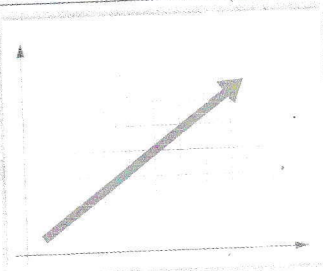


DESCRIBING CHANGE - Verbs, nouns and expressions

Since the variables in graphs change, specific vocabulary is required to describe these changes. Depending on the change, you should use appropriate verbs, nouns and expressions, as shown below:



VERBS

- increase
- go up
- rise (- rose - risen)
- improve
- climb
- shoot up (- shot up)
- soar
- surge
- double / triple

Example:

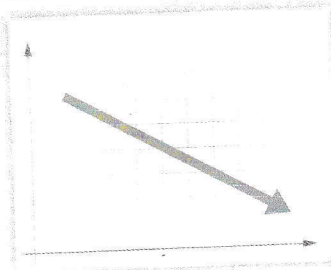
Sales **increased / went up / rose / improved / climbed / shot up / soared / surged / doubled / tripled** in 1998.

NOUNS

- increase
- rise
- growth
- upward trend
- improvement
- boom
- surge

Example:

There was a(n) **increase / rise / growth / upward trend / improvement / boom / surge** in sales in 1998.



VERBS

- decrease
- decline
- go down
- fall (- fell - fallen)
- drop (*drastically*)
- deteriorate
- be reduced
- slump
- plunge

Example:

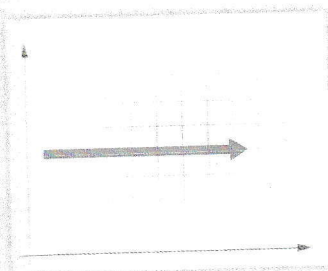
Sales **decreased / declined / went down / fell / dropped / deteriorated / were reduced / slumped / plunged** in 1998.

NOUNS

- decrease
- decline
- downward trend
- fall
- drop
- deterioration
- reduction
- slump
- plunge

Example:

There was a **decrease / decline / downward trend / fall / drop / deterioration / reduction / slump / plunge** in sales in 1998.

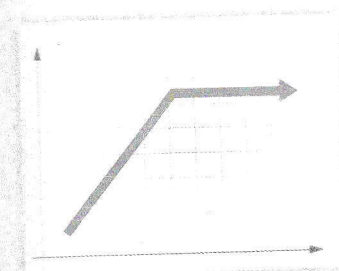


EXPRESSIONS

- remain steady/stable
- remain unchanged
- stay constant
- be at / maintain the same level

Example:

Sales **remained steady** / **remained stable** / **remained unchanged** / **stayed constant** / **were at the same level** / **maintained the same level** in 1998.



VERBS

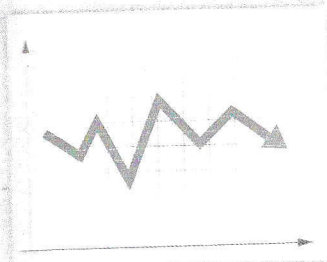
- stabilise
- level off

Example:

Sales **stabilised** / **levelled off** / **reached a plateau** in 1998.

EXPRESSION

- reach a plateau



VERBS

- fluctuate
- rise and fall

Example:

Sales **fluctuated** / **rose and fell** / **went up and down** in 1998.

EXPRESSION

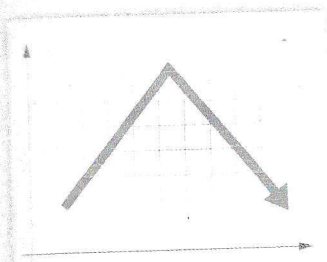
- go up and down

NOUN

- fluctuation

Example:

There was some/a **fluctuation** in sales in 1998.



VERBS / NOUNS

- peak
- climax

Examples:

Sales **peaked** / **climaxed** in 1998.
There was a **peak** / **climax** in sales in 1998.

EXPRESSIONS

- reach a peak
- reach a climax

Example:

Sales **reached a peak** / **reached a climax** in 1998.

● Exercise 1

Choose one of the options from the box to fill in the gaps. Use the explanations at the end of the sentence to help you.

surged	doubled	decline	remained steady
reached a peak	fluctuated	dropped	levelled off

- The proportion of children attending nursery school _____ between 70% and 90%, and then finally remained steady at about 85%.
(went up and down)
- After the renovations, the number of hotel guests _____, going from 180 in January to 360 in June.
(increased to twice the number)
- Unemployment _____ in 1990 and then decreased slightly in 2000.
(went to its highest point)
- There was a _____ in the percentage of citizens who voted, as the number _____ from 48% to 36%.
(reduction / fell)
- In China, export rates _____ over the last 8 months at 10 million dollars per month.
(did not change)
- Sales _____ in the last quarter, going from 2,000 units to 10,000 units.
(went up quickly)
- After a period of increase, student enrolment _____ in 2005.
(after an increase, remained at the same level)

● Exercise 2

Choose the TWO answers that are similar in meaning.

- The number of adults in higher education _____ steadily between 1990 and 2010.
rise fluctuated climbed
- There was a sudden _____ in the sales of electrical appliances during the second quarter of the year but this was turned around in the third.
plateau slump plunge
- Local winemaking output _____ at a level of 3,000 litres a day from September to October before increasing thereafter.
remained unchanged stayed constant reached a climax
- Towards the end of 2007, the manufacture of motor vehicles _____ before levelling off at the beginning of 2009.
hot up deteriorated soared
- The graph shows a clear and constant _____ in the nation's support for nuclear power during the whole period between 1990 and 2000.
peak downward trend drop
- Energy consumption _____ during the compression stage of the process. After this, the amount begins falling steadily until packaging begins.
peaks climaxes stabilises

HOW TO DESCRIBE GRAPHS/CHARTS

A. Choose the 2 answers that are similar in meaning:

1. The percentage of working students increased between 2000 and 2015.
a. sharply b. dramatically c. steadily
2. There was a rise in the number of internet sites.
a. gradual b. sudden c. steep
3. Computer sales fluctuated for a decade and then stabilized.
a. marginally b. steeply c. slightly
4. There has been a decrease in ticket sales in the first quarter.
a. considerable b. moderate c. steady
5. There was a drop in exports in 2016.
a. negligible b. significant c. gradual

B. Fill in with the correct preposition:

1. The number of tablets imported rose 200,000 287,000 in 2017.
2. In our hotel, sales of holiday packages increased 7%. They started 150 and then peaked 230.
3. There has been a decrease the percentage of people working from home.
4. The number of commuters fluctuated 1,500 2,000 last year.
5. There was a rise 50% car sales in the second quarter of 2013.
6. Prices of stationary products have increased 9% over the last decade.

C. Paraphrase the following sentences so that the meaning remains the same:

1. There was a gradual increase in real estate prices in the year 2010.
Real estate prices
2. Unemployment figures experienced a steep increase over the last decade.
Unemployment figures
3. The number of Greek graduates who work abroad surged drastically in 2010.
There was a
4. There has been a sharp drop in the average salary in Greece since the year 2000.
The average salary in Greece
5. Digital technology has improved significantly in the last century.
There has been a
6. There is a gradual decrease of about 8% in the number of tourists in Kos.
The number of tourists visiting Kos

D. Choose the correct preposition: (IELTS, Super Course System, p.85)

1. There was a significant rise of / in / by the number of sick-days that employees took in 2012 as compared to 2010.
2. The figure went from / in / by 12 days a year and / by / to 18 days a year.
3. This increase in / at / of 6 days in a 2-year period is surprising, considering that it had decreased in / by / from 10% between 2000 and 2010.
4. At this rate, it is estimated that the figure will surge to / at / of 26 days by the year 2020.

Practice Test 1 – Writing

WRITING TASK 1

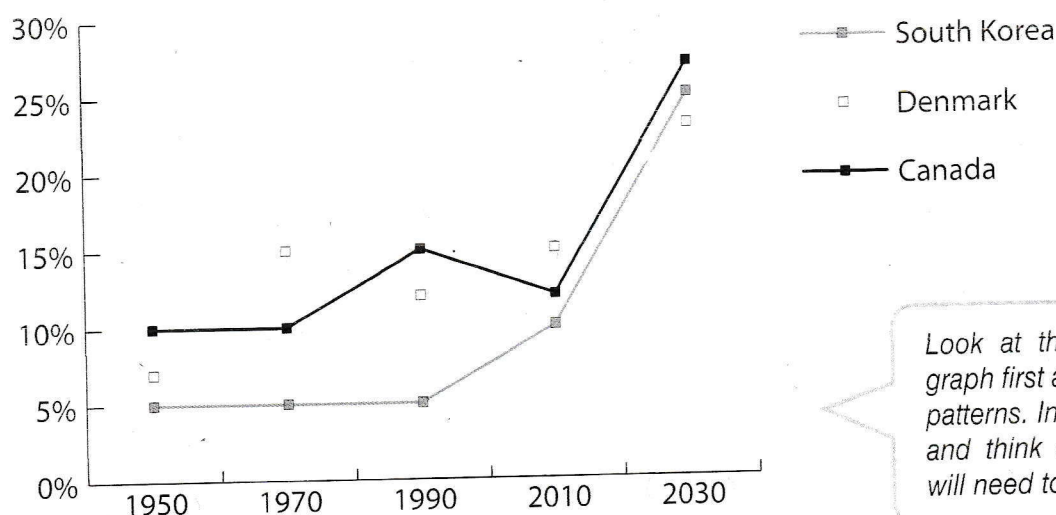
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The graph below gives information on the percentage of people over 65 in three different countries over a period of time.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Percentage of the population aged 65 or older.



Look at the title and axes of the graph first and then look for the main patterns. In this case, note the dates and think about which tenses you will need to use.

[Axis (pl. axes) = either of the two lines of a graph against which the position of points are measured.]

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

A large number of students choose to attend university abroad. It is argued that there are several benefits to studying in a foreign country, although others prefer the convenience of going to university in their own country. Discuss both points of view 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.

Plan your answer by listing the main advantages and disadvantages of studying in your own country and abroad. Do not state your opinion until the conclusion.

[See Sample Answers – Writing, p.279]

Practice Test 2 – Writing

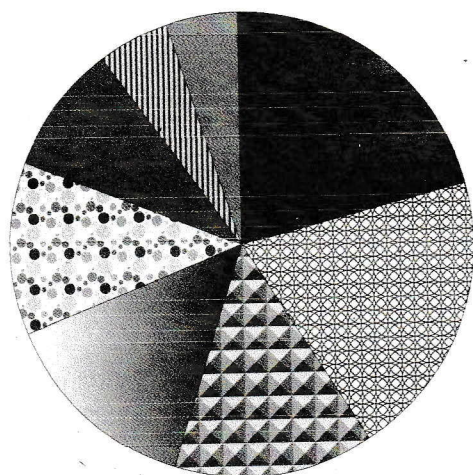
WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The charts below show total government spending for the UK in 1995 and 2015. Summarise this information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

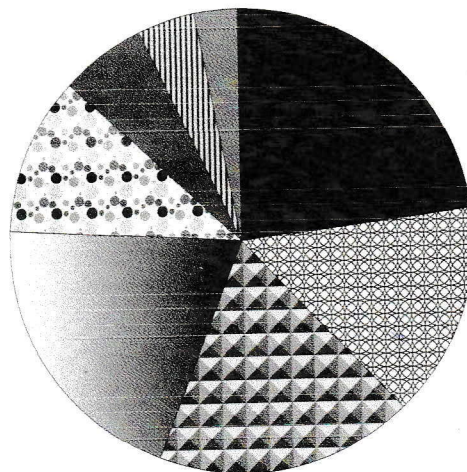
Write at least 150 words.

Total Spending UK Government 1995



Transport 5%	Pensions 14%
Protection 5%	Health care 14%
Defence 9%	Welfare 20%
Education 12%	Remainder 21%

Total Spending UK Government 2015



Transport 3%	Pensions 20%
Protection 4%	Health care 18%
Defence 6%	Welfare 15%
Education 11%	Remainder 23%

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*Computer games are not only a waste of time but also cause young people to neglect their responsibilities and prevent them from taking part in more constructive activities.
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.

Practice Test 3 – Writing

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The charts below show teenager social media use in the UK.

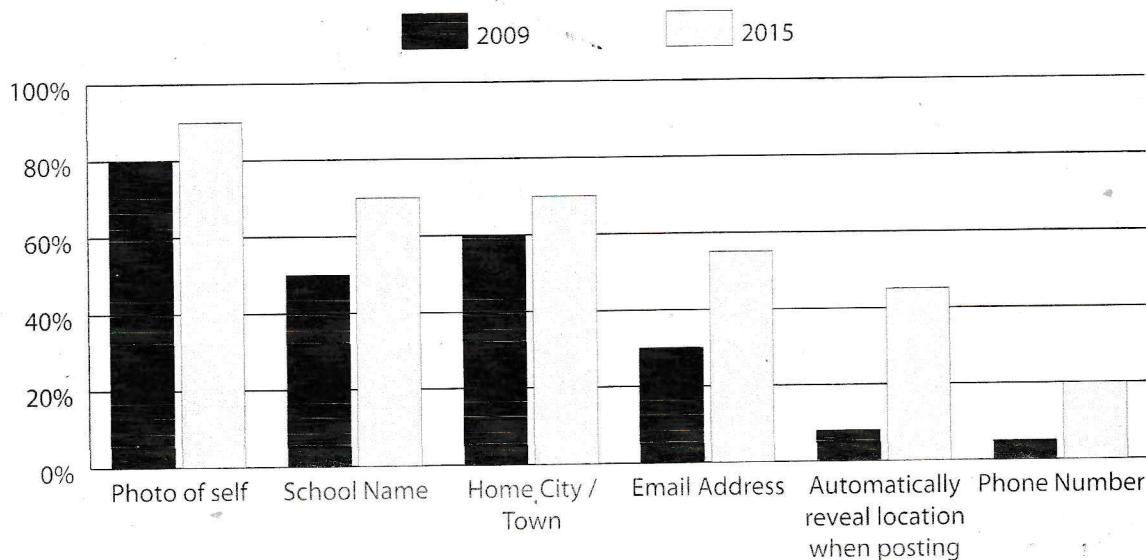
Summarise this information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Use of social media sites by teenagers in the UK

	2012	2014	2016
Facebook	92%	78%	63%
Twitter	26%	31%	39%
Instagram	11%	48%	66%
Kik	–	12%	29%
Google+	3%	33%	24%
Vine	–	20%	28%
Tumblr	5%	14%	24%
Pinterest	1%	8%	27%
Others	16%	20%	11%

What information teenagers post on social media



WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

'Climate change is one of the most serious issues that the world is facing today.'

What are the causes of climate change, and what measures should governments take to tackle the issue?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Practice Test 6 – Writing

WRITING TASK 1

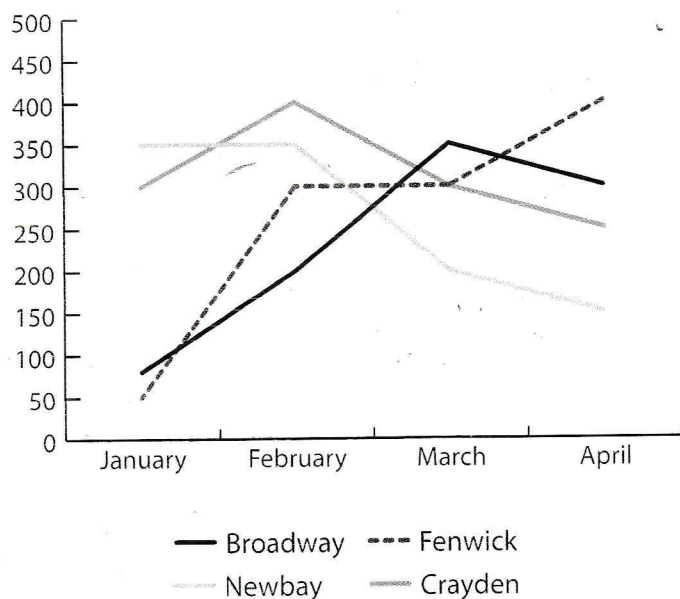
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The line graph shows the number of DVDs that were borrowed in four different months in 2014 from four DVD clubs. The pie chart shows the percentage of DVDs by type that were borrowed during this time.

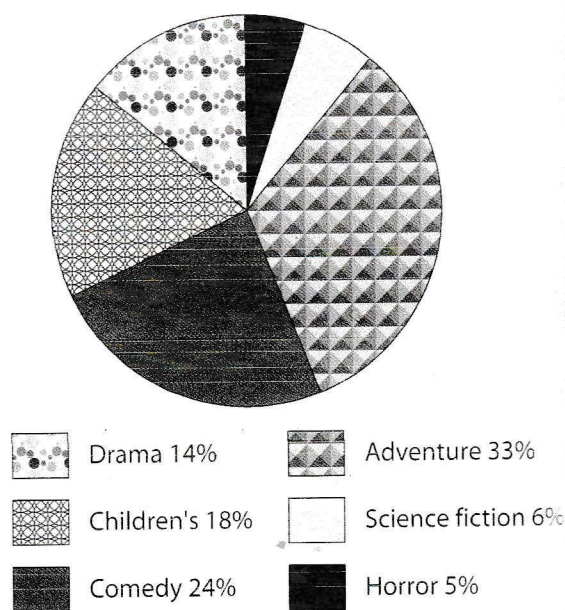
Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Number of DVDs borrowed from four DVD clubs



Type of DVD borrowed



WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people argue that the best way to reduce crime is to give longer prison sentences. Others, however, claim that there are different ways to reduce crime which would be much more effective. Discuss both 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.

*other people feel safer
a) (must take the risk
of freeing prisoners)*

*support groups after prison.
education
b) Psychological health
feel valued*

Practice Test 7 – Writing

WRITING TASK 1

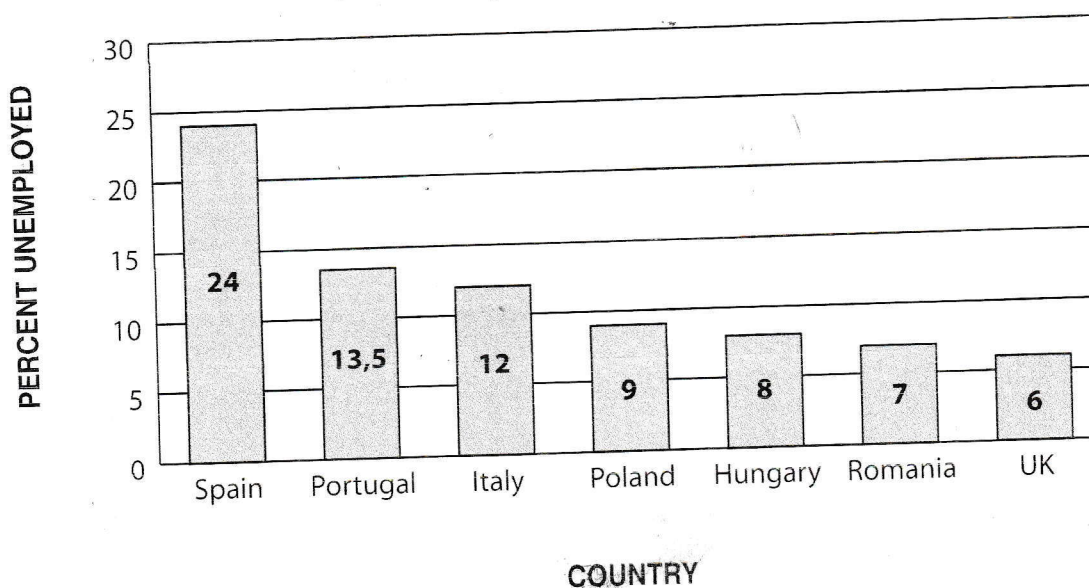
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The table shows the top six European countries from which migrants to the UK came from in 2011 and 2015. The bar chart shows the unemployment rate in those six European countries and the UK.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

	2011	2015
Poland	615,000	818,000
Romania	87,000	223,000
Spain	63,000	137,000
Italy	126,000	176,000
Hungary	50,000	96,000
Portugal	96,000	140,000



WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In recent years an increasing number of people feel that animals should not be exploited by people and that they should have the same rights as humans, while others argue that humans must use animals to suit their various needs, particularly in food production and scientific research.
Discuss both 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.

9

Practice Test 8 – Writing

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

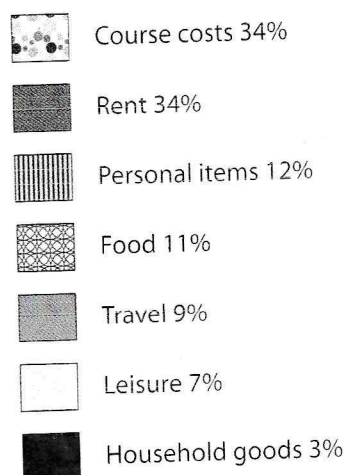
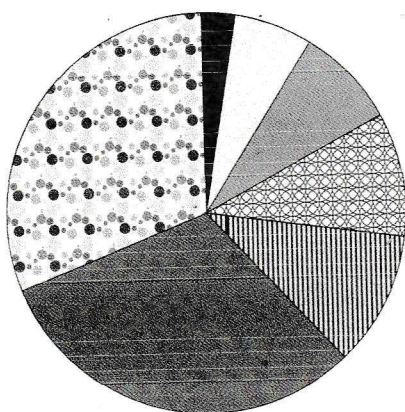
The pie charts show average student spending at a UK university in 1990, 2000 and 2010.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

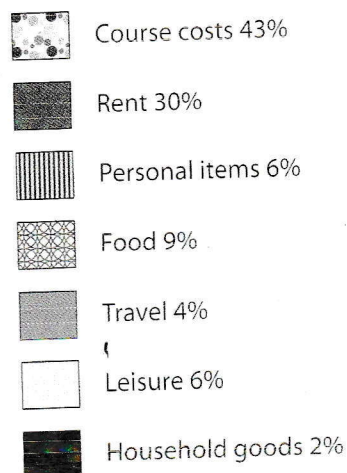
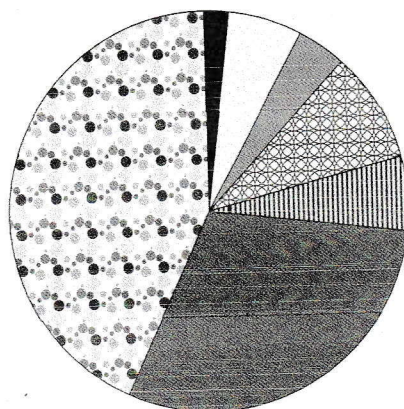
1990

SPENDING (GB£)



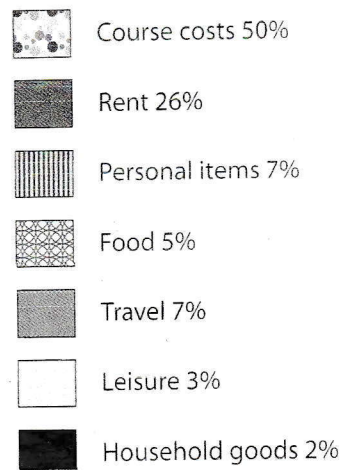
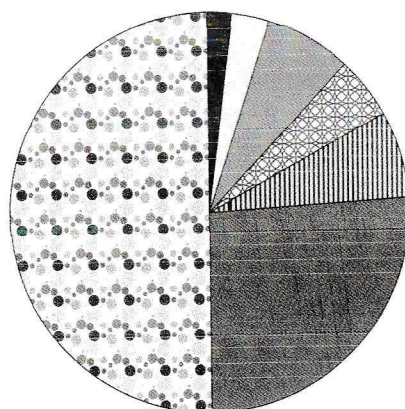
2000

SPENDING (GB£)



2010

SPENDING (GB£)



WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

According to government statistics, the number of overweight children in Western society has risen by almost 20% in the last ten years.

Discuss the causes and effects of this disturbing trend.

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

Write at least 250 words.

Practice Test 1 – Writing Task 1

The line graph shows the proportion of the population aged 65 and over in South Korea, Denmark and Canada from 1950 up until the present day as well as predictions as far as 2030.

In general, the graph indicates that South Korea consistently had the smallest percentage of elderly people until very recently – this figure has grown and is expected to continue rising sharply. Canada and Denmark had higher numbers of over 65s, with fluctuations in previous decades, although the proportion of this age group is predicted to rise significantly.

Specifically, elderly people in South Korea represented no more than 5% of the population from 1950 until 1990. This figure doubled to 10% over the next two decades and is predicted to soar to approximately one in four of all South Koreans in 2030.

Canada had the highest proportion of elderly people at 10% in 1950 followed by Denmark with about 7%. In Denmark, they stayed the same for the next 20 years while Canada saw the number increase to 15%. By 1970 Denmark saw an increase to 15% whereas Canada's percentage dropped below that amount. In 2010, pensioners in Denmark and Canada constituted around 13% and 15% of the population respectively. This group is estimated to rise significantly to nearly 25% in the former and approximately 27% in the latter by 2030.

Practice Test 2 – Writing Task 1

The first chart provides a breakdown of the national budget of the UK in 1995 while the second compares the outlay for 2015.

Overall, it is apparent that in 1995 welfare accounted for the largest proportion of the budget followed equally by pensions and health care. In contrast, in 2015 pensions were allocated the highest proportion of the budget, followed by health care and welfare, which had also risen slightly. Education, defence, protection and transport spending was smaller in this year.

Data for spending in 1995 indicates that one fifth of the budget went to welfare, while 14% was spent on pensions and the same figure on health care. Other major areas of expenditure were education at 12%, followed by defence at 9% of yearly national spending.

In comparison, outlay on pensions grew to 20% in 2015, while health care expenses rose to 18%, and welfare dropped to 15%. Spending on education and defence dropped slightly, to 11 and 6 per cent respectively. Protection and transport each accounted for less than 5% of the government budget.

Practice Test 3 – Writing Task 1

The table gives detailed information on which social media sites were the most popular among British adolescents in 2012, 2014 and 2016 while the bar chart illustrates a comparison of what data young people allowed to appear in their online profiles in 2009 and 2015.

Overall, the table shows that *Instagram* has rapidly increased to become the most popular site, taking over from *Facebook* while *Twitter* proved increasingly appealing. The graph clearly indicates an increase in personal details being revealed in online profiles by young people.

In 2012, *Facebook* was accessed by 92% of UK teens, which steadily declined to 78% and 63% in 2014 and 2016 respectively. *Instagram* use rapidly climbed from 11 to 48 per cent in 2014 and then 66% in 2016. *Twitter* use grew from a quarter of all teens in 2012 to 39% in 2016. The other social media sites were favoured by small percentages of young people in 2012, although their use grew in 2014 and despite some fluctuation, between 20 and 30% of adolescents accessed those sites in 2016.

While at least 50% of teens included personal photos, their area of residence and school name in 2009, less than 30% included an email address and hardly any gave their location or phone number. By 2015, the percentage of teenagers who included telephone numbers was over 50%, while giving their location and email address reached 20 and 40 per cent respectively.

Practice Test 4 – Writing Task 1

The maps illustrate the different features of the central area of a town, comparing its layout from 1865 with how it appeared in 2015.

Overall, it is clear that the town is more densely built-up in the modern era with improved transport links. More commercial buildings have appeared at the expense of open spaces and houses.

In the east of the town centre, a large train station has replaced the bank and post office, which have moved to the other side of High Street, where a market once stood in the mid-19th century. Moving west, both sides of High Street used to have houses and a small school. The school has expanded to cover the entire block while a leisure centre and bus station lie on the northern side.

In the west of the town centre, the river and farm no longer exist, while a park with a boating pool and two new streets have appeared. The town hall is in the same location but now has a travel agent's next to it and across the street a large supermarket has been constructed.

Practice Test 6 – Writing Task 1

The line graph illustrates how many DVDs were hired between January and April from four DVD clubs, and the pie chart provides a breakdown of what kind of DVDs were hired at these places in that time frame.

Overall, the number of DVD rentals at Newbay and Crayden were initially high but saw a decline over the period while Fenwick and Broadway saw a significant increase, from the least rentals at the start of the year, to the highest after a few months. Adventure films were the most popular type of DVD rented while comedies and children's programmes were also hired in significant numbers.

Newbay and Crayden DVD clubs were lending between 300 and 350 DVDs each in January 2014, whereas neither of the other two clubs managed to exceed one hundred. However, Broadway and Fenwick lending figures grew rapidly in February and surpassed those of Newbay and Crayden in March. By April, approximately 150 DVDs were borrowed from Newbay and about 250 from Crayden. Broadway was the next highest at about 300 and then Fenwick claimed the highest number at 350.

Adventure films accounted for one-third of rentals while comedies made up nearly a quarter. The next highest were children's DVDs and dramatic films, the former being 18% and the latter 14% of all rentals. The lowest percentage of DVDs borrowed were science fiction and horror films.

Practice Test 7 – Writing Task 1

The table contains figures for the number of people from Poland, Romania, Spain, Italy, Hungary and Portugal who settled in the United Kingdom in 2011 and 2015, while the bar chart presents the percentage of jobless people in these same countries as well as in Great Britain.

Overall, it is clear that the number of immigrants entering the UK rose sharply in 2015 compared to 2011. Poland accounted for the highest number of people in both years. Unemployment is at a particularly high level in Spain but was relatively low in the UK, with the other nations falling between these two.

According to the table, Polish immigrants grew from 615,000 in 2011 to 818,000 in 2015. In 2011 Italian migrants provided the next highest figure at 126,000, while the other countries all had between 50,000 and 96,000 immigrants to the UK. In 2015, immigration from Romania and Spain almost doubled while it grew by about 50,000 for Italy, Hungary and Portugal.

Spain had the highest number of unemployed people, nearly a quarter of the population, which was followed by Portugal and Italy at 13.5 and 12 per cent respectively. The eastern European nations had unemployment rates of between 7% and 9%, while the UK figure was 6%.

IELTS-GRIVAS

Practice Test 8 – Writing Task 1

The pie charts illustrate the main annual expenses for a typical student in the United Kingdom, the first for 1990, the second for 2000 and the third for 2010.

A student's budget in 1990 saw course costs and rent each taking up about a third of the total. The costs of the course represented the largest portion of spending in each of the next two decades. The remainder of the budget was fairly

evenly divided across the other expenses.

Course costs grew from a third in 1990 to 43% in 2000 and increased further to half of total spending in 2010. In all three charts the second biggest amount of money was spent on rent, which dropped slightly from 34% to 30% in 2000, and again by another 4% in 2010.

The budget for food fell throughout the three charts, from 11% to 9% and then only 5% in 2010, while leisure spending followed a similar steady drop. The amount of money spent on personal items and travel fluctuated over the three charts, from highs of 12% and 9% respectively to lows of 6% and 4%.