbers.
Field	A Collection of one data type across multiple records.
Format	The appearance of a document, including the fonts, colours, size and rotation.
Formula	Makes automatic calculations that update when the data does.
Function	Makes more complex calculations.
Record	A collection of data on one person or item.
Row	Cells that go across the spreadsheet page.
Spreadsheet	A piece of software used to manipulate data, often used in modelling.

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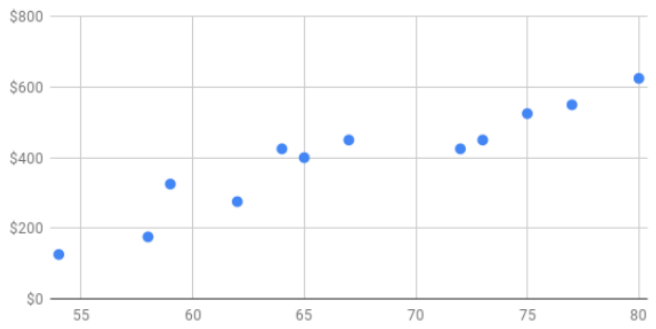
Formula	Explanation
=A7+B7	This will add the data in cell A7 with the data in cell B7.
=D4-J1	This will subtract the data in cell J1 from the data in cell D4.
=C5*I9	This will multiply the data in cell C5 with the data in cell I9.
=E6/T7	This will divide the data in E6 with the data in T7.
=SUM(F4:F12)	This will add up all the data from cells F4 to F12.
=AVERAGE(H2:R2)	This will work out the average of the data between cells H2 and R2.
=MAX(A6:A34)	This will look at cells A6 to A34 and display the maximum value across the range.
=MIN(C4:K4)	This will look at cells C4 to K4 and display the minimum value across the range.

Charts

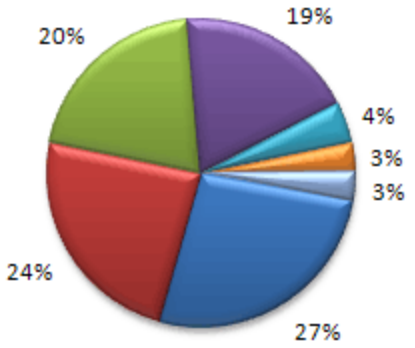
Scatter Graph



A Scatter graph could be used to display the number of ice creams sold against the temperature outside. This can be used to monitor trends to help predict future sales.

A scatter graph can also be used to plot the weather against calendar days. This can help monitor climate change and monitor the mean / average temperatures through the year.

Pie Chart



A Pie chart can be used to represent the break down of statistics in the form of percentages. For example; you could complete a Pie chart to represent the breakdown of pupil's hair colour within the classroom.