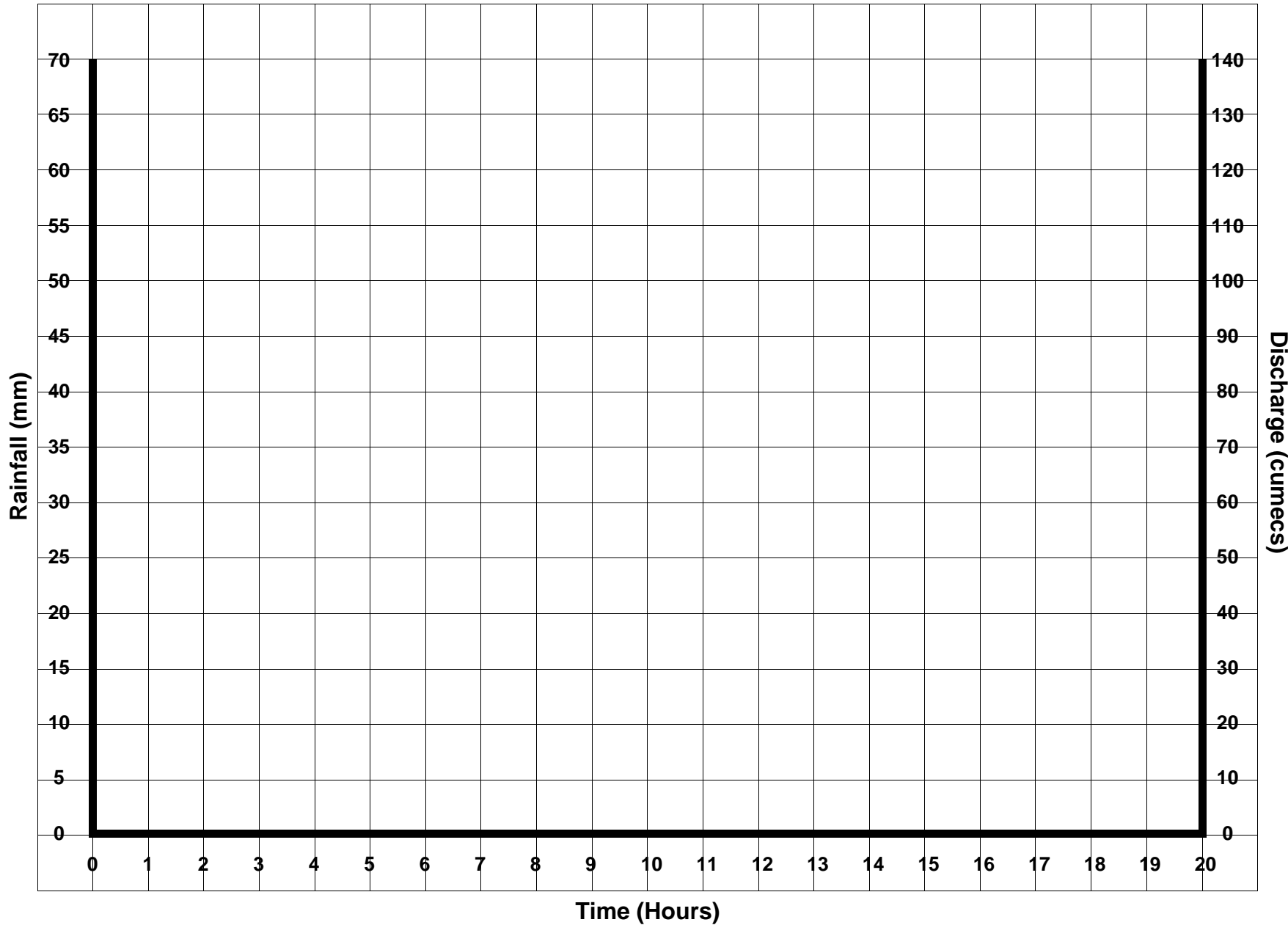


Flood Hydrographs



Time (hours)	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Discharge (cumecs)	30	35	45	80	130	100	70	50	40	35	30

Hours	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Rainfall (mm)	10	30	40	25	15	5

Peak Rainfall

The hour of greatest rainfall during the storm.

Falling Limb

The period of time when the river's discharge is falling after it has reached Peak Discharge.

Peak Discharge

The point (time) of maximum river discharge caused by the storm.

Storm Runoff

The discharge of the river above Normal Flow, caused by the Storm Event.

Lag Time

The time between Peak Rainfall and Peak Discharge. Many factors can affect the Lag Time such as the weather, vegetation and man-made surfaces.

Normal Flow

The average level of flow (discharge) of the river caused by water flowing into the river from tributaries and groundwater.

Rising Limb

The period of rising river discharge following a period of rainfall.

Storm Event



The storm (period of rainfall).



Mrs Jones runs outside to take her washing in.

On the car radio, Mrs Jones hears a bulletin from the Environment Agency issuing a flood warning for the river, as rising levels threaten to burst the banks.

The rain is beating so hard on the window that John Jones has to turn the volume up on the television.

Mrs Jones decides Mr Jones should clean out the gutters next weekend, as the rainwater overflows the gutter and cascades down in front of the window.

Mrs Jones, on her way home from the shop, turns the windscreen wipers off on her car.

Mr Jones notices that puddles that were on the street have gone as he takes the dog for a walk.

Mr Jones notices that the river is as high as he has ever seen it, when he crosses the bridge on his way home.

On his way to work, Mr Jones, notices plastic bags, weeds and other rubbish in the low branches of the trees by the river.