WHAT IS A SPREADSHEET?

A Spreadsheet is a piece of software for handling and manipulating numbers. You can write numbers down on a piece of paper and add them up. Like this:

23 + 12 + 10 + 45 =

But that's not a spreadsheet. However, if you bought Microsoft Excel and entered the same numbers into the software, you'd have a spreadsheet. The best part about a spreadsheet is – you don't have to any adding up yourself. The programme will add the numbers up for you.

A spreadsheet doesn't only add up, of course. It can do a whole lot more besides simple arithmetic. It can handle financial calculations, statistical information, and do complex trigonometry. It can also make graphs.

Why do I need a spreadsheet? Spreadsheet are used in accounting and economics. It can be used in researching in both pure sciences and social sciences. It can also be used in handling serious mathematical tasks especially the ones that involve a lot of data.