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IELTS ACADEMIC

IELTS Academic Writing Task 1 Samples with Answers PDF

20 Academic Task 1 tasks with their charts, diagrams and maps drawn in full, a model answer for each, the key phrases used, a 40–phrase vocabulary bank and the four-paragraph structure.

What's inside

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SECTION 1

The task and how it is assessed

Academic Writing Task 1 asks you to describe visual information (a graph, table, chart, or a diagram of an object, device, process or event) in at least 150 words. Spend about 20 minutes on it: Task 2 counts twice as much.

Criterion	What the examiner looks for
Task Achievement	Covers the key features, gives a clear overview and makes comparisons where relevant, with accurate data
Coherence and Cohesion	Logical paragraphs and clear linking between sentences
Lexical Resource	Range and accuracy of vocabulary, especially trend and comparison language
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A mix of sentence structures with few errors

A four-paragraph structure

Paragraph	What it does	Useful starters
Introduction	One or two sentences that paraphrase the task statement in your own words. Say what the visual shows, the units and the groups or places involved, but never copy the question wording.	The bar chart compares ...; The line graph illustrates how ...; The table provides information about ...
Overview	Two or three sentences that state the main trends, the biggest contrasts or the overall shape of a process or map. Give no exact figures here: this paragraph is the big picture.	Overall, it is clear that ...; Overall, the most striking feature is ...; In general, ... while ...
Detail 1	Describe the first group of data with precise figures and comparisons, for example the highest and lowest values or the first half of a process. Group similar information together rather than following the order of the axis.	Looking first at ...; The most noticeable figure is ...; In the first stage, ...
Detail 2	Cover the remaining data, focusing on contrasts, changes and exceptions, and link back to the overview. Do not add a conclusion or an opinion: finish when the data has been reported.	By contrast, ...; Turning to the remaining ...; In the final stages, ...

Tip

Write the overview immediately after the introduction, not at the end. Examiners look for a clear overview when deciding whether Task Achievement reaches Band 7, and the overview should name the main trends in general words with no numbers. Spend two or three minutes finding the biggest trend, the highest and lowest points and the main changes before you start writing.

Common mistake

Writing notes or bullet points. The answer must be a whole piece of connected text, and notes are penalised.

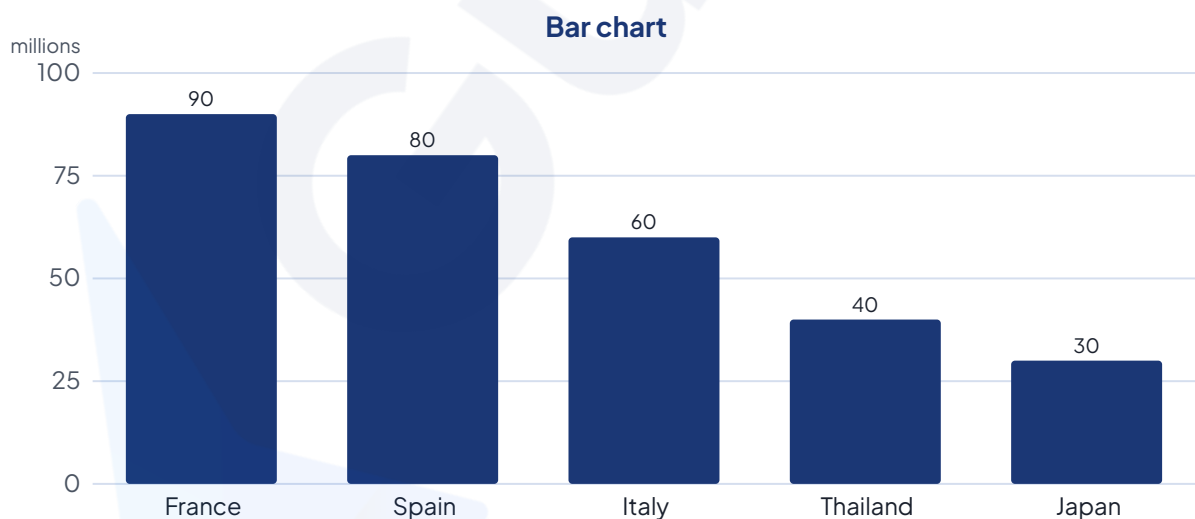
SECTION 2

20 sample tasks with model answers

Each task comes with its chart or diagram, a model answer of 160 to 200 words, the key phrases used, and a note on why it scores well. All data is invented for practice.

SAMPLE 1 · BAR CHART

Task: The bar chart below shows the number of international tourist arrivals in five countries in one year. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Model answer (179 words)

The bar chart compares the number of international tourists, in millions, who visited five different countries during a single year.

Overall, the two European countries at the top of the chart received far more visitors than the others, while the two Asian destinations attracted the fewest. France was clearly the most popular country, and Japan the least.

France was the leading destination, welcoming 90 million international arrivals over the year. Spain was not far behind with 80 million visitors, and together these two countries accounted for well over half of all the arrivals shown. Italy was the third most visited country, although at 60 million its total was noticeably lower than that of its two neighbours.

In contrast, the figures for the Asian countries were considerably smaller. Thailand received 40 million tourists, which was less than half the number for France, and Japan attracted only 30 million, the lowest figure in the chart. It is also worth noting that the gap between the highest and lowest countries was substantial, with France receiving three times as many visitors as Japan.

Key phrases

the leading destination · was not far behind · accounted for well over half · In contrast · three times as many

Why it scores: The overview groups the countries into two clear blocks without numbers, every figure in the detail paragraphs matches the chart, and comparisons such as 'less than half' and 'three times as many' show range of language rather than a list of values.



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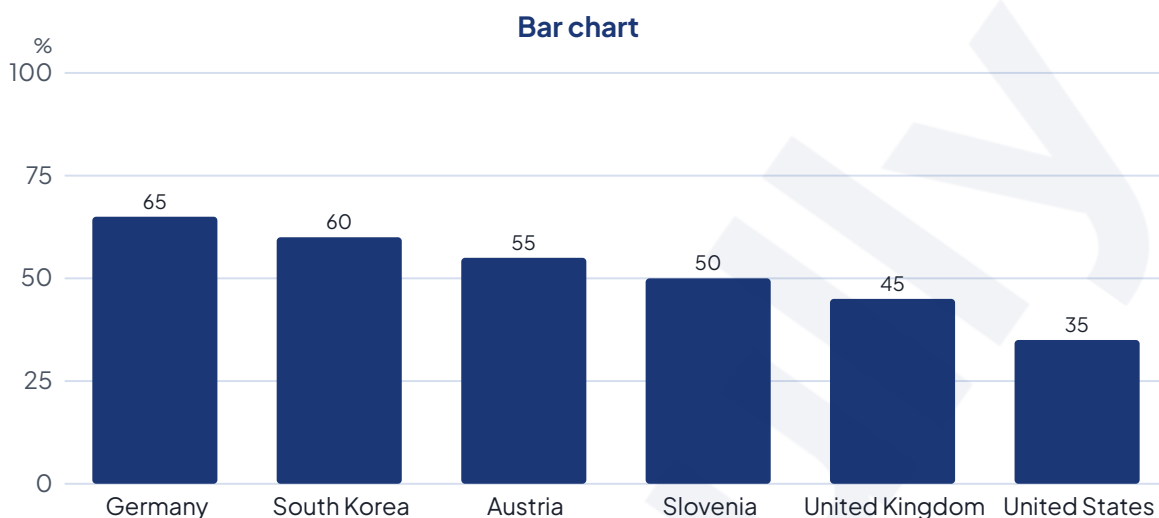
Feedback on Task Achievement, Coherence, Lexical Resource and Grammar.

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SAMPLE 2 · BAR CHART

Task: The bar chart below shows the percentage of household waste that was recycled in six countries in one year. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Model answer (170 words)

The bar chart gives information about the proportion of household waste that was recycled in six different countries over a one year period.

Overall, the European countries in the chart recycled a larger share of their waste than the United States, although South Korea also performed strongly. Germany had the highest recycling rate and the United States had the lowest.

Germany led the group, recycling 65% of its household waste. South Korea came a close second at 60%, making it the only non European country with a rate above half. Austria and Slovenia followed with 55% and 50% respectively, which means that four of the six countries recycled at least half of the household waste they produced.

The remaining two countries had lower rates. The United Kingdom recycled 45% of its household waste, slightly below Slovenia, whereas the United States recycled just 35%, the smallest proportion in the chart. The gap between Germany and the United States was therefore considerable, which highlights how much recycling activity varies between developed nations.

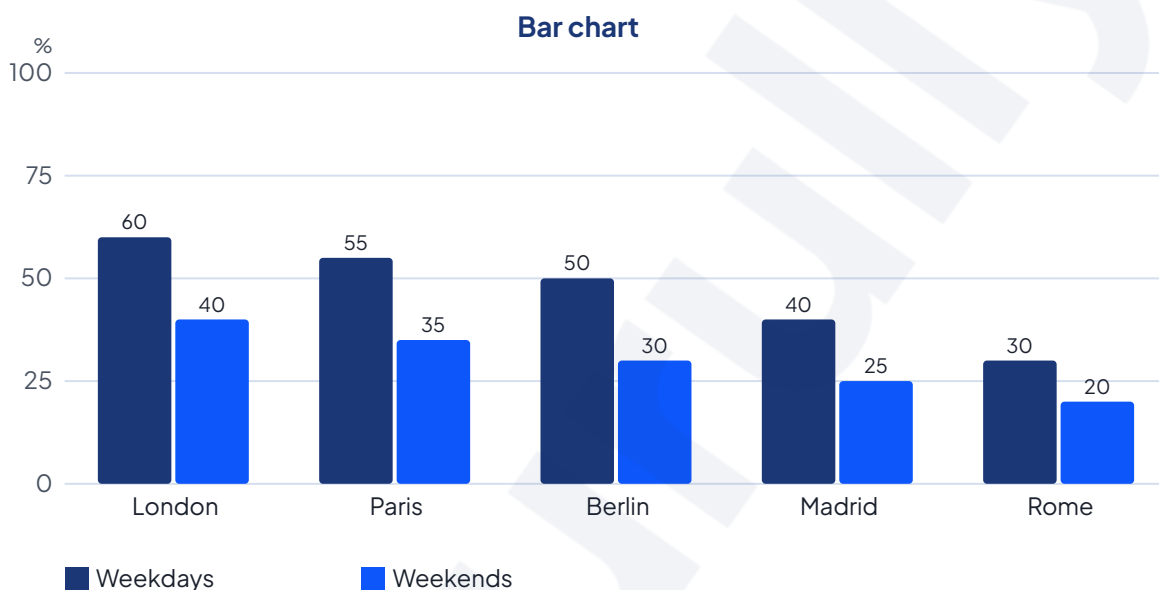
Key phrases

led the group · came a close second · respectively · slightly below · the smallest proportion

Why it scores: The answer ranks the countries from highest to lowest, uses 'respectively' to report two figures economically, and keeps the overview general while every percentage in the body is accurate.

SAMPLE 3 · BAR CHART

Task: The bar chart below shows the percentage of commuters who used public transport on weekdays and at weekends in five European cities. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Model answer (175 words)

The bar chart compares the proportion of commuters in five European cities who travelled by public transport on weekdays and at weekends.

Overall, public transport was used far more during the week than at weekends in every city. London had the highest usage on both types of day, while Rome recorded the lowest figures.

On weekdays, London had the largest share of commuters using public transport, at 60%. Paris and Berlin were close behind with 55% and 50% respectively, which means that at least half of commuters in these three cities relied on buses, trains or trams during the working week. Madrid had a lower weekday figure of 40%, and Rome was lowest at 30%.

At weekends, the figures dropped in all five cities. London fell to 40%, and Paris and Berlin declined to 35% and 30% respectively. The decrease in Madrid was smaller, from 40% to 25%, and in Rome weekend use stood at only 20%, the lowest value in the chart. Interestingly, weekend usage in London was higher than weekday usage in Rome.

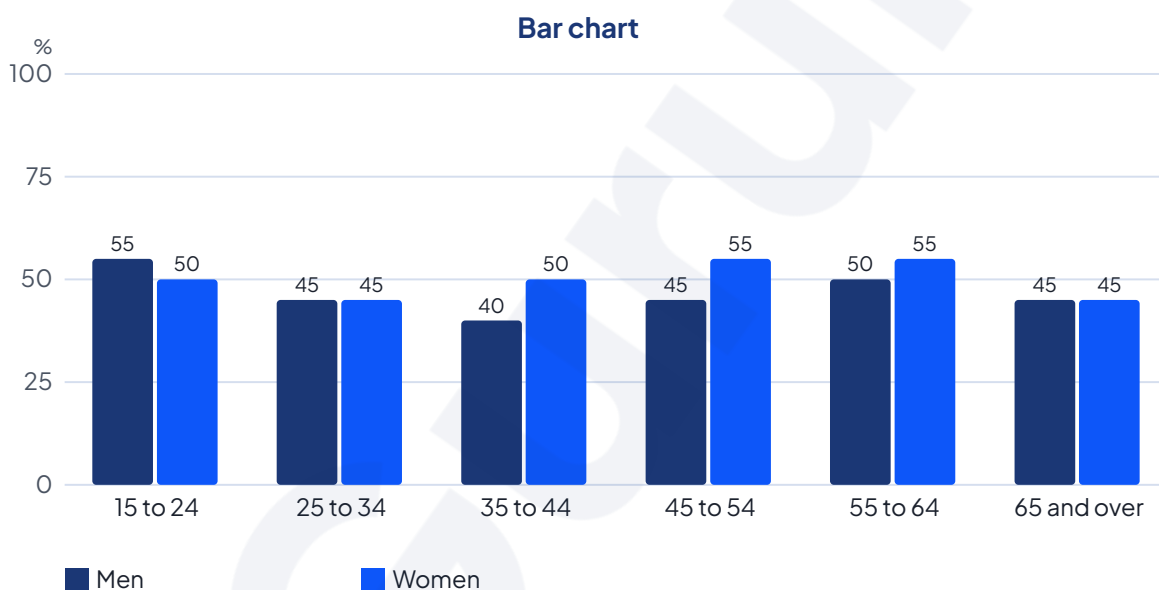
Key phrases

were close behind · relied on · the figures dropped · declined to · stood at only

Why it scores: Each body paragraph deals with one series, so the structure is easy to follow, and the final sentence makes a cross comparison between the two series, which is exactly what the task asks for.

SAMPLE 4 · BAR CHART

Task: The bar chart below shows the percentage of men and women in six age groups who did regular physical activity in one country. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Model answer (188 words)

The bar chart shows the proportion of men and women in six different age groups who took part in regular physical activity in one country.

Overall, women were more active than men in most age groups, whereas men were only more active in the youngest group. Activity among men dipped in the middle years before recovering, while the figures for women rose until later life.

Among people aged 15 to 24, 55% of men were regularly active, compared with 50% of women, and this was the only group in which men were ahead. In the 25 to 34 group both sexes recorded 45%. From then on, the pattern for men declined to its lowest point of 40% in the 35 to 44 bracket, before rising to 45% and then 50% in the next two age groups.

The figures for women, by contrast, increased through the middle years, reaching 50% among those aged 35 to 44 and peaking at 55% in both the 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 groups. In the oldest category, those aged 65 and over, participation was identical for men and women, at 45%.

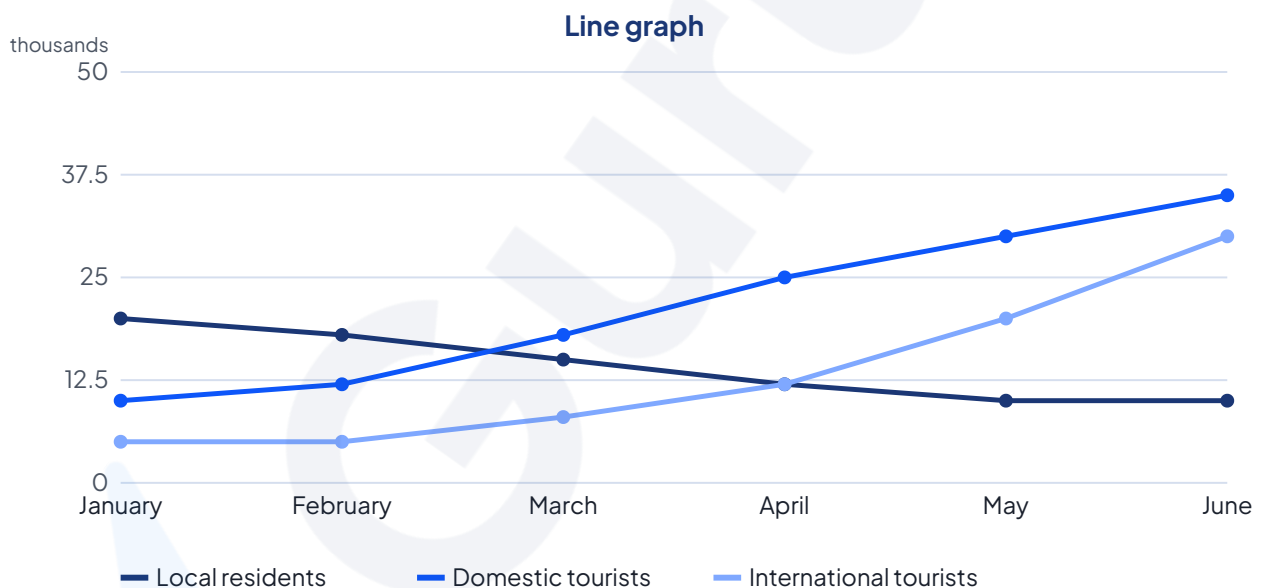
Key phrases

compared with · dipped in the middle years · its lowest point · peaking at · was identical for

Why it scores: The writer describes each series as a pattern across the age groups instead of reading the bars one by one, and uses phrases like 'dipped', 'peaking at' and 'identical' to show lexical range while every number matches the chart.

SAMPLE 5 · LINE GRAPH

Task: The line graph below shows the number of visitors to a city museum over a six month period, divided into three groups. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Model answer (180 words)



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The line graph illustrates how many people, in thousands, visited a city museum each month from January to June, according to whether they were local residents, domestic tourists or international tourists.

Overall, visits by both tourist groups rose considerably over the period, with domestic tourists becoming the largest group, while the number of local visitors gradually declined. By June, tourists made up the great majority of visitors.

In January, local residents were the biggest group, with 20 thousand visits, double the figure for domestic tourists and four times that for international tourists, who numbered just 5 thousand. However, local visits fell steadily each month, dropping to 15 thousand in March and levelling off at 10 thousand in May and June.

The trend for tourists was the opposite. Domestic visits climbed from 10 thousand in January to 18 thousand in March and then rose more sharply to reach 35 thousand in June. International visits remained at 5 thousand for the first two months, before increasing rapidly to 12 thousand in April and 30 thousand in June, almost matching the domestic figure.

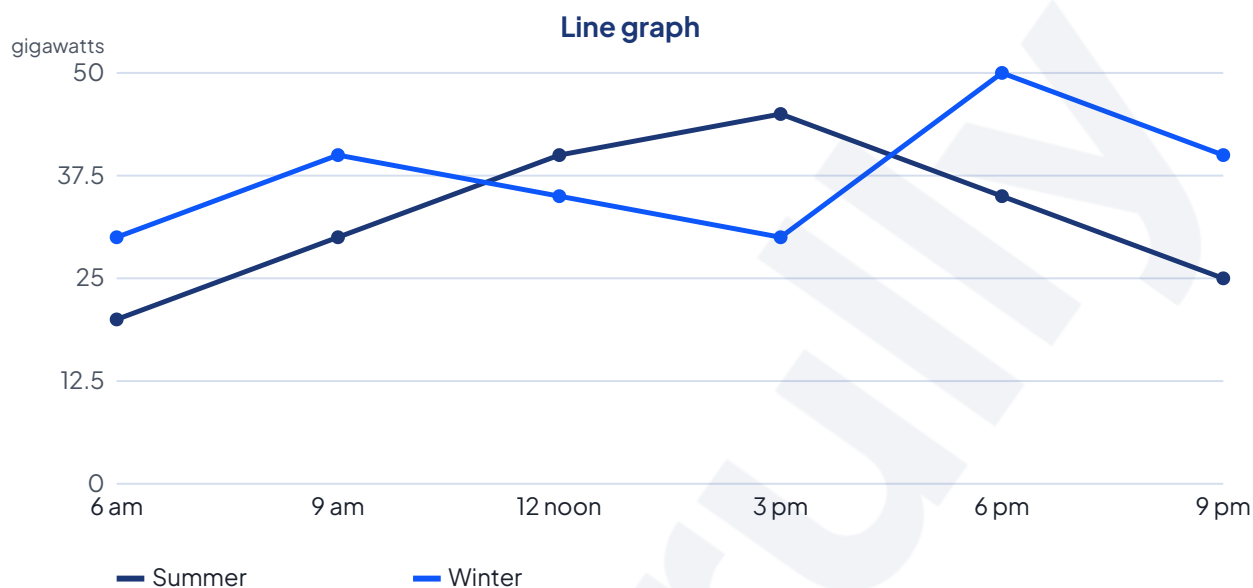
Key phrases

rose considerably · gradually declined · fell steadily · levelling off at · increasing rapidly

Why it scores: The overview captures the crossing lines in general terms, the body selects key points rather than every month, and the trend verbs (fell steadily, levelling off, rose more sharply) are matched to the exact shape of each line.

SAMPLE 6 · LINE GRAPH

Task: The line graph below shows the demand for electricity in one country at different times of the day in summer and in winter. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Model answer (185 words)

The line graph compares electricity demand, measured in gigawatts, at six different times of the day during summer and winter in one country.

Overall, demand was higher in winter than in summer for most of the day, and the two seasons had different peaks. Summer demand rose to a single afternoon high, whereas winter demand had two peaks, one in the morning and a larger one in the evening.

In summer, demand started at its lowest level of 20 gigawatts at 6 am and then increased steadily, reaching 30 gigawatts at 9 am and 40 gigawatts at noon. It peaked at 45 gigawatts at 3 pm, before falling to 35 gigawatts at 6 pm and 25 gigawatts at 9 pm.

Winter demand began higher, at 30 gigawatts at 6 am, and climbed to 40 gigawatts by 9 am. It then dipped to 35 gigawatts at noon and 30 gigawatts at 3 pm, the only times when summer demand exceeded winter demand. The evening brought the highest figure in the graph, 50 gigawatts at 6 pm, after which demand eased to 40 gigawatts at 9 pm.

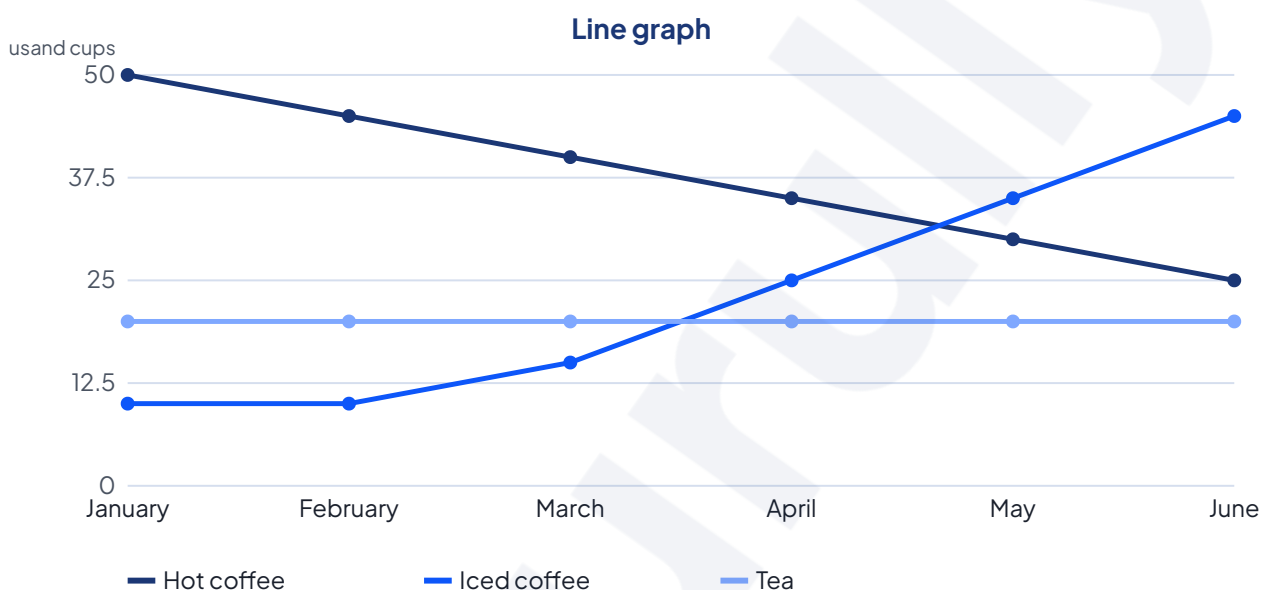
Key phrases

increased steadily · peaked at · dipped to · exceeded · eased to

Why it scores: The overview identifies the different peak patterns without numbers, and the body paragraphs not only report the values but point out where the lines cross, which demonstrates genuine comparison.

SAMPLE 7 · LINE GRAPH

Task: The line graph below shows the monthly sales of three types of drink at a chain of cafes over six months. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Model answer (185 words)

The line graph shows how many hot coffees, iced coffees and teas, in thousands of cups, were sold by a chain of cafes each month between January and June.

Overall, sales of hot coffee fell steadily over the period while sales of iced coffee rose sharply, so that the two lines crossed towards the end of the period. Tea sales, meanwhile, remained completely stable.

Hot coffee was by far the most popular drink at the start of the period, with 50 thousand cups sold in January. Sales then declined at a steady rate every month, falling to 40 thousand in March and 30 thousand in May, and finishing at 25 thousand in June, half the January figure.

Iced coffee followed the opposite trend. Sales were flat at 10 thousand cups in January and February, rose slightly to 15 thousand in March and then accelerated, reaching 25 thousand in April and 35 thousand in May. In June, iced coffee overtook hot coffee for the first time, with 45 thousand cups sold. Tea sales did not change at all, staying at 20 thousand cups in every month.

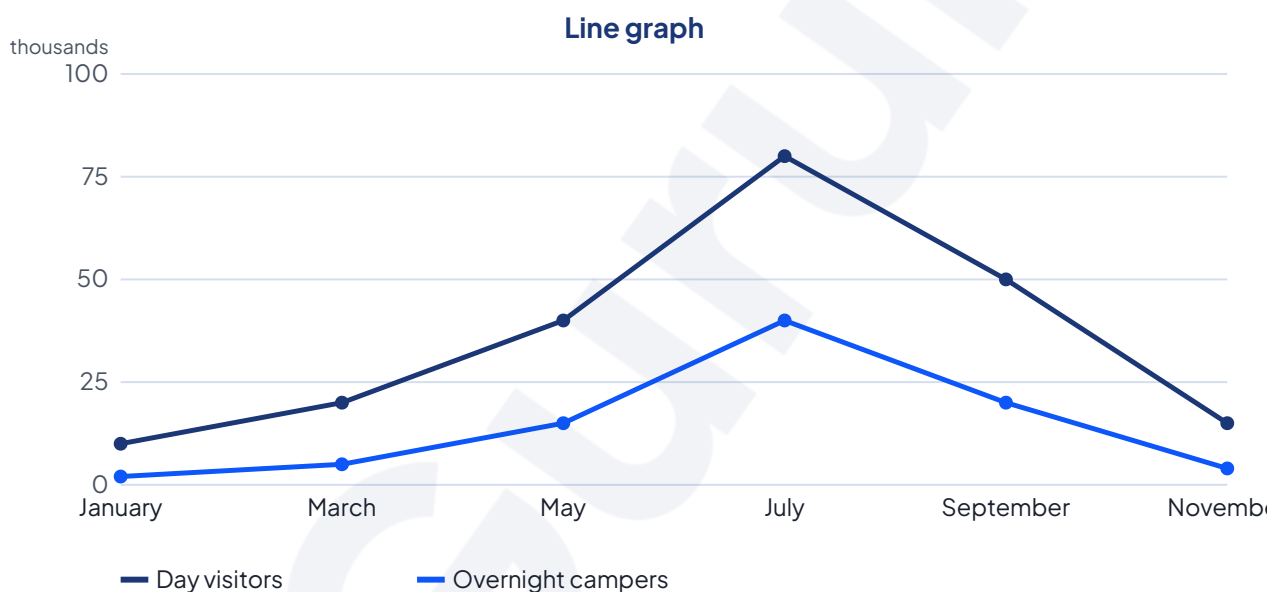
Key phrases

by far the most popular · declined at a steady rate · were flat at · accelerated · overtook

Why it scores: The answer shows how to handle a stable line in one sentence, describes a crossover point explicitly, and uses a balanced mix of simple and complex sentences with accurate past tenses.

SAMPLE 8 · LINE GRAPH

Task: The line graph below shows the number of day visitors and overnight campers at a national park in alternate months of one year. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Model answer (194 words)

The line graph gives information about the number of people, in thousands, who visited a national park either for the day or to camp overnight, at two month intervals across a year.

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Overall, both types of visit followed a similar seasonal pattern, with numbers rising to a clear peak in the middle of the year and then falling away. Day visitors outnumbered campers at every point.

In January, the park received 10 thousand day visitors but only 2 thousand overnight campers. Day visits doubled to 20 thousand in March and doubled again to 40 thousand in May, before reaching a high of 80 thousand in July. Camper numbers grew from 5 thousand in March to 15 thousand in May and peaked at 40 thousand in July, which was exactly half the number of day visitors in that month.

After July, both figures dropped considerably. Day visits fell to 50 thousand in September and then to just 15 thousand in November, while the number of campers declined to 20 thousand in September and 4 thousand in November. At the end of the year, therefore, the park had only a small fraction of its summer visitors.

Key phrases

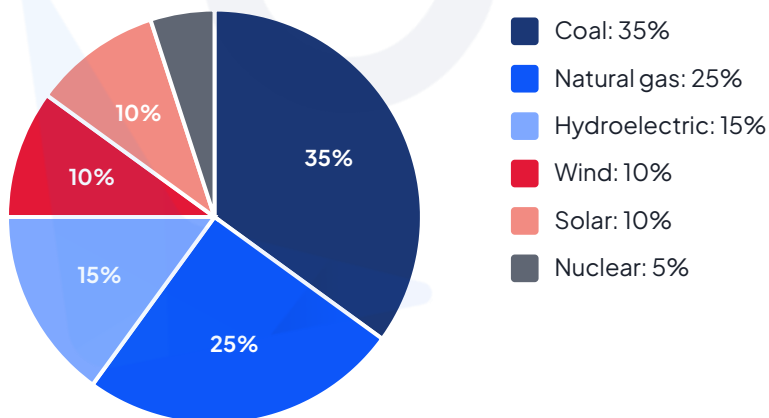
followed a similar seasonal pattern · outnumbered · doubled to · reaching a high of · dropped considerably

Why it scores: The overview describes the shared shape of the two lines, 'doubled' and 'exactly half' turn raw numbers into comparisons, and the answer stays within the data without explaining why the changes happened.

SAMPLE 9 · PIE CHART

Task: The pie chart below shows the proportion of electricity generated from different sources in one country in a single year. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Pie chart



Model answer (163 words)

The pie chart illustrates the percentage of electricity produced from six different energy sources in one country during a single year.

Overall, fossil fuels accounted for the majority of electricity generation, with coal the single largest source. Renewable sources together made up a little over a third of the total, while nuclear power contributed the smallest share.

Coal was the dominant source, generating 35% of the country's electricity, and natural gas was the second largest at 25%. Combined, these two fossil fuels therefore supplied well over half of all the electricity produced, which shows how dependent the country remained on conventional fuels.

Among the renewable sources, hydroelectric power was the most significant, providing 15% of electricity. Wind and solar power each contributed 10%, so together the three renewable sources produced 35%, exactly the same proportion as coal alone. Nuclear power supplied only 5%, making it the least important source of electricity in the chart, with a share one seventh the size of coal's.

Key phrases

accounted for the majority · the single largest source · the dominant source · each contributed · the least important source

Why it scores: The writer groups the six segments into fossil, renewable and nuclear categories, which gives the answer a logical shape, and adds comparisons such as 'exactly the same proportion as coal alone' instead of listing percentages.



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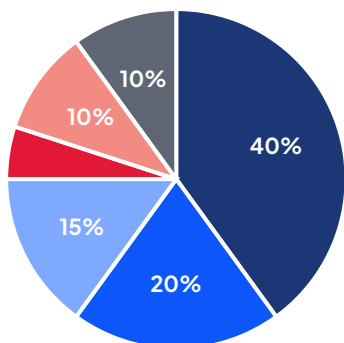
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SAMPLE 10 · PIE CHART

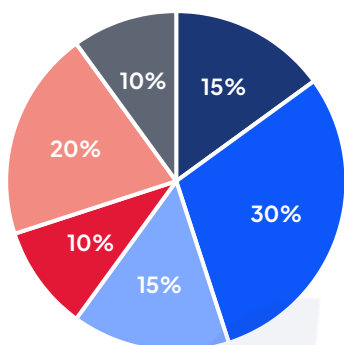
Task: The pie charts below show the most popular sports played by boys and girls at secondary schools in one country. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Boys



- Football: 40%
- Swimming: 20%
- Basketball: 15%
- Tennis: 5%
- Athletics: 10%
- Other: 10%

Girls



- Football: 15%
- Swimming: 30%
- Basketball: 15%
- Tennis: 10%
- Athletics: 20%
- Other: 10%

Model answer (177 words)

The two pie charts compare the proportion of boys and girls at secondary schools in one country who chose each of six sports as their main activity.

Overall, football was by far the most popular sport among boys, whereas swimming was the leading choice for girls. Basketball and the group of other sports were equally popular with both sexes, while tennis was the least favoured sport for boys.

Football was chosen by 40% of boys, twice the proportion that opted for swimming, which was their second most popular sport at 20%. Basketball attracted 15% of boys and athletics 10%, while only 5% played tennis, the lowest figure in either chart. A further 10% of boys took part in other sports.

Among girls, swimming was the clear favourite at 30%, double the share of boys who chose it. Athletics was the second most popular sport for girls at 20%, and football and basketball each accounted for 15%. Tennis was chosen by 10% of girls, twice the proportion of boys, and the remaining 10% of girls played other sports.

Key phrases

the leading choice · equally popular with · twice the proportion · the clear favourite · the remaining

Why it scores: With two charts, the answer dedicates one paragraph to each and constantly compares across them (double, twice the proportion, equally popular), which satisfies the 'make comparisons' instruction fully.

SAMPLE 11 · TABLE

Task: The table below shows the monthly expenses of a second hand bookshop in the first and last months of one year. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Table

Expense	January	December
Wages	40	35
Rent	20	30
Utilities	5	4
Equipment	6	3
Other	4	5
Total	75	77

Model answer (176 words)

The table provides information about how much a second hand bookshop spent, in thousands of dollars, on five categories of expense in January and December of the same year.

Overall, the shop's total costs rose slightly over the year, almost entirely because of a large increase in rent. Spending on wages, utilities and equipment all fell, while other expenses grew marginally.

Wages were the largest single expense in both months, although the amount spent fell from 40 thousand dollars in January to 35 thousand in December. Rent moved in the opposite direction, increasing by half from 20 thousand to 30 thousand dollars, so that by December it was almost as large as the wage bill.

The three smaller categories changed less dramatically. Utility bills decreased from 5 thousand to 4 thousand dollars, and spending on equipment halved from 6 thousand to 3 thousand. Other expenses, by contrast, rose from 4 thousand to 5 thousand dollars. As a result of these changes, total monthly spending increased from 75 thousand dollars in January to 77 thousand in December.

Key phrases

rose slightly · almost entirely because of · the largest single expense · moved in the opposite direction · halved

Why it scores: The overview explains the net change and its main cause in general terms, the body separates large and small categories, and phrases like 'increasing by half' and 'halved' show the writer can express proportion as well as quote figures.

SAMPLE 12 · TABLE

Task: The table below shows the average number of trips per person per year made by different modes of transport in three countries. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Table

Mode of transport	Netherlands	Spain	Canada
Car	300	400	500
Bus	80	120	60
Train	60	50	20
Bicycle	250	40	30
Walking	200	180	90

Model answer (195 words)

The table shows how many journeys, on average, a person made each year by five different modes of transport in the Netherlands, Spain and Canada.

Overall, the car was the most used form of transport in all three countries, and its dominance was greatest in Canada. Cycling and walking were far more common in the Netherlands than elsewhere, while Spain had the highest use of buses.

Car trips were most frequent in Canada, at 500 per person, compared with 400 in Spain and 300 in the Netherlands. Canada also had the lowest figures for every other mode, with only 60 bus trips, 20 train trips, 30 bicycle trips and 90 walking trips per person. In Spain, people made 120 bus trips a year, the highest bus figure in the table.

The Netherlands stood out for its active forms of travel. The average person there made 250 bicycle trips a year, more than six times the Spanish figure of 40, and 200 trips on foot, slightly ahead of the 180 recorded in Spain. The Netherlands also had the highest use of trains, at 60 trips, although bus use there was lower than in Spain, at 80.

Key phrases

its dominance was greatest · far more common · most frequent · stood out for · more than six times

Why it scores: Rather than reading the table row by row, the writer organises the data by country and by theme (motorised versus active travel), selects the extreme values and uses multipliers to compare them.

SAMPLE 13 · TABLE

Task: The table below shows the percentage of adults in five countries who accessed the internet using three types of device. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Table

Country	Smartphone	Laptop or desktop	Tablet
South Korea	95	70	30
Germany	85	75	35
United States	85	70	40
Brazil	75	40	15
India	60	20	10

Model answer (192 words)

The table compares the proportion of adults in five countries who went online using a smartphone, a laptop or desktop computer, or a tablet.

Overall, the smartphone was the most widely used device for internet access in every country, and tablets were the least used. South Korea had the highest level of smartphone use, while India recorded the lowest figures for all three devices.



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Smartphone use was highest in South Korea, where 95% of adults used one to access the internet. Germany and the United States were next, both at 85%, followed by Brazil at 75% and India at 60%. Computers were used by a smaller proportion of people, with Germany leading at 75%, South Korea and the United States at 70%, and Brazil at 40%. In India, only 20% of adults went online using a laptop or desktop.

Tablets were the least common device in all five countries. The United States had the highest tablet figure at 40%, slightly ahead of Germany at 35% and South Korea at 30%. Use was far lower in Brazil, at 15%, and in India, where just 10% of adults accessed the internet in this way.

Key phrases

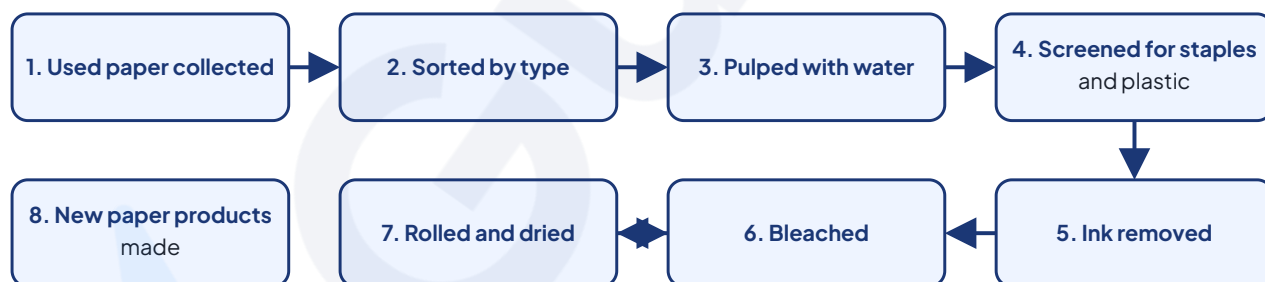
the most widely used · the least used · were next, both at · leading at · far lower in

Why it scores: The answer handles fifteen figures without becoming a list by organising them by device, ranking the countries within each column and reserving words like 'just' and 'only' for the lowest values.

SAMPLE 14 · PROCESS DIAGRAM

Task: The diagram below shows the process of recycling paper. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Process diagram



Model answer (170 words)

The diagram illustrates the stages involved in turning used paper into new paper products.

Overall, the process is linear and consists of eight main stages, beginning with the collection of waste paper and ending with the manufacture of new products. The central part of the process involves cleaning the paper in several different ways.

The first stage is the collection of used paper from homes and offices, after which it is sorted into different types, such as newspaper and cardboard. The sorted paper is then mixed with water in a large container and pulped, so that it breaks down into fibres. Next, the pulp is screened to remove unwanted items such as staples and plastic.

Once the pulp is clean, the ink is removed during the de-inking stage, and the pulp is then bleached to make it whiter. In the seventh stage, the pulp is rolled into thin sheets and dried. Finally, the dried paper is used to make new paper products, which can be sold and eventually recycled again.

Key phrases

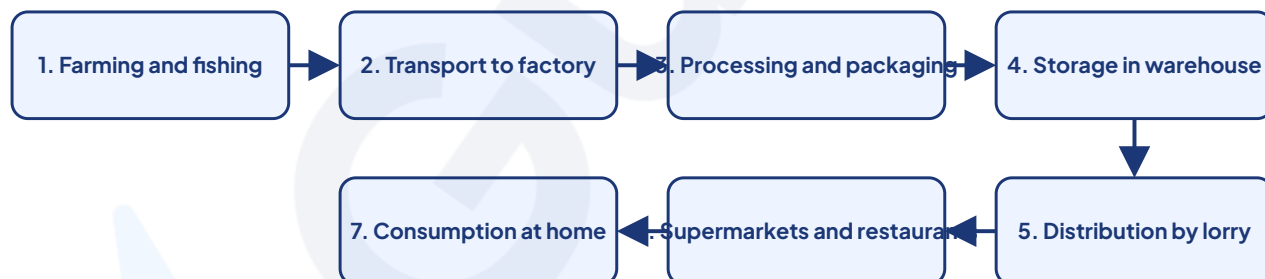
the process is linear · consists of eight main stages · The first stage is · after which · Finally

Why it scores: The overview counts the stages and names the start and end points, the body uses the passive voice naturally for a process, and sequencing words (then, next, once, finally) hold the description together.

SAMPLE 15 · PROCESS DIAGRAM

Task: The diagram below shows how food is produced and reaches consumers. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Process diagram



Model answer (176 words)

The diagram shows the main stages by which food travels from farms and fishing boats to the people who eventually eat it.

Overall, this is a linear, man made process with seven stages. It begins with the production of raw food and ends with consumption, and several of the stages in between involve transporting and storing the food rather than changing it.

The process begins with farming and fishing, where crops are grown, animals are raised and fish are caught. This raw food is then transported to a factory, where it goes through processing and packaging. During this third stage, the food is cleaned, cooked or preserved as necessary and placed in containers ready for sale.

The packaged food is next moved into a warehouse, where it is stored until it is needed. From there it is distributed by lorry to supermarkets and restaurants, which form the sixth stage of the process. In the final stage, people either buy the food from supermarkets and eat it at home, or consume it as meals prepared in restaurants.

Key phrases

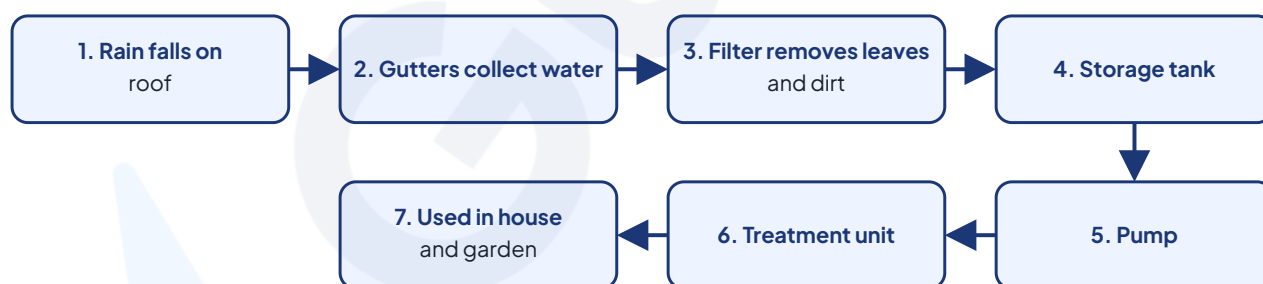
a linear, man made process · begins with · goes through · From there · In the final stage

Why it scores: The writer paraphrases each label into a full sentence instead of copying it, groups the stages sensibly across two paragraphs and uses relative clauses (where, which) to add detail without losing clarity.

SAMPLE 16 · PROCESS DIAGRAM

Task: The diagram below shows how rainwater is collected and used in a house. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Process diagram



Model answer (182 words)

The diagram explains how rainwater is captured from the roof of a house, cleaned and then used for household purposes.

Overall, the system has seven stages and operates in a simple sequence, from the moment rain lands on the roof to the point where the water is used inside the home or in the garden. Two of the stages are concerned with cleaning the water.

The process starts when rain falls onto the roof of the house. The water runs down the sloping roof into gutters, which collect it and channel it into a pipe. At the third stage, this pipe passes through a filter, which removes leaves, dirt and other debris before the water reaches the storage tank located beside the house.

When water is required, a pump draws it out of the tank and sends it to a treatment unit, where it is cleaned further so that it is safe to use. In the final stage, the treated water is supplied to the house for washing and flushing toilets, and to the garden, where it is used to water plants.

Key phrases

operates in a simple sequence · The process starts when · At the third stage · draws it out of · In the final stage

Why it scores: The overview summarises the purpose and length of the process, each stage is described with a precise verb (runs, channel, draws, supplied), and the answer stays close to the diagram without inventing technical details.



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SAMPLE 17 · MAP

Task: The maps below show a seaside village before and after it was developed for tourism. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Map

Before

Beach along the south coast
Fishing harbour with small boats
Row of fishermen's cottages
Village shop
Church
Farmland to the north
Single road from the north
Woodland to the east

After

Beach with promenade
Marina for yachts
Hotel on site of cottages
Shops and restaurants
Church
Car park on former farmland
Widened main road
Holiday apartments on former woodland

A fishing village became a holiday resort: harbour, cottages, shop, farmland and woodland were all replaced; only the church stayed the same.

Model answer (191 words)

The two maps show how a small seaside village changed after it was developed as a tourist destination.

Overall, the village was transformed from a quiet fishing community into a holiday resort. Almost every feature was altered or replaced to serve visitors, and a large amount of farmland and woodland was lost to new buildings, with only the church remaining untouched.

Before the development, the village was centred on a small fishing harbour on the south coast, next to a beach. A row of fishermen's cottages stood behind the harbour, together with a single village shop and a church. Farmland lay to the north, reached by a single road, and there was woodland to the east.

After the development, the harbour was converted into a marina for yachts, and a promenade was built along the beach. The cottages were demolished to make way for a hotel, and the village shop was replaced by a parade of shops and restaurants. The road from the north was widened, and the farmland beside it became a car park, while the woodland to the east was cleared and holiday apartments were constructed in its place.

Key phrases

was transformed from · remaining untouched · was centred on · was converted into · demolished to make way for

Why it scores: The answer gives a before paragraph and an after paragraph, uses the passive with map verbs (converted, demolished, widened, cleared) and names compass directions so the reader can follow the changes.

SAMPLE 18 · MAP

Task: The plans below show the layout of a secondary school before and after it was redeveloped. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Map

Before

Main teaching block
 Playing field to the west
 Car park at the entrance
 Small library
 Canteen
 Bicycle shed
 Garden area at the rear

After

Main teaching block with extension
 Playing field reduced for new sports hall
 Car park moved to the east
 Large library with computer room
 Canteen enlarged
 Bicycle shed
 Science block on former garden

Buildings were added or enlarged at the expense of outdoor space; the bicycle shed was the only feature left unchanged.

Model answer (190 words)

The two plans compare the layout of a secondary school before and after a programme of redevelopment.

Overall, the school gained several new and larger buildings, which were built at the expense of outdoor space. The playing field and the garden were both reduced or removed, whereas the bicycle shed was the only feature left exactly as it was.

Before the changes, the school consisted of a main teaching block with a small library and a canteen nearby. A car park was located at the entrance, and a bicycle shed stood beside it. A large playing field occupied the western side of the site, and there was a garden area at the rear.

After the redevelopment, the main teaching block was extended, and the small library was replaced by a much larger one containing a computer room. The canteen was also enlarged. The car park was relocated to the eastern side of the site, and a new sports hall was built on part of the playing field, which was made smaller as a result. The garden was removed entirely so that a science block could be constructed in its place.

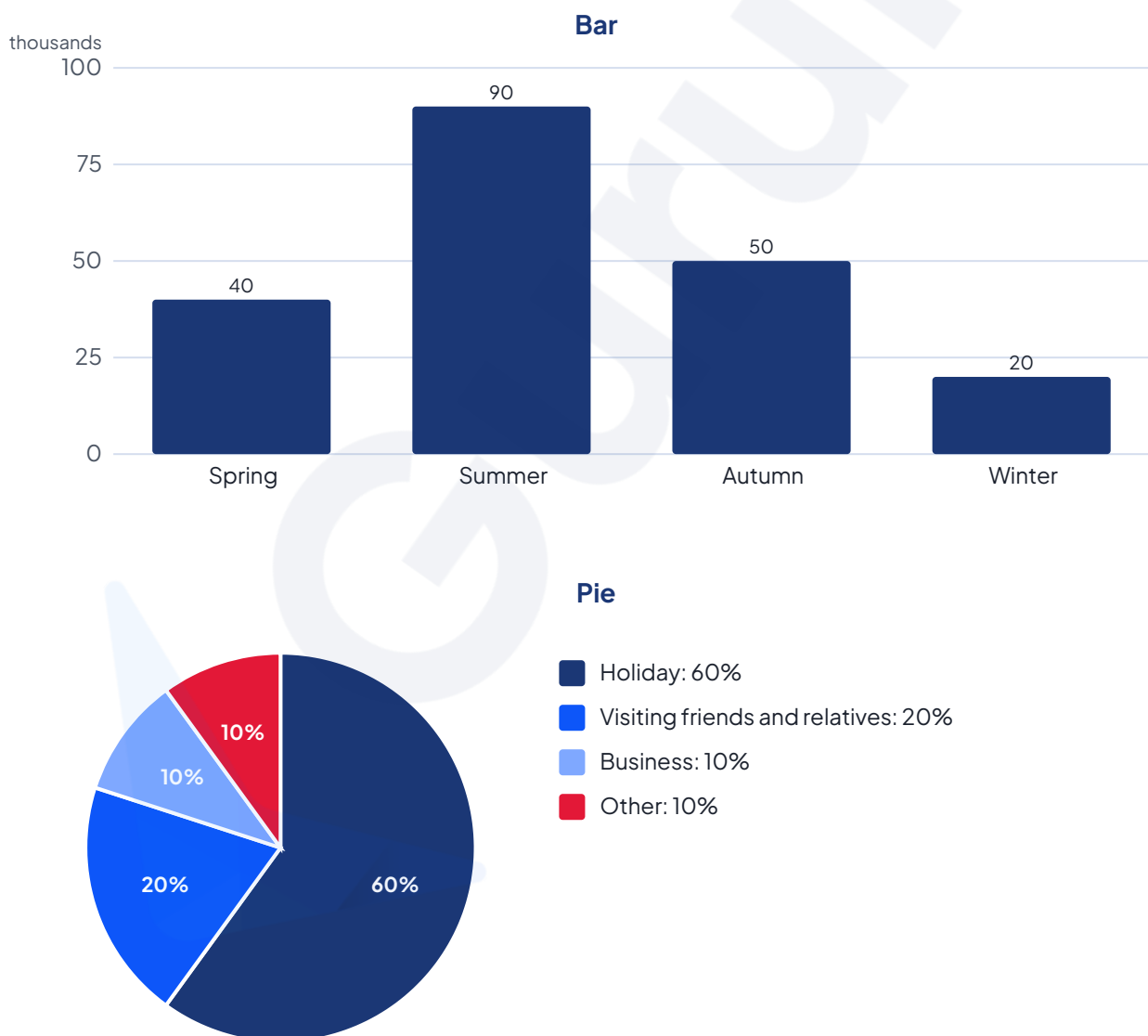
Key phrases

at the expense of · left exactly as it was · was located at · was relocated to · constructed in its place

Why it scores: The overview sums up the trade off between buildings and open space, and the body uses a wide range of location language (at the entrance, western side, at the rear) and change verbs (extended, relocated, enlarged, removed).

SAMPLE 19 · MIXED CHARTS

Task: The bar chart below shows the number of visitors to an island in each season of one year, and the pie chart shows the reasons for their visits. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Model answer (181 words)

The bar chart gives the number of people, in thousands, who visited an island in each of the four seasons, and the pie chart shows why those visitors came.

Overall, visitor numbers were highly seasonal, with summer attracting by far the most people and winter the fewest. The great majority of visitors came on holiday, while business travel accounted for only a small minority.

According to the bar chart, 90 thousand people visited the island in summer, which was more than four times the winter figure of 20 thousand. Spring and autumn were moderately busy, with 40 thousand and 50 thousand visitors respectively, so autumn was slightly more popular than spring. Taken together, the two warmer seasons accounted for well over half of all visits.

The pie chart reveals that 60% of visitors came for a holiday, three times the proportion who were visiting friends and relatives, which was the second most common reason at 20%. Business travellers made up just 10% of the total, and the remaining 10% visited for other reasons. The island therefore relied heavily on leisure tourism.

Key phrases

highly seasonal · by far the most · According to the bar chart · Taken together · The pie chart reveals that

Why it scores: Each chart gets its own paragraph, signposted clearly, and the overview covers both visuals in two sentences; the comparisons (four times, three times, well over half) are all correct against the data.

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SAMPLE 20 · MIXED CHARTS

Task: The line graph below shows the number of people attending a cinema each month over six months, and the table shows the age of the audience in January and June. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Table

Age group	January	June
Under 18	20	40
18 to 34	40	35
35 to 54	25	15
55 and over	15	10

Model answer (192 words)

The line graph shows monthly cinema attendance, in thousands, from January to June, and the table shows the audience by age group in January and June.

Overall, attendance fell during the early part of the period and then rose strongly to finish well above its starting level. At the same time, the audience became noticeably younger, with the youngest age group forming the largest share by June.

In January, 30 thousand people went to the cinema. Attendance then declined to 25 thousand in February and 20 thousand in March, where it stayed in April. From that low point, numbers recovered sharply, climbing to 35 thousand in May and reaching a peak of 50 thousand in June.

The table shows that in January adults aged 18 to 34 were the largest group, at 40% of the audience, followed by those aged 35 to 54 at 25%. People under 18 made up 20% and those aged 55 and over 15%. By June, the under 18 share had doubled to 40%, making this the largest group, while the 18 to 34 group slipped to 35%. The two older groups shrank to 15% and 10% respectively.

Key phrases

rose strongly · noticeably younger · recovered sharply · reaching a peak of · slipped to

Why it scores: The answer links the two visuals in the overview (more visitors and a younger audience), keeps the line graph and the table in separate paragraphs, and every percentage and attendance figure is reported exactly.

SECTION 3

Vocabulary bank for Task 1

Trend, comparison and process language grouped by use. Learn two or three phrases per row and vary them.

Use	Phrases	Example
Introducing the visual	illustrates, compares, gives information about, provides data on	The table gives information about the cost of living in four cities.
Stating units	measured in, expressed as a percentage, in thousands of	The figures are measured in millions of tonnes.
Starting the overview	Overall, In general, It is clear that, The most striking feature is	Overall, it is clear that car ownership rose in every region.
Large increase	rose sharply, surged, climbed steeply, soared, shot up	Sales of electric bicycles surged in the final month.
Small increase	rose slightly, edged up, grew marginally, inched up	The proportion of part time workers edged up from one quarter to the next.
Steady increase	increased steadily, climbed gradually, grew consistently	Attendance climbed gradually throughout the first half of the period.
Large decrease	fell sharply, plummeted, dropped dramatically, plunged, slumped	Coal production plummeted after the first stage.
Small decrease	fell slightly, dipped, declined marginally, edged down	The unemployment rate dipped in the following month.

Use	Phrases	Example
Steady decrease	declined steadily, decreased gradually, fell consistently	The number of letters sent declined steadily across the six months.
No change	remained stable, stayed constant, levelled off, plateaued, was unchanged	Tea sales remained stable at twenty thousand cups a month.
Fluctuation	fluctuated, rose and fell, was erratic, varied considerably	Visitor numbers fluctuated between spring and autumn.
Reaching a high point	peaked at, reached a high of, hit a maximum of, rose to its highest point	Demand peaked at 50 gigawatts in the early evening.
Reaching a low point	fell to a low of, bottomed out at, reached its lowest point	Local visits bottomed out at 10 thousand in May.
Recovery after a fall	recovered, rebounded, picked up, bounced back	After a quiet spring, bookings rebounded in summer.
Overtaking	overtook, surpassed, exceeded, outstripped	By June, iced coffee sales had overtaken hot coffee sales.
The highest value	the highest figure, the largest share, the greatest proportion, by far the most	France recorded by far the most tourist arrivals.
The lowest value	the lowest figure, the smallest share, the least popular, just, only	Nuclear power supplied just 5% of electricity.
Ranking	led the group, came second, was followed by, ranked third	Germany led the group, followed by South Korea.
Comparing two values	compared with, in comparison with, whereas, while	Men were more active, compared with women in the same age group.
Multiples	twice as many, double, three times the figure, four times higher	Summer visitors were more than four times the winter total.
Fractions	half, a third, a quarter, two thirds, one in five	Roughly a third of the budget went on rent.
Approximation	roughly, approximately, just under, just over, around, nearly	Just over half of adults used a tablet.
Exact figures	exactly, precisely, stood at, was recorded at	Weekend usage stood at exactly 40%.

Use	Phrases	Example
Similarity	similarly, likewise, in the same way, a similar pattern	Likewise, campers were most numerous in July.
Difference	in contrast, by contrast, on the other hand, conversely	By contrast, rent rose over the same period.
Proportions	accounted for, made up, represented, constituted	Holiday visitors accounted for 60% of arrivals.
Change over a period	over the period, throughout the period, during the six months, from January to June	Hot coffee sales fell throughout the period.
Reporting a range	ranged from ... to ..., varied between ... and ...	Recycling rates ranged from 35% to 65%.
Adding a point	in addition, furthermore, moreover, it is also worth noting that	It is also worth noting that tennis was the least popular sport for boys.
Giving a result	as a result, consequently, therefore, so that	As a result, total spending increased slightly.
Describing a sequence (process)	first, next, then, after that, subsequently, finally	Next, the pulp is screened to remove staples.
Beginning a process	the process begins with, the first stage is, starts when	The process begins with the collection of used paper.
Ending a process	in the final stage, the process ends with, the finished product	In the final stage, the treated water is supplied to the house.
Process passives	is collected, is transported, is heated, is stored, is delivered	The packaged food is stored in a warehouse.
Counting stages	consists of eight stages, a seven step process, is made up of	The diagram shows a linear process that consists of eight stages.
Map location	to the north of, on the eastern side, in the centre, at the rear, next to	A car park was built on the eastern side of the site.



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Use	Phrases	Example
Map changes: adding	was built, was constructed, was added, was introduced	A sports hall was constructed on part of the playing field.
Map changes: removing	was demolished, was removed, was cleared, was cut down	The woodland was cleared to make way for apartments.
Map changes: altering	was converted into, was replaced by, was extended, was widened, was relocated	The harbour was converted into a marina.
Describing a whole transformation	was transformed, underwent major changes, became far more built up	The village underwent major changes and became far more built up.

Common mistakes

Mistake	Fix
Leaving out the overview, or hiding it at the end as a conclusion.	Write a separate overview paragraph straight after the introduction, stating the main trends in general words. Task 1 needs no conclusion.
Copying the task statement word for word in the introduction.	Paraphrase it: change 'shows' to 'illustrates' or 'compares', turn 'the number of' into 'how many', and reorder the sentence.
Listing every figure in the order it appears on the axis.	Select the key features: highest, lowest, biggest change, crossover points. Group similar data together and leave minor values out.
Putting numbers in the overview.	Keep the overview general (rose, fell, the largest, the smallest). Save exact figures and units for the two detail paragraphs.
Giving opinions or explaining why the data changed.	Report only what the visual shows. Phrases like 'I think' or 'because people prefer' belong in Task 2, not in a report.
Misreporting units or figures, for example writing 40 million when the axis says 40 thousand.	Check the axis labels, legend and units before writing, and re-read every number against the visual during your final check.
Writing fewer than 150 words, or using bullet points and notes.	Aim for about 160 to 190 words in full, connected sentences. Notes and bullet points are penalised under Task Achievement.
Using the same words again and again (increased, increased, increased).	Build a bank of trend verbs and nouns (climbed, a rise, surged, grew) and vary sentence structure, including some passive forms for processes and maps.

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