

"This book helped me get an 8 on my IELTS academic writing test. Highly recommended." Tatsuya, Japan

ACHIEVE IELTS™

**Improve
your
IELTS
scores**

Academic Writing Success

With:

35 Academic IELTS questions

Model answers to EVERY question

Useful exercises to improve your writing skills

More than 160 pages of effective IELTS instruction

Julie Hall, B.A., M.Ed.

Achieve IELTS

Academic Writing Success

Julie Hall, B.A., M.Ed.



A Note from the Author:

My name is Julie Hall, and I've been teaching IELTS preparatory classes for more than ten years, both in the USA and in New Zealand. In addition to teaching IELTS classes, I also teach ESL teachers. I have a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Education. I am an experienced ESL teacher, and I've spent a lot of time helping students prepare for the IELTS examination. I get a lot of personal satisfaction watching my students improve their scores and achieve success.

I've put this book together with materials I've used and improved in my classes over the ten years I've been teaching. Many, many students have improved their academic IELTS writing scores by using the techniques outlined in this book. I'm confident that yours will be the next success story.

ACHIEVE IELTS ACADEMIC WRITING SUCCESS provides 16 academic Task One questions and 16 academic Task Two questions*. Each question is followed by a helpful explanation about a specific aspect of IELTS writing. And each question is also followed by an exercise that will help you practice the skills you need to improve your IELTS writing score. In addition, each question in this book is followed by a complete model answer; these model answers will show you 1) how to craft an excellent essay, 2) how the points outlined in the lessons and exercises can be used to improve your IELTS essay writing skills.

In Part 3 of the book, I show how IELTS essays are evaluated. I've used some of my own students' essays to point out some of the strengths and weaknesses of the writing, and have offered guidance towards improving the essays. I've also provided sample answers to several of these essay questions, so you can compare a lower band essay with an improved, higher band essay.

* For copyright reasons, the IELTS questions shown in this book are not identical to IELTS copyrighted testing materials. The questions provided in this book are, however, very similar to authentic IELTS materials, and the sample essays provided here are specifically designed and written to answer both the similarly-worded authentic IELTS questions and the questions provided in this book.

Let's get started!

PART ONE

Task 2 Writing

Let's start with Task 2 essay.

You might be thinking: why? Shouldn't we start with the Task 1 essay?

I always advise my students to write the Task 2 essay first. There are two reasons for this:

- 1) The Task 2 essay is worth more towards your final band score than the Task 1 essay.
- 2) The Task 1 essay does **not** require a conclusion, so if you run out of time while you're writing your Task 1 essay, it won't impact your score as much as if you run out of time writing your Task 2 essay.

Information about the Task 2 essay:

- You will be given 40 minutes to write your Task 2 essay.
- You need to write AT LEAST 250 words. If you write less than 250 words, you will be penalised and your score will be lower.
- Task 2 essays require you to write about a current global topic, to give your opinion, and to show that you are able to construct a coherent academic essay. Some points you will be evaluated on:
 - Have you answered the question?
 - Have you organised your essay into clear, logical paragraphs?
 - Is your argument convincing?
 - Have you supported your point of view with examples and evidence?
 - Is your grammar correct?
 - Have you used correct punctuation?
 - Have you effectively and correctly used academic vocabulary?
 - Is your essay long enough?
- Task 2 essays are scored in whole bands, 1-9. 9 is a perfect score. All the essays presented in this book would likely be scored as a 9.

Tip:

You should spend 3-5 minutes planning your essay before you begin to write. This book will help you practice how to plan your essay.

This book will give you some helpful tips about all the points mentioned above, and will also provide you with successful, proven methods of effectively organising and writing both your Task 1 and your Task 2 essays. **Many students have been able to significantly improve their IELTS writing scores by utilising the methods outlined in this book.**



A Task 2 question looks like this:

Task Two Question 1

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Define the term 'globalisation' and explain the pros and cons of the effects of globalisation.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Let's look at how to begin:

Organising Your Essay

Most IELTS Task 2 essays look like this:

INTRODUCTION

SUPPORTING PARAGRAPH #1

SUPPORTING PARAGRAPH #2

CONCLUSION

Some Task 2 essays will require three **supporting paragraphs**, but most will require only two. Every Task 2 essay **MUST** have an **introduction** and a **conclusion**. This book will show you how to write each of these paragraphs to create a strong, coherent Task 2 essay.

NOTE:

It's very important that your essay be organised into clear, neat, well-organised paragraphs. Make sure to leave spaces between each paragraph, or to clearly indent each paragraph.



Essay Template

Look at the template on the next page. This template shows the form of an academic essay. Once you become familiar with this form, writing academic essays will become easier. Every Task 2 essay in this book can fit into this template. Each aspect of the template below will be explained in detail as we progress through this book.

Essay Template

Introduction (1-3 sentences)

Broad statement about topic
More specific statement about topic (option)
Thesis Statement (answers question)

Supporting Paragraph #1 (3-6 sentences)

Topic sentence (introduces topic of paragraph)
Supporting sentences

- Evidence
- Examples

Supporting Paragraph #2 (3-6 sentences)

Topic sentence (introduces topic of paragraph)
Supporting sentences

- Evidence
- Examples

Conclusion (1-2 sentences)

- Begins with “In conclusion,” or “To sum up,”
- Restates Thesis Statement
- Does not introduce new ideas

The Task 2 Essay

Let's look at how the template is used to organise a Task 2 essay.

Question 1:

Define the term 'globalisation' and explain the pros and cons of the effects of globalisation.

Introduction

| | |
|---|---|
| Broad statement about topic | In the past fifty years, as the world's economies have entered the new age of information technology, communication has become faster and easier than ever before. |
| More specific statement (optional) | Telephones, televisions and computers have made communication and the media instant and far-reaching. |
| Thesis Statement: (Addresses question and outlines points of supporting paragraphs) | 'Globalisation' refers to the breakdown of barriers and borders in communication; through the media, the world's cultures communicate and influence each other more than they ever have before, and this influence presents both positives and negatives. |

Supporting Paragraph #1

| | |
|---|---|
| Topic sentence (introduces topic of paragraph) | Firstly, the pros of globalisation are many. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• examples• evidence | Through the Internet, it is easy to access information, communicate with other people, and learn about any topic. Television presents the culture, discoveries, and entertainment of foreign countries. Transportation is easy and quick, so people can travel widely, not only spreading aspects of their own culture, but also adopting aspects of their hosts' culture. These technologies help people to become more tolerant, and break down cultural barriers that existed only a decade ago. |

Supporting Paragraph #2

| | |
|---|---|
| Topic sentence (introduces topic of paragraph) | However, there are also negative effects of globalisation. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• examples• evidence | As a result of globalisation, the world's cultures are becoming less diverse; people are adopting the customs of countries with strong economies. Young people are attracted to the media's influence and are less likely to carry on the traditions and languages of their native lands. English has become the international language because it is the language of the Internet and e-commerce, but this adoption of an international language is leading to the potential loss of many local languages. |

Conclusion

To sum up, globalisation, or the melding of the world's cultures through information and communication technology, has both pros and cons.

Question 1: Exercise

Define the term 'globalisation' and explain the pros and cons of the effects of globalisation.

Exercise: Using the words in the table below, fill in the blanks to the following sample answer.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| e-commerce | economies | televisions |
| decade | diverse | effects |
| sum | traditions | entertainment |
| adopting | Firstly | positives |

In the past fifty years, as the world's (1)_____ have entered the new age of information technology, communication has become faster and easier than ever before. Telephones, (2)_____ and computers have made communication and the media instant and far-reaching. 'Globalisation' refers to the breakdown of barriers and borders in communication; through the media, the world's cultures communicate and influence each other more than they ever have before, and this influence presents both (3)_____ and negatives.

(4)_____, the pros of globalisation are many. Through the Internet, it is easy to access information, communicate with other people, and learn about any topic. Television presents the culture, discoveries, and (5)_____ of foreign countries. Transportation is easy and quick, so people can travel widely, not only spreading aspects of their own culture, but also (6)_____ aspects of their hosts' culture. These technologies help people to become more tolerant, and break down cultural barriers that existed only a (7)_____ ago.

However, there are also negative (8)_____ of globalisation. As a result of globalisation, the world's cultures are becoming less (9)_____; people are adopting the customs of countries with strong economies. Young people are attracted to the media's influence and are less likely to carry on the (10)_____ and languages of their native lands. English has become the international language because it is the language of the Internet and (11)_____, but this adoption of an international language is leading to the potential loss of many local languages.

To (12)_____ up, globalisation, or the melding of the world's cultures through information and communication technology, has both pros and cons.

(262 words)

Exercise: Look again at the essay template. Write your own essay for Question 1 using the outline presented in the template.

Here is the complete essay:

Define the term 'globalisation' and explain the pros and cons of the effects of globalisation.

Sample Answer:

In the past fifty years, as the world's **economies** have entered the new age of information technology, communication has become faster and easier than ever before. Telephones, **televisions** and computers have made communication and the media instant and far-reaching. 'Globalisation' refers to the breakdown of barriers and borders in communication; through the media, the world's cultures communicate and influence each other more than they ever have before, and this influence presents both **positives** and negatives.

Firstly, the pros of globalisation are many. Through the Internet, it is easy to access information, communicate with other people, and learn about any topic. Television presents the culture, discoveries, and **entertainment** of foreign countries. Transportation is easy and quick, so people can travel widely, not only spreading aspects of their own culture, but also **adopting** aspects of their hosts' culture. These technologies help people to become more tolerant, and break down cultural barriers that existed only a **decade** ago.

However, there are also negative **effects** of globalisation. As a result of globalisation, the world's cultures are becoming less diverse; people are adopting the customs of countries with strong economies. Young people are attracted to the media's influence and are less likely to carry on the **traditions** and languages of their native lands. English has become the international language because it is the language of the Internet and **e-commerce**, but this adoption of an international language is leading to the potential loss of many local languages.

To **sum** up, globalisation, or the melding of the world's cultures through information and communication technology, has both pros and cons.

(262 words)

Task Two Question 2

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

The quality of computer language translation has improved significantly in recent years. Therefore it is not necessary for children to learn a foreign language.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Planning Your Essay

Now that you're familiar with the template and know how to organise your essay, it will be easier to **plan** your essay. It is useful to spend 3 -5 minutes planning your essay before you begin to write. Let's look again at the question:

The quality of computer language translation has improved significantly in recent years. Therefore it is not necessary for children to learn a foreign language.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Here's an example of a PLAN for this essay question (3-5 minutes):

Introduction

| | |
|---|---|
| Broad statement about topic | Advances in technology |
| More specific statement about topic (optional) | Communicate by using computerised translation |
| Thesis Statement: (Answers question) | Disagree: Learning foreign languages improves understanding of first language Learning languages expands cross-cultural communication |

Supporting Paragraph #1

| | |
|---|--|
| Topic Sentence (introduces topic of paragraph) | Firstly, learning a foreign language is often a helpful way to get a better insight into one's own language. |
| Supporting Sentences <ul style="list-style-type: none">• evidence• examples | -Italian -Spanish |

Supporting Paragraph #2

| | |
|---|--|
| Topic Sentence (introduces topic of paragraph) | Secondly, computerised translation software can help people translate foreign text or even converse with a person who speaks a different language, but computers cannot communicate on a personal or cultural level. |
| Supporting Sentences <ul style="list-style-type: none">• evidence• examples | -communicate on personal level -share aspects of culture |

Conclusion

- Begins with “In conclusion,” or “To sum up,”
- Restates Thesis Statement
- Does not introduce new ideas

Disagree: children should be taught foreign languages to broaden their knowledge and to help them communicate with people of other cultures



I used the plan shown above to help me organise the essay below.

Exercise: Write your own essay for Question 2 using the outline and plan presented in the template above.

The quality of computer language translation has improved significantly in recent years. Therefore it is not necessary for children to learn a foreign language.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Exercise: Fill in the missing verbs. Use the verbs in the table below to complete the sample essay. Then look on the next pages for the completed essay.

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| speaks | do |
| share | consult |
| advanced | translate |
| converse | disagree |
| found | help |

In recent years, computer technology has (1)_____ significantly. Now we can communicate with people who speak different languages with the use of computer translation software. Despite the development of these useful resources, I (2)_____ that children should not learn foreign languages, because learning another language can not only (3)_____ an individual better understand their own language, but also communicate on both personal and cultural levels.

Firstly, learning a foreign language is often a helpful way to get a better insight into one's own language. For example, from personal experience, I (4)_____ that learning Italian was useful in the acquisition of more vocabulary in my native language: Spanish. While computers can help translate Spanish into Italian, if I had exclusively used computers to (5)_____ for me, I would not have gained further knowledge of my own and other languages, like English and German, which also (6)_____ some similar word formations. In this way, learning foreign languages has many advantages beyond just communication.

Secondly, computerised translation software can help people translate foreign text or even (7)_____ with a person who speaks a different language, but computers cannot communicate on a personal or cultural level. For example, one of my closest friends (8)_____ Italian as a first language. We could (9)_____ our computers to have a conversation, but our conversations are richer and more interesting when we attempt to communicate by actually speaking to each other. Also, we are able to share the different aspects of our cultures and home countries, the taste of our native dishes and the expressions unique to our local dialects, all things which our computers cannot (10)_____.

In conclusion, I disagree with people who believe that computer translation is sufficient for communication between people who speak different languages. I believe children should be taught foreign languages to broaden their knowledge and to help them communicate with people of other cultures.

Question 2:

The quality of computer language translation has improved significantly in recent years. Therefore it is not necessary for children to learn a foreign language.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Complete Sample Answer:

In recent years, computer technology has **advanced** significantly. Now we can communicate with people who speak different languages with the use of computer translation software. Despite the development of these useful resources, I **disagree** that children should not learn foreign languages, because learning another language can not only **help** an individual better understand their own language, but also communicate on both personal and cultural levels.

Firstly, learning a foreign language is often a helpful way to get a better insight into one's own language. For example, from personal experience, I **found** that learning Italian was useful in the acquisition of more vocabulary in my native language: Spanish. While computers can help translate Spanish into Italian, if I had exclusively used computers to **translate** for me, I would not have gained further knowledge of my own and other languages, like English and German, which also **share** some similar word formations. In this way, learning foreign languages has many advantages beyond just communication.

Secondly, computerised translation software can help people translate foreign text or even **converse** with a person who speaks a different language, but computers cannot

communicate on a personal or cultural level. For example, one of my closest friends **speaks** Italian as a first language. We could **consult** our computers to have a conversation, but our conversations are richer and more interesting when we attempt to communicate by actually speaking to each other. Also, we are able to share the different aspects of our cultures and home countries, the taste of our native dishes and the expressions unique to our local dialects, all things which our computers cannot **do**.

In conclusion, I disagree with people who believe that computer translation is sufficient for communication between people who speak different languages. I believe children should be taught foreign languages to broaden their knowledge and to help them communicate with people of other cultures.

(312 words)

Task Two Question 3

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many people believe that strong tradition helps to civilise a nation and that governments should therefore subsidise musicians, theatre companies, actors and artists.

Explain whether you agree or disagree with this statement and what you think governments should do to promote the traditional cultural heritage of a country.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

The Introduction

As we noted above, the **introduction** is the first paragraph of your essay. An introduction introduces the topic of your essay. It usually consists of between 1 and 3 sentences.

NOTE: The essay introductions in this book might be longer than introductions you've seen before. Long introductions increase an essay's word count. Introductions usually contain 1, 2 or 3 sentences.

Many teachers encourage their students to keep the introduction short, at one sentence. In *ACHIEVE IELTS Academic Writing Success*, you'll learn how to increase your word count, since one of the most difficult aspects of writing a Task 2 essay is hitting that 250-word mark. Remember, there are many successful ways to write a Task 2 essay. This book introduces **one** proven method of obtaining increasingly and consistently high band scores on IELTS academic Writing tests.

Writing a 2 or 3-sentence **introduction** has two advantages:

- You will accumulate more words.
- By following the method outlined in this book, the last sentence of your **introduction** (the **thesis statement**) will be similar in content to the **conclusion** of your essay. In other words, the **conclusion** is *rephrasing* the **thesis statement**. Let's look at what this means:

Here, again, is the template for the **introduction** of an academic essay:

Introduction

| | |
|---|--|
| Broad statement about topic | |
| More specific statement about topic (optional) | |
| Thesis Statement: (Answers question) | |

Exercise:

Write an introduction to the essay question below. Use the template to guide you. Give yourself 5 minutes to complete this exercise:

Many people believe that strong tradition helps to civilise a nation and that governments should therefore subsidise musicians, theatre companies, actors and artists.

Explain whether you agree or disagree with this statement and what you think governments should do to promote the traditional cultural heritage of a country.

Introduction

| | |
|---|--|
| Broad statement about topic | |
| More specific statement about topic (optional) | |
| Thesis Statement: (Answers question) | |

Practice writing an introduction in the space below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing an introduction. The box is positioned on the left side of the page, below the instruction text.

Here is an example of an **introduction** to the question above:

Introduction

| | |
|---|--|
| Broad statement about topic | Many countries' cultures are preserved by the strong tradition inherent in the music, art and theatre of that country. |
| More specific statement about topic (optional) | It has been argued that the government should pay to promote the uniqueness of a country's culture by subsidising the artists, musicians and actors which keep culture alive. |
| Thesis Statement: (Answers question) | I agree that a government should fund its citizens' cultural pursuits, since part of a government's responsibility includes the preservation of its people's own unique cultural traditions. |

Tip:

Make sure you **do not copy** the IELTS question into your essay. **You must rephrase** the IELTS question, or the words you have copied will not be counted in your final word count. Repeat the idea, but use different vocabulary words and a different sentence structure.



Now let's look at a sample **conclusion** to this essay. Notice how the **thesis statement** and the **conclusion** are also the same idea, but rephrased. This can be a useful way to begin and end your essay, and will give your essay a sense of coherence.

Conclusion

- **Begins with “In conclusion,” or “To sum up,”**
- **Restates Thesis Statement**
- **Does not introduce new ideas**

In conclusion, I believe that governments should provide venues and offer grants and subsidies to artists and musicians of traditional music and art, to maintain the strong tradition of the country.

Exercise: Write your own essay for Question 3. Make sure that your thesis statement and your conclusion are rephrasing the question and stating your opinion.



Now let's look at the complete sample answer.

Question 3:

Many people believe that strong tradition helps to civilise a nation and that governments should therefore subsidise musicians, theatre companies, actors and artists.

Explain whether you agree or disagree with this statement and what you think governments should do to promote the traditional cultural heritage of a country.

Sample Answer:

Many countries' cultures are preserved by the strong tradition inherent in the music, art and theatre of that country. It has been argued that the government should pay to promote the uniqueness of a country's culture by subsidising the artists, musicians and actors which keep culture alive. I agree that a government should fund its citizens' cultural pursuits, since part of a government's responsibility includes the preservation of its people's own unique cultural traditions.

If a government wants to preserve and maintain the art and music which is historically traditional to its country, then it must take steps to insure that those traditions are valued and fostered. Firstly, a government can help maintain the cultural traditions of a country by using tax money to build theatres, music and concert halls, galleries and museums. By providing venues for artists, musicians and actors to practice, perform and exhibit their arts, the government is helping people come together to participate in traditional creative activities.

Furthermore, governments could provide grants, scholarships and education to artists and musicians who are prepared to make special contributions to the preservation of a country's traditional music and art. By giving students of art and music incentives to maintain cultural traditions, governments can promote the longevity of its people's traditions. For example, if a student who was interested in fine arts was offered a full scholarship to explore and paint in tradition styles, that student would be more inclined to follow that option than if no scholarship was offered.

In conclusion, I believe that governments should provide venues and offer grants and subsidies to artists and musicians of traditional music and art, to maintain the strong tradition of the country.

(280 words)

Using this technique of rephrasing your **thesis statement** in your **conclusion** can be helpful in several ways:

- It increases your word count.
- It ensures you have answered the question.

- It makes your **conclusion** easier to write since you already know what you're going to say.
- It gives your essay a sense of coherence.

Task Two Question 4

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

At school, children should either be taught to compete or to cooperate. Which form of education do you think would best benefit society?

Describe both sides of the argument and explain your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Topic Sentences

Let's look now at the **supporting paragraphs** of a Task 2 essay. Supporting paragraphs are the paragraphs *between the introduction and the conclusion*. Supporting paragraphs present your argument. Most IELTS Task 2 essays will have 2 supporting paragraphs. Occasionally you will use only 1 supporting paragraph, or sometimes you might choose to include 3 supporting paragraphs, but usually 2 works well.

Supporting paragraphs must begin with a **topic sentence**. A topic sentence is usually a short, concise sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph. All the supporting sentences in that paragraph will discuss and support the idea presented in the topic sentence.

Here's an example (from a supporting paragraph from essay question #1):

Firstly, the pros of globalisation are many. Through the Internet, it is easy to access information, communicate with other people, and learn about any topic. Television presents the culture, discoveries, and entertainment of foreign countries. Transportation is easy and quick, so people can travel widely, not only spreading aspects of their own culture, but also adopting aspects of their hosts' culture. These technologies help people to become more tolerant, and break down cultural barriers that existed only a decade ago.

Here's another example (from a supporting paragraph from essay question #12):

Secondly, computers help students become more productive than they have been in the past. Before students used computers, they had to consult a limited number of teachers, write essays by hand, correct errors, recopy written work, then deliver their assignments to their teachers. Now, with the help of computers, students can find the information they need from specialists around the world and type their essays onto computers quickly and easily. Therefore, the modernization of education has helped to increase the productivity of students.

You can see that the **topic sentence** is often quite short (but not always). It typically will begin with a **linking word** (we'll discuss these later). The topic sentence states the main idea of this paragraph, and all the supporting sentences within that paragraph give **examples** and **evidence** to support the topic sentence.

TIP: A **thesis statement** (the last sentence of the introduction) can also include the

ideas that will be present in the topic sentences. In subsequent pages, we'll look at how this is done. But first, let's try an exercise in writing topic sentences.

Exercise:

*Write a **topic sentence** for each of the supporting paragraphs shown below. These paragraphs are taken from different Task 2 essays in this book.*

1.

_____ . Firstly, fast food restaurants are plentiful and provide take-away meals that can be consumed on the run, so busy individuals do not have to sacrifice valuable time to eat their meals. Pre-packaged meals can also be prepared at home with little effort and can be prepared in minutes. However, fast food also has its disadvantages. For example, fast food is often expensive. Fast food is frequently high in fat and salt, which, when consumed on a regular basis, can contribute to health problems like obesity and high blood pressure.

2.

Mobile phones make it easy for parents to keep in touch with their children. Also, many people today have mobile phones which access the Internet, so they can not only communicate with their mobile phones, but also send e-mails, and conduct business via their phones. This is extremely advantageous as it means that people do not have to be confined to their homes or offices in order to get in touch with friends, family, or business associates; communication can take place anywhere and at any time.

3.

_____ . These types of people may choose to live in the same city their entire lives, choose one job or career path and follow it until they retire. For example, I have a neighbour that has lived in the same house since his childhood, became a music teacher, and stayed in that job for the entirety of his working life; his career choice was conducive to his preference to avoid change. This type of lifestyle is comforting to many people as they know what to expect each day; there are few unknowns and the maps of their lives are predictable and reliable.

4.

Firstly, a child that learns how to compete and succeed will have advantages over the child who shies away from competition. For example, the child that has competitive drive and works hard to excel will create opportunities for himself or herself, and will be better equipped to handle challenges and find solutions. Healthy competition can benefit society by encouraging individuals to work hard, strive and succeed.

Answers:

(Note: There are many possible answers.)

1.

Fast food has advantages and disadvantages. Firstly, fast food restaurants are plentiful and provide take-away meals that can be consumed on the run, so busy individuals do not have to sacrifice valuable time to eat their meals. Pre-packaged meals can also be prepared at home with little effort and can be prepared in minutes. However, fast food also has its disadvantages. For example, fast food is often expensive. Fast food is frequently high in fat and salt, which, when consumed on a regular basis, can contribute to health problems like obesity and high blood pressure.

2.

Mobile phones have become very widely used and have impacted the average person's lifestyle in many positive ways. Mobile phones make it easy for parents to keep in touch with their children. Also, many people today have mobile phones which access the Internet, so they can not only communicate with their mobile phones, but also send e-mails, and conduct business via their phones. This is extremely advantageous as it means that people do not have to be confined to their homes or offices in order to get in touch with friends, family, or business associates; communication can take place anywhere and at any time.

3.

Many people prefer to conduct their lives in a way that avoids change. These types of people may choose to live in the same city their entire lives, choose one job or career path and follow it until they retire. For example, I have a neighbour that has lived in the same house since his childhood, became a music teacher, and stayed in that job for the entirety of his working life; his career choice was conducive to his preference to avoid change. This type of lifestyle is comforting to many people as they know what to expect each day; there are few unknowns and the maps of their lives are predictable and reliable.

4.

Competitiveness is an attribute that is encouraged in many cultures, and it can be useful in many ways. Firstly, a child that learns how to compete and succeed will have advantages over the child who shies away from competition. For example, the child that has competitive drive and works hard to excel will create opportunities for himself or herself, and will be better equipped to handle challenges and find solutions. Healthy competition can benefit society by encouraging individuals to work hard, strive and succeed.

*You can see that **topic sentences** have a very specific and important job: to clearly introduce the topic or idea of the paragraph.*

Another technique to keep in mind:

A **thesis statement** can also include the ideas that will be presented in the **topic sentences**. This is not a technique that needs to be used in every essay, but it's one more thing to keep in mind as you continue to improve your writing and your essay organisation. Remember that a **thesis statement** is the last sentence of the **introduction**.

Educational methods vary around the world. In some countries, competition is considered more important, while in other countries, cooperation is viewed as a more essential skill. In my opinion, both cooperation and competition are vital components of a complete education.

A **thesis statement** answers the question. In some cases, you can use your thesis statement to introduce the ideas you will present in your supporting paragraphs. This essay shows how this can be done.

At school, children should either be taught to compete or to cooperate. Which form of education do you think would best benefit society? Describe both sides of the argument and explain your own opinion.

Sample Answer:

Educational methods vary around the world. In some countries, competition is considered more important, while in other countries, cooperation is viewed as a more essential skill. In my opinion, both cooperation and competition are vital components of

a complete education.

Competitiveness is an attribute that is encouraged in many cultures, and it can be useful in many ways. Firstly, a child that learns how to **compete** and succeed will have advantages over the child who shies away from **competition**. For example, the child that has **competitive** drive and works hard to excel will create opportunities for himself or herself, and will be better equipped to handle challenges and find solutions. Healthy **competition** can benefit society by encouraging individuals to work hard, strive and succeed.

On the other hand, **cooperation** is also an essential skill. Members of society must be able to **cooperate** in order to create successful, peaceful communities. If individuals work only competitively, without **cooperating**, then society will become fragmented. A good example to illustrate this point is a sports team; if one individual strives alone to succeed, his or her task will be more difficult. But if the team **works together** towards a common goal through **cooperation**, their chances of winning are better. For these reasons, **cooperation** should be taught in schools to create strong communities and a **cooperative** society.

Therefore, it is my opinion that **cooperation** and **competition** are both essential elements of education and should both be taught in schools. If education is approached from both angles, a child might be taught to strive and succeed, but also to help those around him or her to do the same, therefore benefiting society by instilling both a sense of personal satisfaction but also of helpfulness.

In conclusion, **cooperation** and **competition**, when taught together to young people, will create a future generation of successful and considerate citizens.



Task Two Question 5

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Fatherhood is equally as important as motherhood.

What is your opinion?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Supporting Your Topic Sentences

You now know how to write a **topic sentence**. Let's look next at how to **support** your topic sentences. Supporting paragraphs need to present **evidence** and **examples** that will uphold the argument presented in your topic sentence.

If your argument is not supported with examples and evidence, it will not be convincing. Many students have this problem: their arguments are weak and unconvincing and this weakness has a negative impact on their band score. You can read about the topics presented in this and other IELTS books to help you prepare for the test. Find articles on the Internet or newspapers, learn relevant vocabulary and begin to prepare your argument so you are well prepared. Presenting a strong argument is an important aspect of IELTS Task 2 essay writing. See **Question 9** for more information about how to do this.

ev.i.dence

[ev-i-duh ns]

noun

1.

that which tends to prove or disprove something; ground for belief; proof.

2.

something that makes plain or clear; an indication or sign: *His flushed look was visible **evidence** of his fever.*

ex.am.ple

[ig-zam-puhl]

noun

1.

one of a number of things, or a part of something, taken to show the character of the whole: *This painting is an **example** of his early work.*

2.

an instance serving for illustration; specimen

Examples and evidence prove or disprove your argument. Evidence and examples make your viewpoint believable. And they show how your viewpoint is illustrated in your own experience or observations.

Let's look at how this is done:

But first, let's do an exercise to practice providing evidence and examples. As you write, try to use details from your own personal experience to support the topic sentences. You'll notice that the topic sentences in these paragraphs are longer than in earlier examples; this has been done to help you complete the exercise below.

Exercise: Write the supporting sentences to support the topic sentences in the following essay. Use **evidence** and **examples** to support your opinion and strengthen the argument presented in the thesis statement.

Fatherhood is equally as important as motherhood.

What is your opinion?

Both parents play an important role in raising children. A well-adjusted child needs nurturing and guidance from both parents. **Therefore, in my opinion, fatherhood is just as important as motherhood because fathers and mothers play different roles in the lives of children, and both influences are equally important to the healthy emotional development of children.**

The role of motherhood is often thought of as the more important parental influence because the mother is the principal caregiver in the early stages of a child's life.

The role of fatherhood is often thought of as a less important one, but in my opinion, a father's influence is equally important to that of the mother.

In conclusion, I believe that fathers and mothers are equally important in a child's life. Ideally, the roles of the two parents will complement each other and the combination of both will help children reach their full potential.

Now let's look at a Sample Answer to this question:

Question 5:

Fatherhood is equally as important as motherhood.

What is your opinion?

Both parents play an important role in raising children. A well-adjusted child needs nurturing and guidance from both parents. Therefore, in my opinion, fatherhood is just as important as motherhood because fathers and mothers play different roles in the lives of children, and both influences are equally important to the healthy emotional development of children.

The role of motherhood is often thought of as the more important parental influence because the mother is the principal caregiver in the early stages of a child's life. *It is the mother who nurtures the child physically, feeds the child and most often forms the first strong parental bond with the child. A mother usually offers the child gentle comforts and constant security in the first few years. This role is critical in the emotional and social development of children, as it is these ties that give a child confidence and security.*

The role of fatherhood is often thought of as a less important one, but in my opinion, a father's influence is equally important to that of the mother. *The father often plays the role of provider and protector. While these are generalisations, they still apply to the majority of father/child relationships. In my own experience, my father taught me discipline, control, and encouraged me to work hard. He was less of a physical presence in my life, but his influence was strong nonetheless. I believe it is the combination of both my parents' influences that helped me become successful in life.*

In conclusion, I believe that fathers and mothers are equally important in a child's life. Ideally, the roles of the two parents will complement each other and the combination of both will help children reach their full potential.

(288 words)

As you continue to practice your writing in preparation for your IELTS exam, make sure you research the topics presented in these and other IELTS questions. Consider examples and evidence that could support your arguments as you prepare.

In the next question, look again at how **evidence** and **examples** are used. In the next

essay, **statistics** are also provided to make the argument even more convincing. **Statistics** are numerical facts or data, and can be very effective in strengthening an argument.

Task Two Question 6

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Smoking in public places should be banned.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Exercise:

*Research this topic on the Internet. Find one **statistic** to include in your essay, to support your argument. Write your own essay for Question 6. Include your statistic in one of your supporting paragraphs.*



Review

Let's review the template again and look at how this question can be organised:

Question 6:

Smoking in public places should be banned.

Do you agree or disagree?

Introduction

| | |
|---|---|
| Broad statement about topic | Smoking in public places has become a widely disputed issue and many people believe that all public smoking should be banned. |
| More specific statement (optional) | Others believe that people should have the right to smoke where and when they choose. |
| Thesis Statement: (Addresses question and Outlines points of supporting paragraphs) | I agree that smoking in public should be banned because second-hand smoke has been proven to be just as dangerous as first-hand smoke, so a smoker is not just risking his or her own health, but also all others who share a confined space. |

Supporting Paragraph #1

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Topic sentence (introduces topic of paragraph)</p> | <p>In many countries, people have the freedom to make their own choices about their lifestyle, their diet and their daily routines.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• examples• evidence | <p>Therefore, when they are confronted with new rules which limit their choices, they object to the changed laws. If smoking were banned in public places, people used to smoking wherever they chose would feel that they were losing a piece of their freedom. In this case, that restriction is warranted, however, because by smoking in public places, they are causing a health risk not just to themselves, but to everyone around them.</p> |

Supporting Paragraph #2

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Topic sentence (introduces topic of paragraph)</p> | <p>Smoking not only causes health problems for the smoker, but also for people who breathe the second-hand smoke.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• examples• evidence• statistics | <p>In fact, second-hand smoke has been proven to double the risk of lung cancer and emphysema for non-smokers if they are exposed to smoke in a confined space over a five-year period. Therefore, by smoking in public places, smokers are not just damaging their own health, but also causing significant risk to those around them.</p> |

Conclusion

In conclusion, I agree that smoking should be banned in all public places because second-hand smoke is almost as dangerous as first-hand smoke. People should have the right to maintain their health when they go to bars and restaurants, and should not be subjected to the health risks imposed by someone else's habit.



Complete Sample Essay:

Question 6:

Smoking in public places should be banned.

Do you agree or disagree?

Smoking in public places has become a widely disputed issue and many people believe that all public smoking should be banned. Others believe that people should have the right to smoke where and when they choose. I agree that smoking in public should be banned because second-hand smoke has been proven to be just as dangerous as first-hand smoke, so a smoker is not just risking his or her own health, but also all others who share a confined space.

In many countries, people have the freedom to make their own choices about their lifestyle, their diet and their daily routines. Therefore, when they are confronted with new rules which limit their choices, they object to the changed laws. If smoking were banned in public places, people used to smoking wherever they chose would feel that they were losing a piece of their freedom. In this case, that restriction is warranted, however, because by smoking in public places, they are causing a health risk not just to themselves, but to everyone around them.

Smoking not only causes health problems for the smoker, but also for people who breathe the second-hand smoke. In fact, second-hand smoke has been proven to double the risk of lung cancer and emphysema for non-smokers if they are exposed to smoke in a confined space over a five-year period. Therefore, by smoking in public places, smokers are not just damaging their own health, but also causing significant risk to those around them.

In conclusion, I agree that smoking should be banned in all public places because second-hand smoke is almost as dangerous as first-hand smoke. People should have the right to maintain their health when they go to bars and restaurants, and should not be subjected to the health risks imposed by someone else's habit.

(299 words)

Did your essay include a statistic? You can see that statistics, examples and evidence made an argument more convincing. Presenting a strong argument will earn you a higher band score on your IELTS academic writing test.



Task Two Question 7

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

List some of the causes and effects of global warming. Offer one solution that might help slow or stop the problems associated with global warming.

Use facts and evidence to support your answer.

Write at least 250 words.

The Conclusion

Let's return to the **conclusion**. The conclusion is the last paragraph of an essay. A conclusion:

- Sums up the points made in the essay
- Does not introduce any new ideas
- (Restates the thesis statement)*

As we've discussed so far in this book, I encourage my students to use the academic essay model for their Task 2 essays. Academic essay introductions include a **thesis statement** as their last sentences; thesis statements answer the question.

A conclusion should also **restate the answer to the essay question**. This gives your essay a strong, conclusive finish.

I encourage students to use one of two phrases to begin a conclusion. There are many others you could use, but the following two suggestions work every time:

- **In conclusion,**
- **To sum up,**

Choose one of these to begin your conclusion. Don't forget to include a comma (,) after the phrases used above. Correct punctuation is increasingly important in IELTS essay evaluation.

A conclusion usually consists of 1 or 2 sentences, or, rarely, 3.

***ACHIEVE IELTS Academic Writing Success** shows you **one way** to write an academic/Task 2 essay. There are other methods that are also effective. Not all IELTS instructors will require a thesis statement, but my students have found that the method of preparation presented in this book **gets excellent results**.

Exercise:

Read the essay and write a suitable *conclusion*. Restate the idea presented in the *thesis statement*.

Note that this essay has 3 supporting paragraphs because the question lends itself to 3 paragraphs:

- *causes*
- *effects*
- *solution*

List some of the causes and effects of global warming. Offer one solution that might help slow or stop the problems associated with global warming.

Global warming is causing increasing concern around the world as the health effects of this problem are becoming more understood. As scientists study the causes and effects of global warming, public awareness of this problem is increasing. **Now that people better understand that pollution is the main cause of global warming, and that the effects of pollution include ozone depletion and the greenhouse effect, solutions can be put into place to minimise its effects.**

Firstly, the causes of global warming stem from pollution. Some of the main producers of air pollution are factories and cars, which emit toxic gases like carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Also, as the population of the earth grows, more and more farm animals are needed to feed the growing population, and it is now known that farm animals emit methane gas. Methane, carbon dioxide and other chemicals deplete the ozone layer of the atmosphere and are causing a large hole to form in the ozone layer. This hole allows ultraviolet rays to come through and, as a result, the earth's temperature is beginning to rise.

The effects of global warming are numerous. Scientists now know that the ultraviolet rays coming through the depleted ozone layer are harmful to humans and are causing increasing cases of skin cancer. Also, rising temperatures are causing changing weather patterns and an increase of natural disasters like droughts, floods and fires.

As we realise the extent of the damage being done, we can take steps to slow the effects of global warming. New technologies like cars that use hydrogen as fuel emit only pure water. And renewable energy sources like wind, water and solar power do not release

harmful emissions into the atmosphere.

Add your conclusion here:

Now look at the complete essay:

List some of the causes and effects of global warming. Offer one solution that might help slow or stop the problems associated with global warming.

Global warming is causing increasing concern around the world as the health effects of this problem are becoming more understood. As scientists study the causes and effects of global warming, public awareness of this problem is increasing. Now that people better understand that pollution is the main cause of global warming, and that the effects of pollution include ozone depletion and the greenhouse effect, solutions can be put into place to minimise its effects.

Firstly, the causes of global warming stem from pollution. Some of the main producers of air pollution are factories and cars, which emit toxic gases like carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Also, as the population of the earth grows, more and more farm animals are needed to feed the growing population, and it is now known that farm animals emit methane gas. Methane, carbon dioxide and other chemicals deplete the ozone layer of the atmosphere and are causing a large hole to form in the ozone layer. This hole allows ultraviolet rays to come through and, as a result, the earth's temperature is beginning to rise.

The effects of global warming are numerous. Scientists now know that the ultraviolet rays coming through the depleted ozone layer are harmful to humans and are causing increasing cases of skin cancer. Also, rising temperatures are causing changing weather patterns and an increase of natural disasters like droughts, floods and fires.

As we realise the extent of the damage being done, we can take steps to slow the effects of global warming. New technologies like cars that use hydrogen as fuel emit only pure water. And renewable energy sources like wind, water and solar power do not release harmful emissions into the atmosphere.

In conclusion, as the causes and effects of global warming are better understood, individuals, communities and countries can take steps to slow and eventually stop global warming.

(310 words)

Again, note that the **conclusion** restates the **thesis statement**; both sentences **answer the question**.



Task Two Question 8

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Computers are used more and more widely in education and some people believe that teachers now play a less important role in the classroom than ever before. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Linking Words and Phrases

Linking words and phrases are words that link one idea to the following idea. Linking words give your essay **flow**. In other words, an essay becomes easier to read since one idea flows or leads easily into the next. Including linking words in your essay will also increase your word count.

Here is a list of linking words and phrases:

To begin,
Firstly,
Secondly,
Thirdly,
On the other hand,
In contrast,
Furthermore,
Similarly,
However,
In this case,
In fact,
And,
But,
Therefore,
As a result,
For example,
Also,
Now,
In the past,
In conclusion,
To sum up,

Linking words and phrases are usually (but not always) found at the beginning of a sentences. Linking words and phrases are usually (but not always) followed by a comma (,).

Take a moment to read through some of the sample Task 2 essay answers in this book. Pay attention to the linking words and phrases, where they appear in the sentence and what purpose they serve. Practice using linking words in your own essays.

Question 8:

Computers are used more and more widely in education and some people believe that teachers now play a less important role in the classroom than ever before. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Exercise:

Fill in the blanks below using one of the linking words listed above.

Computers are being used more frequently in every aspect of our daily lives, including education. Some people believe that teachers are becoming less important in the classroom as computers play an increasingly important role. I agree that computers are beneficial to learning and in some ways are even replacing the role of teachers in the classroom because they improve communication and increase productivity.

_____, computers have improved communication dramatically in the last decade and have now become an essential tool in many aspects of our daily lives, including education. _____, students today can access almost any piece of information in a matter of seconds using a home or school computer. Students can communicate not just with one teacher, who may have limited expertise, but with any expert around the world. So modern students no longer have just one teacher, but can communicate with many. These advances in communication technology undeniably make education more accessible and unlimited than ever before.

_____, computers help students become more productive than they have been in the past. Before students used computers, they had to consult a limited number of teachers, write essays by hand, correct errors, recopy written work, then deliver their assignments to their teachers. _____, with the help of computers, students can find the information they need from specialists around the world and type their essays onto computers quickly and easily. _____, the modernization of education has helped to increase the productivity of students.

_____, computers have revolutionized education and are taking over many of the teachers' roles in the classroom. Computers provide students with instant, worldwide communications networks, increase their productivity and enable students to work to their own pace and level, and have therefore become as important as teachers in the modern classroom.

Now check your answers.

Note: There may be more than one correct answer.

Question 8:

Computers are used more and more widely in education and some people believe that teachers now play a less important role in the classroom than ever before. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Complete Sample Answer:

Computers are being used more frequently in every aspect of our daily lives, including education. Some people believe that teachers are becoming less important in the classroom as computers play an increasingly important role. I agree that computers are beneficial to learning and in some ways are even replacing the role of teachers in the classroom because they improve communication and increase productivity.

Firstly, computers have improved communication dramatically in the last decade and have now become an essential tool in many aspects of our daily lives, including education. **For example**, students today can access almost any piece of information in a matter of seconds using a home or school computer. Students can communicate not just with one teacher, who may have limited expertise, but with any expert around the world. So modern students no longer have just one teacher, but can communicate with many. These advances in communication technology undeniably make education more accessible and unlimited than ever before.

Secondly, computers help students become more productive than they have been in the past. Before students used computers, they had to consult a limited number of teachers, write essays by hand, correct errors, recopy written work, then deliver their assignments to their teachers. **Now**, with the help of computers, students can find the information they need from specialists around the world and type their essays onto computers quickly and easily. **Therefore**, the modernization of education has helped to increase the productivity of students.

In conclusion, computers have revolutionized education and are taking over many of the teachers' roles in the classroom. Computers provide students with instant, worldwide communications networks, increase their productivity and enable students to work to their own pace and level, and have therefore become as important as teachers in the modern classroom.

Task Two Question 9

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Other people believe that change is a good thing.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Hint:

Exercise: As you progress through this book, practice writing essays for each question.

Remember to:

- use the template to organise your essay
- take 3-5 minutes to plan your essay
- practice working quickly! – 40 minutes is not a lot of time
- make there are clear divisions between paragraphs
- introduce your supporting points with topic sentences
- use examples, evidence and statistics to support your arguments
- use linking words to connect your ideas

NOTE: Use the model answers in this book to guide you. Do NOT memorise them. It is very easy for an IELTS examiner to tell when a student has memorised an essay.



Answering the Question

This may seem obvious. But in my experience as a teacher, I've been amazed at how often students neglect to **answer the question** as they should. Even if you write an excellent essay, you can lose points if you do not adequately answer the question that is being asked.

Let's look at the question again:

Question 9:

Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Other people believe that change is a good thing.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

In this question, you are being asked to:

- Discuss view #1: people who prefer to spend their lives doing the same thing and avoiding change
- Discuss view #2: people who think that change is positive
- Give your opinion about which view you think is better

If you do not discuss all three of these points in your essay, you will lose points towards your final band score.

When you take 3-5 minutes to plan your essay, make sure you are planning to answer all parts of the question being asked.

When I planned my essay for the question above, my plan looked like this (I always visualise the template when I plan my Task 2 essays):

Question 9:

Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Other people believe that change is a good thing.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

You are being asked to:

- Discuss view #1: people who prefer to spend their lives doing the same thing and avoiding change
- Discuss view #2: people who think that change is positive
- Give your opinion about which view you think is better

Plan:

| Introduction | |
|---|--|
| Broad statement about topic | People have different attitudes towards change |
| More specific statement about topic (optional) | Some like change, some don't |
| Thesis Statement: (Answers question) | In my opinion, a balance is ideal |
| Supporting Paragraph #1 | |
| Topic Sentence (introduces topic of paragraph) | View #1: Some people don't like change. |
| Supporting Sentences • evidence • examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stay in same town, same job • example: neighbour • comforting, predictable, reliable |
| Supporting Paragraph #2 | |
| Topic Sentence (introduces topic of paragraph) | View #2: Some people do like change. |
| Supporting Sentences • evidence • examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel • excitement • jobs |
| Supporting Paragraph #3 | |
| Topic Sentence (introduces topic of paragraph) | My opinion: a balance of the two is ideal |
| Supporting Sentences • evidence • examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occasional travel and change |
| Conclusion | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins with "In conclusion," or "To sum up," • Restates Thesis Statement • Does not introduce new ideas | Balance (restate) |

Exercise:

Exercise: Write your own essay for Question 9. Use the plan presented above.

Question 9:

Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Other people believe that change is a good thing.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

Sample Answer:

Every person has a different attitude towards change. While some people prefer to live their lives with as little disturbance as possible, others crave change and new experiences. In my opinion, a balance of new and familiar situations is the ideal.

View #1: Many people prefer to conduct their lives in a way that avoids change. These types of people may choose to live in the same city their entire lives, choose one job or career path and follow it until they retire. For example, I have a neighbour that has lived in the same house since his childhood, became an art teacher, and stayed in that job for the entirety of his working life; his career choice was conducive to his preference to avoid change. This type of lifestyle is comforting to many people as they know what to expect each day; there are few unknowns and the maps of their lives are predictable and reliable.

View #2: Other people, however, thrive on change. These people may move to different cities and countries to experience new cultures, living environments and job opportunities. They may find a life without change unexciting and stifling. And many jobs cater to the desire to experience new settings. Journalists, travel writers and pilots are some career paths that might be chosen by those who enjoy change. Too much change, however, can be unsettling.

My opinion: In my opinion, a balance of change and reliability is the best way to live. Much comfort can be derived from having a home that is familiar and where friends and family can provide support. Occasional travel and change, however, provides new experience that can be refreshing, educational and enjoyable.

In conclusion, I believe that some stability is important for a grounded lifestyle, but I also

believe that some change makes for a more interesting life.

(301 words)

Make sure you answer the question.

Task Two Question 10

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Genetic engineering for both medical and agricultural purposes is causing an increasing amount of controversy.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of genetic engineering and explain your opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Spelling

Once you finish writing your essay, if you have time, go back and read through your essay to look for mistakes in grammar, punctuation and **spelling**. A number of words have been misspelled in the following sample answer to the test question #10. Read through the essay, find and fix the spelling errors. Then check your answers on the next page. If you missed some of the errors, or if you're not familiar with any of the vocabulary words, write them down and learn them. One of the keys to improving your IELTS score is a good knowledge of academic vocabulary.

Exercise:

Find the spelling errors in this sample answer:

New advances in scientific technology have allowed scientists to develop the means to change the biological make-up of living organisms to engineer agricultural and medicinal products. Clearly, there are both advantages and disadvantages to genetic engineering and I personally believe that genetic modification should be used to adapt medicinal products, but not agricultural products.

There are many ethical and health issues associated with genetic engineering, and it is a complex and highly controversial issue. I believe that genetic engineering is beneficial when used to develop new medicines or scientific technology that helps prolong people's lives. For example, if a person is dying of an incurable disease and genetic engineering technology can provide a new medicine or a treatment that will keep that person alive and well for several more years, then I believe it should be used. However, I believe that techniques like cloning are unethical and potentially dangerous because the effects of these techniques are unknown and largely unnecessary.

Genetic engineering has also been used to change the biological make-up of agricultural products. For example, people prefer to buy bananas that are bright yellow because they look fresh and healthy. Naturally grown, organic bananas, however, are not perfectly yellow, but often have naturally occurring brown spots caused by sugar. Scientists have developed methods of changing the genes of bananas to prevent them from turning brown. This sort of genetic engineering is unnecessary in my opinion, and may subject people to unnecessary risks since it has not yet been determined what kinds of health risks the genetic changes might cause.

In conclusion, genetic modification should be used for necessary and useful purposes like saving lives, not for rearranging genes to change the appearance of agricultural products, a potentially dangerous and unnecessary procedure.

Now check your answers:

Question 10:

Genetic engineering for both medical and agricultural purposes is causing an increasing amount of controversy.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of genetic engineering and explain your opinion.

Corrected Sample Answer:

New advances in scientific technology have allowed **scientists** to develop the means to change the biological make-up of living **organisms** to engineer **agricultural** and **medicinal** products. Clearly, there are both advantages and disadvantages to **genetic** engineering and I personally believe that genetic modification should be used to adapt **medicinal** products, but not **agricultural** products.

There are many **ethical** and health issues associated with genetic engineering, and it is a complex and highly **controversial** issue. I believe that genetic engineering is **beneficial** when used to develop new **medicines** or scientific technology that helps prolong people's lives. For example, if a person is **dying** of an incurable disease and genetic engineering technology can provide a new **medicine** or a **treatment** that will keep that person alive and well for several more years, then I believe it should be used. However, I believe that **techniques** like cloning are **unethical** and potentially dangerous because the effects of these **techniques** are unknown and largely **unnecessary**.

Genetic engineering has also been used to change the biological make-up of agricultural products. For example, people **prefer** to buy bananas that are bright yellow because they look fresh and healthy. **Naturally** grown, **organic** bananas, however, are not perfectly yellow, but often have naturally **occurring** brown spots caused by sugar. Scientists have developed methods of changing the **genes** of bananas to prevent them from turning brown. This sort of genetic engineering is unnecessary in my opinion, and may subject people to unnecessary risks since it has not yet been **determined** what kinds of health risks the genetic changes might cause.

In **conclusion**, genetic **modification** should be used for necessary and useful purposes like saving lives, not for rearranging **genes** to change the appearance of agricultural products, a **potentially** dangerous and unnecessary procedure.

(292 words)

Task Two Question 11

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of traditional food and fast food.

Which type of food do you prefer and why?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Punctuation

Once you finish writing your essay, if you have time, go back and read through your essay to look for mistakes in grammar, **punctuation** and spelling. Incorrect punctuation can negatively impact your IELTS Writing score.



Exercise:

Put the correct punctuation (, . -) into the following essay, then read the complete sample answer on the next page to check your answers. Circle the letters that should be UPPER CASE.

in our modern fast paced society traditional food has often been replaced by fast food alternatives there are advantages and disadvantages to both traditional and fast food meals but i prefer traditional food because it is healthier less expensive and more enjoyable to prepare eat and share

fast food has advantages and disadvantages firstly fast food restaurants are plentiful and provide take away meals that can be consumed on the run so busy individuals do not have to sacrifice valuable time to eat their meals pre packaged meals can also be prepared at home with little effort and can be prepared in minutes

however fast food also has its disadvantages for example fast food is often expensive fast food is frequently high in fat and salt which when consumed on a regular basis can contribute to health problems like obesity and high blood pressure

similarly traditional food also has advantages and disadvantages the advantages of traditional food preparation are that the ingredients of a traditional meal are often healthy inexpensive in season and produced locally sustaining local farmers and growers the seasonings added to traditional meals are usually varied and enriching to the diet the disadvantages of traditional cooking are that the meals often take time and careful effort to prepare some people may view this as an advantage however because the skill of the cook becomes more important the ingredients and flavours are studied and savoured and the tradition surrounding the ritual of meal preparation and the following gathering places value on family community and cultural tradition

in my opinion while fast food is convenient and easy it is often unhealthy and expensive personally I prefer to take a few extra minutes to prepare a meal which is worth savouring and sharing than to indulge in expensive fast food meals that are greasy salty and in my opinion unsatisfying

Question 11:

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of traditional food and fast food.

Which type of food do you prefer and why?

Corrected Sample Answer:

In our modern, fast-paced society, traditional food has often been replaced by fast food alternatives. There are advantages and disadvantages to both traditional and fast food meals, but I prefer traditional food because it is healthier, less expensive and more enjoyable to prepare, eat and share.

Fast food has advantages and disadvantages. Firstly, fast food restaurants are plentiful and provide take-away meals that can be consumed on the run, so busy individuals do not have to sacrifice valuable time to eat their meals. Pre-packaged meals can also be prepared at home with little effort and can be prepared in minutes. However, fast food also has its disadvantages. For example, fast food is often expensive. Fast food is frequently high in fat and salt, which, when consumed on a regular basis, can contribute to health problems like obesity and high blood pressure.

Similarly, traditional food also has advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of traditional food preparation are that the ingredients of a traditional meal are often healthy, inexpensive, in season, and produced locally, sustaining local farmers and growers. The seasonings added to traditional meals are usually varied and enriching to the diet. The disadvantages of traditional cooking are that the meals often take time and careful effort to prepare. Some people may view this as an advantage, however, because the skill of the cook becomes more important, the ingredients and flavours are studied and savoured, and the tradition surrounding the ritual of meal preparation and the following gathering places value on family, community and cultural tradition.

In my opinion, while fast food is convenient and easy, it is often unhealthy and expensive. Personally, I prefer to take a few extra minutes to prepare a meal which is worth savouring and sharing than to indulge in expensive fast food meals that are greasy, salty and, in my opinion, unsatisfying.

(307 words)

Exercise: Vocabulary

Which sentence on the LEFT (A-J) matches the correct sentence on the RIGHT (1-10)? Your task in this exercise is to identify the **SENTENCE (1-10)** that **CONTINUES** the topic and vocabulary from the sentence given in each question (A-J). This exercise will help you become familiar with some useful **vocabulary** relevant to the Task 2 essay question above. Use the key words in **bold** to help you.

Exercise:

| | |
|--|--|
| A I always try to buy free range eggs. | 1 These are food which are grown without the use of pesticides or chemical fertilizers. |
| B The chef prepared a delicious meal. | 2 It was the first time I've ever tried deer meat. |
| C Fast food is usually greasy, salty and high in fat. | 3 The chickens from those farms are not confined to cages. |
| D It's important to eat a balanced diet in order to stay healthy. | 4 Therefore, a diet of hamburgers, fish and chips, and pizza is not particularly healthy. |
| E People who eat too many carbohydrates often gain weight unless they are very active. | 5 She has won many awards for her culinary achievements. |
| F I would prefer not to try genetically modified food products. | 6 You never know if they're really safe or not since they're so new and untested. |
| G Dairy products are healthy as long as they are eaten in moderation. | 7 A few of my favourites are rosemary, oregano and chilli peppers. |
| H Last night I ordered venison for dinner. | 8 So I try not to eat too much bread, pasta, or grains unless I'm exercising a lot. |
| I Herbs and spices make a dish more flavourful. | 9 Servings of foods like milk, ice cream and butter should be limited to once or twice a day. |
| J Many people prefer to eat organic produce. | 10 People should eat a variety of food containing different vitamins and minerals. |

Have you matched each sentence in the left column with the best corresponding sentence in the right-hand column? Then you are ready to check the answers on the next page.

ANSWERS

| | | | |
|------------|---|------------|---|
| A3 | I always try to buy free range eggs. | 1J | These are foods which are grown without the use of pesticides or chemical fertilizers. |
| B5 | The chef prepared a delicious meal. | 2H | It was the first time I've ever tried deer meat. |
| C4 | Fast food is usually greasy, salty and high in fat. | 3A | The chickens from those farms are not confined to cages. |
| D10 | It's important to eat a balanced diet in order to stay healthy. | 4C | Therefore, a diet of hamburgers, fish and chips, and pizza is not particularly healthy. |
| E8 | People who eat too many carbohydrates often gain weight unless they are very active. | 5B | She has won many awards for her culinary achievements. |
| F6 | I would prefer not to try genetically modified food products. | 6F | You never know if they're really safe or not since they're so new and untested. |
| G9 | Dairy products are healthy as long as they are eaten in moderation. | 7I | A few of my favourites are rosemary, oregano and chilli peppers. |
| H2 | Last night I ordered venison for dinner. | 8E | So I try not to eat too much bread, pasta, or grains unless I'm exercising a lot. |
| I7 | Herbs and spices make a dish more flavourful. | 9G | Servings of foods like milk, ice cream and butter should be limited to once or twice a day. |
| J1 | Many people prefer to eat organic produce. | 10D | People should eat a variety of food containing different vitamins and minerals. |

Turn to the next question to learn more about using **academic vocabulary** in your Task 2 essay.

Task Two Question 12

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and practical skills needed in the workplace. Others think that the true function of a university should be to provide, discuss and encourage knowledge for its own sake, regardless of whether the subject is useful to an employer.

In your opinion, what should be the main function of a university?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Using Academic Vocabulary

In the IELTS Task 2 essay, you should try to use **academic vocabulary** to argue your point. If you use only simplistic vocabulary, or if you repeat the same words over and over, your essay will not be as strong.

Learning **vocabulary** is a very important aspect of IELTS preparation. Expanding your knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary words will help you in all areas of the IELTS test. As you study, you should learn at least 10 new vocabulary words a day. **Use these words!** Practice speaking, writing, reading about and listening for the words that you are learning.

Some useful tips for learning vocabulary:

- **Keep a notebook.** Write down new vocabulary words in your notebook. Keep it with you and study the words when you have free time.
- **Read the newspaper.** Write down new vocabulary words in your notebook. Reading the newspaper will also expose you to topical global issues that may appear on IELTS tests.
- **Join a club.** This is a great way to find friends and practice speaking and listening with native-English speakers. I had one student who joined a book club in New Zealand. She made great friends, read new books, practiced speaking English – and was able to obtain her desired IELTS score within 3 months.
- **Watch the news.** Again, this will expose you to topical issues and helps your listening skills and vocabulary knowledge.
- **Ask for help.** I've had students who have asked their host families to help them study, speak, and practice using new vocabulary words. Students who practice regularly are students who progress quickly.
- **Watch movies.** Movies are fun, and also full of rich vocabulary. If you can, write down new words in your notebook as you watch.
- **Get a library card.** If you don't already have one, go to your local library and ask for a card – they're free! Get a new book (in English!) each week. Write down new vocabulary words in your notebook. Study them!
- **Keep a journal.** Write a page each day using your new vocabulary words. Write about your experiences. Use as much detail as you can to describe the people you meet and the new places you are exploring.
- **Listen to the radio.** Listening to the radio is perfect practice for the IELTS listening test, and can also help you expand your vocabulary to benefit you in all areas of the IELTS examination.

As you practice with the Task 2 essay questions in this book, make a list of useful vocabulary for each question/topic. Learn the vocabulary words. Practice using them.

On the next page, look at the list of vocabulary words that are relevant for Question 11. Then practice using the words in the list to write a complete Task 2 essay. When you are finished, check the sample answer.

Question 12:

Some people believe that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and practical skills needed in the workplace. Others think that the true function of a university should be to provide, discuss and encourage knowledge for its own sake, regardless of whether the subject is useful to an employer.

In your opinion, what should be the main function of a university?

Nouns:

university
function
society
learning
preparation
workplace
career
environment
innovation
exploration
skill
individual
sector
student
knowledge
policy
interest
graduate
field
opportunity
value

Verbs:

serve
function
prepare
foster
explore
believe
provide
view
study
encourage
pursue
interest
indulge
agree
offer
graduate
expand
value

Adjectives:

tertiary
main
sound
specific
true
important
innovative
secondary
public
private
specialised
useful

Exercise:

Take 40 minutes to write the Task 2 essay for Question 12. Use as many vocabulary words from the list as you can.

Question 12:

Some people believe that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and practical skills needed in the workplace. Others think that the true function of a university should be to provide, discuss and encourage knowledge for its own sake, regardless of whether the subject is useful to an employer.

In your opinion, what should be the main function of a university?

Exercise:

Fill in the blanks with a word from the vocabulary list. (v.) indicates a verb, (n.) indicates a noun, and (a.) indicates an adjective. Decide whether the nouns should be singular or plural.

Universities _____(v.) an important function in _____ (n.), providing and encouraging education and higher learning. While some people view universities as merely preparation for the _____ (n.), others see tertiary education as something more. In my opinion, the main function of a university should be as a place not only to prepare for a _____ (n.), but also as an environment that _____ (v.) and encourages innovation and exploration.

Firstly, I believe it is _____ (a.) that universities should provide students with skills and knowledge relevant to a specific career in the workplace. For example, a/an _____ (n.) who attends law school should graduate with a sound knowledge of law policies, and be ready to provide useful service in that _____ (n.) upon graduation. Society depends on university graduates to bring their _____ (a.) expertise to law offices, schools, businesses, banks, and many, many other fields across both the public and private _____ (n.).

But universities should also _____ (v.) innovation and exploration. University years are a time for exploration; once an individual graduates and gets a job, he or she will be less likely to have the time or resources to _____ (v.) knowledge for its own sake. For example, when I was a university student working towards a Bachelor of Arts in English, I took classes in psychology, astronomy and also music. I _____ (v.) these experiences greatly, since each of those classes expanded my knowledge and allowed me to pursue _____ (a.) interests I may not have the chance to indulge again.

In conclusion, while I do agree that universities should provide knowledge and skills that are _____ (a.) in the workplace, I also think an equally important purpose of the university experience should be to explore the many _____ (n.) a tertiary education has to offer.

Now check the following sample answer:

Question 12:

Some people believe that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and practical skills needed in the workplace. Others think that the true function of a university should be to provide, discuss and encourage knowledge for its own sake, regardless of whether the subject is useful to an employer.

In your opinion, what should be the main function of a university?

Sample Answer:

Universities serve an important function in society, providing and encouraging education and higher learning. While some people view universities as merely preparation for the workplace, others see tertiary education as something more. In my opinion, the main function of a university should be as a place not only to prepare for a career, but also as an environment that fosters and encourages innovation and exploration.

Firstly, I believe it is true that universities should provide students with skills and knowledge relevant to a specific career in the workplace. For example, an individual who attends law school should graduate with a sound knowledge of law policies, and be ready to provide useful service in that field upon graduation. Society depends on university graduates to bring their specialised expertise to law offices, schools, businesses, banks, and many, many other fields across both the public and private sectors.

But universities should also encourage innovation and exploration. University years are a time for exploration; once an individual graduates and gets a job, he or she will be less likely to have the time or resources to pursue knowledge for its own sake. For example, when I was a university student working towards a Bachelor of Arts in English, I took classes in psychology, astronomy and also music. I value these experiences greatly, since each of those classes expanded my knowledge and allowed me to pursue secondary interests I may not have the chance to indulge again.

In conclusion, while I do agree that universities should provide knowledge and skills that are useful in the workplace, I also think an equally important purpose of the university experience should be to explore the many opportunities a tertiary education has to offer.

(285 words)

It is important to use a variety of academic vocabulary in your Task 2 essay. Practice using new vocabulary regularly and often as you read, listen, speak and write in English.

Task Two Question 13

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

The increase in the use of mobile phones in recent years has transformed the way we communicate, live, and do business. Mobile phones can also, however, be the cause of social or medical problems. What are some of the problems caused by mobile phone usage? Do you think the advantages of mobile phones outweigh the disadvantages?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least **250** words.

Noun/Verb/Adjective/Adverb

As you prepare for your IELTS test, be aware of the different **parts of speech** in English, specifically **nouns, verbs, adjectives** and **adverbs**. Many, many words in English can be used in more than one form. Look at this table:

Vocabulary relating to Question 13:

| NOUN | VERB | ADJECTIVE | ADVERB |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| mobility | mobilise | mobile | --- |
| exponent | --- | exponential | exponentially |
| advantage | advantage | advantageous | advantageously |
| impact | impact | --- | --- |
| access/ accessibility | access | accessible | accessibly |
| agreement | agree | agreeable | agreeably |
| increase | increase | increased/ increasing | increasingly |
| popularity | popularise | popular | popularly |
| width | widen | wide | widely |
| communication | communicate | communicative | communicatively |

Learning vocabulary words and the different forms these words can take will help you create more complex sentences in your Task 2 essays. If you include complex sentences that include a range of correctly-used academic vocabulary in your essays, your band score will go up. Read through the Sample Answer to Question 13 on the next page and look at how these vocabulary words are used. Now you try:

Exercise:

Fill in the **yellow** blanks in the table below with the correct form of the vocabulary word shown.

Let's review the vocabulary list from Question 12:

| NOUN | VERB | ADJECTIVE | ADVERB |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| function | 1. | functional | functionally |
| specification | specify | 2. | specifically |
| exploration | 3. | explorative | --- |
| preparation | prepare | prepared | --- |
| 4. | believe | believable | 5. |
| innovation | 6. | 7. | innovatively |
| interest | 8. | interesting | 9. |
| 10. | value | valuable | --- |

As you write, study and learn new vocabulary, make tables like these to help you practice changing words into different parts of speech. Showing that you know how to use a vocabulary word in more than one form in a Task 2 essay will help you earn a higher score on your IELTS academic writing test.

Answers can be found at the bottom of the following pages.

Question 13:

The increase in the use of mobile phones in recent years has transformed the way we communicate, live, and do business. Mobile phones can also, however, be the cause of social or medical problems. What are some of the problems caused by mobile phone usage? Do you think the advantages of mobile phones outweigh the disadvantages?

Sample Answer:

Over the past decade, the popularity of mobile phones has increased exponentially, changing many aspects of the way people live. Most people agree that the majority of these changes are positive, but there are also negative aspects to the overuse of mobile phones. In my opinion, the advantages of mobile phones outweigh the disadvantages.

Mobile phones have become very widely used and have impacted the average person's lifestyle in many positive ways. Mobile phones make it easy for parents to keep in touch with their children. Also, many people today have mobile phones which access the Internet, so they can not only communicate with their mobile phones, but also send e-mails, and conduct business via their phones. This is extremely advantageous as it means that people do not have to be confined to their homes or offices in order to get in touch with friends, family, or business associates; communication can take place anywhere and at any time.

The prolific use of mobile phones can also have negative impacts on individuals and society, however. For example, if children are given mobile phones to use when they are unsupervised, they may access inappropriate content on the Internet. In addition, some people who rely too heavily on Internet-equipped mobile phones might become more isolated than an individual who must rely on social interaction for their entertainment. Some studies have also shown that the overuse of mobile phones can pose health risks like cancer, although additional research needs to be conducted to prove this theory. If people are aware of these downsides to mobile phone use, I believe they can take steps to prevent most social and medical problems from occurring.

In conclusion, in my opinion, mobile phones' advantages far outweigh their disadvantages.

(290 words)

Answers to vocabulary table on the previous pages:

1. function

2. specific

3. explore

4. belief

5. believably

6. innovate

7. innovative

8. interest

9. interestingly

10. value



Task Two Question 14

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think that keeping animals in zoos is cruel to the animals, while others believe that zoos keep many animal species alive that would otherwise be extinct.

Explain both sides of this argument and give your opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

The Use of Articles

A few rules about articles (this is not an all-inclusive list):

THE

The is called the **definite article**. It is used:

- when it is obvious what noun is being referred to:
 - The television is broken. (*I only have one television.*)
- when the noun being referred to is unique (only one of them exists):
 - The Parthenon is located in Athens.
- when a particular noun is being referred to:
 - The winner of the election was _____.

...and:

- the Earth, the sun and the moon (but all other planets take **Ø**)
 - The moon revolves around the Earth.
- rivers
 - The Seine runs through the city of Paris.
- mountain ranges
 - The Himalayas are home to Mt. Everest.
- plural countries, including those whose names include *United* and *Republic*:
 - the United States, the United Kingdom, the People's Republic of China, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, the Philippines
- island groups
 - the Maldives, the Cook Islands, the Seychelles

A and AN

A and **An** are called the **indefinite articles**. **A** is used when the following word begins with a consonant. **An** is used when the following word begins with a vowel.

A and **An** are used when the noun being referred to is a singular person or thing: "one of many". For example:

- This is a very interesting theory about economic policy in Asia.
- I have decided to take an astronomy class.

...and with:

- jobs or professions:
 - I am going to medical school to become a doctor.

Ø

Ø is called the **zero article**. It is used when referring to ideas that are uncountable: **pollution freedom industry knowledge health shopping information**

- Some people believe that pollution is causing global warming.
- Health is more important than wealth.

... and with:

- planets, countries, cities, states, continents
- languages and school subjects
- with the following places, but **only** when they are being used for their **main purpose**:
school class church university bed home
I was late for class this morning. **BUT** The class is in room 203.

He goes to school in Switzerland. **BUT** It is a very large school.
After class, I'm going home. **BUT** You have a beautiful home.

Exercise:

Fill in the blanks with an article: a, an, the, or ø

There are thousands of zoos around _____ world which house millions of animals worldwide. Many people think that keeping animals in _____ cage is cruel and unnatural, but others argue that zoos protect animals and that without zoos, many of _____ animals that are housed in them would be in danger of dying out. I believe that zoos are necessary to protect animals that would otherwise have no remaining natural habitat and would therefore be endangered or extinct.

In _____ past, it has often been considered cruel to confine wild animals to small cages purely for _____ amusement and curiosity of human beings. Many people believe that wild animals should be allowed to roam free in their natural habitat and to hunt their natural prey. I also believe this would be ideal, but unfortunately, due to _____ humankind's prolific population of _____ Earth, many animals' natural habitats have been destroyed and many wild animals' prey are no longer sufficient in number to sustain them. Cities, towns and _____ industry have taken over land which was once home to _____ variety of different species.

Therefore, I agree with _____ sentiment that zoos have become necessary to protect and sustain many species which would have little or no chance of survival in _____ wild. For example, _____ panda bear of China is _____ endangered species which has been successfully bred in zoos, thus helping to keep the species alive. Similarly, tigers have grown in numbers since living in zoos and many animals today have been bred in captivity, and know nothing else. Ideally, _____ manmade habitat of _____ zoo animals should replicate their natural habitat as much as possible. Often, panda bear pens in zoos have bamboo available, so they can feed on their favourite food as they would in _____ wild.

In conclusion, because many wild animals' natural habitats have been destroyed by humans, we can do our best to make their manmade environments in zoos as spacious and natural as possible, so that many endangered species can survive.

Now check your answers.

Question 14:

Some people think that keeping animals in zoos is cruel to the animals, while others believe that zoos keep many animal species alive that would otherwise be extinct.

Explain both sides of this argument and give your opinion.

Complete Sample Answer:

There are thousands of zoos around the world which house millions of animals worldwide. Many people think that keeping animals in a cage is cruel and unnatural, but others argue that zoos protect animals and that without zoos, many of the animals that are housed in them would be in danger of dying out. I believe that zoos are necessary to protect animals that would otherwise have no remaining natural habitat and would therefore be endangered or extinct.

In the past, it has often been considered cruel to confine wild animals to small cages purely for the amusement and curiosity of human beings. Many people believe that wild animals should be allowed to roam free in their natural habitat and to hunt their natural prey. I also believe this would be ideal, but unfortunately, due to humankind's prolific population of the Earth, many animals' natural habitats have been destroyed and many wild animals' prey are no longer sufficient in number to sustain them. Cities, towns and industry have taken over land which was once home to a variety of different species.

Therefore, I agree with the sentiment that zoos have become necessary to protect and sustain many species which would have little or no chance of survival in the wild. For example, the panda bear of China is an endangered species which has been successfully bred in zoos, thus helping to keep the species alive. Similarly, tigers have grown in numbers since living in zoos and many animals today have been bred in captivity, and know nothing else. Ideally, the manmade habitat of the zoo animals should replicate their natural habitat as much as possible. Often, panda bear pens in zoos have bamboo available, so they can feed on their favourite food as they would in the wild.

In conclusion, because many wild animals' natural habitats have been destroyed by humans, we can do our best to make their manmade environments in zoos as spacious and natural as possible, so that many endangered species can survive.

(336 words)

Be aware of your use of articles. Read through the essays in this book and look at how articles are used.

Task Two Question 15

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many people believe that a country's wealth is dependant on the health of its citizens. Other people argue that education is a better indicator of a nation's wealth and well-being.

What is your opinion? What are some other factors that contribute to the growth and prosperity of a country?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Grammar

Accurate grammar is obviously an important aspect of writing a high-scoring Task 2 essay. You should consider purchasing a good English grammar book and practicing regularly.

Question 15:

Many people believe that a country's wealth is dependant on the health of its citizens. Other people argue that education is a better indicator of a nation's wealth and well-being.

What is your opinion? What are some other factors that contribute to the growth and prosperity of a country?

Exercise: Read through the following essay and correct the **grammar mistakes**.

It has often been said that the wealth of a nation **is depending** on the health of its citizens. In modern society, knowledge and education **are being** also increasingly important factor behind a strong **economic**. In my opinion, healthcare and education **is** equally important priorities of a government.

Firstly, in order for a country to be **economical** strong, citizens **must have been access** to good healthcare. If a citizen **are** unhealthy and weak, it **can be assumption** that that individual **is not contribute** his or her potential energy, optimum work abilities and knowledge to his or her community. By providing quality healthcare, a government **is ensure** that each citizen is as healthy and capable as possible. In this way, both developing and developed countries **have create** stronger individual citizens and, in turn, stronger nations.

Good education **are** equally important in modern societies. In order for a country to advance in any area, its citizens **must be education** so that they can actively **contribution** new ideas to the workforce and to the economy. For example, over the past two decades, advances in technology **are help** nations like India and China, among many others, **creating** strong economies and a better standard of living for many citizens. These advances in technology and the business opportunities **creating** from them **is** directly attributable to education.

Aside from healthcare and **educate**, other factors also **are contribute** to the development of nations. For example, abundant natural resources, positive relationships with other nations leading to trade, efficient metropolitan infrastructures and a strong agricultural sector **am** all factors which **can helping** nations **prosperity**. However, I still believe that healthcare and education are the two most **importance** priorities of any government, because if the healthcare and education systems of a nation are **effectively**, then all other areas of an economy are **positive** affected.

In conclusion, in my opinion, quality healthcare and education systems **is equal** important to the **develop** of a strong nation.

Now check your answers.

Question 15:

Many people believe that a country's wealth is dependant on the health of its citizens. Other people argue that education is a better indicator of a nation's wealth and well-being.

What is your opinion? What are some other factors that contribute to the growth and prosperity of a country?

Complete Sample Answer:

It has often been said that the wealth of a nation depends on the health of its citizens. In modern society, knowledge and education are also increasingly important factors behind a strong economy. In my opinion, healthcare and education are equally important priorities of a government.

Firstly, in order for a country to be economically strong, citizens must have access to good healthcare. If a citizen is unhealthy and weak, it can be assumed that that individual is not contributing his or her potential energy, optimum work abilities and knowledge to his or her community. By providing quality healthcare, a government can ensure that each citizen is as healthy and capable as possible. In this way, both developing and developed countries create stronger individual citizens and, in turn, stronger nations.

Good education is equally important in modern societies. In order for a country to advance in any area, its citizens must be educated so that they can actively contribute new ideas to the workforce and to the economy. For example, over the past two decades, advances in technology have helped nations like India and China, among many others, to create strong economies and a better standard of living for many citizens. These advances in technology and the business opportunities created from them are directly attributable to education.

Aside from healthcare and education, other factors also contribute to the development of nations. For example, abundant natural resources, positive relationships with other nations leading to trade, efficient metropolitan infrastructures and a strong agricultural sector are all factors which can help nations prosper. However, I still believe that healthcare and education are the two most important priorities of any government, because if the healthcare and education systems of a nation are effective, then all other areas of an economy are positively affected.

In conclusion, in my opinion, quality healthcare and education systems are equally

important to the development of a strong nation.

(322 words)

Read through the sample essays in this book and take note of their correct use of grammar. If you make consistent errors in grammar, keep practicing. Consider purchasing a comprehensive English grammar book to help you improve. Correct grammar is an important aspect to achieving a high score on your IELTS academic writing test.

Task Two Question 16

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

The high sales of popular consumer goods are more reflective of the power of advertising and less indicative of the real needs of the society in which they are sold.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Review

Exercise:

The sentences in the following complete sample answer to Task Two Question 16 have been mixed up. Look again at the essay template. Number the sentences to put them in the correct sequence. The first one has been done for you.

Question 16:

The high sales of popular consumer goods are more reflective of the power of advertising and less indicative of the real needs of the society in which they are sold.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Exercise:

1

Advertising can be found everywhere we look. Items like the iphone, ipad and ipod are not essential for daily life; consumers, however, buy them not only because the advertisements entice them to buy, but also because so many other people are using these items, individuals feel like they need to belong to the trend.

Increasingly, people feel like they need consumer items like the iphone and ipad because, if they do not possess one, they may not be able to conduct their business in what is considered a modern, up-to-date approach.

Items like the iphone help people communicate easily and quickly; they provide navigational tools, information, e-mail, entertainment and easy access to business and document files.

And, while I agree that some of the popular consumer items are not essential for daily life, items such as mobile phones and computers have become increasingly necessary for business and communication.

And, while certain consumer items may not be essential as far as basic needs are concerned, they have become increasingly necessary for business and communication.

For example, the success of the company Apple – at the moment the most valuable company on Earth – shows that advertising boosts sales.

In conclusion, I agree that advertising contributes to the success of non-essential consumer goods, but I also believe that once these items become popular in the marketplace, their inherent value, especially in business success, does become increasingly relevant.

Businesspeople can carry their entire office

with them wherever they go, making work and communication easier, faster, more convenient and more accessible than ever before.

The popularity of many consumer items is often directly attributable to the advertising budget spent on those items.

Firstly, there is no denying that advertising is a powerful tool that compels people to buy particular consumer items.

Answers:

- Advertising can be found everywhere we look. **1**
- Items like the iphone, ipad and ipod are not essential for daily life; consumers, however, buy them not only because the advertisements entice them to buy, but also because so many other people are using these items, individuals feel like they need to belong to the trend. **6**
- Increasingly, people feel like they need consumer items like the iphone and ipad because, if they do not possess one, they may not be able to conduct their business in what is considered a modern, up-to-date approach. **10**
- Items like the iphone help people communicate easily and quickly; they provide navigational tools, information, e-mail, entertainment and easy access to business and document files. **8**
- And, while I agree that some of the popular consumer items are not essential for daily life, items such as mobile phones and computers have become increasingly necessary for business and communication. **3**
- And, while certain consumer items may not be essential as far as basic needs are concerned, they have become increasingly necessary for business and communication. **7**
- For example, the success of the company Apple – at the moment the most valuable company on Earth – shows that advertising boosts sales. **5**
- In conclusion, I agree that advertising contributes to the success of non-essential consumer goods, but I also believe that once these items become popular in the marketplace, their inherent value, especially in business success, does become increasingly relevant. **11**
- Businesspeople can carry their entire office **9**

with them wherever they go, making work and communication easier, faster, more convenient and more accessible than ever before.

The popularity of many consumer items is often directly attributable to the advertising budget spent on those items.

2

Firstly, there is no denying that advertising is a powerful tool that compels people to buy particular consumer items.

4

Question 16:

The high sales of popular consumer goods are more reflective of the power of advertising and less indicative of the real needs of the society in which they are sold.

To what extent to you agree or disagree?

Complete Sample Answer:

Advertising can be found everywhere we look. The popularity of many consumer items is often directly attributable to the advertising budget spent on those items. And, while I agree that some of the popular consumer items are not essential for daily life, items such as mobile phones and computers have become increasingly necessary for business and communication.

Firstly, there is no denying that advertising is a powerful tool that compels people to buy particular consumer items. For example, the success of the company Apple – at the moment the most valuable company on Earth – shows that advertising boosts sales. Items like the iphone, ipad and ipod are not essential for daily life; consumers, however, buy them not only because the advertisements entice them to buy, but also because so many other people are using these items, individuals feel like they need to belong to the trend.

And, while certain consumer items may not be essential as far as basic needs are concerned, they have become increasingly necessary for business and communication. Items like the iphone help people communicate easily and quickly; they provide navigational tools, information, e-mail, entertainment and easy access to business and document files. Businesspeople can carry their entire office with them wherever they go, making work and communication easier, faster, more convenient and more accessible than ever before. Increasingly, people feel like they need consumer items like the iphone and ipad because, if they do not possess one, they may not be able to conduct their business in what is considered a modern, up-to-date approach.

In conclusion, I agree that advertising contributes to the success of non-essential consumer goods, but I also believe that once these items become popular in the marketplace, their inherent value, especially in business success, does become increasingly relevant.

(295 words)

By improving the skills outlined in this book, and by practicing your essay writing using the questions listed above, your Task 2 essays will begin to improve.

Part TWO

Task 1 Writing

Information about the Task 1 essay:

- You will be given 20 minutes to write your Task 1 essay.
- You need to write AT LEAST 150 words. If you write less than 150 words, you will be penalised and your score will be lower.
- Task 1 essays require you to summarise information presented in a graph, table, or diagram. It is your task to report on the significant details of the diagram, but you may not need to write about every detail shown – only those that are most relevant.
- Some points you will be evaluated on:
 - Have you identified the significant details of the diagram? The lowest number? The highest?
 - Have you organised your essay into clear, logical paragraphs?
 - Have you used a variety of vocabulary to describe the statistical details of the diagram?
 - Have you compared and contrasted the relevant statistics accurately?
 - Have you used a variety of sentence structures, both simple and complex?
 - Is your grammar correct?
 - Have you used correct punctuation?
 - Is your essay long enough?
- Task 1 essays are scored in whole bands, 1-9. 9 is a perfect score. All of the Task 1 essays in this book would likely be scored as a 9.

Tip:

- You should spend 1 - 3 minutes planning your essay before you begin to write.

Task One Question 1

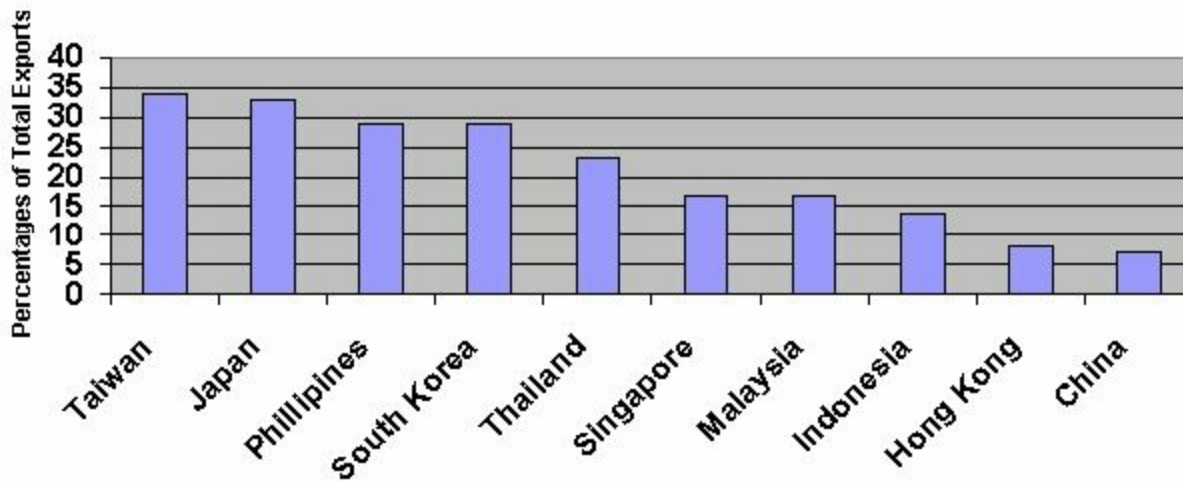
You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The bar chart outlines Asian exports to the United States in 1992 in percentage of total exports.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

Asian Exports to the US: 1992



Organising Your Essay

Most IELTS Task 1 essays looks like this:

Introduction

Main Body Paragraph

OR like this:

Introduction

Main Body Paragraph #1

Main Body Paragraph #2

Some Task 1 essays will require one main body paragraph, and some will require two. Occasionally, you might even use three main body paragraphs. Every Task 1 essay should include an introduction.

ACHIEVE IELTS Academic Writing Success will show you how to write each of these paragraphs to create a strong Task 1 essay.

This book will also show you how to **increase your word count** by including **optional**:

- Second sentences in your introductions
- Short conclusions

NOTE:

It's very important that your essay be organised into clear, neat, well-organised paragraphs. Make sure to leave spaces between each paragraph, or to clearly indent each paragraph.

Task 1

Essay Template

Look at the template below. This template shows one recommended method to organising a Task 1 essay. Once you become familiar with this form, writing Task 1 essays will become easier. Each aspect of the template below will be explained in detail as we progress through this book.

Note that shaded areas are **optional** and are included as a recommendation for students who have difficulty reaching a 150 word count, to create longer essays.

Introduction (1 – 2 sentences)

Restate question

- WHAT is being shown in the diagram?
- WHAT is being measured?
- HOW is it being measured?
- WHEN is it being measured?

(Optional: Brief overview of a significant trend OR statement about how information is presented)

Main Body Paragraph #1 (3 – 6 sentences)

Reports statistics/data

- Compares
- Contrasts
- Identifies trends

Main Body Paragraph #2 (length varies)

Reports statistics/data

- Compares
- Contrasts
- Identifies trends

Conclusion (1 sentence)

- Begins with “In conclusion,” or “To sum up,”

Task One Question 1

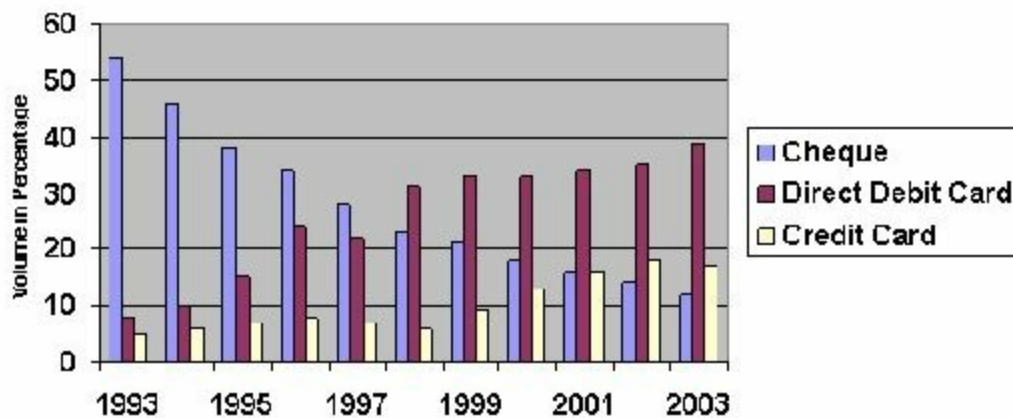
You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The bar chart illustrates the use of cheques and electronic payments in New Zealand between 1993 and 2003.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

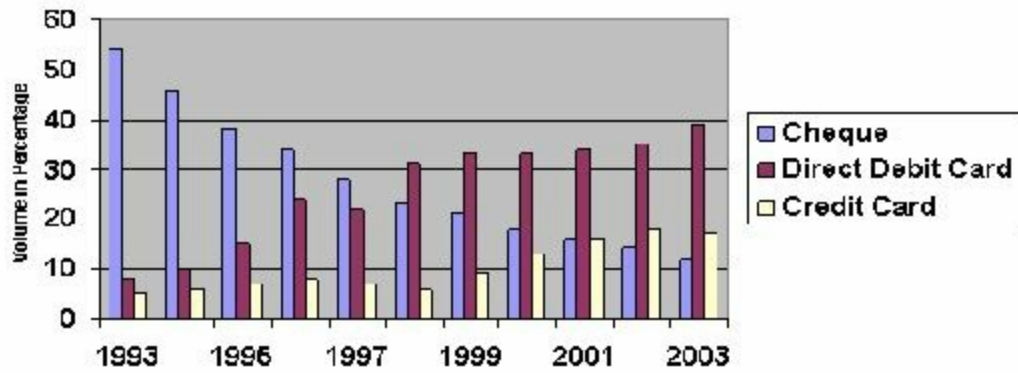
Cheques vs. Electronic Payments



Task 1 Essay

Let's look at how the template is used to organise a Task 1 essay.

Cheques vs. Electronic Payments



Introduction (1 – 2 sentences)

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Restate question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ WHAT is being shown in the diagram?○ WHAT is being measured?○ HOW is it being measured?○ WHEN is it being measured? | <p>The bar chart shows the percentage of people in New Zealand using cheque, direct debit cards and credit cards to make payments, between 1993 and 2003.</p> |
| <p><i>(Optional: Brief overview of a significant trend OR statement about how information is presented)</i></p> | <p>Overall, the use of cheques decreased while the use of direct debit cards increased.</p> |

Main Body Paragraph #1 (3 – 6 sentences)

- Reports statistics/data**
- Compares
 - Contrasts
 - Identifies trends

To begin, in 1993, cheques were by far the most popular payment method, at 55%, while direct debit cards and credit cards accounted for only 8% and 5%, respectively. After 1993, however, the percentage of people using cheques steadily decreased, finishing at only 11% in 2003. Conversely, direct debit cards increased in popularity, showing an upward trend in use until 2003, when almost 40% of all purchases were made by direct debit card. Credit card usage remained relatively stable; the use of credit cards rose in a fluctuating trend. The percentage of people using credit cards was equal to the percentage of people using cheques in 2001 (15%). In the final year shown on the chart (2003), credit card use accounted for approximately 12% of the total percentage of payments.

Main Body Paragraph #2 (length varies)

| | |
|---|--|
| Reports statistics/data <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Compares○ Contrasts○ Identifies trends | |
|---|--|

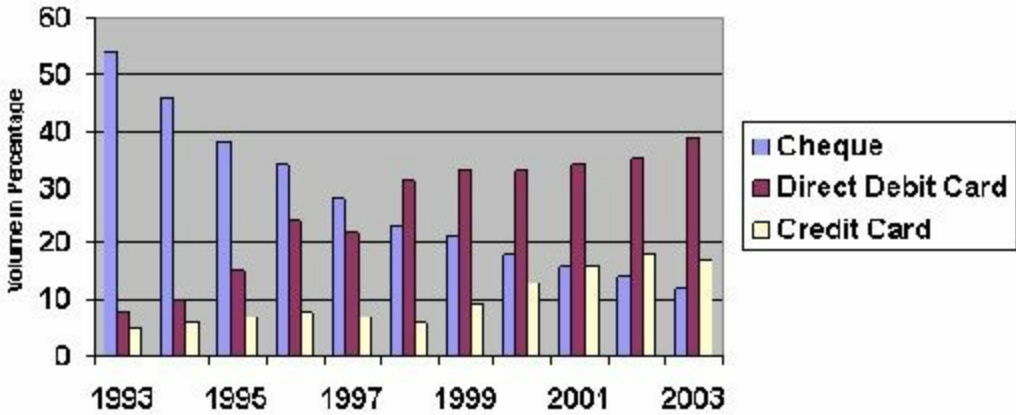
Conclusion (1 sentence)

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begins with “In conclusion,” or “To sum up,” | |
|--|--|

Exercise:

Use the bar graph to fill in the blanks below with the correct information.

Cheques vs. Electronic Payments

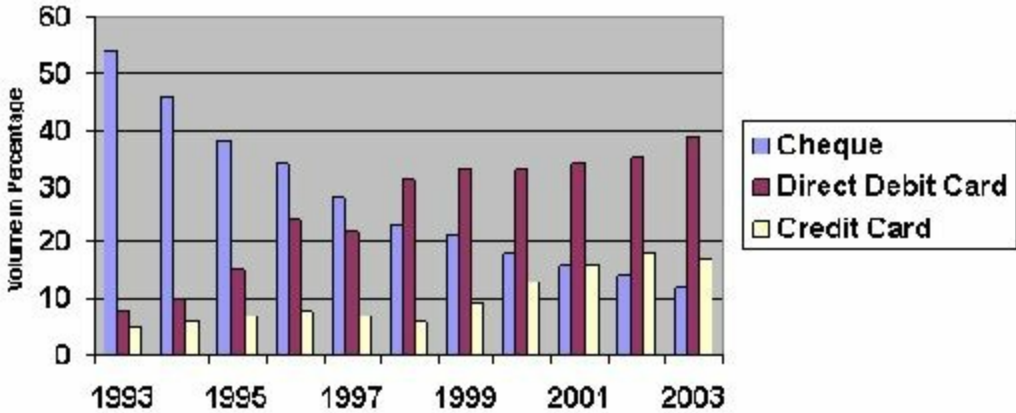


1. The least popular payment option in 1993 was _____.
2. In 2001, the percentage of purchases paid for with _____ and _____ were similar.
3. More people paid with _____ than with cheques in 1999.
4. The year with the largest discrepancy between the percentage of payments made with cheques and with electronic payments was in _____.
5. In 2002, more people paid with credit cards than with _____.
6. Between 1993 and 1996, the most popular form of electronic payment was _____.
7. The form of payment that decreased steadily in popularity between 1993 and 2003 was _____.
8. _____ showed a slight decrease in popularity between 2002 and 2003.
9. The percentage of people using _____ surpassed the percentage of people using cheques in 1998.
10. The percentage of people using direct debit cards for payment was lowest in _____.

Now check your answers.

Question 1:

Cheques vs. Electronic Payments



Sample Answer:

The bar chart shows the percentage of people in New Zealand using cheque, direct debit cards and credit cards to make payments, between 1993 and 2003. Overall, the use of cheques decreased while the use of direct debit cards increased.

To begin, in 1993, cheques were by far the most popular payment method, at 55%, while direct debit cards and credit cards accounted for only 8% and 5%, respectively. After 1993, however, the percentage of people using cheques steadily decreased, finishing at only 11% in 2003. Conversely, direct debit cards increased in popularity, showing an upward trend in use until 2003, when almost 40% of all purchases were made by direct debit card. Credit card usage remained relatively stable; the use of credit cards rose in a fluctuating trend. The percentage of people using credit cards was equal to the percentage of people using cheques in 2001 (15%). In the final year shown on the chart (2003), credit card use accounted for approximately 12% of the total percentage of payments.

(170 words)

Answers to exercise:

1. credit cards
2. cheques/credit cards
3. direct debit cards
4. 1993
5. cheques
6. direct debit cards
7. cheques
8. Credit cards
9. direct debit cards
10. 1993



Task One Question 2

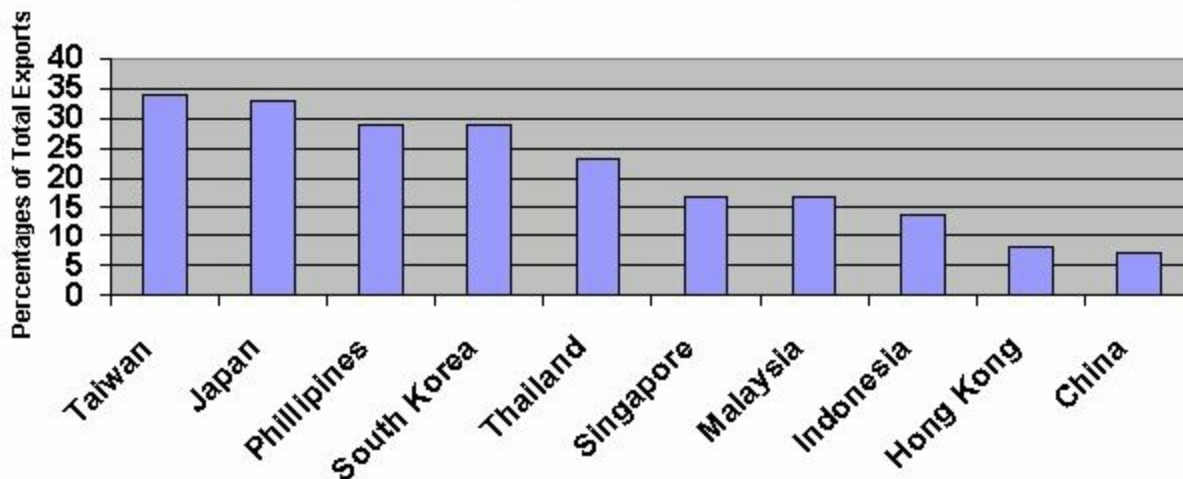
You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The bar chart illustrates Asian exports to the United States in 1992 in percentage of total exports.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

Asian Exports to the US: 1992



The Introduction

Task 1 Introduction – First Sentence

1) The **first sentence of the Task 1 introduction** should outline the **details** of the graph, chart or table being presented.

These details include:

- **WHAT is being shown? (a bar chart? or pie chart? or table?)**
- **WHAT is being measured?**
- **HOW is it being measured?**
- **WHEN is it being measured?**

For most Task 1 essays (excluding Process essays, which will be discussed later in Part Two) the format of the **introduction** will be the same.

Example of a Task 1 Introduction:

Question 1:

The bar chart illustrates Asian exports to the United States in 1992 in percentage of total exports.

Introduction, Sentence 1:

The bar chart shows Asian imports to the United States in 1992 in ten areas of Asia and is measured in percentages of the total exports of Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and China to the United States.

As you can see, this sentence includes:

- WHAT is being shown: **a bar chart**
- WHAT is being measured: **Asian imports to the United States**
- HOW is it being measured: **in percentages of total exports**
- WHEN is it being measured: **1992**

NOTE: It is important that you do NOT copy the question as it is written in your exam booklet. If you copy the exact wording used in the IELTS question, the words you have copied will NOT BE COUNTED towards your total word count. Instead, you should **REPHRASE THE QUESTION**. This is true of both Task 1 and Task 2 essays.

TIP: The verbs “**to show**” and “**to illustrate**” are excellent for the first sentence of a Task 1 essay introduction. If the IELTS test question uses “**illustrates**,” as the example used above, then your essay should use “**shows**,” and vice versa.

IMPORTANT:

Make sure your subject and verb agree! This is very important, especially in the first sentence of your essay.

Examples:

The bar chart **shows** ...

The bar charts **show** ...

Let's look again at the first sentence of the introduction:

The bar chart shows Asian imports to the United States in 1992 in ten areas of Asia and is measured in percentages of the total exports of Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and China to the United States.

Other details to consider:

- WHAT is being shown: a bar chart
- WHAT is being measured: Asian imports to the United States
- HOW is it being measured: in percentages of total exports
- WHEN is it being measured: 1992
- [Have I rephrased the question?](#) ✓
- [Do my subject and verb agree?](#) ✓

Now we are ready to write the second sentence of the introduction.

Task 1 Introduction – Second Sentence

2) The **second sentence of an introduction** is *optional*. It is not necessary to include this sentence. I recommend including a second sentence in a Task 1 introduction because it helps you **increase your word count**. If you decide to include a second sentence in your introduction, it should be brief and should mention an **overall trend** which is significant.

Let's look at how this is done:

Example:

Overall, Taiwan had the highest percentage of exports shipped to the U.S. and China had the smallest percentage.

This sentence:

- points out a significant trend (the highest and lowest percentages)
- does not include statistics (numbers)
- is brief

Complete introduction:

The bar chart shows Asian imports to the United States in 1992 in ten areas of Asia and is measured in percentages of the total exports of Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and China to the United States. Overall, Taiwan had the highest percentage of exports shipped to the U.S. and China had the smallest percentage.

Below are a few more examples of complete introductions that include second sentences which briefly outline significant trends:

The bar chart shows Asian imports to the United States in 1992 in ten areas of Asia and is measured in percentages of the total exports of Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and China to the United States. Overall, Taiwan had the highest percentage of exports shipped to the U.S. and China had the smallest percentage.

The line graph shows the amount of foreign tourists visiting New Zealand in the year 2000, measured in thousands of people. The graph is divided into twelve months. Overall, the number of tourists was highest in July and the lowest in December and January.

The line graph shows the figures for video rentals and sales in the United States and the United Kingdom between 1997 and 2002. In general, the figures for video rentals in the United States were the highest, video sales in the United Kingdom were the lowest, and the numbers for both sales and rentals of videos were higher in the US than in the UK.

The two pie charts illustrate the percentages of university degrees earned in eight different subject categories in the years 1975 and 1990. The charts show that business was the most popular subject in 1975, while the humanities were the most popular in 1990.

NOTE: This is **one way** to write an introduction. There are a number of ways to effectively write a Task 1 introduction. Many introductions can be successful with ONE sentence only, and many teachers will instruct you to write one sentence only. However, the method outlined in **ACHIEVE IELTS Academic Writing Success** will help you effectively increase your word count if you have difficulty writing 150 words in 20 minutes. Many students who have used this technique have found that it **gets excellent results**.



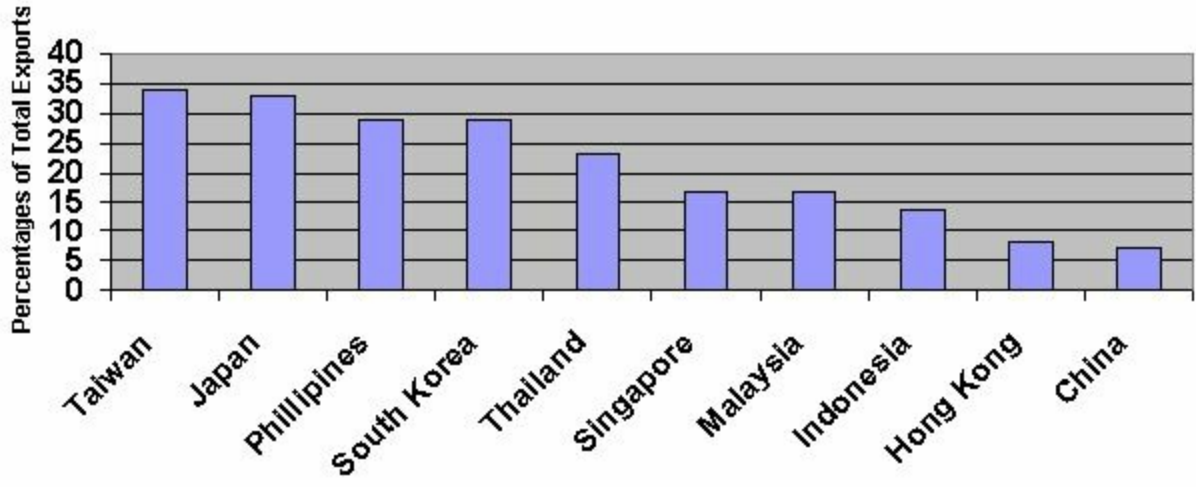
Now let's look at the complete Sample Answer.

Question 2:

The bar chart illustrates Asian exports to the United States in 1992 in percentage of total exports.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

Asian Exports to the US: 1992



Sample Answer:

The bar chart shows Asian imports to the United States in 1992 in ten areas of Asia and is measured in percentages of the total exports of Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and China to the United States. Overall, Taiwan had the highest percentage of exports shipped to the U.S. and China had the smallest percentage.

Taiwan and Japan had the largest percentage of total exports shipped to the United States, with around 34% and 33%, respectively. Similarly, the Philippines and South Korea both appear to have exported the same percentage of their total exports to the US (29%). Thailand exported approximately 23% of its exported goods to Americans, about six percent less than South Korea and the Philippines. Singapore and Malaysia exported around six percent less than Thailand, both exporting around 17% of their total export goods; Indonesia's percentages were just under, at around 13%. Hong Kong and China exported the smallest percentages to the U.S., at around 6% each.

(Word count: 167)

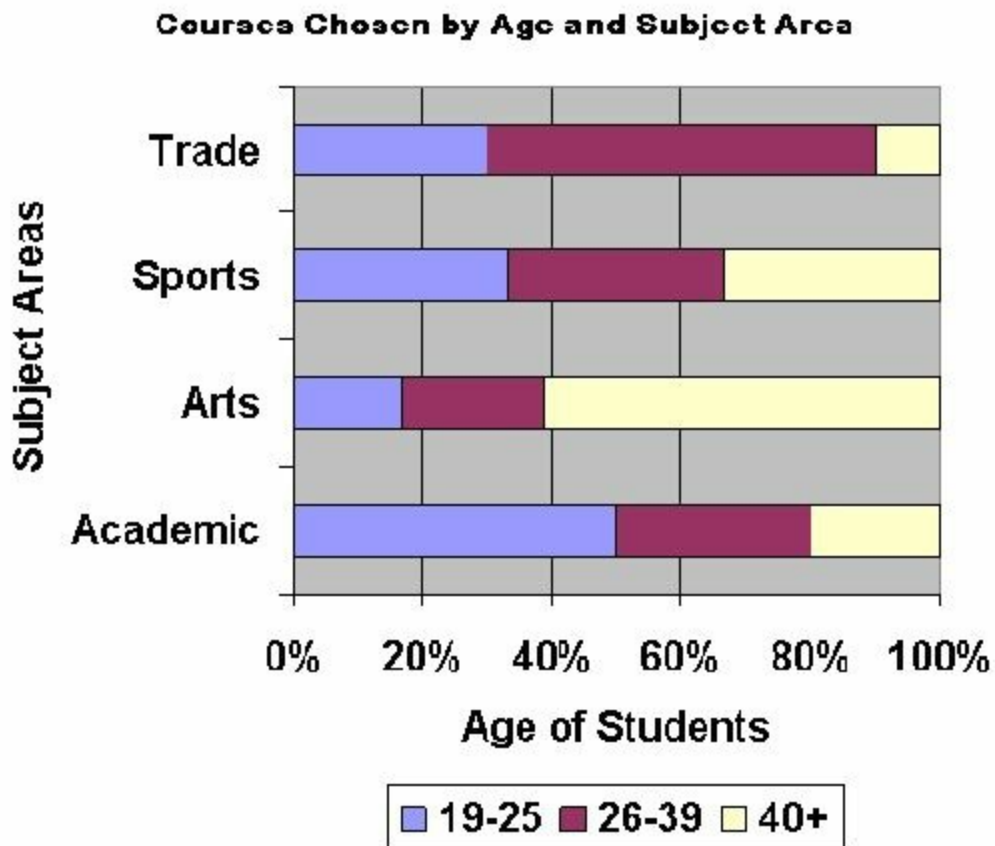
Task One Question 3

You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The bar chart illustrates the proportion of different age groups enrolled in a range of courses in a university in 2002.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.



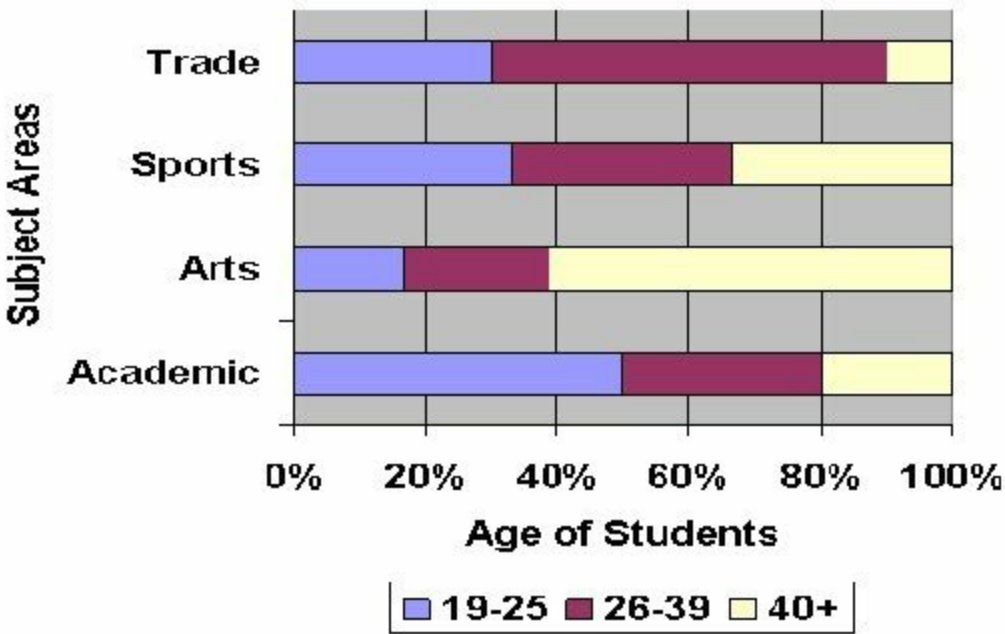
Reporting Data

In a Task 1 essay, your job is to **report the data** shown in the diagram. You are not required to make inferences, predictions or to give your opinion. You do not need to write about every detail of the diagram, only to find the **important trends and significant details**, and to compare and contrast those details where you can.

Let's look again at the diagram:

Question 3:

Courses Chosen by Age and Subject Area



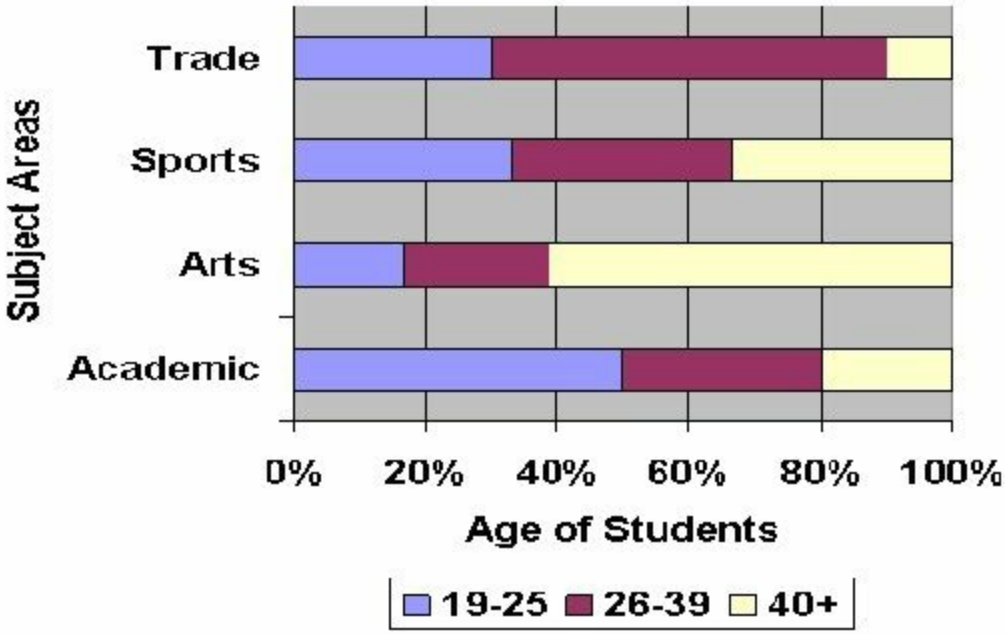
Significant details about this diagram include:

- Trade was the most popular subject area for the age group 26-39.
- All age groups chose Sports in relatively equal percentages.
- Arts was most popular among people aged 40 and over.
- Academic subjects were chosen by younger students, ages 19-25.

Look at the Task 1 diagram throughout this book and practice **identifying significant trends and details**. Learning to identify these details is very important as you prepare for your Task 1 essay examination.

Exercise:

Courses Chosen by Age and Subject Area



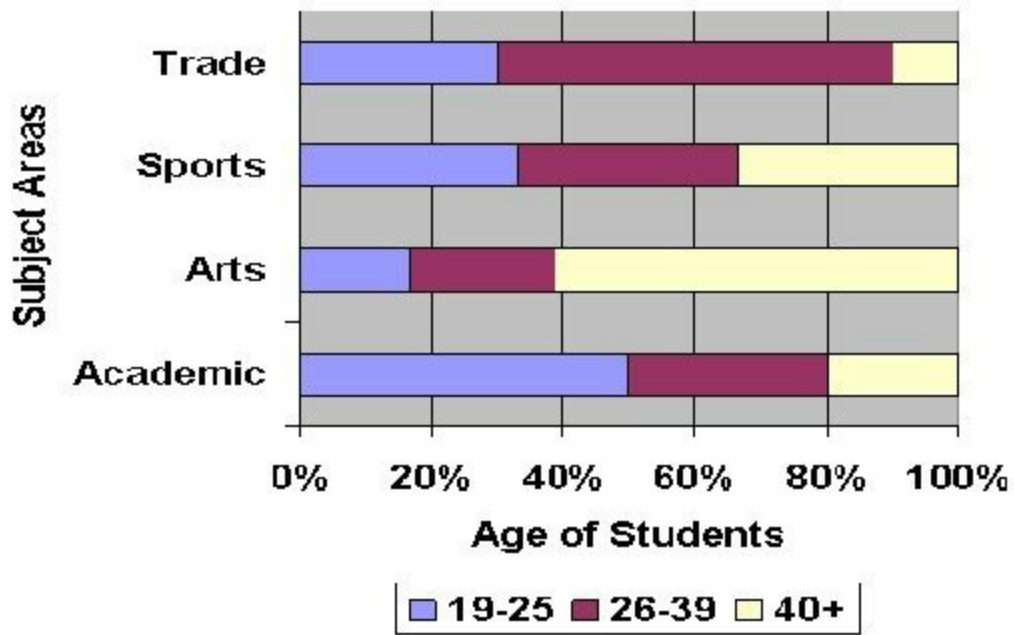
Fill in the blanks using the bar chart above:

The bar chart _____ four different subject areas of courses taken by students of different age groups at an unnamed university in 2002. The general subject areas include trade, sports, arts and academic and the age groups are divided into _____ year olds, 26-39 year olds and students over 40.

The highest proportion of students enrolled in trade-related courses were between the ages of 26 and 29, which accounted for around _____ of all trade students. Around 30% of trade students were between 19 and _____, and only approximately _____ of all trade students were over the age of 40. For sports-related courses, the age groups were evenly divided; each of the three age groups shown comprised around 33% of the total number of _____. For arts courses, however, the majority of students enrolled in these courses were over forty years of age (61%). 19-25 year olds and 26-39 year olds accounted for 18% and _____, respectively, of the total percentage of arts students. Lastly, the chart shows that there were more young people who enrolled in academic subjects than people over 40. Around _____ of all academic courses were taken by students between 19 and 25 years of age. 30% of academic students were between _____ and 39, and only 20% of academic students were over the age of 40.

Now check your answers.

Courses Chosen by Age and Subject Area



Notice how the significant details about this diagram were included:

- Trade was the most popular subject area for the age group 26-39.
- All age groups chose Sports in relatively equal percentages.
- Arts was most popular among people aged 40 and over.
- Academic subjects were chosen by younger students, ages 19-25.

Completed Sample Answer:

The bar chart shows four different subject areas of courses taken by students of different age groups at an unnamed university in 2002. The general subject areas include trade, sports, arts and academic and the age groups are divided into 19-25 year olds, 26-39 year olds and students over 40.

The highest proportion of students enrolled in trade-related courses were between the ages of 26 and 29, which accounted for around 60% of all trade students. Around 30% of trade students were between 19 and 25, and only approximately 10% of all trade students were over the age of 40. For sports-related courses, the age groups were evenly divided; each of the three age groups shown comprised around 33% of the total number of students. For arts courses, however, the majority of students enrolled in these courses were over forty years of age (61%). 19-25 year olds and 26-39 year olds accounted for 18% and 11%, respectively, of the total percentage of arts students. Lastly, the chart shows that there were more young people who enrolled in academic subjects than people over 40. Around 50% of all academic courses were taken by students between 19 and 25 years of age. 30% of academic students were between 26 and 39, and only 20% of academic students were over the age of 40.

(221 words)

Task One Question 4

You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The table below shows the populations of four different cities over five decades.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

Four Cities' Populations

Population in Millions of People

| | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mexico | 15.1 | 19 | 24.7 | 28 | 32.2 |
| City | | | | | |
| Tokyo | 10.9 | 13.2 | 19 | 21.8 | 21.8 |
| Shanghai | 13 | 14.7 | 17.6 | 22.3 | 27 |
| New York | 7 | 8.5 | 10 | 12.4 | 18 |

Identifying Trends

In Task 1 essays, you should report:

- The highest and lowest numbers
- The general trends
- Any data that does not fit the overall trends

Group your data into clear, logical paragraphs.

TIP:

For tables, it can be useful to draw mini line graphs after each row in the table as you prepare to write your essay. These line graphs are useful indicators of trends and exceptions to trends. For example:

Question 4:

| | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Mexico City | 15.1 | 19 | 24.7 | 28 | 32.2 |
| Tokyo | 10.9 | 13.2 | 19 | 21.8 | 21.8 |
| Shanghai | 13 | 14.7 | 17.6 | 22.3 | 27 |
| New York | 7 | 8.5 | 10 | 12.4 | 18 |

By using the mini line graphs, you can see that Tokyo's population growth shows a slightly different trend than the other three cities. This should be noted in your essay.

Exercise:

Fill in the blanks with the correct information, using the table shown above.

1. _____ had the highest population in all five years shown on the table, showing a population of 15.1 million people in _____ and 32.2 million people in 2010, the _____ number in the table.
2. _____ was the second most populated city in _____ of the five years, with Tokyo the _____ most populated in 1970, 1980, 2000 and _____.
3. In _____, however, Tokyo was more populous (with _____ people) than Shanghai, which had a population of _____ in 1990.
4. It is worth noting that _____'s population remained stable between _____ and 2010.
5. According to the table, _____ had the smallest population in all _____ years shown; its population was _____ in 1970 and grew to 18 million in _____.

Now check your answers:

Question 4:

Four Cities' Populations

Population in Millions of People

| | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mexico | 15.1 | 19 | 24.7 | 28 | 32.2 |
| City | | | | | |
| Tokyo | 10.9 | 13.2 | 19 | 21.8 | 21.8 |
| Shanghai | 13 | 14.7 | 17.6 | 22.3 | 27 |
| New | 7 | 8.5 | 10 | 12.4 | 18 |
| York | | | | | |

Sample Answer:

The table illustrates the population, measured in millions of people, of Mexico City, Shanghai, Tokyo and New York in five different years: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010. Overall, Mexico City consistently had the highest population and New York had the smallest population of the four cities shown.

Of the four cities depicted in the table, all cities grew continuously in population number over the forty-year period, with no decreases recorded. Mexico City had the highest population in all five years, showing a population of 15.1 million people in 1970 and 32.1 million people in 2010, the highest number in the table. Shanghai was the second most populated city in the table in four of the five years, with Tokyo the third most populated city in 1970, 1980, 2000 and 2010. In 1990, however, Tokyo was more populous (with 19 million people) than Shanghai, which had a population of 17.6 million in 1990. It is worth noting that Tokyo's population remained stable between 2000 and 2010. According to the table, New York had the smallest population in all five years shown; its population was 7 million in 1970 and grew to 18 million in 2010.

(194 words)

Task One Question 5

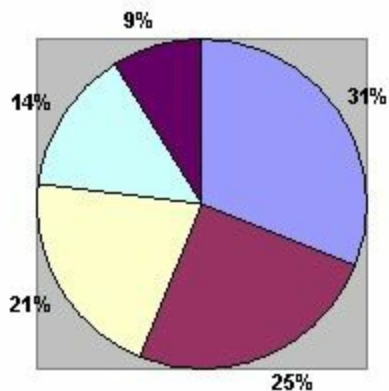
You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The pie charts illustrate the favourite leisure activities in Britain in 1982 and 2002.

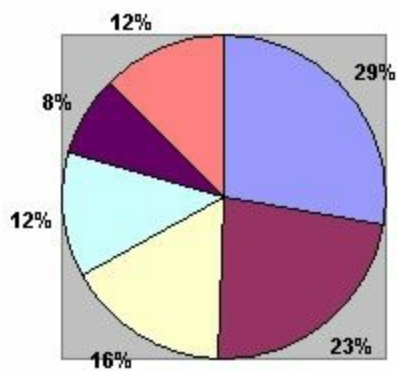
Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

Favourite Leisure Activity in Britain: 1982



Favourite Leisure Activity in Britain: 2002



Comparing and Contrasting

When you write a Task 1 essay, it is important to find the similarities and differences between the parts of the diagram. With a pie chart diagram, compare and contrast the details of the two pie charts, or if there is only one pie chart, between the pieces of the pie.

Similarities (Compare)

- point out the similarities between the **sections** of the two pie charts that are similar in size:

In 1982, people in Britain spent around 31% of their time watching TV. In 2002, however, people spent almost the same amount of time (29%) playing computer games, an activity not included in the leisure activities in 1982.

- point out the similarities in the **same activities** in the different pie charts:

In 1982, Britons spent around 9% of their leisure time shopping, and this percentage rose only slightly to 12% in 2002.

Differences (Contrast)

- point out the differences between the **sections** of the two pie charts:

Spending time with friends was the favourite activity of 25% of Britons in 1982, a figure that fell dramatically by 2002 to only 16%.

Similarly, spending time with family dropped from 21% of the population's favourite activity in 1982 to 12% in 2002, a significant decrease of 9%.

In a similar trend, going out to eat declined from 14% of the population's preferred leisure activity to 8% in 2002.

***Note:** Remember that you are NOT being asked to give your opinion about WHY statistics in the Task One diagrams have changed. In a Task One essay, you are only required to describe and summarise the data.*

Exercise:

Fill in the blanks with the best word or phrase from the table below to accurately report the information illustrated in the pie chart diagram in Question 5. Use each word only once. You will not use all of the words in the table.

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| According to | friends | family |
| playing | 29% | increased |
| compare | watching television | highest |
| 25% | Similarly | 8% |
| In contrast | 9% | popularity |

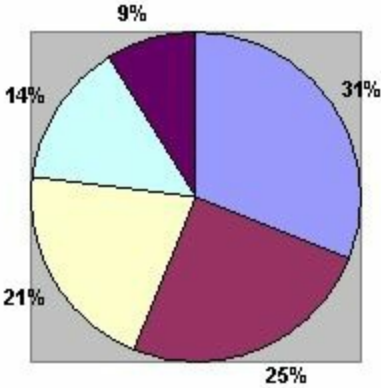
The two pie charts **(1)**_____ the favourite leisure activities in Britain in two different years, 1982 and 2002. In 1982, the favourite activity was **(2)**_____, while in 2002, the favourite leisure activity was shown to be **(3)**_____ computer games, an activity not listed in the 1982 pie chart.

(4)_____ the first pie chart, in 1982 the favourite leisure activity of 31 percent of the population of Britain was watching television. This was the **(5)**_____ percentage in either of the pie charts. Watching television dropped in **(6)**_____ between 1982 and 2002, **(7)**_____ from 31% to 23%. In 2002, watching television was surpassed as the favourite leisure activity by playing computer games, which was listed as the favourite activity by **(8)**_____ of Britain's population. Spending time with **(9)**_____ was the favourite activity of 25% of Britons in 1982, a figure that fell dramatically by 2002 to only 16%. **(10)**_____, spending time with family dropped from 21% of the population's favourite activity in 1982 to 12% in 2002, a significant decrease of 9%. In a similar trend, going out to eat declined from 14% of the population's preferred leisure activity to 8% in 2002. Shopping, on the other hand, increased from **(11)**_____ of the population's favourite pastime in 1982 to 12% in 2002, the only activity listed on both pie charts which **(12)**_____ during the twenty-year period.

Now check your answers.

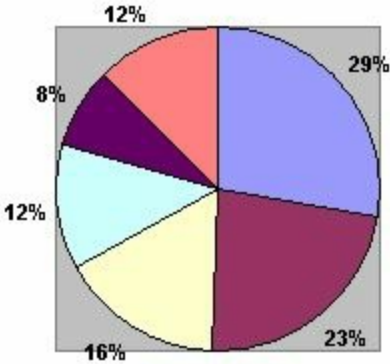
Question 5:

Favourite Leisure Activity in Britain: 1982



- Watching TV
- Spending Time With Friends
- Spending Time With Family
- Going Out to Eat
- Shopping

Favourite Leisure Activity in Britain: 2002



- Playing Computer Games
- Watching TV
- Spending Time With Friends
- Spending Time With Family
- Going Out to Eat
- Shopping

Complete Sample Answer:

The two pie charts compare the favourite leisure activities in Britain in two different years, 1982 and 2002. In 1982, the favourite activity was watching television, while in 2002, the favourite leisure activity was shown to be playing computer games, an activity not listed in the 1982 pie chart.

According to the first pie chart, in 1982 the favourite leisure activity of 31 percent of the population of Britain was watching television. This was the highest percentage in either of the pie charts. Watching television dropped in popularity between 1982 and 2002, declining from 31% to 23%. In 2002, watching television was surpassed as the favourite leisure activity by playing computer games, which was listed as the favourite activity by 29% of Britain's population. Spending time with friends was the favourite activity of 25% of Britons in 1982, a figure that fell dramatically by 2002 to only 16%. Similarly, spending time with family dropped from 21% of the population's favourite activity in 1982 to 12% in 2002, a significant decrease of 9%. In a similar trend, going out to eat declined from 14% of the population's preferred leisure activity to 8% in 2002.

(193 words)

Task One Question 6

You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The graph illustrates the varying number of tourists visiting New Zealand over a twelve month period in 2000.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.



Prepositions

When writing Task 1 essays, it is important to pay attention to the **prepositions** you use to describe the data in each diagram. Here is some useful information about prepositions:

Example:

The number of tourists visiting New Zealand

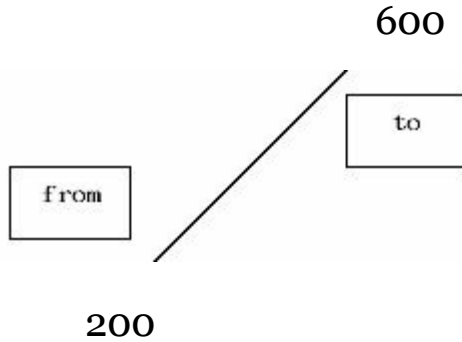
- **went up**
- **rose**
- **increased**

from 200 in January to 600 in February.

There are several different ways to describe the information here.

- The number **of** tourists rose **from** 200 **to** 600 **between** January and February.

If you are describing the **starting point** and **finishing point**, use the prepositions **from** and **to**.



- The number **of** tourists rose **by** 400 **between** January and February.

If you are describing the **change** ($600 - 200 = 400$), then use the preposition **by**.

by

(400)

600

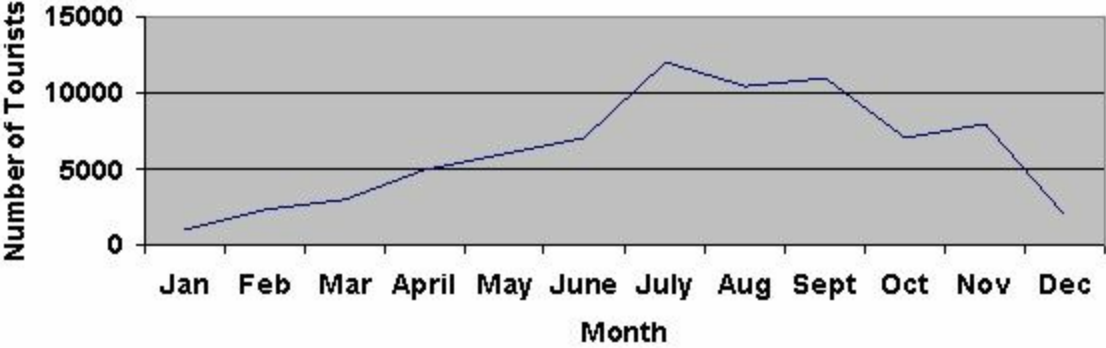
200

- The number **of** tourists declined **to** almost 2000 **by** December.

If you are referring to a trend which **ends** at a specific point, use the preposition **by**.

Question 6:

Number of Tourists Visiting New Zealand in 2000



Exercise: Using the

line graph above, fill in the blanks in the following essay with the correct prepositions (of, in, to, from, by):

The line graph shows the amount _____ foreign tourists visiting New Zealand _____ the year 2000, measured in thousands of people. The graph is divided into twelve months. Overall, the number of tourists was highest _____ July and lowest _____ December and January.

In January, the number of tourists was around one thousand for the month, then increased slightly throughout February, reaching around three thousand _____ March. _____ April, the number of tourists visiting New Zealand had risen _____ five thousand and continued _____ increase gradually _____ May and June, when it reached approximately seven thousand. From there, the number of tourists increased dramatically, reaching a peak in July _____ around twelve thousand tourists, the highest number of any month shown. After July, the number of tourists decreased _____ just over ten thousand in August. _____ September, the number of tourists had increased again slightly _____ around eleven thousand, but then began _____ decrease again after September. Tourist numbers declined markedly in October _____ around seven thousand, then increasing _____ eight thousand in November. Between November and December, the number of tourists visiting New Zealand decreased significantly _____ around two thousand _____ the end of the year.

Now check your answers.

Question 6:



Complete Sample Answer:

The line graph shows the amount of foreign tourists visiting New Zealand in the year 2000, measured in thousands of people. The graph is divided into twelve months. Overall, the number of tourists was highest in July and lowest in December and January.

In January, the number of tourists was around one thousand for the month, then increased slightly throughout February, reaching around three thousand in March. By April, the number of tourists visiting New Zealand had risen to five thousand and continued to increase gradually in May and June, when it reached approximately seven thousand. From there, the number of tourists increased dramatically, reaching a peak in July at around twelve thousand tourists, the highest number of any month shown. After July, the number of tourists decreased to just over ten thousand in August. By September, the number of tourists had increased again slightly to around eleven thousand, but then began to decrease again after September. Tourist numbers declined markedly in October to around seven thousand, then increasing to eight thousand in November. Between November and December, the number of tourists visiting New Zealand decreased significantly to around two thousand by the end of the year.

(197 words)

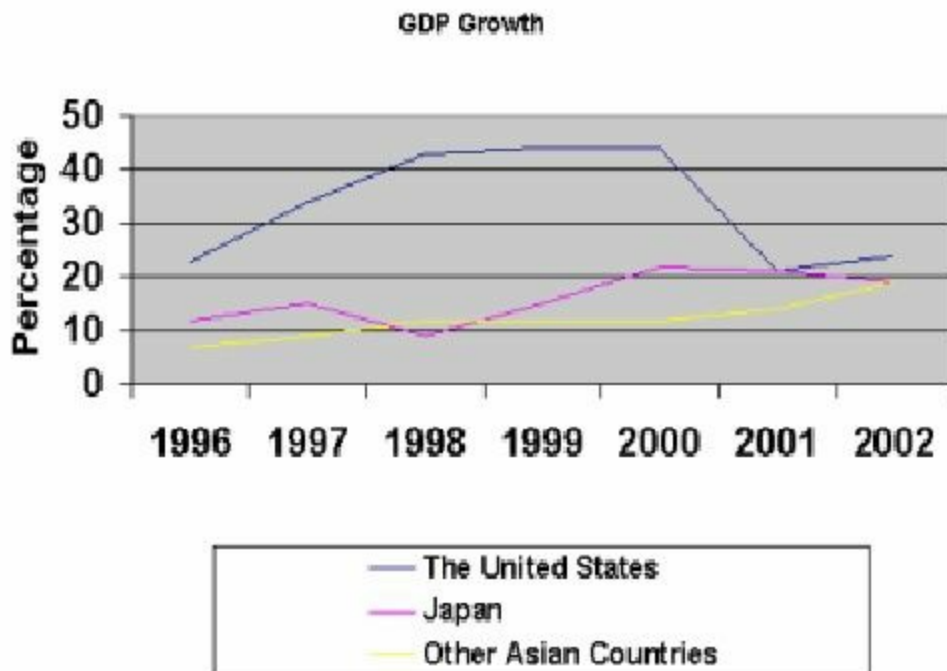
Task One Question 7

You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The line graph illustrates the combined totals of GDP growth for the United States, Japan and other Asian countries, from 1996 to 2002.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.



Sentence Structure

In all IELTS essay writing, IELTS examiners are looking for a range of sentence structures. Include long sentences and short sentences. Include simple sentences and those that are more complex. The more you practice with your writing, the better you will get at accurately including a range of sentence structures in your writing. Here is one example of how you can vary sentence structures in your Task 1 essay:

Example:

In 2000, there was a **sharp decrease** in the GDP growth of the United States economy.

This sentence uses **an adjective** + **a noun** to describe the GDP growth activity. Let's try structuring this sentence another way:

In 2000, the GDP growth of the economy of the United States **decreased sharply**.

This sentence uses **a verb** + **an adverb** to describe the same activity. **If you show that you can accurately use a variety of sentence structures in your IELTS writing, you will get a higher band score.** Let's practice changing the structure of the sentences below:

Exercise:

Change the sentence structure of the sentences 1 – 3 from *verb + adverb* to *noun + adjective*:

1. The GDP growth of the US rose significantly throughout 1997.

2. The GDP growth of the US economy decreased sharply in 2000.

3. Japan's GDP growth percentage increased slightly to 16 percent in 1997.

Change the sentence structure of sentences 4 – 6 from *noun + adjective* to *verb + adverb*:

4. In 1998, there was a slight fall in Japan's GDP expansion to around 9%.

5. After 1998, there was a sharp rise in Japan's GDP growth, to around 22%.

6. There was a steady increase in the GDP growth of other Asian countries between 1996 and 1998.

Answers:

NOTE: *There are many correct answers to each question.*

1. The GDP growth of the US rose significantly throughout 1997.

There was a significant rise in the GDP growth in the US in 1997.

2. The GDP growth of the US economy decreased sharply in 2000.

In 2000, there was a sharp decrease in the GDP growth of the US economy.

3. Japan's GDP growth percentage increased slightly to 16 percent in 1997.

There was a slight increase in Japan's GDP growth percentage, to 16 percent, in 1997.

4. In 1998, there was a slight fall in Japan's GDP expansion to around 9%.

In 1998, Japan's GDP expansion fell slightly to around 9%.

5. After 1998, there was a sharp rise in Japan's GDP growth, to around 22%.

After 1998, Japan's GDP growth rose sharply to around 22%.

6. There was a steady increase in the GDP growth of other Asian countries between 1996 and 1998.

The GDP growth of other Asian countries increased steadily between 1996 and 1998.

TIP:

To increase your Task 1 essay word count:

Write out numbers and percentages:

9% = one word

nine percent = two words

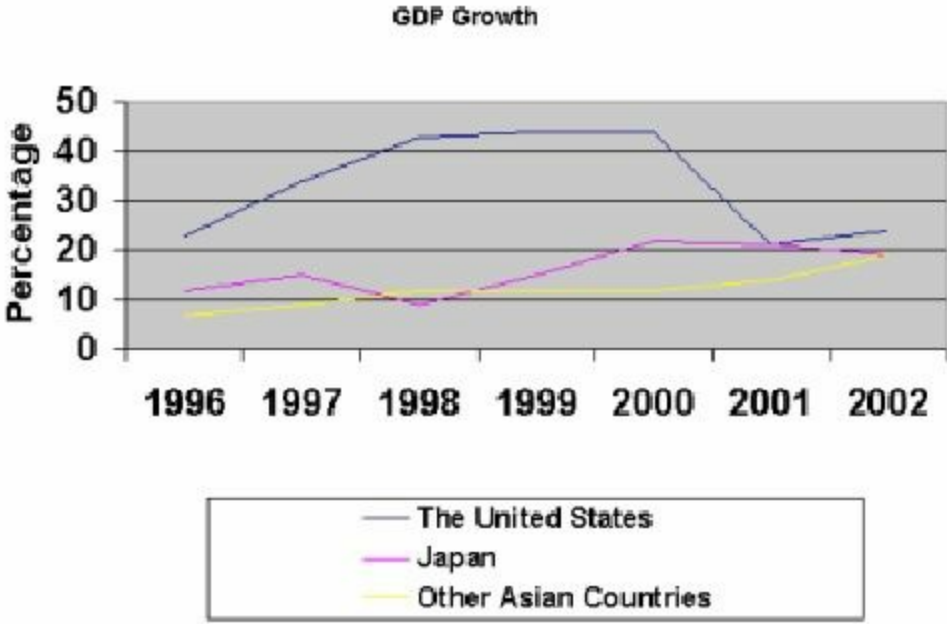
Write out country names:

the US = two words

the United States = three words



Question 7:



Sample Answer:

The line graph shows the GDP growth in percentage of the United States, Japan and other Asian countries during a seven-year period beginning in 1996 and ending in 2002. Overall, it is clear that the United States GDP growth figures fluctuated but remained the highest figures throughout the period shown.

The GDP growth of the United States began at around 24 percent increase in 1996, rising significantly throughout 1997 and levelling off in 1998 to a GDP growth percentage of around 43%, where it remained until 2000. In 2000, there was a sharp decrease in the GDP growth of the US, to around 23 percent in 2001, at which time economic expansion began to rise again, finishing at around 25% growth in 2002.

Japan's figures also fluctuated, but less dramatically. Japan's GDP growth percentage was around 12 percent in 1996 and rose to 16 percent in 1997. In 1998, there was a slight fall in Japan's GDP expansion, to around 9 percent, its lowest point in the seven-year period. After 1998, Japan's GDP growth rose sharply to around 22 percent in 2000, its highest point, after which it declined.

Lastly, the GDP growth of other Asian countries began at around 8 percent in 1996, rising to around 12 percent in 1998, where it remained stable for the next three years. In 2001, the other Asian countries' GDP increases began to rise again, finishing the graph at around 19 percent in 2002, a similar figure to Japan's GDP growth at that time.

Task One Question 8

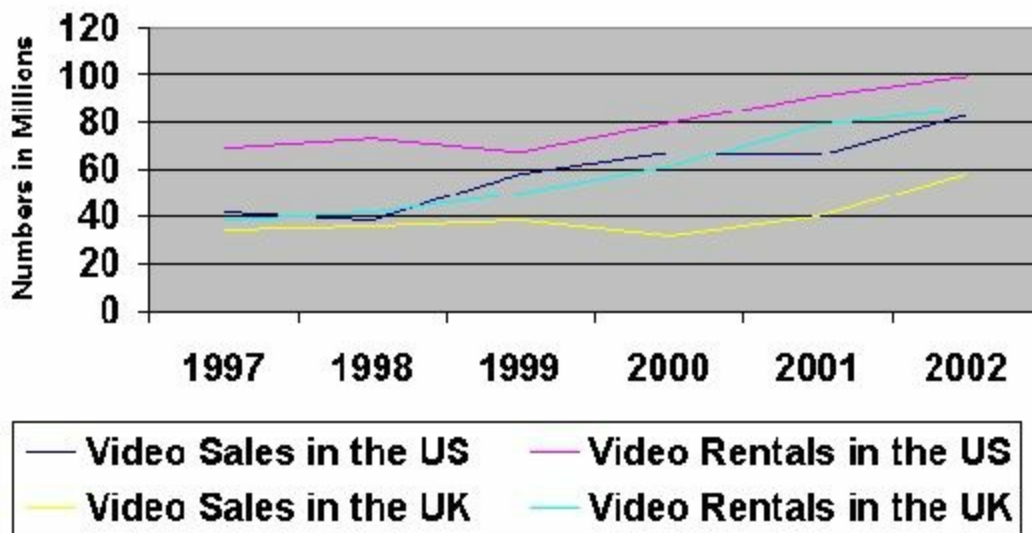
You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The line graph illustrates the sales and rental figures for videos in the United Kingdom and the United States between 1997 and 2002.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

Video Sales and Rentals in the US and UK



Verb tense

When you are writing a Task One or Task Two essay, it is important to make sure your subject and your verb **agree**. The line graph above should be written about in the **past tense**, since the dates shown are in the past. Most Task 1 essays will be written in the past tense.

*NOTE: The first sentence of your introduction should always be written in the **present tense**.*

Exercise:

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the infinitive verb shown in brackets.

The line graph _____ (**to show**) the figures for video rentals and sales in the United States and the United Kingdom between 1997 and 2002, measured in millions of units.

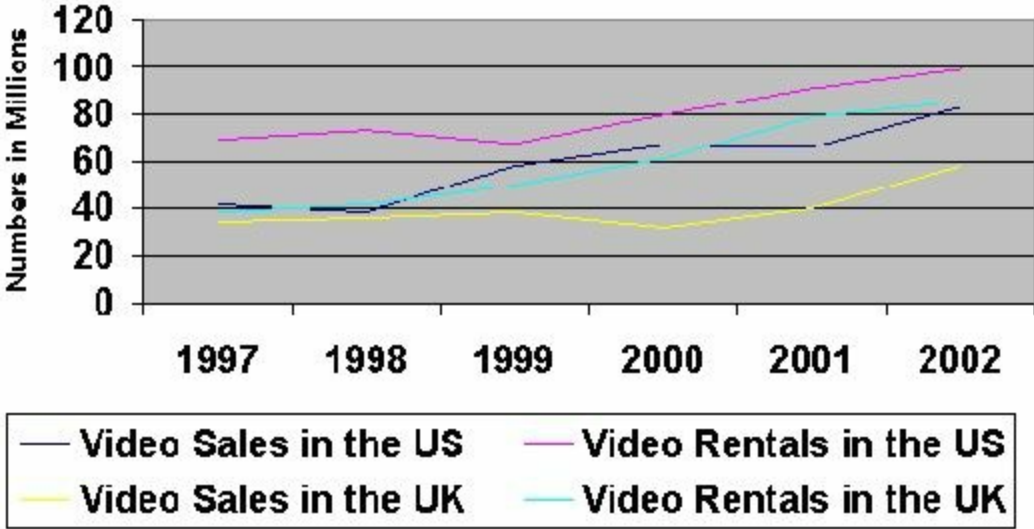
The numbers for video rentals in the United States _____ (**to be**) the highest of all figures throughout the six-year period and _____ (**to fluctuate**) in an upward trend. Video rentals in the US _____ (**to begin**) at around 69 million in 1997, rising slightly to around 72 in 1998. At this point, the figure _____ (**to decrease**) slightly to around 68 million, then _____ (**to rise**) steadily for the remainder of the period. Video rentals in the UK also _____ (**to increase**), beginning at around 39 million per year in 1997 and rising consistently throughout the six-year period.

Video rentals in both the United States and the United Kingdom _____ (**to fluctuate**) between 1997 and 2002. Video sales in the US _____ (**to be**) higher than sales in the UK in every year shown. US video sales _____ (**to be**) around 43 million in 1997, a figure which _____ (**to dip**) to 39 in 1998. US video sales then _____ (**to increase**) significantly to around 65 million in 2000, again dipping slightly to around 63 million in 2001. UK video sales _____ (**to rise**) very slightly between 1997 and 1999 from around 37 to 40 million. The sales of UK videos then _____ (**to decrease**) in 2000 to around 35 million, after which the sales _____ (**to increase**) steadily to around 55 million by 2002.

(226 words)

Now check your answers.

Video Sales and Rentals in the US and UK



Complete Sample Answer

The line graph shows the figures for video rentals and sales in the United States and the United Kingdom between 1997 and 2002, measured in millions of units.

The numbers for video rentals in the United States were the highest of all figures throughout the six-year period and fluctuated in an upward trend. Video rentals in the US began at around 69 million in 1997, rising slightly to around 72 in 1998. At this point, the figure decreased slightly to around 68 million, then rose steadily for the remainder of the period. Video rentals in the UK also increased, beginning at around 39 million per year in 1997 and rising consistently throughout the six-year period.

Video rentals in both the United States and the United Kingdom fluctuated between 1997 and 2002. Video sales in the US were higher than sales in the UK in every year shown. US video sales were around 43 million in 1997, a figure which dipped to 39 in 1998. US video sales then increased significantly to around 65 million in 2000, again dipping slightly to around 63 million in 2001. UK video sales rose very slightly between 1997 and 1999 from around 37 to 40 million. The sales of UK videos then decreased in 2000 to around 35 million, after which the sales increased steadily to around 55 million by 2002.

(226 words)

Task One Question 9

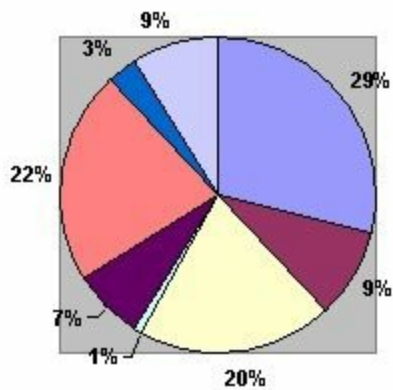
You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The pie charts below show the percentage of different university degrees earned in 1975 and 1990.

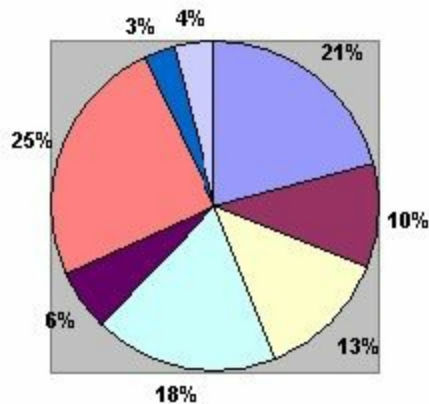
Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

University Degrees Earned in 1975



University Degrees Earned in 1990



About Subjects

The subjects of sentences in Task 1 essays can often be long and cumbersome. It is important to remember that you are describing the **numbers**. Let's look at an example of a common mistake:

Political science decreased from 9% in 1975 to 4% in 1990.

This sentence is incorrect. Why? Because political science did not decrease. **The percentage of students studying political science decreased from 9% in 1975 to 4% in 1990.**

Look at this sentence:

Political science decreased slightly in popularity over the 15-year period.

Is this sentence correct? Yes, because the **popularity** of political science is being described, rather than the subject itself.

Be aware of your subject! Make sure you are describing the numbers, percentages or other measurements being illustrated. Accurately and comprehensively describing your subjects also has another advantage: it increases your word count.

Exercise:

Are the following sentences correct or incorrect? Circle YES if you think the subject is correct. Circle NO if the subject is incorrect, then write the sentence correctly. Use the pie charts above to help you.

1. Business decreased between 1975 and 1990. YES NO

2. The percentage of people studying law increased from 9% in 1975 to 10% in 1990. YES NO

3. Computer science increased dramatically between 1975 and 1990. YES NO

4. Humanities degrees increased in popularity between 1975 and 1990. YES NO

5. Medicine decreased by a small margin between 1975 and 1990. YES NO

Answers

NOTE: There are many correct answers.

1. The percentage of students studying business decreased between 1975 and 1990.
 2. Correct
 3. The percentage of students who completed a degree in computer science increased dramatically between 1975 and 1990.
 4. Correct
 5. The percentage of students who selected medicine as their major decreased by a small margin between 1975 and 1990.
-
-

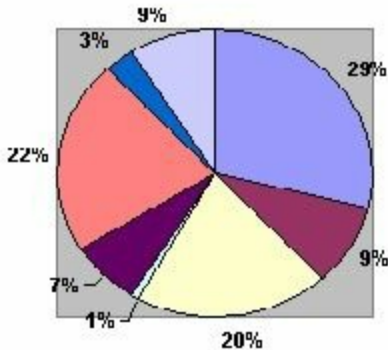
Note that some of the Task 1 essays in this book are longer than they need to be. This has been done so you can see what detailed, comprehensive essays that include a variety of sentence structures look like.

Remember: you'll never be penalised for writing a long essay!

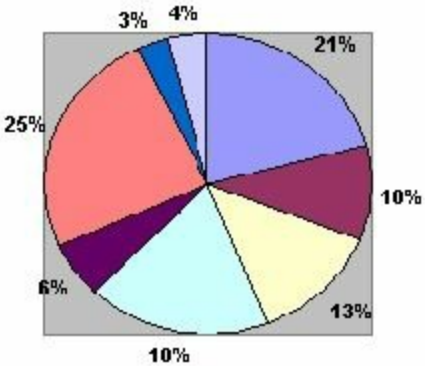
Now turn to the next page to read a complete Sample Answer to Question 9.

Question 9:

University Degrees Earned in 1975



University Degrees Earned in 1990



Read through the following sample answer. Take note of the subjects:

The **two pie charts** illustrate the percentages of university degrees earned in eight different subject categories in the years 1975 and 1990.

The three most widely chosen **majors** in 1975 were business, the humanities and science and technology, with 29%, 22% and 20%, respectively. **Business and the humanities** remained the two most popular subjects in 1990, but science and technology **subjects** decreased in popularity (with only 13% of the total); the third most popular **subject** became computer science, which was chosen by 18% of university students, showing the biggest increase between the two years.

In 1975, **law** was chosen by 9% of the university population and remained relatively stable in its popularity until 1990. **Political science and medicine** both decreased slightly in popularity over the fifteen-year period, with medicine being chosen by 7% in 1975 and a similar 6% in 1990. **The percentage of students studying political science** decreased from 9% in 1975 to 4% in 1990.

In 1975, the least popular **subject** was computer science, which comprised only 1% of the total number of degrees earned, a subject that gained popularity by 1990, when it accounted for around 18% of the total. The least popular **subject** in 1990 was fine art and music, whose combined percentage of degrees earned was 3% of the total number, with no change from 1975.

(222 words)

Task One Question 10

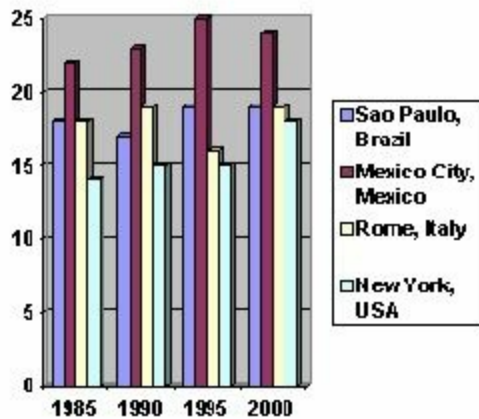
You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The two bar charts below illustrate the average yearly rainfall and average temperatures in four cities.

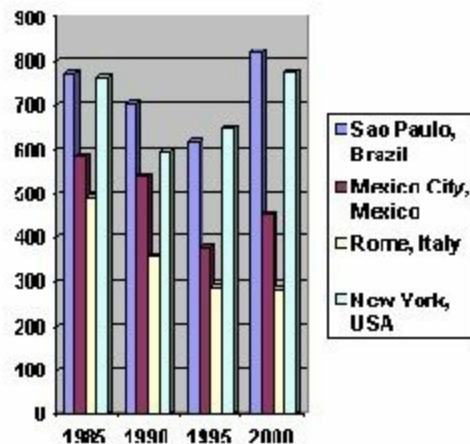
Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

Average Temperature in Degrees Celsius



Average Rainfall in Millimetres



Vocabulary

Task 1 essay writing requires you to use a variety of vocabulary words to describe **change**. Learn the vocabulary words below and practice using them. Be sure to pay attention to the **degree of change** described by the adverbs.

Here are some useful words:

VERBS:
increase
decrease
rise
fall
go up
go down
fluctuate
plateau
peak
remain stable
comprise
range

ADVERBS:
gradually
significantly
steadily
slightly
markedly
notably
noticeably
increasingly
decreasingly
dramatically
substantially
successively
relatively
marginally
consistently
approximately
similarly

Exercise:

Fill in the blanks in the Sample Answer to Question 10. Use the verbs and adverbs from the list above. Put the verbs in the correct tense.

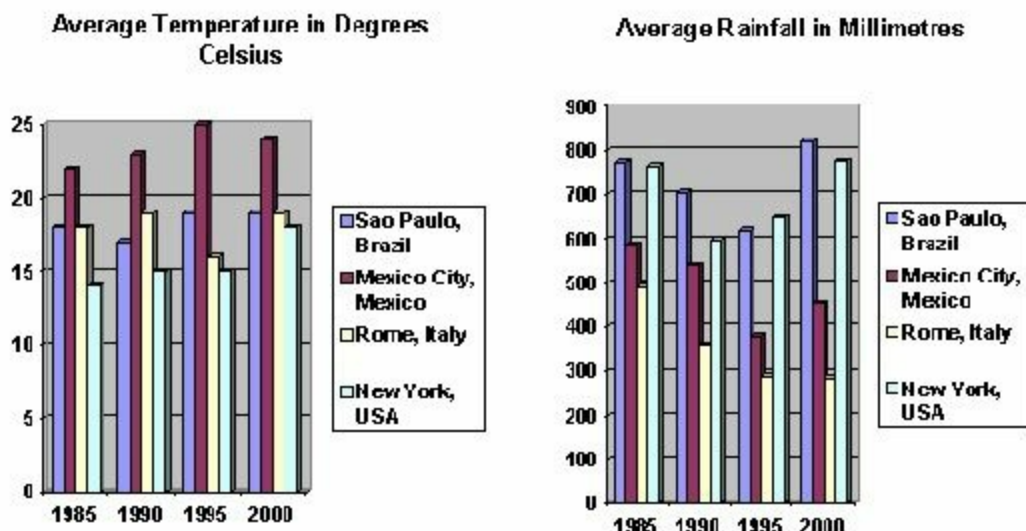
The two bar charts show the average rainfall in millimetres and the average temperature in four cities in four separate years.

In the first bar chart, Sao Paulo began with the highest average rainfall, with just under 800 millimetres in 1985, an amount which _____ to around 600 millimetres in 1995 then _____ again to around 805 millimetres in 2000, the highest amount shown on the chart. New York showed the next highest annual rainfall for all four years, _____ from around 775 in 1985, _____ to around 600 millimetres in 1990, then increasing _____ to around 775 again in 2000. Mexico City showed a similar trend. In Rome, Italy, the most rainfall fell in 1985 (just under 500 millimetres) then _____ decreased in each of the successive years, receiving just under 300 millimetres in 2000.

The second bar chart shows the average temperature in degrees Celsius in the same four cities. Mexico City recorded the highest annual temperatures for each of the four years shown, with the highest temperature of 25 degrees Celsius occurring in 1995. Sao Paulo and Rome _____ reported temperatures between 15 and 20 degrees Celsius for all four years. New York, however, showed the lowest annual temperatures, recording around 14 degrees for 1985 to 1995, then increasing _____ to about 17 degrees in 2000.

Now check your answers.

Question 10:



Sample Answer:

The two bar charts show the average rainfall in millimetres and the average temperature in four cities in four separate years.

In the first bar chart, Sao Paulo began with the highest average rainfall, with just under 800 millimetres in 1985, an amount which decreased to around 600 millimetres in 1995 then increased again to around 805 millimetres in 2000, the highest amount shown on the chart. New York showed the next highest annual rainfall for all four years, ranging from around 775 in 1985, decreasing to around 600 millimetres in 1990, then increasing steadily to around 775 again in 2000. Mexico City showed a similar trend. In Rome, Italy, the most rainfall fell in 1985 (just under 500 millimetres) then gradually decreased in each of the successive years, receiving just under 300 millimetres in 2000.

The second bar chart shows the average temperature in degrees Celsius in the same four cities. Mexico City recorded the highest annual temperatures for each of the four years shown, with the highest temperature of 25 degrees Celsius occurring in 1995. Sao Paulo and Rome consistently reported temperatures between 15 and 20 degrees Celsius for all four years. New York, however, showed the lowest annual temperatures, recording around 14 degrees for 1985 to 1995, then increasing slightly to about 17 degrees in 2000.

(219 words)

Read through the Task 1 essays in this book. Pay close attention to the use of verbs and adverbs. Effectively using a variety of verbs and adverbs in your Task 1 essay will help increase your band score.

Task One Question 11

You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

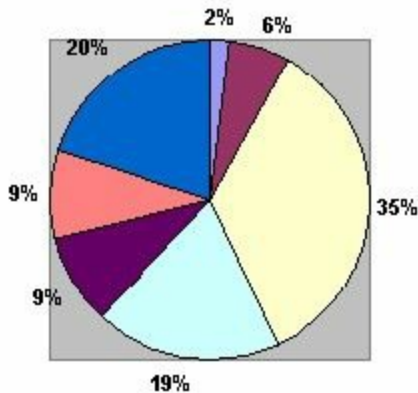
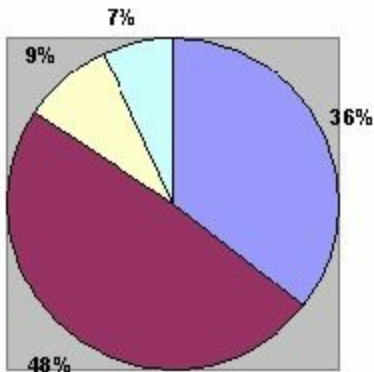
The two pie charts below illustrate the outlays and income of the United States federal government for the fiscal year 2001.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

Income

Outlays



- Retirement taxes
- Personal Income Taxes
- Miscellaneous Taxes
- Corporate Income Taxes

- General Government
- Debt Repayment
- Retirement
- National Defense
- Debt Interest
- Community Development
- Social Programs

Using “Respectively”

“Respectively” is an adverb. It can be a useful word to use when you are **listing** data.

Let’s look at how to use “respectively”:

In the above pie chart diagram, in 2001:

Miscellaneous taxes = 9%

Corporate income taxes = 7%

We can describe/compare these pieces of information together by writing this:

1) Miscellaneous taxes and **(2) corporate income taxes** accounted for **(1) 9%** and **(2) 7%** of the total income, **respectively**.

Notice that the data that is being described is listed **in the same order**. In other words, if I list miscellaneous taxes first, then I must also list the corresponding statistic (9%) first. “Respectively” is often placed at the end of a sentence and is preceded by a comma (,).

Let’s look at some more examples of sentences that use “respectively” in this book:

Taiwan and Japan had the largest percentage of total exports shipped to the United States, with around 34% and 33%, respectively.

By using “respectively” in the above sentence, we can see that:

- Taiwan exported 34% of its total exports to the United States, and
- Japan exported 33% of its total exports to the United States

We can tell this because of the order in which they are listed, and because “respectively” follows the description.

The three most widely chosen majors in 1975 were business, the humanities and science and technology, with 29%, 22% and 20%, respectively.

Again, we can see that:

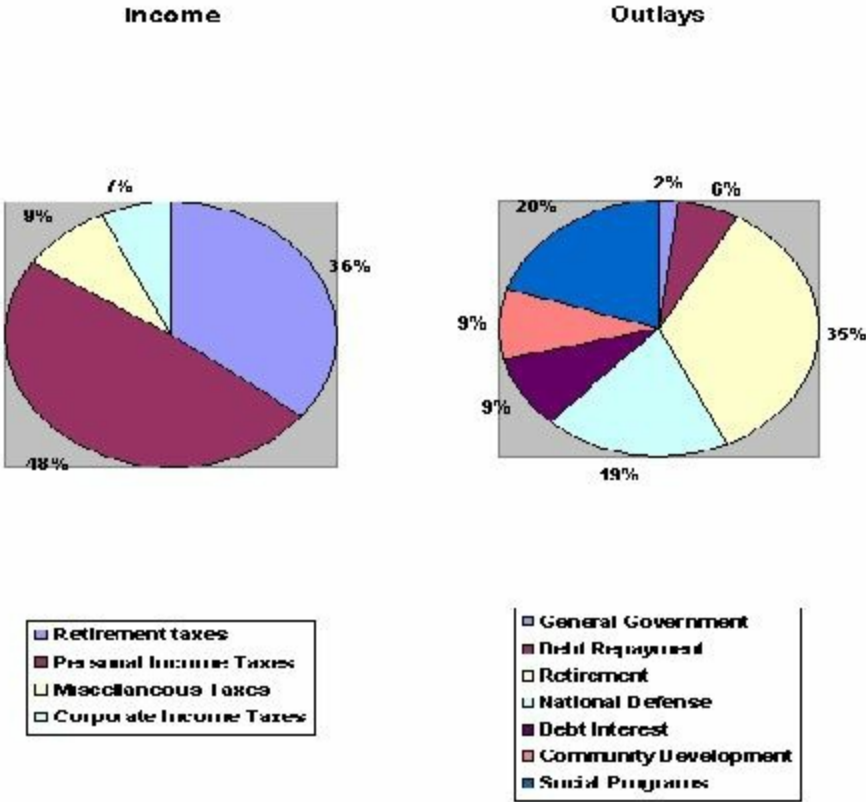
- Business = 29%
- The humanities = 22%
- Science & technology = 20%

If you can, I recommend using “respectively” **once** in your Task 1 essay. If you can use it accurately, it is exhibiting to your examiner that you are competent with yet another

complex sentence structure. Using a variety of sentence structures in your writing will help increase your band score.

Exercise:

Fill in the gaps with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS to complete the essay below.

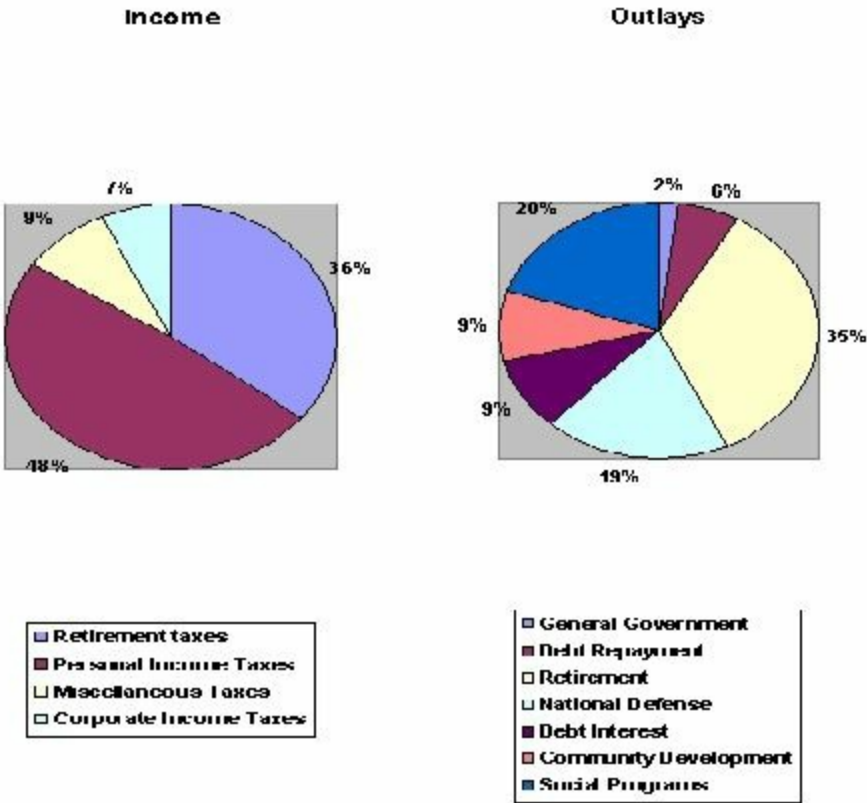


The two (1) _____ show the income and outlays of the United States government during the financial year of (2) _____. The US government had (3) _____ sources of income and seven areas of outlay.

By far the most significant source of income for the United States government during 2001's fiscal year was (4) _____ income taxes, which accounted for just under half of all income (5) _____. The next largest source of income for the government was (6) _____ taxes, which brought in 36% of the total. Miscellaneous taxes and corporate income taxes accounted for (7) _____ and 7% of the total income, respectively.

The second pie chart shows the division of outlays spent by the US federal government in 2001. The largest portion of the pie was spent on retirement, at (8) _____, and it is worth noting that this figure is almost identical to the income from retirement taxes (36%) shown in the first pie chart. Social programs and (9) _____ each received similar funding, at 20% and 19%, respectively. At just under half that amount, both community development and debt interest each accounted for (10) _____ of the total outlay, and (11) _____ took 6% of the total money spent. The smallest portion of the pie was spent on general government expenses, which received only (12) _____ of the total.

Question 11:



Complete Sample Answer:

The two **pie charts** show the income and outlays, in percentages, of the United States government during the financial year of **2001**. The US government had **four** sources of income and seven areas of outlay.

By far the most significant source of income for the United States government during 2001's fiscal year was **personal** income taxes, which accounted for just under half of all income(**48%**). The next largest source of income for the government was **retirement** taxes, which brought in 36% of the total. Miscellaneous taxes and corporate income taxes accounted for **9%** and 7% of the total income, respectively.

The second pie chart shows the division of outlays spent by the US federal government in 2001. The largest portion of the pie was spent on retirement, at **35%**, and it is worth noting that this figure is almost identical to the income from retirement taxes (36%) shown in the first pie chart. Social programs and **national defense** each received similar funding, at 20% and 19%, respectively. At just under half that amount, both community development and debt interest each accounted for **9%** of the total outlay, and **debt repayment** took 6% of the total money spent. The smallest portion of the pie was spent on general government expenses, which received only **2%** of the total.

Task One Question 12

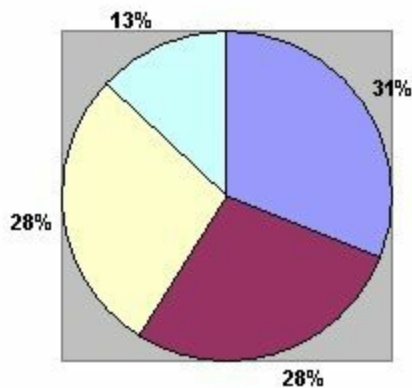
You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The pie charts show the different skill levels of male and female employees in an Australian company in 1997.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

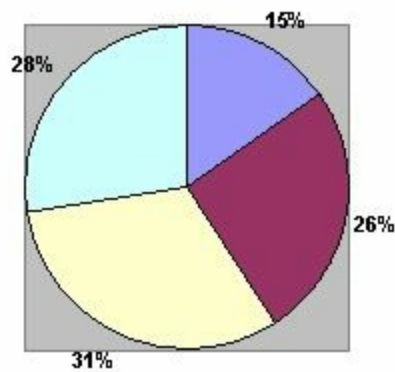
You should write at least 150 words.

Skill Level for Males



■ Highly Skilled ■ Skilled
□ Semi-skilled □ Non-skilled

Skill Level for Females



■ Highly Skilled ■ Skilled
□ Semi-skilled □ Non-skilled

Adding a Conclusion to Increase Word Count

Another way you can increase your word count is by adding a short **conclusion**. Of course, **a Task 1 essay does not require a conclusion**, but if you find that your essay has not yet reached 150 words, you can include one. This not only will help you reach your word count goal, but can also be a useful way to give a Task 1 essay a strong, conclusive ending.

If you do decide to include a conclusion, make sure it does not include any new information. Instead, either:

- restate a significant trend
- restate an overview about the diagram (as you may have done if you included a second sentence in your introduction – if you did not include a second sentence outlining a significant trend, you can still do so in the conclusion).

*Remember: you are **not** required to give your opinion or make inferences about the information shown in the diagram.*

Example:

(Introduction) The two pie charts show the skill levels of male and female employees of an Australian company in 1997, and the skill levels are divided into four categories: highly skilled, skilled, semi-skilled and non-skilled. **In general, skilled male workers outnumber skilled female workers.**

(Optional conclusion) **In conclusion, in 1997, more of the male workers at the Australian company were skilled than female employees, by a narrow margin.**

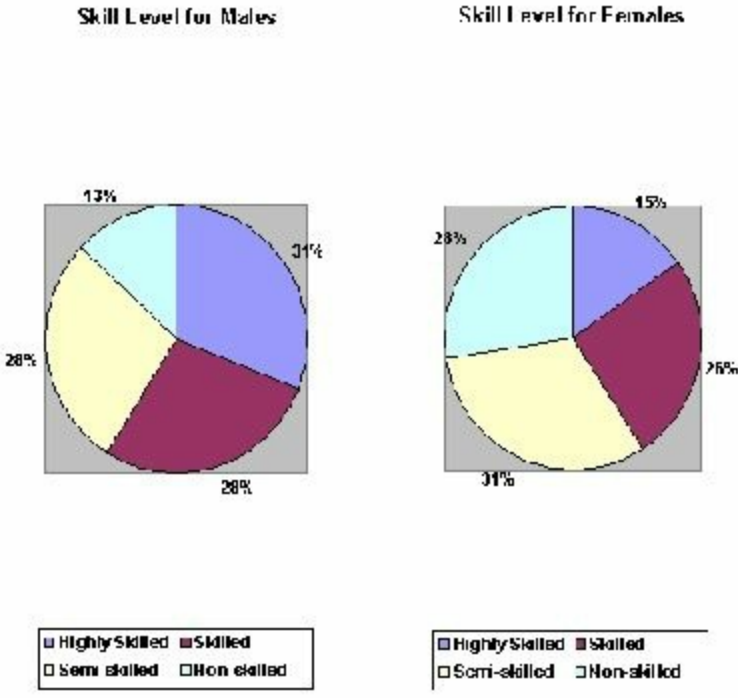
The conclusion RESTATES the second sentence of the introduction.
These optional practices can help you effectively add to your word count.



Exercise:

Take 20 minutes to write a complete 150-word Task 1 essay for Question 12. If you have difficulty reaching 150 words in 20 minutes, include a short conclusion. Then read the Sample Answer on the next page.

Question 12:



Sample Answer

The two pie charts show the skill levels of male and female employees of an Australian company in 1997, and the skill levels are divided into four categories: highly skilled, skilled, semi-skilled and non-skilled. In general, skilled male workers outnumber skilled female workers.

The percentage of highly skilled male employees (31%) of the unspecified Australian company was almost twice that of highly skilled female employees (15%), the largest discrepancy between the male and female groups in any area. The percentages of male and female skilled workers were almost equal, with 28% of skilled male workers and 26% of skilled female employees. Similarly, in the category of semi-skilled workers, the percentage of semi-skilled males was 28% of the total, while the percentage of semi-skilled

females was 31%. Lastly, non-skilled female workers outnumbered their male colleagues by more than two to one; the percentage of non-skilled female workers was 28% while the percentage of non-skilled male workers was only 13%, a significant difference.

In conclusion, in 1997, more of the male workers at the Australian company were skilled than female employees, by a narrow margin.

(183 words)

Task One Question 13

You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The table below illustrates the employment statistics in Australia in 2000 and 2010, and a forecast of employment figures for 2020.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

Employment Statistics in Australia

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of employed people (aged 18-65) | 2.2 million | 2.8 million | 3.8 million |
| Percentage of unemployed people (aged 18-65) | 5.9 million | 5.3 million | 6.0 million |
| Number of job vacancies | 16,750 | 24,670 | 30,000 |
| Male earnings per year (on average) | \$18,000 | \$21,000 | 25,000 |
| Female earnings per year (on average) | \$14,500 | \$18,000 | \$23,000 |
| Hours worked per week (on average) | 39.8 | 38.7 | 38.0 |



Review

Fill in the blanks to complete the Task One essay describing the table:

Employment Statistics in Australia

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of employed people (aged 18-65) | 2.2 million | 2.8 million | 3.8 million |
| Percentage of unemployed people (aged 18-65) | 5.9 million | 5.3 million | 6.0 million |
| Number of job vacancies | 16,750 | 24,670 | 30,000 |
| Male earnings per year (on average) | \$18,000 | \$21,000 | 25,000 |
| Female earnings per year (on average) | \$14,500 | \$18,000 | \$23,000 |
| Hours worked per week (on average) | 39.8 | 38.7 | 38.0 |

The **(1)** _____ shows the employment statistics in Australia for two different years, 2000 and 2010, and also shows a prediction of statistics for **(2)** _____.

The **(4)** _____ of employed people increased from 2.2 million people to 2.8 million people and **(5)** _____ to increase a further million people by 2020. In contrast, the percentage of unemployed people between the ages of 18 and 65 decreased from 5.9 in 2000 to 5.3% in 2010, but is forecast to increase again to **(6)** _____ by 2020. The number of job vacancies increased **(7)** _____ between 2000 and 2010, from 16, 750 to 24, 670, respectively; the number of job vacancies is predicted to continue **(8)** _____ and reach 30,000 by 2020.

According to the table, male earnings were **(9)** _____ than female earnings in both 2000 and 2010, and are predicted to remain higher into 2020. Male earnings were, on average, \$3,500 higher than **(10)** _____ in 2000 and \$2,500 higher in 2010. The trend is expected to continue, and by 2020, it is predicted that male earnings will be approximately \$2,000 higher than female earnings, the lowest discrepancy of all three years shown.

Lastly, the number of hours **(11)** _____ per week decreased between 2000 (39.8 hours) and 2010 **(12)**(_____) and is predicted to decrease to 38 hours per week by 2020. This is the only category shown on the table which **(13)** _____ throughout the thirty year period.

Now check your answers.

Employment Statistics in Australia

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2020 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of employed people (aged 18-65) | 2.2 million | 2.8 million | 3.8 million |
| Percentage of unemployed people (aged 18-65) | 5.9 million | 5.3 million | 6.0 million |
| Number of job vacancies | 16,750 | 24,670 | 30,000 |
| Male earnings per year (on average) | \$18,000 | \$21,000 | 25,000 |
| Female earnings per year (on average) | \$14,500 | \$18,000 | \$23,000 |
| Hours worked per week (on average) | 39.8 | 38.7 | 38.0 |

Complete Sample Answer

The **table** shows the employment statistics in Australia for two different years, 2000 and 2010, and also shows a prediction of statistics for **2020**.

The **number** of employed people increased from 2.2 million people to 2.8 million people and **is expected** to increase a further million people by 2020. In contrast, the percentage of unemployed people between the ages of 18 and 65 decreased from 5.9 in 2000 to 5.3% in 2010, but is forecast to increase again to **6%** by 2020. The number of job vacancies increased **substantially/dramatically/noticeably/slightly** between 2000 and 2010, from 16,750 to 24,670, respectively; the number of job vacancies is predicted to continue **to rise** and reach 30,000 by 2020.

According to the table, male earnings were **higher** than female earnings in both 2000 and 2010, and are predicted to remain higher into 2020. Male earnings were, on average, \$3,500 higher than **female earnings/women's earnings** in 2000 and \$2,500 higher in 2010. The trend is expected to continue, and by 2020, it is predicted that male earnings will be approximately \$2,000 per year higher than female earnings, the lowest discrepancy of all three years shown.

Lastly, the number of hours **worked** per week decreased between 2000 (39.8 hours) and 2010 (**38.7**) and is predicted to decrease to 38 hours per week by 2020. This is the only category shown on the table which **decreases** throughout the thirty year period.

(229 words)

Task One Question 14

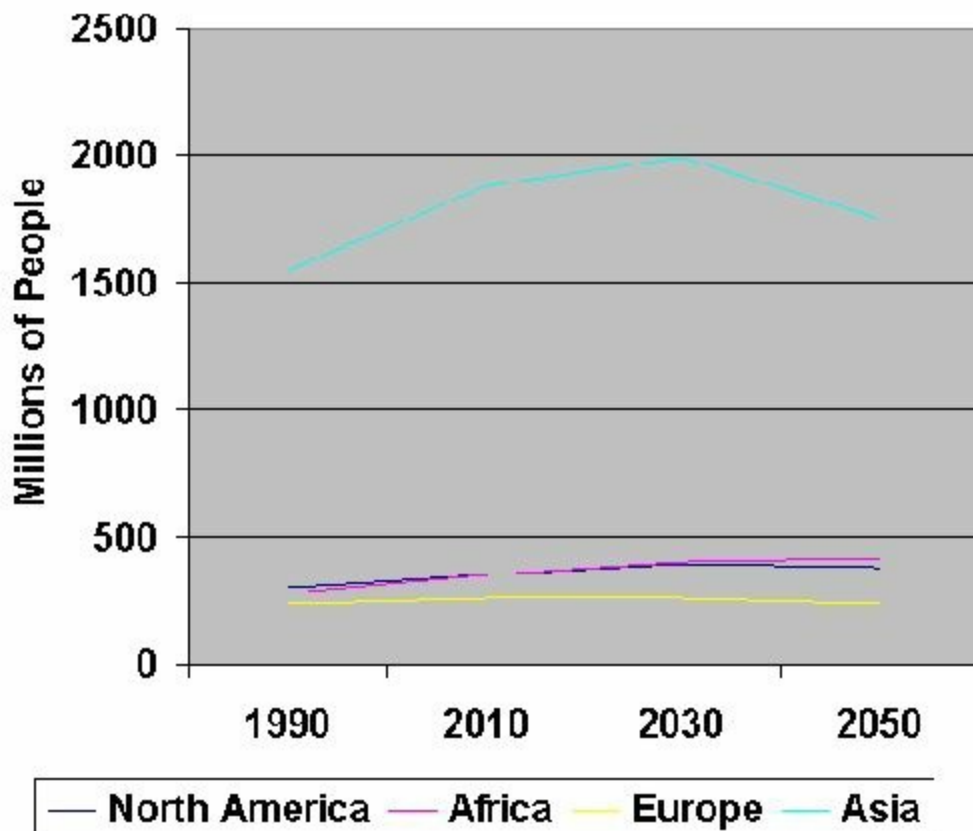
You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The line graph illustrates the actual and predicted population figures from 1990 to 2050 in four continents including Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.

Population



Review

Put the sentences in the correct order:

Using the information presented in the line graph above, put the following sentences into the correct order to make a cohesive Task One essay. The first one has been done for you.

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| A | The line graph shows the population of the continents of Europe, Africa, North America and Asia between 1990 and 2050, measured in millions of people. | 1 |
| B | Of the other three continents shown on the line graph, North America and Africa show similar figures over the 60 year period, both fluctuating around 400 million people. | |
| C | In conclusion, Asia's population is significantly higher than North America's, Europe's and Africa's and will likely remain higher. | |
| D | Overall, the population of Asia is far greater than the populations of the other three continents shown on the line graph, and is expected to remain significantly larger over the next five decades. | |
| E | While North America's population was slightly higher in 1990, Africa's population is expected to surpass North America's population marginally by the year 2050. | |
| F | To begin, Asia's population was around 1.5 billion people in 1990, a number which continues to grow and is expected to reach approximately 1.8 billion by 2020. | |
| G | After that, the population of Asia is expected to peak around 2030 at just under 2 billion people. After 2030, | |

Asia's population is expected to decrease to around 1.7 billion by the year 2050.

H Europe's population was around 300 million in 1990 and is expected to remain stable until at least 2050; it was consistently the lowest figure on the graph.

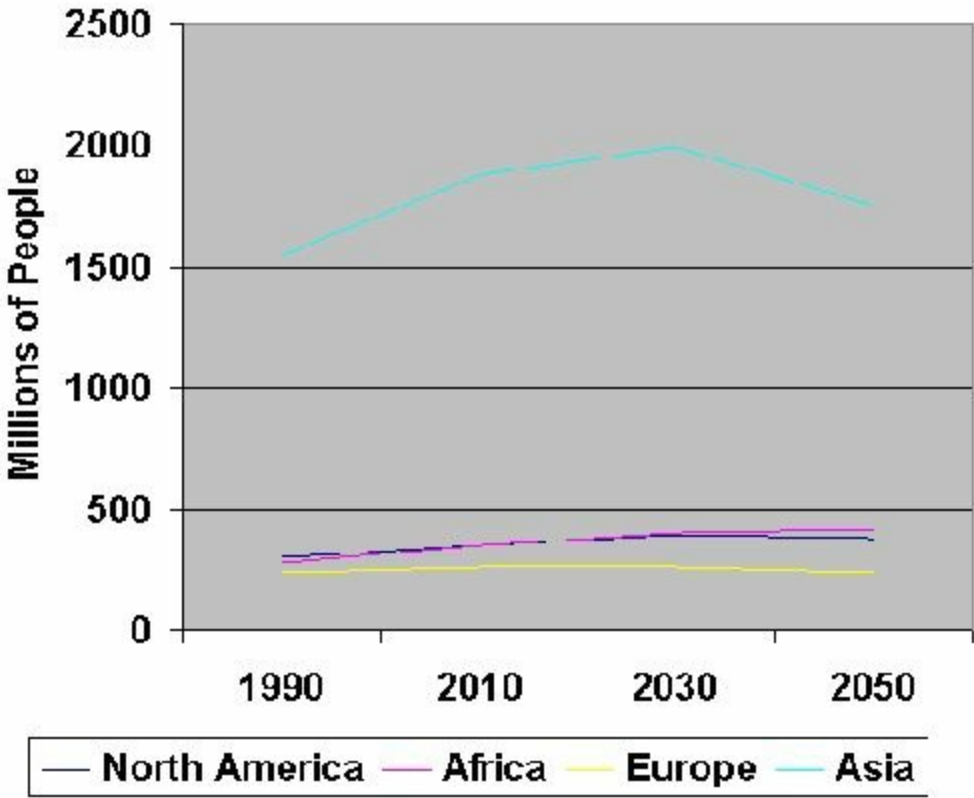
Answers:

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| A | The line graph shows the population of the continents of Europe, Africa, North America and Asia between 1990 and 2050, measured in millions of people. | 1 |
| B | Of the other three continents shown on the line graph, North America and Africa show similar figures over the 60 year period, both fluctuating around 400 million people. | 5 |
| C | In conclusion, Asia's population is significantly higher than North America's, Europe's and Africa's and will likely remain higher. | 8 |
| D | Overall, the population of Asia is far greater than the populations of the other three continents shown on the line graph, and is expected to remain significantly larger over the next five decades. | 2 |
| E | While North America's population was slightly higher in 1990, Africa's population is expected to surpass North America's population marginally by the year 2050. | 6 |
| F | To begin, Asia's population was around 1.5 billion people in 1990, a number which continues to grow and is expected to reach approximately 1.8 billion by 2020. | 3 |
| G | After that, the population of Asia is expected to peak around 2030 at just under 2 billion people. After 2030, Asia's population is expected to decrease to around 1.7 billion by the year 2050. | 4 |
| H | Europe's population was around 300 million in 1990 and is expected to | 7 |

remain stable until at least 2050; it was consistently the lowest figure on the graph.

Question 14:

Population



Complete Sample Answer:

The line graph shows the actual and predicted population of the continents of Europe, Africa, North America and Asia between 1990 and 2050, measured in millions of people. Overall, the population of Asia is far greater than the populations of the other three continents shown on the line graph, and is expected to remain significantly higher for years to come.

To begin, Asia's population was around 1.5 billion people in 1990, a number which continues to grow and is expected to reach approximately 2 billion by 2020. After that, the population of Asia is expected to peak around 2030 at just under 2 billion people. Of the other three continents shown on the line graph, North American and Africa show similar figures over the 60 year period, both fluctuating around 400 million people. While North America's population was slightly higher in 1990, Africa's population is expected to surpass North America's population marginally by the year 2050. Europe's population was around 300 million in 1990 and is expected to remain stable until at least 2050; it was consistently the lowest figure on the graph.

(Optional) In conclusion, Asia's population is significantly higher than North America's, Europe's and Africa's and will likely continue to remain higher.

(203 words)

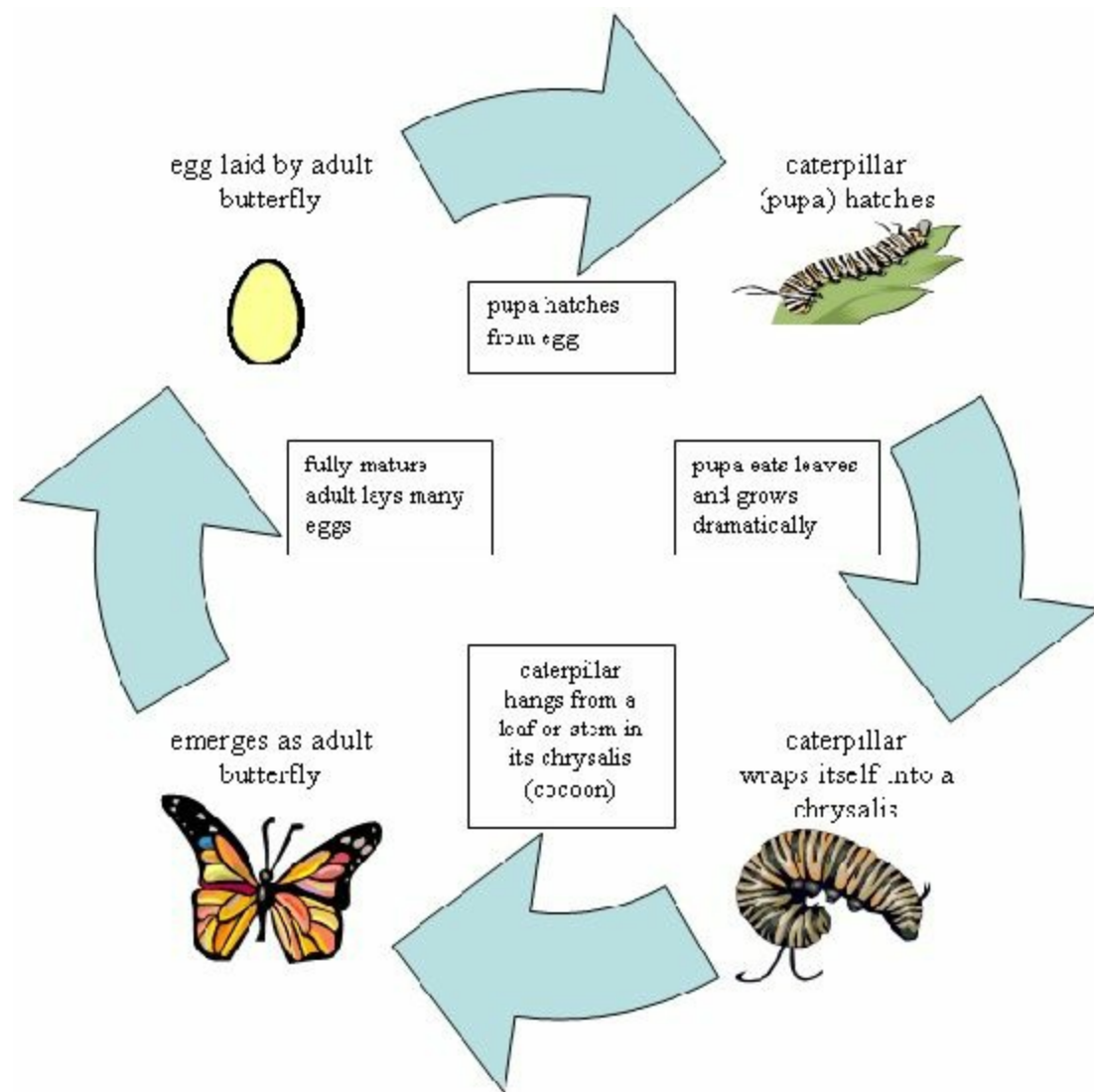
Task One Question 15

You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The diagram shows the life cycle of a butterfly.

Summarise the information by reporting the main features of the process.

You should write at least 150 words.



Process Diagrams/The Passive

When writing **Task One Process** essays, you will likely need to make use of the **passive** form of the verbs you use.

Present simple passive looks like this:

Subject + is /are + past participle (+ agent)

| Subject | to be (is/are) | Past participle | (by agent) |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| An egg | is | laid | by the butterfly. |

Active: The butterfly lays an egg.

Passive: An egg is laid by the butterfly.

Let's look more closely at the difference between **active** and **passive** in the **present simple**.

In the present simple **active** verb tense, the subject is followed by a present simple verb. In the following example, the object tells us what is being made (by the subject).

Present simple **active**:

| Subject | Present simple | Object |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| The caterpillar | makes | a chrysalis. |

In the present simple **passive** verb tense, **the object becomes the subject**. The verb becomes is/are, followed by the **past participle** of the verb.

Present simple **passive**:

| Subject | is/are + past participle | Agent (can be implied, not stated) |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| A chrysalis | is made | by the caterpillar. |

Now let's practice using the passive.

Exercise: The Passive

From the **present simple active** sentences given, choose the answer that is the correct corresponding **present simple passive** sentence (A – D) from the choices below.

1. My grandfather builds houses.

- A) Houses are building by my grandfather.
- B) Grandfather is building a house.
- C) Houses are built by my grandfather.
- D) Houses is built by my grandfather.

2. Wires carry electricity.

- A) Electricity is carried by wires.
- B) Electricity are carried by wires.
- C) Electricity is carries by wires.
- D) Electricity are carry by wires.

3. The operator connects the telephone call.

- A) The operator is connected by the telephone call.
- B) The telephone call is connecting to the operator.
- C) The operator is calling the telephone.
- D) The telephone call is connected by the operator.

4. The lumberjack cuts down the trees.

- A) The trees are cutting down by the lumberjack.
- B) The trees are cut down by the lumberjack.
- C) The trees are cutted down by the lumberjack.
- D) The trees is cut down by the lumberjack.

5. The machine turns paper into pulp.

- A) The paper is turned into pulp by the machine.
- B) The pulp is papered by the machine.
- C) The paper pulps the machine.
- D) The paper is turning into pulp by the machine.

Fill in the blanks with the correct words to form a present simple passive sentence. Use the correct form of the verb in brackets.

6. Research _____ (**conduct**) by professional test writers before the exams can be used.

7. Money _____ (**raise**) through fundraising events such as charity auctions.
8. Endangered animals such as panda bears _____ (**protect**) in wildlife sanctuaries.
9. Rainwater _____ (**collect**) in tanks and is used for drinking water.
10. Newspapers _____ (**recycle**) and processed into pulp which then can be used to make more newspapers.

Answers:

1. (C) Houses are built by my grandfather.
2. (A) Electricity is carried by wires.
3. (D) The telephone call is connected by the operator.
4. (B) The trees are cut down by the lumberjack.
5. (A) The paper is turned into pulp by the machine.
6. is conducted
7. is raised
8. are protected
9. is collected
10. are recycled

Sample Answer:

The diagram shows the life cycle of a butterfly, which begins as an egg and ends as a fully mature adult butterfly.

Firstly, an adult butterfly lays eggs during its adulthood. The eggs hatch into pupa, also known as caterpillars, which emerge from the egg to feed on leaves. Once the pupa is large enough, it is ready for the next phase of its life. It then wraps itself into a chrysalis and hangs from a leaf or stem in its chrysalis, which is also called a cocoon. When the caterpillar has transformed within its chrysalis, it emerges from the chrysalis as a fully mature adult butterfly. At this time, the adult butterfly is ready to reproduce, lay eggs and begin the cycle once again.

In conclusion, one butterfly's life cycle begins when it is laid as an egg by a mature butterfly. It becomes a pupa, then forms a chrysalis, and emerges as an adult butterfly able to lay eggs and continue the cycle of life.

(167 words)

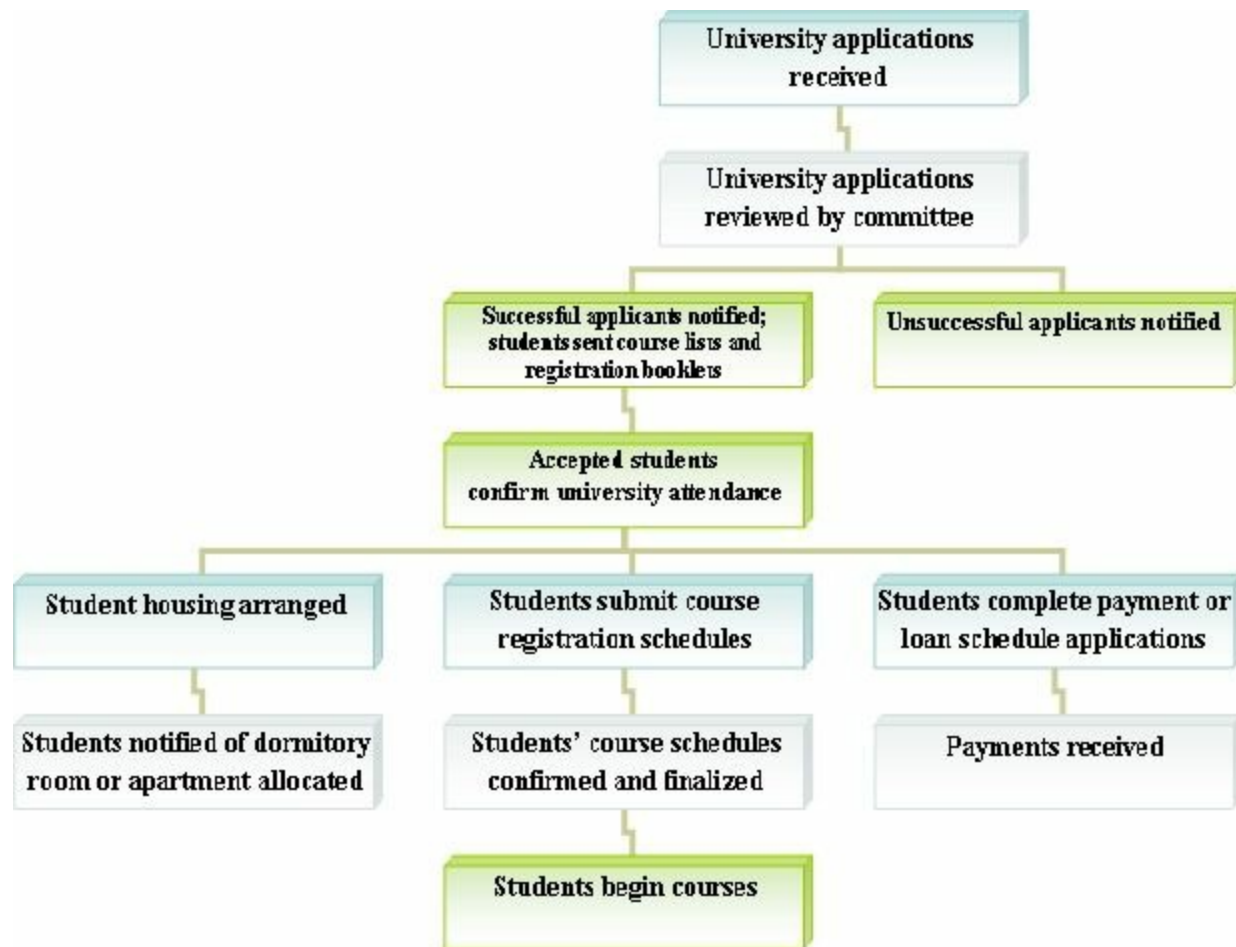
Task One Question 16

You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

The flowchart shows the application process for students applying to university.

Summarise the information by reporting the main features of the process.

You should write at least 150 words.



Flowcharts

When writing about a flowchart, it is important to follow the sequence of the information given. Begin at the top (or, if the flowchart proceeds from left to right, begin at the left) and proceed downwards until you reach the bottom line. Be sure to describe all the important information in one line before you begin discussing the next line.

Example:

Firstly, the university applications are received by the university.

This sentence describes the first box and the first line of the flowchart.

The information in a flowchart proceeds in a logical progression. If you do not follow the information in order, your essay will be less effective. Be sure to begin at the top and work your way down through the sequence of the flowchart.

Example:

Once received, the applications are reviewed by a university committee.

This sentence proceeds from the previous sentence and describes the next box/line of the flowchart. Your essay should follow the progression of the flowchart so that your essay is as easy to read as the flowchart is to follow.

It is acceptable to write one sentence about several of the boxes.

Like process diagrams, flowcharts require that you use the passive to describe some of the information presented.

Examples:

Firstly, the university applications are reviewed by the university.

When the decisions have been made by the committee, the successful applicants are notified of their acceptance and are also given a course list and registration booklet.

The students' course schedules are confirmed and finalised at this time and payments must also be received.

Exercise: The Passive

From the **active** sentences given, choose the answer that is the correct corresponding **passive** sentence (A – D) from the choices below.

1. The committee reviewed the applications.

- A) The committee was reviewed by the applications.
- B) The committee is reviewing by the applications.
- C) The applications were reviewed by the committee.
- D) The application is reviewing the committee.

2. The university notifies unsuccessful applicants.

- A) Unsuccessful applicants are notified by the university.
- B) The university is notified by the unsuccessful applicants.
- C) Unsuccessful applicants notify by the university.
- D) Unsuccessful applicants are notifying the university.

3. The university arranges housing for the students.

- A) Housing is arranged by the students.
- B) Housing is arranged for the students by the university.
- C) The students arrange housing.
- D) The students and the university arranging housing.

4. Successful applicants must confirm their acceptance.

- A) Acceptance must be confirmed by the university.
- B) Acceptance is confirming by the successful students.
- C) Acceptance must be confirmed by the successful students.
- D) Acceptance must confirm by the successful students.

5. Unsuccessful applicants send applications to other universities.

- A) Applications are sent to other universities by unsuccessful applicants.
- B) Unsuccessful students are sent to other applications.
- C) Applications send other universities to applicants.
- D) Applications are sending other universities by unsuccessful applicants.

Fill in the blanks with the correct SUBJECT for each passive sentence. Remember that the subject of a sentence can be more than one word. Note: Be sure to capitalise the first word of each sentence.

6. ACTIVE: The university notifies the students about the location of their apartment or

dormitory.

PASSIVE: _____ are notified about the location of their apartment or dormitory room by the university.

7. ACTIVE: Students complete loan applications.

PASSIVE: _____ are completed by students.

8. ACTIVE: The students choose the classes they would like to take and send their course registration schedules back to the university.

PASSIVE: _____ are chosen by the students, who then send their course registration schedules back to the university.

9. ACTIVE: The university confirms student schedules before classes begin.

PASSIVE: _____ are confirmed by the university before classes begin.

Answers:

1. (C) The applications were reviewed by the committee.
2. (A) Unsuccessful applicants are notified by the committee.
3. (B) Housing is arranged for the students by the university.
4. (C) Acceptance must be confirmed by the successful students.
5. (A) Applications are sent to other universities by unsuccessful applicants
6. Students
7. Applications
8. Courses
9. Schedules

Sample Answer:

The flowchart illustrates the process of university students' application and acceptance at an unnamed university. The process begins with the students' applications being received and ends with the students beginning coursework.

Firstly, the university applications are received by the university. Once received, the applications are reviewed by a university committee. When the decisions have been made by the committee, the successful applicants are notified of their acceptance and are also given a course list and registration booklet. At this time, the unsuccessful applicants are notified that their applications have not been accepted.

After the accepted students have confirmed that they will be attending the university, their student housing is arranged, the course registration schedules are submitted and they also must complete a payment or loan schedule before they can begin studying. Once this step of the application process has been completed, the students are then notified of the apartment or dormitory room they have been allocated. The students' course schedules are confirmed and finalized at this time and payments must also be received. Finally, the students can begin to attend their courses.

(182 words)

Part 3:

Student Essay Evaluations

Student Essay #1: Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Tourism is becoming so widespread that the number of tourists visiting old sites causes problems such as overcrowding, leading to the site being damaged and the quality of the experience of the visit being reduced, due to large crowds.

To what extent do you agree that this is a problem and what can governments do to solve the problem?

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence. You should write at least 250 words.

Lee's Essay:

Tourism has become the main type of entertainment so the number of tourist has increased rapidly in recent years. However, some people say that excessive number of tourist visiting the old sites will damage the site and the quality of tour will reduce. I strongly agree with this viewpoint.

Firstly, people are easy to discover everything by themselves due to curiosity. In old sites such as museums, there are lots of old and fragile things i.e. antiques or heritages. With large crowds of tourists, it is difficult for the tour-guide to tell the visitors what they should do and what they should not do. From that, the heritages and conserved things are easy haphazardly damaged by the visitors. Secondly, too many visitors also affect the quality of the tour. The tourists are from everywhere in the world so different language is a big problem. There is not enough well-informed tour-guide to instruct the tourists. Additionally, to satisfy all the demands of the visitor is another disadvantage. For example, in one tour, one visitor wants to visit in long period of time but another feels hungry so he or she needs to enjoy their meals. That causes difficulty for the tour-guide to organize and manage the tour.

One solution to decrease the negative effects of large crowds is to limit the number of visitors in one tour. Another way is granting the policy to protect and conserve the heritages in old sites. For example, do not

allow the children visit such these places or do not let the tourists touch the things in the old sites. With these ways, I believe the damages in old sites will decrease.

In summary, it can be seen that overcrowding of visitors can easily make the old sites being damaged and the quality of the visit reduced. We should all try to make sure that this does not happen often in our tourism development.

Evaluation and Comments for Lee:

I'll begin by highlighting the errors in red and offering a comment after each paragraph (in green):

Tourism has become the main type of entertainment so the number of tourist has increased rapidly in recent years. However, some people say that excessive number of tourists visiting the old sites will damage the site and the quality of the tour will be reduced. I strongly agree with this viewpoint.

Comment: You have introduced part of the topic well, but have neglected to include the role of governments in reducing the problem, which is also part of the question; remember, the introduction needs to address all parts of the question. You have also made a few small errors in verb form, use of articles and use of plurals. (See sample answer below for ideas on how to improve on this.)

Firstly, people seek to discover new sites and locations by themselves due to curiosity. In old sites such as museums, there are lots of old and fragile things, like antiques or artefacts. With large crowds of tourists, it is difficult for the tour-guide to tell the visitors what they should do and what they should not do. From that, the antiques and other protected objects are easily or haphazardly damaged by the visitors. Secondly, too many visitors also affect the quality of the tour. The tourists are from everywhere in the world so different languages are a big problem. There are not enough well-informed tour-guides to instruct the tourists. Additionally, to satisfy all the demands of the visitor is another disadvantage. For example, in one tour, one visitor wants to visit for long periods of time but another feels hungry so he or she needs to enjoy their meals. That causes difficulty for the tour-guide to organize and manage the tour.

Comment: You've done a nice job of providing specific examples in this paragraph. To improve this paragraph, be sure that your topic sentence (first sentence in a paragraph, which introduces the main idea of the paragraph) actually states what the paragraph is about. Here, the paragraph seems to focus on the job of the tour guide; however, your topic sentence is about tourists satisfying their own curiosity. This creates an element of confusion in this paragraph. Also, this paragraph could be improved by including more academic vocabulary and fewer ambiguous phrases like "lots of" and "everywhere"; be more specific.

One solution to decrease the negative effects of large crowds is to limit the number of visitors in one tour. Another way is introducing policies to protect and conserve the heritages in old sites. For example, do not allow children visit such these places or do not let the tourists touch the things in the old sites. With these ways, I believe the damage in old sites will decrease.

Comment: Again, a strong effort, but with some errors in structure, grammar and appropriate vocabulary. You could improve this paragraph by including a topic sentence; this paragraph

provides a list of several solutions to the problem, and the topic sentence should state that that's what is included in this paragraph.

In summary, it can be seen that overcrowding of visitors can easily damage the old sites and detract from the quality of the visit. We should all try to make sure that this does not happen often in our tourism development.

Comment: Your conclusion serves as a good summary of the main point of your essay. You should also include the second part of the question about solutions offered by governments (more specific than "we all"). Overall, nicely done.

Estimated Score: 6*

Sample Answer

Over the past century, travel and tourism have become increasingly popular activities, and the number of tourists has increased exponentially each year. Many people believe that excessive numbers of tourists will not only detract from the experience of visiting old sites, but will also damage the sites themselves. I agree that tourism numbers have become a problem throughout the world and that governments should take steps to limit the number of tourists, or to provide suitable alternatives to the present situation of overcrowding.

To begin, there are two problems which arise from large numbers of tourists visiting famous sites. Firstly, the quality of the experience of visiting a famous relic is negatively affected by crowds. For example, the Mona Lisa is a famous painting in the Louvre, in Paris. When I visited the museum and went to view the Mona Lisa, I could barely see the painting because the room was so crowded. For this reason, I did not enjoy the experience. Secondly, the painting had been covered in glass, because the moisture generated by millions of visitors was damaging the painting. Therefore, visitors cannot clearly see the details of the painting because it must be protected by a thick plate of glass. Both of these factors detract from the painting itself, as well as the experience of viewing it.

There are several solutions governments could implement to decrease the negative effects of large crowds in tourist destinations. For example, governments could limit the number of people allowed to visit a site each day, to protect the sites from damage caused by crowds. Also, replicas of deteriorating sites or artefacts could be made, so that people can have the experience of visiting the site, but do not actually damage the irreplaceable site or object.

In conclusion, it is evident that increasing numbers of tourists can damage old sites and detract from the quality of the tourist experience. Governments, tourist operators and the tourists themselves should take precautions to ensure that these valuable sites remain intact.

(335 words)

Student Essay #2: Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Some people say that the Internet is responsible for destroying the social skills of teenagers and young adults.

Why do you think the Internet is seen as dangerous in this way and what can we do to make sure that it does not harm the social development of teenagers and young adults?

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.

You should write at least 250 words.

Roberto's Essay:

Since its invention, the Internet has changed the way people communicate. Many people argue that it has had a negative influence on the way teenager and young adults communicate. This essay will present some ideas about why this may be a negative development and suggest how this influence can be reduced.

The Internet can lead to loneliness due to an activity, which is usually done alone. In addition, on the Internet, people can do everything, for example they can relax by listening to music or watching film. Besides this, Internet is good source for people to study and to search for information. Teenagers are very hooked to games online because it seems that they're living in another world. From that, both adults and teenagers become addicted to Internet so they do not give time the people around them. As a result, practical solutions to these problems could be found. One course of action could be to limit the use of Internet, for example by having no Internet days. Other days would be for working and studying. Counselling is an option for people use Internet frequently is also a good solution.

Lastly, some people claim that frequent use of Internet may cause bad ability in spoken community. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage more social activities i.e. camping, playing sports, and doing charity. With these activities, people would find that besides Internet, there are more exciting and meaningful things to do. Since then, time for Internet will be arranged logically.

In summary, it can be seen that over-exposure to the Internet can be dangerous to young people. Specifically, it can harm the development of their social skills at an important time in their lives. We should all want to make sure that this does not happen before it becomes a major issue in our society.

This is strong writing and would most likely earn a high band score; possibly a 7 or even an 8. As you can see, Roberto has practiced often and has used the template from Part 1 of this book to organise his essay; he has also utilised many of the other methods outlined in this book. Let's look at how Roberto could improve his writing even more by reading through the comments I wrote:

Comments and Evaluation for Roberto:

Since its invention, the Internet has changed the way people communicate. Many people argue that it has had a negative influence on the way teenagers and young adults communicate. This essay will present some ideas about why this may be a negative development and suggest how this influence can be reduced.

Your writing is clear and well organized. First, I will post your essay with corrections marked in red. You can see there are not many grammatical errors in your writing, which is good.

The Internet can lead to loneliness due to an activity (*take out comma*) which is usually done alone. In addition, on the Internet, people can do everything; (*use either a semi-colon or period here*) for example, they can relax by listening to music or watching a film. Besides this, the Internet is good source for people to study and to search for information. Teenagers are very hooked to games online because it seems that they are (*do not use contractions in formal academic writing*) living in another world. From that, both adults and teenagers become addicted to Internet so they do not give time to the people around them. As a result, practical solutions to these problems could be found. One course of action could be to limit the use of Internet, for example, by having **Internet-free** days. Other days would be for working and studying. Counselling is an option for people who use the Internet frequently and is also a good solution.

Lastly, some people claim that frequent use of the Internet may cause an impaired ability in spoken community. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage more social activities i.e. camping, playing sports, and doing charity. With these activities, people would find that besides the Internet, there are more exciting and meaningful things to do. Since then, time for the Internet will be arranged logically.

In summary, it can be seen that an over-exposure to the Internet can be dangerous to young people. Specifically, it can harm the development of their social skills at an important time in their lives. We should all try to make sure that this does not happen before it becomes a major issue in our society.

You can see that most of the corrections are in the use of punctuation, but they are minor errors. In the past few years, punctuation has become more of a consideration to IELTS examiners, so be sure to take note of it and try to read through your essay once during the test to check that you have used commas and periods appropriately. "Internet" as a noun always takes the definite article "the".

Next, I'll make some comments after each paragraph.

Since its invention, the Internet has changed the way people communicate. Many people argue that it has had a negative influence on the way teenagers and young adults communicate. This essay will present some ideas about why this may be a negative development and suggest how this influence can be reduced.

You have done a good job of introducing the central topic. Your first two sentences are done extremely well. The third and last sentence of your introduction (called the Thesis Statement) needs to be very explicitly stated, so I think you could improve this essay by being even more specific in this sentence, like this: **This essay will present some ideas about why overuse of the Internet can have a negative impact on the social development of young people, and will make several suggestions about how the negative influence of the Internet can be reduced.** As you are writing the last sentence of your introduction, be sure to refer to the essay question, as this is where you must **address the IELTS question.**

The Internet can lead to loneliness due to an activity, which is usually done alone. In addition, on the Internet, people can do everything, for example they can relax by listening to music or watching film. Besides this, Internet is good source for people to study and to search for information. Teenagers are very hooked to games online because it seems that theyre living in another world. From that, both adults and teenagers become addicted to Internet so they do not give time for the people around them. As a result, practical solutions to these problems could be found. One course of action could be to limit the use of Internet, for example by having Internet free days. Other days would be for working and studying. Counselling is an option for people use Internet frequently is also a good solution.

You have included many different ideas in this paragraph, and, while they are coherent and follow on logically from the preceding idea, I think you could improve this essay by dividing separate ideas into separate paragraphs and beginning each paragraph with a clearly stated topic sentence. For example, this paragraph could be divided into two paragraphs with distinct and separate ideas: 1) **isolation caused by Internet use**; 2) **solutions** to social isolation (see essay below to see how this could be done).

Lastly, some people claim that frequent use of Internet may cause less ability in spoken community. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage more social activities i.e. camping, playing sports, and doing charity. With these activities, people would find that beside Internet, there are more exciting and meaningful things to do. Since then, time for Internet will be arranged logically.

I think this paragraph should be included in your topic about solutions to the problem of social isolation (see below).

In summary, it can be seen that over-exposure to the Internet can be dangerous to young people. Specifically, it can harm the development of their social skills at an important time in their lives. We should all try to make sure that this does not happen before it becomes a major issue in our society.

Nice conclusion, but again, make sure your statements are clear. Avoid overusing the word "this"; instead, restate the noun or noun phrase that "this" refers to.

Roberto, your writing is of a high standard. As a final suggestion to improve on the skills you already have, make sure your paragraphs focus on a clear and distinct point, and introduce that point by providing a clear introduction to the paragraph (Topic Sentence). This should be done in the 3-5 minutes you take to PLAN your essay.

Estimate IELTS Score: 7-8*

Next, I'll make some changes to the essay you have written and provide you with a model answer to the question you wrote about:

Some people say that the Internet is responsible for destroying the social skills of teenagers and young adults.

Why do you think the Internet is seen as dangerous in this way and what can we do to make sure that it does not harm the social development of teenagers and young adults?

Sample Answer:

Since its invention, the Internet has changed the way people communicate. Many people argue that it has had a negative influence on the way teenager and young adults communicate. This essay will present some ideas about why overuse of the Internet can have a negative impact on the social development of young people, and will make several suggestions about how the negative influence of the Internet can be reduced.

Firstly, using the Internet can lead to social isolation because it is an activity that is usually done alone. For example, people watch films, listen to music, study and search for information on the Internet, but all of these activities are usually done individually. In my opinion, this social isolation that is common among Internet users can have a negative impact on people, especially teenagers. Teenagers are often attracted by virtual games and chat rooms because these activities are entertaining, but these activities are not helping young people learn social skills that will help them become successful and effective communicators in society. If young people spend too much time online, they may lose valuable social experiences that help them develop into confident adults.

There are several solutions to the problems of social isolation that can be caused by spending too much time on the Internet. First of all, parents and teachers could limit the amount of time their children or students are allowed to spend on the Internet, or impose Internet-free days. To prevent students from losing their ability to communicate effectively, schools could organize debate clubs, camping activities, compulsory sporting events and charity or volunteer work. All of these activities, if made a part of the students' daily schedule, could help prevent or resolve problems of isolation that are caused by frequent and lengthy online visits. Once engaged in social activities, most students would find that these are exciting and meaningful pursuits.

In conclusion, it is clear that an over-exposure to the Internet can be dangerous to young people. Specifically, it can harm the development of their social skills at an important time in their lives. Providing meaningful social activities for young people is an important solution that should be implemented before social isolation of our young people becomes a major issue in our society.

(375 words)

Student Essay #3: Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

At some point in the future, it may become scientifically possible for people to live for as many as 150 years. While this could be good for individuals, increasing longevity may have negative consequences for society.

What are the risks and benefits and risks of people living longer?

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.

You should write at least 250 words.

Shine's Essay:

With the development of science and technology, the dream of living to one hundred and fifty years could become true. Some people say that it could be good for everyone and society but others argue that it could bring many risks for our world. This essay will discuss the advantages and disadvantages people may meet when living to one hundred and fifty years.

Firstly, when people live to one hundred and fifty years, they will have more time to enjoy their life and know how their children succeed in the future. In addition, people will have chances to achieve their goals; for example, the business people will gain more experiences and that makes them more successful. Some scientist, doctors or musicians will devote to our world i.e. Thomas Edison would have more great inventions to human or Mozart would have more wonderful music if they lived longer.

By contrast, besides the benefits there must be negative consequences. When people get older, they will become unhealthy because their organs are unable to deal with extreme age. Additionally, more people may suffer from painful diseases such as arthritis. Another factor is that society welfare will break down; for example, in Japan, the young citizens have to pay tax to support the old ones. Moreover, an increasing of old population may lead to natural resources being exhausted e.g. our world now is facing the exhaust of water resource.

In conclusion, I believe that the disadvantages for people living to one hundred and fifty years far outweigh the advantages. Therefore, this development would be largely negative one for our society.

Evaluation and Comments for Shine:

First, I will cut and paste your essay below, and indicate grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors in red.

With the development of science and technology, the dream of living to one hundred and fifty years could become true. Some people say that it could be good for everyone and society but others argue that it could bring many risks for our world. This essay will discuss the advantages and disadvantages people may meet when living to one hundred and fifty years.

Firstly, when people **live** to one hundred and fifty years, they will have more time to enjoy their life and know how their children **will** succeed in the future. In addition, people will have chances to achieve their goals; for example, the business people will gain more **experience** and that makes them more successful. Some **scientists**, doctors or musicians **could** devote **more time to improving** our world. **For example**, Thomas Edison **could** have **contributed** more great inventions to **humankind** or Mozart **could** have **composed** more wonderful music if they **had** lived longer.

By contrast, besides the benefits there must be negative consequences. When people get older, they

will become unhealthy because their organs are unable to deal with extreme age. Additionally, more people may suffer from painful diseases such as arthritis. Another factor is that **society's** welfare will break down; for example, in Japan, the young citizens have to pay tax to support the old ones. Moreover, an **increase in the population of old people** may lead to natural resources being exhausted, **as our world is now facing the exhaustion of water resources.**

In conclusion, I believe that the disadvantages for people living to one hundred and fifty years far outweigh the advantages. Therefore, this development would be **a largely negative one for our society.**

I think you have done a good job in organizing this essay. It has clear paragraphs which outline the main points required. Your **punctuation and spelling** are mostly accurate, and your writing is clear and easy to read, with a few **grammatical** errors that do not hinder the reader's understanding. You have used a range of **academic vocabulary** words (although this could be expanded) and you have given good **examples and evidence** to support the points you make in your **Topic Sentences** (the first sentence of each Supporting Paragraph).

Now, let's look at each paragraph individually:

Introduction

With the development of science and technology, the dream of living to one hundred and fifty years could become true. Some people say that it could be good for everyone and society but others argue that it could bring many risks for our world. This essay will discuss the advantages and disadvantages people may meet when living to one hundred and fifty years.

I think this is well done. You have begun with a broad statement about the topic; this can also include a brief reference to background information as well. Your second sentence nicely brings the IELTS question into the topic, with the differing viewpoints explained. And your **Thesis Statement** (last sentence of the introduction) begins to answer the question, but I think could do a better job.

Remember, the **Thesis Statement** should (1) **answer the question** and (2) **introduce the supporting paragraphs**. Here is another example of how you could introduce this essay:

With the development of science and technology, human beings are living longer and longer lives. Within the next generation, people may be able to live as long as one hundred and fifty years. While some people believe that such longevity would benefit individuals, others argue that society as a whole would suffer if many people live to such an old age. This essay will discuss the advantages and disadvantages people and society may meet when technology allows us to double our life span.

Supporting Paragraph 1

Firstly, when people **live** to one hundred and fifty years, they will have more time to enjoy their life and know how their children **will** succeed in the future. In addition, people will have chances to achieve their goals; for example, the business people will gain more **experience** and that makes them more successful. Some **scientists**, doctors or musicians **could** devote **more time to improving** our world. **For example**, Thomas Edison **could** have **contributed** more great inventions to **humankind** or Mozart **could** have **composed** more wonderful music if they **had** lived longer.

This paragraph sticks well to the topic of "advantages to individuals". You have done a very good job of providing examples to support your original statement. I think the best way to improve this paragraph would be to practice writing it several times, correcting grammar mistakes and articulating your ideas as clearly and academically as you can. Here is another example:

Firstly, if people were able to live to one hundred and fifty years of age, they would have more time to enjoy their lives and contribute to society. For example, a parent would have more opportunity to help their children succeed. Similarly, a businessperson would have additional time to gain experience and would therefore be more likely to achieve his or her goals. Scientists, doctors and musicians could also devote more time to their endeavours and make additional contributions to the global society. Thomas Edison, for example, could have invented more useful devices, and Mozart could have composed even more inspirational music if he had had the means to extend his life.

Supporting Paragraph 2

By contrast, besides the benefits there must be negative consequences. When people get older, they will become unhealthy because their organs are unable to deal with extreme age. Additionally, more people may suffer from painful diseases such as arthritis. Another factor is that **society's** welfare will break down; for example, in Japan, the young citizens have to pay tax to support the old ones. Moreover, an **increase in the population of old people** may lead to natural resources being exhausted, **as our world is now facing the exhaustion of water resources.**

Again, you have done a good job of introducing the focus of the paragraph: negative consequences. And you have given good examples. Be careful of using i.e. and e.g., as these abbreviations sometimes seem abrupt. Below, I have focused more on one example and discussed it in more detail. Here is another example of how this idea could be presented:

In contrast, human longevity would also have many negative consequences on society. First of all, when people get older, they are more likely to suffer from illnesses or diseases associated with old age, like arthritis and Alzheimer's. If an increasing number of people suffered from these illnesses, society would suffer as additional resources would be needed to care for the growing number of old and infirmed citizens. Even today, many countries' economies, like Japan, for example, are having difficulties as younger workers pay high taxes to support the elderly. This problem could be exacerbated if the number of old people within society continues to increase.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I believe that the disadvantages for people living to one hundred and fifty years far outweigh the advantages. Therefore, this development would be a largely negative one for our society.

Again, this is clearly stated and provides a good summary to your essay. Well done. I would keep this as is, except to change the preposition "for" to "of", as done below:

In conclusion, I believe that the disadvantages of people living to one hundred and fifty years far outweigh the advantages. Therefore, this development would be a largely negative one for our society.

Shine, your writing is good. My advice is to keep practicing! You are capable of getting a good score on your Task Two essay. Keep writing to hone your skills and extend your vocabulary. Well done!

Estimated score: 6 – 7*



Here is the complete sample answer:

At some point in the future, it may become scientifically possible for people to live for as many as 150 years. While this could be good for individuals, increasing longevity may have negative consequences for society.

What are the risks and benefits and risks of people living longer?

Sample Answer:

With the development of science and technology, human beings are living longer and longer lives. Within the next generation, people may be able to live as long as one hundred and fifty years. While some people believe that such longevity would benefit individuals, others argue that society as a whole would suffer if many people live to such an old age. This essay will discuss the advantages and disadvantages people and society may meet when technology allows us to double our life span.

Firstly, if people were able to live to one hundred and fifty years of age, they would have more time to enjoy their lives and contribute to society. For example, a parent would have more opportunity to help their children succeed. Similarly, a businessperson would have additional time to gain experience and would therefore be more likely to achieve his or her goals. Scientists, doctors and musicians could also devote more time to their endeavours and make additional contributions to the global society. Thomas Edison, for example, could have invented more useful devices, and Mozart could have composed even more inspirational music if he had had the means to extend his life.

In contrast, human longevity would also have many negative consequences on society. First of all, when people get older, they are more likely to suffer from illnesses or diseases associated with old age, like arthritis and Alzheimer's. If an increasing number of people suffered from these illnesses, society would suffer as additional resources would be needed to care for the growing number of old and infirmed citizens. Even today, many countries' economies, like Japan, for example, are having difficulties as younger workers pay high taxes to support the elderly. This problem could be exacerbated if the number of old people within society continues to increase.

In conclusion, I believe that the disadvantages of people living to one hundred and fifty years far outweigh the advantages. Therefore, this development would be a largely negative one for our society.

(332 words)

Student Essay #4: Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Traditional medicine, such as herbal remedies and acupuncture, is very popular in some countries. Many people who practise traditional medicine believe it is more effective than modern medicine in improving and maintaining health.

To what extent do you agree with this viewpoint?

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.

You should write at least 250 words.

Neung's Essay:

Since traditional medicines such as acupuncture and herbal remedies were born, they have gained the popularity in many countries. Some people think that they are better than modern medicines in amending good health. I strongly agree with this viewpoint.

Firstly, traditional medicines are believed by most of the doctors because their ingredients are originated from natural i.e. herbs and other plants. There are some research which shows that natural medicines cause less harmful or no side-effect on the body. Modern medicines, however, are manufactured from chemicals and drugs that are thought the toxic for the body.

Secondly, traditional medicines can both treat the mind and the body. Because there are two factors that basically cause the diseases: the environmental and the psychological factors. If using the modern remedies, only the environmental factors that caused the diseases are cured. Otherwise, if the traditional ones are applied, the doctors will treat the psychological factors that partly affect the patient disease together with the medicines. As a result, the patients will be healthy in both their mind and body after recovering from the diseases.

Lastly, traditional medicines are well-known in thousands of years in some countries such as China and Japan. These remedies are used as main way to treat diseases and they bring much efficiency. Modern medicines, however, has been discovered in recent decades so nobody can ensure their long-term effects in the future.

To sum up, modern medicines relies heavily on artificial products that can harm our health, whereas traditional medicines is natural, safe and treat the whole body. Therefore, I believe that it is far better in maintaining overall health.

Evaluation and Comments for Neung:

I will begin by cutting and pasting your essay below, with spelling, punctuation and grammar mistakes corrected in red. Where there is a confusing phrase, I will comment in green.

Since traditional medicines such as acupuncture and herbal remedies were **developed**, they have gained popularity in many countries. Some people think that they are better than modern medicines in **promoting and maintaining** good health. I strongly agree with this viewpoint.

Firstly, traditional medicines are believed by most of the doctors (*believed to be what? - this is unclear*) because their ingredients **have** originated from natural herbs and other plants. There **is** some research which shows that natural medicines cause less harmful or no **side-effects** on the body. Modern medicines, however, are manufactured from chemicals and drugs that are thought **to be** toxic for the body. (*Many would argue with this theory!*)

Secondly, traditional medicines can both treat the mind and the body **because** there are two factors that basically cause diseases: environmental and psychological factors. If using the modern remedies, only the environmental factors that caused the diseases are cured. Otherwise, if the traditional ones (*which ones?*) are applied, the doctors will treat (????) the psychological factors that **partly affect the patient disease together with the medicines** (*this is unclear and confusing*). As a result, the patients will be healthy in both their mind and body after recovering from the diseases.

Lastly, traditional medicines **have been** well-known **for** thousands of years in some countries such as China and Japan. These remedies are used as **the** main ways to treat diseases and they bring much efficiency. Modern medicines, however, **have** been discovered in recent decades so nobody can ensure their long-term effects in the future.

To sum up, modern medicines **rely** heavily on artificial products that can harm our health, whereas traditional medicines **are** natural, safe and treat the whole body. Therefore, I believe that **they are** far better in maintaining overall health.

You write well and your ideas are clearly expressed. You have done a nice job of organizing your argument into three clearly stated supporting paragraphs, each one beginning with an appropriate linking word. You have used some inappropriate vocabulary words, but you have also used a range of academic vocabulary words well. For the most part, your grammar is accurate although you have made some errors in verb tense and subject/verb agreement. Let's look at each paragraph:

Introduction:

Since traditional medicines such as acupuncture and herbal remedies were developed, they have gained popularity in many countries. Some people think that they are better than modern medicines in promoting and maintaining good health. I strongly agree with this viewpoint.

With the corrections, this is an effective paragraph which answers the IELTS question. You have reworded the question nicely, so that it varies somewhat from the IELTS question. You can see that I have not made many changes to your introduction:

Since traditional medicines such as acupuncture and herbal remedies were developed, they have gained popularity in many countries. Practitioners of traditional medicine typically think natural remedies are more effective than modern medicines in promoting and maintaining good health. I strongly agree with this viewpoint.

Supporting Paragraph 1

Firstly, traditional medicines are believed by most of the doctors because their ingredients **have** originated from natural herbs and other plants. There **is** some research which shows that natural medicines cause less harmful or no **side-effects** on the body. Modern medicines, however, are manufactured from chemicals and drugs that are thought **to be** toxic for the body.

Make sure that your viewpoint is not too **dogmatic**. In other words, be careful to state that **some people who practice herbal medicine** believe it's more effective, and, **in some cases**, it **may be** toxic. A strong view that clearly is debatable by a large part of society should be stated carefully. Here's a suggestion:

Firstly, traditional medicines are believed by doctors who use them to be healthier and more effective than modern medicines. Because traditional medicines are extracted from herbs and other plants, they

are thought by many traditional doctors to cause less harm and fewer side-effects than synthetically produced medicines, and there is research to support this theory. Modern medicines are often manufactured from chemicals and drugs that can, in some cases, be toxic for the body.

Supporting Paragraph 2

Secondly, traditional medicines can both treat the mind and the body because there are two factors that basically cause diseases: environmental and psychological factors. If using the modern remedies, only the environmental factors that caused the diseases are cured. Otherwise, if the traditional ones are applied, the doctors will treat the psychological factors that partly affect the patient disease together with the medicines. As a result, the patients will be healthy in both their mind and body after recovering from the diseases.

You are making a strong point here and you have given some good supporting evidence to back up the statement in your Topic Sentence (first sentence in a supporting paragraph). There are some confusing, unclear sentence structures in here, which could be improved. Here's a suggestion:

Secondly, traditional medicines can treat both the mind and the body because there are two factors that cause diseases: environmental and psychological factors. If using modern remedies, only the environmental factors that caused the diseases are treated. But when traditional methods are applied, doctors treat both the physical symptoms while also treating the psychological factors that contributed to the illness. As a result, the outcome of the treatment is a patient who is cured in both the body and the mind.

You may run out of time here, but your essay may benefit as well from more explicit examples. In the above paragraph, you might like to give an example of a specific patient who was treated both physically and psychologically and recovered from their illness.

Supporting Paragraph 3

Lastly, traditional medicines have been well-known for thousands of years in some countries such as China and Japan. These remedies are used as the main ways to treat diseases and they bring much efficiency. Modern medicines, however, have been discovered in recent decades so nobody can ensure their long-term effects in the future.

Again, your argument is clearly stated. I've made a few minor changes to the language and vocabulary use below as a suggestion:

Lastly, traditional medicines have a long history of effective treatment, while the long-term effects of modern medicines are largely unknown. For example, in countries such as China and Japan, traditional remedies have been tested and improved over thousands of years; their outcomes and their effectiveness are well known. Modern medicines, however, have been developed in recent decades. The long term effects of these chemical treatments cannot in every case be assured to be entirely safe.

Conclusion

Aside from a few minor grammatical mistakes, you've done a good job summing up your essay. My only final concern is that, again, this viewpoint could be argued against by a very large proportion of the population; modern medicine and technology is saving lives in unprecedented proportions, so your argument at times feels less than entirely convincing. Overall, however, I think your writing is

very good.

To sum up, modern medicines rely heavily on artificial products that can harm our health, whereas traditional medicines are natural, safe and treat both physical and psychological factors. Therefore, I believe that traditional medicines are far more effective in maintaining overall health.

Estimated IELTS Score: 6-7*

Traditional medicine, such as herbal remedies and acupuncture, is very popular in some countries. Many people who practise traditional medicine believe it is more effective than modern medicine in improving and maintaining health.

To what extent do you agree with this viewpoint?

Complete Sample Answer:

Since traditional medicines such as acupuncture and herbal remedies were developed, they have gained popularity in many countries. Practitioners of traditional medicine typically think natural remedies are more effective than modern medicines in promoting and maintaining good health. I strongly agree with this viewpoint.

Firstly, traditional medicines are believed by doctors who use them to be healthier and more effective than modern medicines. Because traditional medicines are extracted from herbs and other plants, they are thought by many traditional doctors to cause less harm and fewer side-effects than synthetically produced medicines, and there is research to support this theory. Modern medicines are often manufactured from chemicals and drugs that can, in some cases, be toxic for the body.

Secondly, traditional medicines can treat both the mind and the body because there are two factors that cause diseases: environmental and psychological factors. If using modern remedies, only the environmental factors that caused the diseases are treated. But when traditional methods are applied, doctors treat both the physical symptoms while also treating the psychological factors that contributed to the illness. As a result, the outcome of the treatment is a patient who is cured in both the body and the mind.

Lastly, traditional medicines have a long history of effective treatment, while the long-term effects of modern medicines are largely unknown. For example, in countries such as China and Japan, traditional remedies have been tested and improved over thousands of years; their outcomes and their effectiveness are well known. Modern medicines, however, have been developed in recent decades; therefore, the long term effects of these chemical treatments cannot in every case be assured to be entirely safe.

To sum up, modern medicines rely heavily on artificial products that can harm our health, whereas traditional medicines are natural, safe and treat both physical and psychological factors. Therefore, I believe that traditional medicines are far more effective in maintaining overall health.

(318 words)

Student Essay #5: Task 2

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

At school, children should either be taught to compete or to cooperate. In your opinion, which form of education would best benefit society as a whole?

Describe both sides of the argument and explain your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Kojo's Essay:

There has been an argument in which way teacher should teach students to be cooperative or competitive. I certainly claim that both being cooperative and competitive are important aspects for students to be taught.

Firstly, we are living in competitive world. In fact, every field of works are run based on competition. Even in school, teachers tend to rate their students based on their scores of examination or their behavior. I presume that examination can also be considered as a competition. Rivalry can make individuals productive and active when they work. Moreover, winning the competition offers the feelings of fulfillment that eventually result in having further motivation for the next goal. The tougher the competition is, the more enthusiastic people likely to be. However, students should not misunderstand the concept of competition. Some will be exploiting or deceiving others to achieve their goals. In this case, teachers have to teach them about fair play spirits.

Secondary, cooperation is also in credibly important for the students to develop. I mentioned that competition was beneficial for kids already. However, I have to argue that cooperation sometimes overlaps competition. By that I mean, people have to combine their force to beat others sometimes. For instance, when you play football, you belong to one team and will be making as much effort as you can to beat opposing team. If you are employee of certain company, you tend to be appointed to work for particular project that lead to enormous profit for the company.

Finally, for these reason I mentioned above, I am convinced that children should either be taught to cooperate or compete. Ideally, it is better way for us to spend our life peacefully. However, it might be inevitable for us to compete each other as long as we live in this tough and competitive world.

Evaluation and Comments for Kojo:

Introduction

There has been an argument in which way teacher should teach students to be cooperative or competitive. I certainly claim that both being cooperative and competitive are important aspects for students to be taught.

Revised: There has been much discussion about whether or not teachers should teach students to be cooperative or competitive. I certainly agree with the opinion that both cooperation and competition

are important skills for students to learn.

Comment: You have written a good introduction, which is, for the most part, grammatically correct. There are a few small problems with fluency. I usually recommend to my students that they begin their introduction with a general statement about the topic, which you have done. In the last sentence of your introduction, you should answer the question, which you have also done. It's a good start, Satoshi. Well done.

First Supporting Paragraph:

Firstly, we are living in competitive world. In fact, every field of works are run based on competition. Even in school, teachers tend to rate their students based on their scores of examination or their behavior. I presume that examination can also be considered as a competition. Rivalry can make individuals productive and active when they work. Moreover, winning the competition offers the feelings of fulfillment that eventually result in having further motivation for the next goal. The tougher the competition is, the more enthusiastic people likely to be. However, students should not misunderstand the concept of competition. Some will be exploiting or deceiving others to achieve their goals. In this case, teachers have to teach them about fair play spirits.

Revised: Firstly, we are living in competitive world. In fact, every field of work is based around competition. Even in school, teachers tend to rate their students based on their examination scores or their behavior. I believe that examinations can also be considered a type of competition. Rivalry can make individuals more productive and achievement-oriented when they work. Moreover, winning a competition often results in feelings of fulfillment that can eventually lead to having further motivation for the next goal. The tougher the competition is, the more enthusiastic people are likely to be. However, students need to understand the concept of competition. Some students may be exploiting or deceiving others to achieve their goals. In this case, teachers have to teach them about fair play.

Comment: Kojo, you have done an excellent job here. Your **Topic Sentence** (first sentence of the paragraph) clearly introduces the topic of your paragraph and you have given a good **example** to support that statement. Your **grammar** is excellent and you have included a variety of appropriate **vocabulary**. Again, there are small problems with **fluency**, but these are minor, as your points are still easy to understand and the reader does not struggle. I have changed the paragraph only slightly to make it sound more natural. One other possible problem with the paragraph is that it doesn't "flow" as well as it possibly could; in other words, it jumps from statement to statement and could be somewhat smoother. The meaning, however, is easily understood.

Second Supporting Paragraph:

Secondary, cooperation is also in credibly important for the students to develop. I mentioned that competition was beneficial for kids already. However, I have to argue that cooperation sometimes overlaps competition. By that I mean, people have to combine their force to beat others sometimes. For instance, when you play football, you belong to one team and will be making as much effort as you can to beat opposing team. If you are employee of certain company, you tend to be appointed to work for particular project that lead to enormous profit for the company.

Revision: Secondly, cooperation is also essential for students' social development. Although I believe that competition is beneficial, I also strongly believe that cooperation sometimes overlaps with competition. In other words, people must combine their strengths in order to achieve success in some situations. For instance, in a game of football, an individual is a member of a team and must

work together with other members of the team to achieve a winning result against an opposing team. Similarly, an employee of a company has usually been appointed to work as a member of team to create profit for the company.

Comment: Again, this is a well-structured paragraph with an excellent **Topic Sentence** and a well-argued supporting **argument**. I have rewritten some of the sentences to show a less personal, slightly more academic style. If possible, try to avoid "you"; try to use words like "individual", "employee", "member", as you have in some cases, as it creates a more formal style than when using "you". Overall, the paragraph is coherent and grammatically correct.

Conclusion:

Finally, for these reason I mentioned above, I am convinced that children should either be taught to cooperate or compete. Ideally, it is better way for us to spend our life peacefully. However, it might be inevitable for us to compete each other as long as we live in this tough and competitive world.

Revision: Finally, for the reasons outlined above, I am convinced that children should be taught both to cooperate and compete. We need to be able to cooperate to maintain a peaceful society, but competition is a also a part of life in this tough and competitive world.

Comment: You can see I have changed your final argument's gist: **Children need to be taught BOTH to compete and to cooperate** - as this is what you stated in the supporting paragraphs. Be careful to stick to your argument all the way to the end. Your conclusion should **restate the last sentence of your introduction** (where you **answered the question**). In that sentence, you stated that you thought both cooperation and competition were important, so your conclusion should say the same thing.

Well done, Kojo. Below I have listed your revised essay in full. Overall, your writing is very good and with continued practice, you should achieve a high writing score on the IELTS test.

Estimate score: 7- 8*

Revised essay in full:

At school, children should either be taught to compete or to cooperate. In your opinion, which form of education would best benefit society as a whole?

Describe both sides of the argument and explain your own opinion.

There has been much discussion about whether or not teachers should teach students to be cooperative or competitive. I certainly agree with the opinion that both cooperation and competition are important skills for students to learn.

Firstly, we are living in a competitive world. In fact, every field of work is based around competition. Even in school, teachers tend to rate their students based on their examination scores or their behavior. I believe that examinations can also be considered a type of competition. Rivalry can make individuals more productive and achievement-oriented when they work. Moreover, winning a competition often results in feelings of fulfillment that can eventually lead to having further motivation for the next goal. The tougher the competition is, the more enthusiastic people are likely to be. However, students need to understand the concept of competition. Some students may be exploiting or deceiving others to achieve their goals. In this case, teachers have to teach them about fair play.

Secondly, cooperation is also essential for students' social development. Although I believe that competition is beneficial, I also strongly believe that cooperation sometimes overlaps with competition. In other words, people must combine their strengths in order to achieve success in some situations. For instance, in a game of football, an individual is a member of a team and must work together with other members of the team to achieve a winning result against an opposing team. Similarly, an employee of a company has usually been appointed to work as a member of a team to create profit for the company.

Finally, for the reasons outlined above, I am convinced that children should be taught both to cooperate and compete. We need to be able to cooperate to maintain a peaceful society, but competition is also a part of life in this tough and competitive world.

(304 words)

Another Sample Answer to the same essay question:

At school, children should either be taught to compete or to cooperate. In your opinion, which form of education would best benefit society as a whole?

Describe both sides of the argument and explain your own opinion.

Educational method vary around the world. In some countries, competition is considered more important, while in other countries, cooperation is viewed as a more essential skill. In my opinion, both cooperation and competition are vital components of a complete education.

Competitiveness is an attribute that is encouraged in many cultures, and it can be useful in many ways. Firstly, a child that learns how to compete and succeed will have advantages over the child who shies away from competition. For example, the child that has competitive drive and works hard to excel will create opportunities for himself or herself, and will be better equipped to handle challenges and find solutions. Healthy competition can benefit society by encouraging individuals to work hard, strive and succeed.

On the other hand, cooperation is also an essential skill. Members of a society must be able to cooperate in order to create successful, peaceful communities. If individuals work only competitively, without cooperating, then society will become fragmented. A good example to illustrate this point is a sports team; if one individual strives alone to succeed, his or her task will be more difficult. But if the team works together towards a common goal through cooperation, their chances of winning are better. For these reasons, cooperation should be taught in schools to create strong communities and a cooperative society.

Therefore, it is my opinion that cooperation and competition are both essential elements of education and should both be taught in schools. If education is approached from both angles, a child might be taught to strive and succeed, but also to help those around him or her to do the same, therefore benefiting society by instilling both a sense of personal satisfaction and also of helpfulness.

In conclusion, cooperation and competition, when taught together to young people, will create a future generation of successful and considerate citizens.

(310 words)

Student Essay #6: Task 2

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Computers are widely used in education and teachers now play a less important role in the classroom than ever before. Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Sisi's Essay:

In modern world, most students use the computers for the education widely and people believe that teachers play less important role in classrrom. I agree with this. I would like to toak about computer in education. These days poeple are very busy because they are always go to school early in the morning and study in the classroom all day. After school they usually go to private acadamy until midnight. Under these circumstanes they do not have spare time so that they cannot enjoy their activities. All they do is study. For taht reason using the computer education is very useful for students. Computer education system makes much more free students because they can access when they want to need some information or study subject. Moreover, computer educations are more extensive than school systems. For thse reasons most student prefer to use the computer education.

In the opposite direction, some people worry aout computer education as students often play computers too much, such as computer games, e-mail, entertainment and chat etc. Some people say that nowadays student are exposure the computer communication too much, so they do not have to use computers even education. Moreover, the teachers role has to more important than before. Teachers could be control their students and encourage for their education.

Evaluation and Comments for Sisi:

In the modern world, most students use computers widely for education and people believe that teachers play a less important role in classrooms. I agree with this.

These days many people are very busy with school and work. After school they usually continue studying independently. Under these circumstances, they do not have spare time so that they cannot enjoy leisure activities. All they do is study. For that reason, using computers in education is very useful for students. Computer education systems often help students do their work more quickly because they can access information quickly and easily when they need to find some information or study a particular subject. Moreover, computerised information systems are often more extensive than school library systems. For these reasons most student prefer to use computer education.

On the other hand, some people worry about computer education as students often play on computers too much. For example, students may be tempted to use computer games, e-mail, entertainment sites and chat rooms. Some people say that nowadays students have too much exposure to computerised communication, which may waste time they should spend on study. Therefore, the teacher's role has become even more important than before. Teachers need to be in control of their students and encourage them to focus on their education.

Sisi, you are off to a good start. Some suggestions:

- Your essay needs to be at least 250 words. You will lose points if your essay is too short. Many students find writing 250 words in 40 minutes extremely difficult. You will need to practice this skill many times before it comes naturally to you.
- In a Task 2 essay, you need a conclusion (final paragraph). They are essential in Task 2, although Task 1 essays do not always have to have a conclusion. Please see my sample answer below to read a conclusion.
- Make sure you ANSWER THE QUESTION thoroughly. You have not discussed the teacher's role enough in your essay and have left that part of the question largely unanswered.

Overall, your grammar is very good and you have used a range of academic vocabulary, so well done! Keep practicing!

Here is a sample answer to the same question. Take note of my introduction (first paragraph). The final sentence of the introduction answers the question, and the conclusion restates that same sentence again.

Estimate IELTS Score: 5*

Computers are widely used in education and teachers now play a less important role in the classroom than ever before. Do you agree or disagree?

Sample Answer:

Computers are being used more frequently in every aspect of our daily lives, including education. Some people believe that teachers are becoming less important in the classroom as computers play an increasingly important role. I agree that computers are beneficial to learning and in some ways are even replacing the role of teachers in the classroom because they improve communication and increase students' productivity.

First of all, computers have improved communication dramatically in the last decade and have now become an essential tool in many aspects of our daily lives, including education. Students today can access almost any piece of information in a matter of seconds using a home or school computer. In this way, they can find relevant facts and figures at the touch of a button through the Internet. Students can communicate not just with one teacher who may have limited expertise, but with experts around the world. So modern students no longer have just one teacher, but can communicate with many. These advances in communication technology undeniably make education more accessible than ever before.

Secondly, computers help students become more productive than they have been in the past. Before students used computers, they had to consult a limited number of teachers, write essays by hand, correct errors, recopy written work, then deliver their assignments to their teacher either by post or through their own means of transportation. Now, with the help of computers, students can find the information they need from specialists around the world and type their essays into computers quickly and easily. Work often takes less time to complete. Therefore, the modernisation of education has helped to increase the productivity of students.

In conclusion, computers have revolutionised education and are taking over many of the teachers' roles in the classroom. Computers provide students with instant worldwide communication networks and increase their productivity, and have therefore become as important as teachers in the modern classroom.

(319 words)

Student Essay #7: Task 1

You should spend 20 minutes on this task.

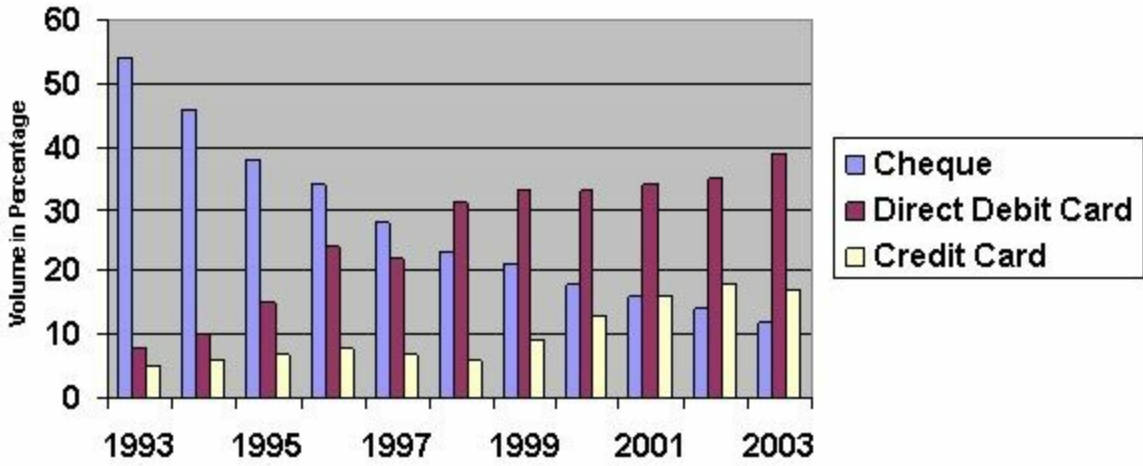
Write about the following topic:

The bar chart illustrates the use of cheques and electronic payments in New Zealand between 1993 and 2003. Summarise the information by reporting and selecting the main features of the graph and making appropriate comparisons where relevant.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

Cheques vs. Electronic Payments



Ling's essay:

This diagram show many different transaction by cheque, direct debit card and credit card in 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2003. There are many difference in transaction.

Credit card is lower in all kinds of transaction overall but rise in 2002 and 2003 over cheque. Cheque is highest at the beginning in 1993 and get smaller over time in graph. At the end of graph, chequ is smallest amount. It is around 10 per cent of transaction. direct debit card is low in 1993 but not low as credit card. It get bigger all the time and 1998 to 2003 shows high score than credit card and cheque. Meanwile, credit card stays in stright line, direct debit card go up and cheque fall down overall. I think it suprising that credit card is lower than direct debit card in this country. But it is not suprising that cheque fall down because cheque is not used often in this country at this time.

Evaluation and Comments for Ling:

First, I'll copy and paste your essay below and mark any errors in grammar. Also, I've changed the **subject** of your sentences, where necessary, to include the correct **subject** of the percentages being shown in the bar graph. Remember, you are describing the **number** or the percentage shown by the graph, not the "credit card" or "debit card" as an object. You can see that by adding the correct subject, I've increased the word count as well. In the future, make sure you write **at least 150 words** for a Task One essay. Here is the corrected essay:

This diagram shows many different transactions **paid for** by cheque, direct debit card and credit card in 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2003. There are many differences in transaction **type**.

The percentage of transactions paid for by credit card is lower in all kinds of transaction overall but rises in 2002 and 2003 over cheques. **The percentage of transactions paid for by** cheque is highest at the beginning in 1993 and gets smaller over time in **the** graph. At the end of graph, **the proportion of electronic payments made by** cheque is smallest amount. It is around 10 per cent of **all** transactions. **The proportion of electronic payments made with** direct debit cards is low in 1993 but not **as** low as **the proportion of payments made by** credit card. **The percentage of payments paid for with direct debit cards** get bigger all the time and **in** 1998 to 2003 shows **a higher percentage** than **payments made by** credit card and cheque. **Throughout the graph**, the **proportion of payments made by** credit card **remains relatively stable**, while the direct debit card **payment proportion** goes up and cheque **payments** fall overall.

I took out the last few lines of your essay, Lee, because you should not state your opinion or judgment in a Task One essay. Your task is to **report the information shown in the diagram**. Next, I'll outline some of the good points of your essay:

- You have done a good job of **comparing** the three categories of electronic payments.
- Your spelling, punctuation and grammar are fairly accurate.
- You have answered the question.

To improve your essay, you could:

- make sure to state the correct **subject** as outlined above
- include a statement about a **significant trend** in the last sentence of your introduction (this sentence can then be rewritten as a **conclusion** as well. Although you do **not** need to write a conclusion in a Task One essay, it can strengthen your essay and keep your word count up.)
- include more **statistics** (numbers) in your essay. Be sure to state the numbers or percentages of the trends you are describing. Look at the essay below to see how this could be done.

Estimated IELTS Score: 5*

Here is another ***Sample Answer*** for this essay question:

The bar chart shows the percentage of cheque, direct debit card and credit card transactions used for payment in New Zealand between 1993 and 2003. Overall, the use of cheques decreased while electronic card use increased during the ten-year period.

The percentage of purchases paid by cheque in 1993 accounted for 55% of all payments, the highest of all payment percentages represented in the chart. The percentage of cheques used decreased steadily thereafter, reaching its lowest point in 1993. In contrast, the use of both direct debit cards and credit cards showed an increasing trend between 1993 and 2003, with some slight fluctuations. The use of direct debit cards increased significantly between 1993 and 1996, when their use accounted for around 24% of all payments. This percentage then dipped slightly to 22% in 1997. Then, from 1998 to 2003, direct debit card payments became the most widely used form of payment. The use of credit cards as a form of payment also increased moderately. Credit card purchases increased from around 5% in 1993 to around 8% by 1996. Between 1996 and 1999, credit card use fluctuated slightly and then steadily increased from 1999 to 2002, when around 18% of all transactions were paid for by credit card. In 2003, credit card use fell slightly to around 17%.

In conclusion, electronic payment appears to be growing in popularity while the use of chequebooks has decreased in the past decade.



***ACHIEVE IELTS Academic Writing Success is not affiliated with the IELTS examination. These scores are estimates only.**

© Julie Hall 2012