Bar charts — choosing a scale

MODULE 7 · DATA, CHANCE AND THE CO-ORDINATE PLANE SHAPE & SPACE

HOW TO ANSWER TODAY

- **Y-axis scale.** Pick a step that makes the tallest bar fit but isn't so small the chart is huge.
  Tallest = 75 → use steps of 10 (about 8 grid lines), not 1 (75 lines)

STRETCH PROBLEMS

1. 5th class are drawing a bar chart of the rainfall logged on the school weather chart over a fortnight. The wettest day measured **117 mm** and they need to choose a sensible y-axis step from **1**, **5** or **10** so the chart shows about **10** to **15** grid lines from **0** to the top. Which step should they pick?

   > You are drawing a bar chart and the largest bar will be 117. Choose a sensible y-axis step from 1, 5 or 10 so the chart shows about 10 to 15 grid lines from 0 to the top.

2. Aoife is drawing a bar chart of how many pupils answered the daily question correctly each day last week in 5th class. The tallest bar will reach **34**. From the choices **1**, **5** or **10**, which step for the y-axis gives about **10** to **15** grid lines from **0** to the top?

   > You are drawing a bar chart and the largest bar will be 34. Choose a sensible y-axis step from 1, 5 or 10 so the chart shows about 10 to 15 grid lines from 0 to the top.

3. Aoife is drawing a bar chart in her maths copy to show the reading-test scores for 5th class across the term. The highest score on any bar will be **34**. She wants the chart to have about **10** to **15** grid lines from **0** up to the top. Should she use a y-axis step of **1**, **5** or **10**?

   > You are drawing a bar chart and the largest bar will be 34. Choose a sensible y-axis step from 1, 5 or 10 so the chart shows about 10 to 15 grid lines from 0 to the top.