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Graphing and Visual Analysis of RBT Data: Practice Set

Visual analysis is how a team reads a graph to decide whether a behavior is changing, and an RBT is expected to plot data accurately and describe what the graph shows. This set asks about axes and labels, reading level and trend, noticing variability, and spotting a graph that does not match its data sheet. The best answers are descriptive and based on what the graph shows, not on hopes for the outcome. Check the scale and the phase lines first, since those details often change the interpretation. Practice describing what you see in one sentence per feature, since clear description is what the questions reward.

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Practice questions

Answer every question before you look at the key, then check yourself on the next pages.

1. An RBT finds that two supervisors gave conflicting directions for a data sheet. What is the best next action?

- **A** Pick the easier version
- **B** Stop taking all data
- **C** Ask clinical direction
- **D** Rewrite the program

2. A review reveals that duration is entered in minutes although the graph is labeled seconds. How should the RBT protect data accuracy?

- **A** Wait until the end of the month and then correct the entry errors together in a batch
- **B** Overwrite the entry with the value that seems most likely based on memory
- **C** Adjust the graph by hand so it looks right, leaving the data file as it is
- **D** Compare the entry with the original data sheet and follow the correction process

3. The RBT sees that a point is plotted under the wrong session. Why must this be corrected or reported promptly?

- **A** The team may misread the learner's progress and make a poorly informed decision
- **B** The graph may fail a records audit, which is the main reason accuracy matters
- **C** The raw data sheets become invalid and must be collected again from the start
- **D** The operational definition must be rewritten so that it matches the graph

4. A busy coworker asks the RBT to sign a data sheet for a session that only the coworker observed. What should guide the RBT?

- **A** Enter the data as the RBT's own observation, since the coworker is willing to vouch for its accuracy.
- **B** Decline and tell the supervisor, since signing data the RBT did not collect makes the record inaccurate.
- **C** Agree this once and mention it to the supervisor later, since refusing could damage trust within the team.
- **D** Enter the data from the coworker's description, since a colleague's firsthand report is an accurate source.

5. An RBT updates a line graph of duration across consecutive treatment days. Where should successive sessions appear?

- **A** Sessions grouped by day of the week so that similar sessions sit side by side
- **B** Sessions placed wherever there is room, each point carrying its own date label
- **C** Sessions placed left to right in the order run, along a labeled horizontal axis
- **D** Sessions placed top to bottom in the order run, along a labeled vertical axis

6. A graph shows 15, 7, 16, 8, and 14 across successive sessions. Which description is most objective?

- **A** An upward trend across the sessions, with some variability along the way
- **B** A pattern that rises and falls without a steady upward or downward path
- **C** A downward trend across the sessions, with some variability along the way
- **D** A stable, flat level with little change from one session to the next

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7. Successive graphed values are 80%, 75%, 60%, 55%, and 40%. Which trend should the RBT report?

- **A** No consistent trend
- **B** A functional relation
- **C** Increasing trend
- **D** Decreasing trend

8. A skill graph rises after teaching begins. What may the RBT report while staying within the reporting role?

- **A** The visible level, trend, and any outliers, stated with no claim of cause
- **B** The learner's effort, mood, and motivation, as inferred from the data path
- **C** A prediction of how the learner will perform in other settings and with others
- **D** The likely cause of the pattern, so that the supervisor can confirm it

9. Priya graphs practice scores for data-collection items across four review days: 40, 48, 55, and 61. Which summary best fits the graph?

- **A** Mostly flat score pattern
- **B** Upward score pattern
- **C** Highly variable score pattern
- **D** Downward score pattern

10. Successive graphed values are 10, 14, 15, 19, and 22. Which trend should the RBT report?

- **A** A high level, as the latest values are the largest in the series
- **B** A downward trend, as the values fall overall across the sessions
- **C** No clear trend, as the size of each change differs from point to point
- **D** An upward trend, as the values rise overall across the sessions

11. Dana's error log shows misses when session dots stay unchanged, jump after a new condition, or drop over time. Which weak area should Dana study first?

- **A** Compute average response duration from data
- **B** Read visual patterns across sessions
- **C** Run a paired-choice preference check
- **D** Teach steps with total-task chaining

12. A graph shows problem behavior counts of 9, 8, 7, 5, and 4 across sessions. What trend should the RBT identify?

- **A** Downward trend
- **B** Upward trend
- **C** Stable trend
- **D** No data pattern

Answer key and explanations

1. Correct answer: C · Ask clinical direction

The RBT should seek and prioritize supervisor direction.

Task: E.2

2. Correct answer: D · Compare the entry with the original data sheet and follow the correction process

Data should be entered accurately from the source record, with discrepancies handled through the required procedure. Enter what was observed, preserve the source, and resolve discrepancies transparently.

Task: A.4

3. Correct answer: A · The team may misread the learner's progress and make a poorly informed decision

Graphing errors can misrepresent level, trend, phase changes, or relations in the underlying data. A graph must faithfully represent the recorded data and its measurement conditions.

Task: A.4

4. Correct answer: B · Decline and tell the supervisor, since signing data the RBT did not collect makes the record inaccurate.

The four core principles behind the RBT Ethics Code are benefiting others; treating others with compassion, dignity, and respect; behaving with integrity; and ensuring one's own competence. Use the core principles together; do not trade integrity or dignity for convenience.

Task: F.1

5. Correct answer: C · Sessions placed left to right in the order run, along a labeled horizontal axis

A time-series line graph orders observations across the horizontal axis and displays the measured value vertically. Check axis labels, units, dates, and plotted values each time a graph is updated.

Task: A.4

6. Correct answer: B · A pattern that rises and falls without a steady upward or downward path

The series does not show a sustained upward or downward direction; it is variable or roughly level. Do not force an upward or downward label onto a variable series.

Task: A.7

7. Correct answer: D · Decreasing trend

The values generally fall across successive observations, indicating a decreasing trend. Describe direction from the displayed data without claiming why it changed.

Task: A.7

8. Correct answer: A · The visible level, trend, and any outliers, stated with no claim of cause

An RBT can objectively identify displayed patterns but should not infer causes or broad generalization from the graph alone. Report what the graph shows; seek supervisor direction for clinical interpretation.

Task: A.7

9. Correct answer: B · Upward score pattern

A.7 requires identifying trends in graphed data, and the points rise across days.

Task: A.7

10. Correct answer: D · An upward trend, as the values rise overall across the sessions

The values generally rise across successive observations, indicating an increasing trend. Trend is the overall direction, not whether every adjacent point changes identically.

Task: A.7

11. Correct answer: B · Read visual patterns across sessions

A.7 requires identifying trends in graphed data, which matches the lower movement across sessions.

Task: A.7

12. Correct answer: A · Downward trend

The plotted values generally decrease across sessions.

Task: A.7

Study tips

- Check the axes, labels and phase lines before reading any trend.
- Describe level, trend, and variability separately so the interpretation is precise.
- Compare the graph with the data sheet when a question mentions a mismatch.
- Avoid calling a change meaningful based on one or two points; look for a pattern across sessions.

FAQ

What is visual analysis of a graph?

Visual analysis is examining a graph's level, trend, and variability across phases to decide whether behavior is changing.

What should an RBT do if a graph does not match the data sheet?

Report the mismatch to the supervisor and correct the record using the agency's procedure. Do not change the data without a documented reason.

Does this set teach graph construction software?

No. It focuses on reading and interpreting graphs. Use your agency's tools to build graphs, following the training you received.

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