What to discuss for each type of Graph

Line graphs (or any change over time)

- Start value and end value (with units and dates).
- The trend in between, but only in general terms.
- Any spikes or troughs (with dates).
- Comparisons if there are two or more lines.

Remember to talk about what the graph is showing rather what the lines are doing (so "exports of milk powder have steading increased" not "the line is going up").

Histograms (or any data sorted into a natural order)

- Lowest points and highest points (with units).
- Where the peak or peaks are (with units).
- Any unusual values.
- Any overall pattern, such as symmetry, skew.
- Comparisons between related data

Scatter plots

- The overall trend – positive or negative, strong to weak, linear or curved.
- What that means ("as age increases, so savings tend to increase")
- Any exceptions to the patterns, either clusters or individual points.
- Any sub-groups that have different patterns to the overall pattern.

Pie Charts (or % bar charts) and **simple infographics**

- Just what you see, with numbers.
- Changes from year to year, if they are shown

In every case

- Stick to the obvious.
- Put in numbers, units and dates for **everything**.
- If you can do a relevant calculation, do so: ("sales have tripled", "this is a 5% drop")
- What might cause the features seen.
- What might cause the overall patterns or exceptions.
- Always do **comparisons** if you can.
- Look for misleading graphs or information and why it is misleading.