

## Cumulative Frequency

### Starter

1. (Review of last lesson) Calculate the IQR for 8 9 9 9 10 10 12 15 16 17 19.

### Notes

When data is presented as table of grouped values (e.g.  $10 \leq h < 20$ ) a *cumulative frequency graph* can be drawn to *estimate* the median and quartiles

### Success Criteria – drawing a cumulative frequency curve

1. Add an extra column to the table and find the cumulative frequency (i.e. *running total*)
2. Draw the axes – *cumulative frequency* is always on the *vertical axis*. Label your axes, make sure there is a suitable title on the axes.
3. The line must start from the horizontal axis. The *left-hand value* of the *first interval* is the *first number* on the *horizontal axis*
4. Plot the points at the *end of each interval*
5. Draw *one smooth curve* through *all the points*
6. Give your graph a *title* “Cumulative frequency graph to show...”.

**N.B.** The *vertical axis* always starts at *zero*  
The *horizontal axis* can start the at the *left-hand value* of the *first interval in the table*

**E.g. 1** The table below shows the heights of a set of plants, measured to the nearest cm.

Height	Frequency	Cumulative frequency	Plot
$15 < h \leq 18$	3		
$18 < h \leq 21$	12		
$21 < h \leq 24$	35		
$24 < h \leq 27$	26		
$27 < h \leq 30$	4		

- (a) Copy and complete the table above.
- (b) Draw a cumulative frequency curve for the data.

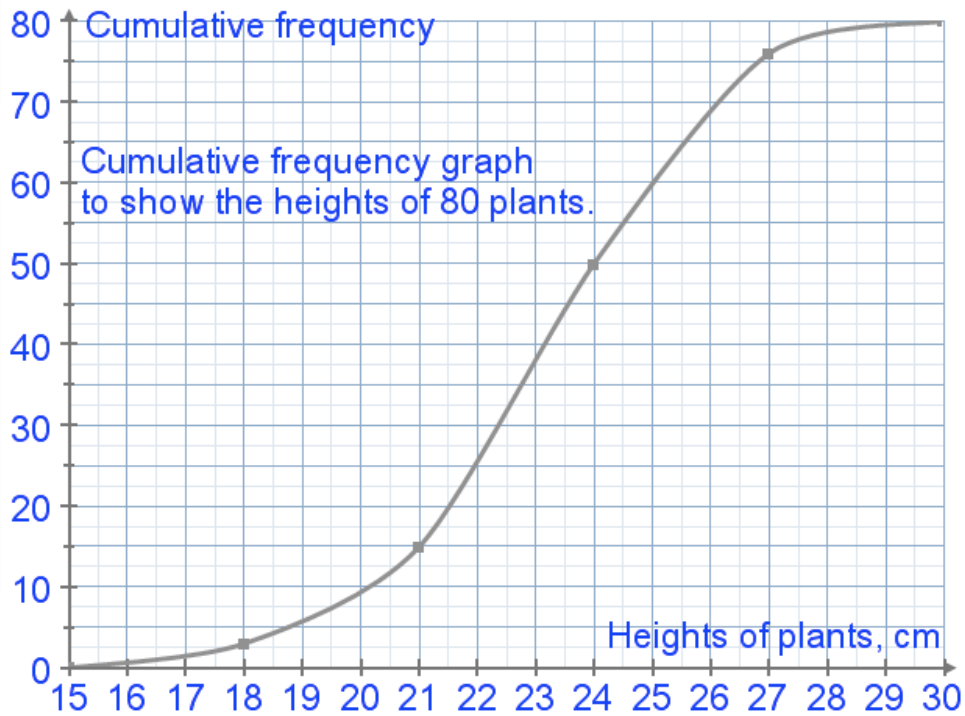
**Working:** (a)

Height	Frequency	Cumulative frequency	Plot
$15 < h \leq 18$	3	3	(18, 3)
$18 < h \leq 21$	12	$3 + 12 = 15$	(21, 15)
$21 < h \leq 24$	35	$15 + 35 = 50$	(24, 50)
$24 < h \leq 27$	26	$50 + 26 = 76$	(27, 76)
$27 < h \leq 30$	4	$76 + 4 = 80$	(30, 80)

The first point plotted is (15, 0) — there were no plants whose height was less than 15 cm.

The point (18, 3) means there were 3 plants whose height was  $\leq 18$  cm  
The point (21, 15) means there were 15 plants whose height was  $\leq 21$  cm etc.

- (b) Horizontal scale: height  
Vertical scale: always cumulative frequency  
Remember to label the axes and give the graph a title.



**N.B.** At the start of the horizontal axis, you could have a squiggle for a square and then start at 15.

**E.g. 2** The table shows Y11 marks in a Maths test.

- (a) Find the cumulative frequency values and write down the coordinates that should be plotted
- (b) Draw a cumulative frequency curve for the marks.

Mark	Frequency
$0 < m \leq 10$	1
$10 < m \leq 20$	1
$20 < m \leq 30$	4
$30 < m \leq 40$	5
$40 < m \leq 50$	19
$50 < m \leq 60$	33
$60 < m \leq 70$	43
$70 < m \leq 80$	10
$80 < m \leq 90$	3
$90 < m \leq 100$	1

**Video:** [Drawing cumulative frequency graphs](#)

[Solutions to Starter and E.g.s](#)

### Exercise

- 9-1 class textbook: p480 E14.2 Qu 2a, 3ab, 4a, 5ab  
**N.B.** Qu 4 “100-“ means  $100 \leq \text{price} < 120$
- A\*-G class textbook: p436 M14.7 Qu 2a, 3ab, 4ab, 5a  
**N.B.** Qu 5 “100-“ means  $100 \leq \text{price} < 120$
- 9-1 homework book: p165 E14.2 Qu 1ab, 3ab
- A\*-G homework book: p122 M14.7 Q 1ab, 3ab

### Summary

**Cumulative frequency graphs** are to *estimate* the median and quartiles when data is grouped.

Drawing a cumulative frequency curve:

1. Add an extra column to the table and find the cumulative frequency (i.e. **running total**)
2. Draw the axes — **cumulative frequency** is always on the **vertical axis**. Label your axes, make sure there is a suitable title on the axes.
3. The line must start from the horizontal axis. The **left-hand value** of the **first interval** is the **first number** on the **horizontal axis**
4. Plot the points at the **end of each interval**
5. Draw **one smooth curve** through **all the points**
6. Give your graph a **title** “Cumulative frequency graph to show...”.

**N.B.** The **vertical axis** always starts at **zero**  
The **horizontal axis** can start at the **left-hand value** of the **first interval in the table**

[Homework book answers \(only available during a lockdown\)](#)