

TL11: Using data to predict future events

Having just compared men's and women's past improvements in performance, pupils are now challenged to consider what questions about future performances in particular events they may pose using this data.

Possible questions pupils might pose include –

- If/when might women overtake men in a particular event
- What might be the winning performance at the London (or other) Olympic Games in a particular event?
- When might a significant milestone be broken (eg 10s for 100m for women)?

Or any other pupils may think of.

Giving pupils some time to attempt to answer their question using the data in tabular form should help them understand that analysing future trends using this form of data is very difficult. To assist them in understanding the benefits of a graph, it is likely to be helpful to demonstrate how it is easier to see a trend in graphical form and to identify potential outliers.