

VIẾT THƯ, BÀI LUẬN, MÔ TẢ BIỂU ĐỒ

PART I : OVERVIEW OF A LETTER

A. KHÁI NIỆM

I. Định nghĩa

Thư tín là văn bản chứa đựng những thông tin mà một người muốn báo cho một (hoặc nhiều) người khác biết.

II. Văn phong

1. Thư có thể thức

- Với thư có thể thức hay thư trang trọng (formal letters), người nhận là một tổ chức, ví dụ một công ty, hay là một người khác mà bạn không biết rõ.

- Ngôn ngữ trang trọng và lịch sự.

2. Thư bán thể thức

- Với thư bán thể thức hay thư gần trang trọng (semi-formal letters), người nhận là bạn bè, gia đình, người cấp dưới.

- Ngôn ngữ sẽ thân thiện hơn và ít trang trọng hơn so với thư có thể thức.

3. Thư phi thể thức

- Với thư phi thể thức hay thư thân mật (informal letters), người nhận là bạn bè, gia đình nhưng thân mật hơn.

- Ngôn ngữ thân mật, gần gũi hơn.

III. Bố cục

Ngày tháng (Date)	- Viết bên tay phải của bức thư. Ví dụ: May 24, 2008 hoặc 1 Aug, 2018 hoặc 24th May, 2018
Chào hỏi (Salutation)	- Khi người nhận là người bạn biết rõ, sử dụng tên gọi của người nhận (To the recipient you know well, address his/ her first name) Ví dụ: <i>Dear Linda,</i> <i>Dear John,</i> - Khi người nhận là người cấp trên, nói rõ chức danh và tên họ của người nhận (To the recipients who are superior to you, address their title formally and their surname) Ví dụ: <i>Dear Mr. Adam,</i> <i>Dear Mrs./ Miss./Ms. CirLaurence,</i> - Khi người nhận là người bạn không biết rõ (To the person you don't know) Ví dụ: <i>Dear Sir(s),</i> <i>Dear Madam,</i> <i>Dear Sir or Madam,</i> <i>To Whom It May Concern,</i> - Khi bạn biết chức danh của người nhận (If you know the title of the recipient) Ví dụ: <i>Dear Professor,</i> <i>Dear Editor,</i> <i>Dear Manager,</i> <i>Dear Dean,</i>
Phần mở đầu (Introduction)	- Giới thiệu bản thân (Nếu cần thiết) - Lí do của bức thư Ví dụ: <i>I'm writing to ask you for a favour.</i> - Giới thiệu tình huống, thông tin chung chung
Phần thân (Body)	- Đưa ra thông tin cụ thể về vấn đề/ tình huống (Give more detail about the problem/ case) - Trình bày phần thân của bài viết thư thành nhiều đoạn nhỏ, trong đó mỗi đoạn trả lời một ý được hỏi ở đề bài (Divide the body into several parts and each part covers one main idea stated in the instruction.)

and refund my postage.

I am looking forward to your favorable reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Jack Nicholson

4. Ngôn ngữ, diễn đạt gợi ý

Phần mở đầu	- I attended a training course and found it terrible. đầu - I found the service of ... Department Store poor. - Much to my regret, I write this letter to place a complaint against ... - I am writing to draw your attention to ... - I wish to complain in the strongest terms about ... - I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with ... - I regret to inform you that ... - I am sorry to point it out, but ... - I suppose you can imagine my feelings when I discovered that ... - I guess you can understand my disappointment when I realized that ...
Phần thân	Nêu lên vấn đề (Reporting on the problem) - I was careful to follow the instructions for use, honestly. - Unfortunately, your product has not performed well because ... - That the product does not work properly is not what I expected. - That the service was not performed correctly is not what I expected. - I was billed the wrong amount. - Something was not disclosed clearly or was misrepresented. Thể hiện sự thông cảm (Showing positive understanding) - I realize that mistakes happen. - I am not blaming anyone. - Other than the three I've had to return recently, I've always found your products to be excellent. - Your engineers have been excellent as always, but without the correct parts they can't do the job required.
Phân kết	- I'd be grateful if you could send a replacement and refund my postage. - To resolve the problem, I would appreciate it if you could send technicians over to repair the machine as soon as possible. - When the matter is resolved, I'd be grateful for a suitable refund of some of my service contract costs. - I look forward to a positive reply from you. - Please make sure that appropriate measures are taken to solve the problem. - I expect a courtesy of a prompt reply from you and the necessary remedial measures to be taken.

5. Đề luyện tập

Đề 1:

You bought a TV a week ago but when you got home you discovered it did not work properly. You called customer service to report the problem but you have not yet received any help.

Write a letter to the company and in your letter:

- introduce yourself
- explain the problem
- state what action you would like from the company

Write at least 150 words.

Đề 2:

You are a student at a language school in New Zealand studying Business English. Part of the course is a summer work placement programme. Unfortunately, you have just learnt from the school that this programme has now been cancelled.

Write a letter to the School Principal and in your letter:

- state your reason for writing - describe the problem and your concerns

- explain what you would like the Principal to do.

Write at least 150 words.

II. Thư xin lỗi (Letter of apology)

1. Định nghĩa

Thư xin lỗi là dạng thư có mục đích bày tỏ sự hối tiếc và muốn xin lỗi về một sai lầm mà người viết đã mắc phải.

2. Bố cục

Phần mở đầu	- Nhận lỗi và trách nhiệm cho hành động của mình
Phần thân	- Đưa ra câu hỏi liệu có thể giải quyết được vấn đề không và nếu có sẽ giải quyết như thế nào
Phần kết	- Đưa ra lời xin lỗi một lần nữa - Nên đưa ra lời hứa sẽ không tái phạm lỗi

3. Bài mẫu

One of your close friends is coming to visit your city for a couple of days. You have made arrangements so that you can spend some time with your friend. However, for some unforeseeable reasons, you won't be available any more. Write to your friend to apologize and explain the reason, and tell him/her what to do.

<i>Dear Linda,</i> <i>I am terribly sorry that I can't spend any time with you during your stay in Ho Chi Minh city and I'm writing to make my apology.</i> <i>I have already made some arrangements for your visit and planned to accompany you to Cu Chi Tunnels and the Ben Thanh Market. But this morning my boss assigned me to take part in one-week training programme in Ha Noi starting on 30th of this July exactly when you arrive in Ho Chi Minh city.</i> <i>However, I have booked a hotel room for you and have arranged my friend Nam to meet you at the airport. Nam is an English major at Hoa Sen University and he will be on his summer holiday when you are here.</i> <i>He offers to take you to some tourist resorts that I have mentioned in my letters. I am sure you will find him an excellent guide for his fluent English and profound knowledge.</i> <i>I sincerely hope that you will kindly accept my apology and that you will have a wonderful stay in Ho Chi Minh city.</i> <i>Yours, Minh</i>

4. Ngôn ngữ, diễn đạt gợi ý

Phần mở đầu	- I am terribly/ awfully/ very sorry for ... - I owe you an apology for ... - I'm writing to ask you to excuse me for ... - The purpose of this is to convey to you my sincere apologies for ... - Please accept my most sincere apology for ... - Much to my regret, ... - Can you ever forgive me for ...?
Phần thân	Giải thích và nhắc lại lỗi đã gây ra (Explaining or reporting your mistake) - Let's not let a little misunderstanding come between us. - I do know that this is very impolite and must have caused you much trouble. - There is simply no excuse for my tardiness. - I realize how much this had inconvenienced you and how angry you must have been. - I feel bad about ... - I was unable to keep my promise owing to the fact that ... - I should(n't) have + P2 Đưa ra mong muốn hoặc hành động nhằm bù đắp lỗi lầm (Expressing your wish/ action to rectify the situation) - I am sending two 10-euro bills along with my sincerest apology. Hope this will

	cover the cost of purchasing the same dictionary. - Naturally, I want to replace it or pay you its value. Will you please tell me which you prefer? - I hope the settlement of this matter can meet your wishes. - I accept full responsibility for what happened. - I know this was completely my fault.
Phần kết	- The fault is entirely mine and I deeply regret that it happened. - Please accept my most cordial and humblest apologies for once more - I will try my utmost not to make such a stupid mistake again. - I can understand that it may be difficult for you to accept my apology, but I hope that this letter might help make things better. - I hope this letter will give us both a chance to understand each other better

5. Đề luyện tập

Đề 1:

You said you would attend a friend's dinner party but you did not go.

Write a letter to your friend and in your letter:

- apologize for not attending
- explain why you did not attend
- say what you will do to make up for it

Write at least 150 words.

Đề 2:

Your neighbours have recently written to you to complain about the noise from your house flat.

Write a letter to your neighbours and in your letter:

- explain the reasons for the noise
- apologise for the noise
- describe what action you will take: to make up for it

Write at least 150 words.

III. Thư yêu cầu (Letter of request)

1. Định nghĩa

Thư yêu cầu là dạng thư có mục đích đề nghị một tổ chức hay cá nhân nào đó thực hiện một hoặc các yêu cầu được viết trong thư.

2. Bố cục

Phần mở đầu	- Đưa ra lí do tại sao muốn liên hệ với người nhận
Phần thân	- Đưa ra thông tin chi tiết về yêu cầu hay sự nhờ vả
Phần kết	- Đưa ra lời cảm ơn đối với người nhận - Mức độ lịch sự và độ dài của phần kết phụ thuộc vào mức độ khó của sự yêu cầu hay nhờ vả

3. Bài mẫu

You are accepted as an overseas student by a university. You have a friend who happens to live in the city where you are going. Write to your friend and ask him/her to help you find a place to stay.

Dear Alice,

How is everything going with you in Southampton? I have been awarded a scholarship study for my master's degree in the University of Southampton for two years and I am planning to leave for the UK at the end of this September. I contacted the school yesterday and was told that they do not have accommodation available for master students. I hope you can help me to find a temporary place to stay for the first few weeks.

Preferably, it is close to the campus or within minutes' walk to bus stops. I wouldn't mind living in a bedsit or sharing a flat with others, but I would like it to be basically furnished. Please reserve it for three weeks so that I can look for a more suitable one if necessary.

If it is too difficult for you at such a short notice, I hope you can help me find one week in an inexpensive hostel near the university and I'd like to pay no more than 30 pounds per day for the room. I would like to express my thankfulness and look forward to your early reply.

Yours, Sarah

4. Ngôn ngữ, diễn đạt gợi ý

Phần mở đầu	- I am very interested in ... - I am extremely interested in ... - I take great interest in ... w.) - I would like to obtain some information about/ on ... - I am writing to you in the hope that I may obtain some information about/ on ... - I am writing to enquire about ... - I have been unable to ..., and I would like to seek help from you. - I am writing to let you know that I find it difficult to ... - Because of the difficulty of ..., I have to ask for advice.
Phần thân	Mô tả một vài khó khăn/ vấn đề muốn được giúp đỡ (Describing some of your difficulties/ problems.) - I hardly had any idea of what the teacher said in class and almost forgot what I had ever known well. - I contacted the school yesterday and was told that they do not have accommodation available for master students. - I called the human resources department and was told that they don't have any vacant position for accountants. Đưa ra yêu cầu một cách lịch sự (Telling the reader what you want). - I wonder if you could ... - Could you possibly ...? 1910 e lyd dibomo un gaib el mo man - Would you please ...? - Would it be possible for you to ...? - I would like you to ... - May I ...? ner forinto - Is it OK if I ...? - Would it be all right if I ...? - I wonder if I could ... - I hope it is OK if I ... - I wish to ... - I would like to ...
Phần kết	- I would greatly appreciate your help if you could ... - I would be much obliged to you if you could ... - It would be greatly appreciated if you could ... - I hope you can ... and I will be grateful if you could ... - Would it be possible for you to ...? - Thank you for your time and consideration. - Thank you very much in advance. - Thank you in advance for your help. - Your kind reply will be highly appreciated. - I would like to express my thankfulness and look forward to your early reply. - I am looking forward to a favourable reply at your earliest convenience.

5. Đề luyện tập

Đề 1:

You are going to another country to study. You would like to do a part-time job while you are studying, so you want to ask a friend who lives there for some help.

Write a letter to your friend and in your letter:

- give details of your study plans
- explain why you want to get a part-time job
- suggest how your friend could help you find a job

Write at least 150 words.

Đề 2:

You are going on a short course to a training college abroad. It is a college that you have not been to before.

Write a letter to the accommodation officer and in your letter:

- give details of your course and your arrival/departure date
- explain your accommodation needs
- ask for information about getting to and from the college

Write at least 150 words.

IV. Thư cảm ơn (Letter of thanks)

1. Định nghĩa

Thư cảm ơn là dạng thư có mục đích bày tỏ sự biết ơn, cảm kích với người nhận thư.

2. Bố cục

Phần mở đầu	- Đưa ra mục đích của bức thư: thể hiện sự cảm ơn, trân trọng đối với người nhận
Phần thân	- Mô tả ngắn gọn những gì người nhận đã làm cho mình
Phần kết	- Đưa ra lời cảm ơn chân thành một lần nữa và gợi ý những những gì mình muốn làm để đáp trả lại lòng tốt của người nhận

3. Bài mẫu

You had an operation and stayed in a hospital for two weeks for treatment. Now you recovered and came back to school to continue your study. Write a letter to the hospital to express your appreciation to the doctors and nurses who cared for you.

<i>To All Staff of AAA Hospital:</i> <i>I am writing to express my appreciation for the wonderful treatment and care you all showed to me following my recent operation.</i> <i>Before I came into the hospital, I was very nervous but you were all so kind, which took away a lot of my anxiety. You demonstrated your great sense of responsibility caring for me when I was helpless in the days immediately following the operation and also gave me the support and encouragement I needed to recover.</i> <i>I'd like to particularly thank Linda James who provided me with round-the-clock nursing care and to Dr. Jerry Carter for his expertise in the operating theatre. However, I'd also like to thank all the other people, who all played such an important part in my treatment.</i> <i>Thanks to you all. I'm now able to go back to school and finish my Master's study. Without your help, this would not have been possible. So you can imagine how grateful I am.</i> <i>Best regards, Peter Stark</i>	
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4. Ngôn ngữ, diễn đạt gợi ý (Suggested words and expressions)

Phần mở đầu	- I want to thank you for/ Thank you so much for ... - I would like to write you and say thanks for ... - I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to you for ... - It was most thoughtful and generous of you to ...
Phần thân	Tóm tắt ngắn gọn những gì người nhận đã làm cho mình (Briefly retelling what the recipient has done) - You certainly know how to make a guest feel at home. - Your delicious meals were a treat, and your flexibility in adapting to my irregular schedule made many things possible. - The book you suggested was exactly what I needed and it has saved me countless hours. - This information is certain to help our future cooperation. Thể hiện cảm xúc của mình (Expressing your emotions) - Because of you, I was able to relax. - It was a complete surprise for me and a thrill I'll never forget. - I am sure this job would not have come to me without your help. - The party you gave in my honour was quite a surprise and loads of fun.
Phần kết	- I really appreciate it. - I appreciate it more than I can say.

	- It was kind and generous of you to do this for me. - Thank you once again, from the bottom of my heart. - Please accept our most sincere feelings of gratitude. - I hope you know how much I appreciate your hospitality, and your many kindnesses to me.
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5. Đề luyện tập

Đề 1:

You and some friends ate a meal at a restaurant to celebrate a special occasion, and you were very pleased with the food and service. Write a letter to the restaurant manager and in your letter you should:

- give details of your visit to the restaurant
- explain the reason for the celebration
- say what was good about the food and the service

Write at least 150 words.

Đề 2:

After being involved in an accident, you were looked after by a person you did not know before. Write a special thank you letter to express your gratitude and in your letter you should:

- introduce yourself and let him/her know why you are writing
- express your appreciation
- offer him/her to visit your home with his/her family

Write at least 150 words.

SAMPLE LETTERS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

TEST 1

You recently received an email from your English-speaking friend, Pat, inviting you to visit and stay with his family.

You said you'd like to come and stay for a while in the summer, so I'm writing to ask if you'd like to visit in July.

By the way, it's my brother Tim's 18th birthday on 10th July so try to be here then, because there'll be a big special party to go to. Lots of our friends and relatives will be there!

I'm on holiday in July too, so perhaps we could go camping for a few days as well? If you're coming, let me know if there's anything else you'd particularly like to do. Then I can make some plans.

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your email. It's great to hear from your news. I am writing to tell you I am sure I would like to come and stay with you for a while in the summer. I think July seems to be perfect for my visit because I don't go to school and the weather is also fine.

By the way, It's your brother Tim's birthday, so I try to arrive early to help you with the preparation. I know your brother, Tim fancy reading books. I intend to give him a novel of "Harry Potter" series which is popular for teenagers. I think he will love it so much.

Although camping is my favorite activity, I'm afraid I can't go camping with you for a few days as well because I want to visit my old teacher in the countryside instead. He is my English teacher.

During my staying in your country, there are lots of interesting things we could do such as sightseeing, swimming, photography and so on that makes me close to nature and feel healthy after the trip. I'm sure we will have lot of fun. I'm eager for this trip,

I can't wait to see you. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,

TEST 2

You have received a letter from your English-speaking friend, Sam, asking you about a festival in your country.

Dear Sam,

Thanks for your letter. It's great to hear from you. You can know that there are many holidays throughout the year in my country, but the most important festival in my country is Tet holiday. For the Vietnamese people, Tet festival is like a combination of Western Saint Sylvester, New Year's Day, Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. It is the festival of Purity and Renewal. On this occasion, people stop

working and stay at home to clean and decorate the house. Everyone believe that cleaning and decorating the house will get rid of the bad fortunes associated with the old year. People often visit their relatives for New Year's greetings. Children wear new clothes and they usually receive red envelopes from older people. One of the most traditional special foods for New Year (Tet) of Vietnamese is Banh Chung or sticky rice cake. Banh Chung is a must among other foods to be placed on the ancestors' altars during Tet holiday.

What about popular celebration in your country? Can you tell me about it? I am very happy if you come and enjoy with us on this occasion in the next time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Love,

TEST 3

You have received the following letter from your English-speaking friend, Sam, asking you about how to get to your apartment from the airport.

Thanks for inviting me to stay with you when I visit your country next month. I'm not sure how to get to your apartment from the airport. Could you write back giving me some basic instructions? What would be the best method of transport for me? I'd prefer one that isn't too expensive! Just one other thing - what will the weather be like when I get there? (Just so I'll know what clothes to pack!)

Dear Sam,

I got your letter this morning and it's great to know that you are visiting my country next week. I know this is going to be your first time in Viet nam, so I'll give some useful information. About your questions how to get from the airport to our apartment. Well, it won't be difficult. There are many ways to get to my apartment from the airport. When you arrive at Tan Son Nhat airport, take the bus because it is cheaper, I'm afraid that it takes you much time to get here. So it is better for you to take a taxi motorbike. I think it's not only cheaper but also faster for you.

About the weather, it's always hot here. The days are generally sunny, don't forget about coats and jackets! It's all right if you bring mainly summer clothes such as shorts, T-shirts and sandals. Be sure to bring also some sun block, sunglasses and a swimming suit. I think you will fine with it.

I can't wait to see you. I'm looking forward to your arrival. . If you want to ask me more information or need some advice you can send me a mail or give me a ring. See you in a few weeks.

TEST 4

Some English friends, Peter and Sue Hall, have written to you for advice. Their 20 year old son, Tom wants to get a job teaching English in your country.

Tom's doing a teacher-training course at the moment, as you know, but he thinks he ought to learn something of the language before he comes, which seems like a good idea. He bought a "Teach Yourself" book on the language, but we were wondering if you had any other suggestions which would help him. It's quite a while since he studied a language at school, so He'd also be really grateful for some general tips on learning a language.

Dear Peter and Sue,

I'm very glad to hear that Tom wants to be an English teacher in my country. He's going to learn Vietnamese and I think it is neccessary for him to teach English here. And so I will give him some advices to help him learn Vietnamese better.

Firstly, Tom doesn't need to care about the grammar. Because the language we speak is mainly based on the meaning of words, and the grammar we use is very irregular. So that he should concentrate more on studying the vocabulary than learning grammar.

Secondly, the book which he bought cannot help him learn Vietnamese. Because our language is very diversified and a book is never able to contain all of it. Tom ought to meet some Vietnamese people or someone who has experience in learning Vietnamese. Native speakers is always a good choice for learning a language. He also may talk to me through the internet. I may teach him whatever I can.

I'm looking forward to news from you soon. It'll be very fantastic if Tom can come here and be a teacher. Your friends,

TEST 5

You recently helped organize a college ski trip and you have received this email from a parent of one of a students went.

I understand you were one of the organizers of our son's ski trip. I have to say my husband and I were extremely dissatisfied with the arrangements. My son has informed us that the ski slopes were poor, the lessons were fewer than promised and the accommodation was inadequate. Can you please give us a satisfactory explanation?

Dear Ms White,

First, let me apologise for any disappointment your son experienced on our ski trip. It is true that there were several concerns. Since we had been led to believe by the company that there would be sufficient slopes for both beginners and advanced skiers, we were extremely upset when this turned out to not to be the case. It was also unfortunate that lack of snow meant that artificial snow had to be used instead.

As for the question of lessons, if you look at the letter we sent you, you will see that only five one-hour lessons were included in the price and that extra hours would have to be paid for separately.

In relation to accommodation, I am not quite sure what you are referring to. I know that in one room there were not enough beds but this was not the case in your son's room.

We would like to assure you that we take all complaints seriously. We have already decided that next year we will change the company and the location for our trip and we hope that your son will consider joining us again.

Yours sincerely,

TEST 6

You have just received a letter from your English pen friend, accepting your invitation to come and stay with you just after Christmas.

Thanks very much for the invitation to stay with your family for a few days after Christmas- of course I'd love to come.

I've already found out about flights, and I could arrive at 12:30 midday on the 27th December. As you know, I've never been abroad during the Christmas holidays so I have no idea what to expect. What kind of things do you normally do then? And what's the weather like there at that time of year? Let me know if there are any special clothes I should bring.

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your letter. It's great to know that you accept my invitation to come and stay with us.

As you can see, everything is very peaceful and quiet here. We normally spend the time just relaxing at home, getting over all the celebrations and finishing off the Christmas food. We either read or play games and occasionally go out for a walk in the snow.

When you come here. We'd like to take you to the mountain for a few days. It's very beautiful here at this time of the year. We can go skiing during the day. And in the evenings, we can go out to try some special food in local restaurants because the area is famous for its good food.

The temperature drop to 10 degrees centigrade in December. It's certainly very cold. So make sure to bring some warm clothes, a pair of walking boots would be ideal as well as some waterproof trousers if you have them just in case it becomes cold at midnight.

That's all for now. I will pick you up at the airport on the 27th. I'm looking forward to your arrival. See you soon.

Love,

TEST 7

You are studying English in London and you've just received a letter from your friend, Ken, who is a sailing instructor on the south coast.

And I'm really enjoying the job.

By the way, we're going to run weekend sailing courses for complete beginners. Why don't you come down to Hamble and do one? You're always said you wanted to learn to sail, so this would be an ideal opportunity. And after only a few weekends you could get your certificate

Dear Ken,

It is my great pleasure to write this letter in replying to your requests and suggestions. I feel very happy when you're really interested in your job. I am studying English in London and in this time, I am trying to live and study there. As you know sailing is one of the most interesting hobbies when I was a child. Therefore, I think that I will come down to Hamble to take part in your sailing courses in the first one next

month for complete beginners. Because, by joining this course I will study the ways to sail with my friends and get my certificate.

I am looking forward from your news. Please let me know soon more complete information about your course such as fee, studying environment or teachers and so on.

Yours sincerely,

TEST 8

You English friend, Tom came to visit you recently and he has just sent you an email and some photos:

Thanks for taking me to the airport. I hope your journey home wasn't too long. I really enjoyed staying with you. Here are the photos I took. Which one do you like best? When I got home, I realized I left my watch behind. It's green and gold. You haven't found it, have you? I think we'll have a great time together when you come here in September. We could either spend the whole time in my family's flat in the city or stay on my uncle's farm in the countryside? Which would you like to do?

Dear Tom,

Thanks for your email. It was great to hear from you. How are you? I hope you're well. First of all, it is that fact that it took me over 3 hours to get home because there was a traffic accident happening on the street that caused the long traffic jams which I meet. How terrible!

I saw all the photos and I like them all because they are beautiful but my favorite is the one in the park which we were together. It looks more attractive and natural.

Don't worry about your watch. When I entered my bed room I found it on the desk next to the computer. Let me send it back to you.

I'm really looking forward to my trip in September. I would prefer to stay at your uncle's house because I like farm life, natural beauties, fresh air. Moreover, we can take part in outdoor activities such as hiking, mountain climbing, swimming in a river. I'm sure we will have a lot of fun.

I can't wait to see you soon. Drop me a line.

Love,

TEST 9:

You have just received a letter from your English pen pal, Mark, inviting you to come and stay with him in the summer.

I'm sorry I haven't written sooner, but I'm busy helping my parents out on the farm. It's a great fun though I haven't got used to getting up at six every morning to milk the cows. We often have the radio on while we're doing it, so it's not too bad. Then, once we have had breakfast, we tend to spend the rest of the day outside, either in the fields or looking after the sheep. Do you remember Lady, our oldest sheepdog? Well, she has just had puppies! If you are free in the summer, you could come and see them all and help with the harvest as well. Let me know if you can make it- We'd love to see you again.

Dear Mark,

It's really nice to receive your news. I know that you are busy helping your parents out on the farm so do not worry about writing to me late. Getting up early is not easy for us but I think it will be very interesting when we get up early to milk the cows. I was amazed when you said that you often listen to the radio while milking, I cannot imagine that before but I think it will be very fantastic.

How can I forget that cute old sheepdog, she was always around me when I was there. It's such wonderful news about the puppies, I am so excited to play with them on my next trip.

In fact, I am going to ask you if I can come to stay on your farm this summer, I am so happy when you suggest like that, of course, I really want to have a meaningful holiday by helping your family with the harvest

Looking forward to seeing you in the summer

Love,

TEST 10

You have received a letter from your English-speaking friend, Renate, who is planning to visit you. Read part of his letter below.

It was great to talk on the phone last week about my visit to your country. I'm sorry that you won't

be home when I visit but it's great that your brother can meet me at the airport and let me stay at his house. As I have only 10 days, where would you recommend I visit? And also what is the best way to travel? Is it expensive to hire a car? One other thing, I'd like to bring your brother a present. What do you think he'd like? Maybe he'd like some of my country's chocolate.

Dear Renate

I'm glad to receive your letter from you. Although I won't be home when you visit my country, my brother will replace you to be a guide for you during your visit so I feel very safe.

There are many beautiful places so that you can have the opportunity to come. For example, you can go Han Mac Tu, Bai Trung, Han Mac Tu, Hoang Hau beach, Life's beach, Nhon Ly and so on. I can be sure that you can have comfortable and relaxed moments with your family or loved friends there. Indeed, in my opinion, the best way for you to travel is motorbike because traffic in my country is not too busy when compared to other cities including Ho Chi Minh city. Moreover, you can also be interesting to note that you won't have spend too much money to hire a car if you want. On behalf my brother, I thank you of giving a present to him when you come here. One of his hobbies is reading books; therefore, you can give him to some novel books, or short stories and so on. I'm sorry to let me know that my brother is not interested in eating sweet food, so you don't have to bring you your country's chocolate.

I'm looking to forward from hearing your news soon.

PART II : OVERVIEW OF A PARAGRAPH

THEORY

A. KHÁI NIỆM

1. Định nghĩa

Đoạn văn (a paragraph) là tập hợp các câu có liên kết chặt chẽ với nhau về nội dung và Hình thức nhằm diễn đạt hoàn chỉnh ý tưởng chính (main idea) về 1 chủ đề (topic). Đoạn văn bắt đầu bằng chữ cái viết hoa, lùi đầu dòng và kết thúc bằng dấu chấm ngắt câu và xuống dòng.

2, Bố cục

Đoạn văn hoàn chỉnh gồm có 1 câu mở đoạn (a topic sentence), các câu thân đoạn (body sentences) và 1 câu kết đoạn (a concluding sentence).

- Câu mở đoạn thường là câu đầu tiên, thể hiện ý chính của đoạn văn.
- Các câu thân đoạn diễn giải câu mở đoạn, cung cấp thêm thông tin chi tiết về chủ đề.
- Câu kết đoạn là câu cuối cùng của đoạn văn, nhắc lại ý chính hoặc đưa ra nhận xét cuối cùng về chủ đề.

Indonesia - Something Interesting at Every Turn <i>By Ken Jones</i> <u>If you dream of travelling to a country with beautiful tropical islands wonderful food, beautiful places to go sightseeing, and very friendly people, you should visit Indonesia.</u> <i>[If you look at the map, the first thing you notice is that Indonesia is made up of islands - more than 17,000 of non them. Travelling between islands by boat is great fun. Just like the many islands, there are also many different groups of people living in Indonesia. In fact, there are around 300 different groups! Most Indonesians are Malay, but others are Javanese, Balinese, Chinese, or Indian. All these groups together make Indonesian culture very interesting. Finally, Indonesia has many cities and historical sights to see. Jakarta, the capital city, is fast becoming a modern centre of commerce, yet the ancient temples on the island of Bali show that the country's old traditions are still alive.] All the people, places, and things to see definitely make Indonesia a great place for a vacation.</i>	→ a topic sentence → body sentences → a concluding sentence
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3. Cách viết một đoạn văn

3.1. Câu mở đoạn

Thường là câu đầu tiên của đoạn văn và cho người đọc biết chủ đề của đoạn văn cũng như thông báo cho người đọc biết người viết sẽ viết gì về chủ đề đó. Trong câu mở đoạn có 2 thành phần chính: chủ đề (topic) và ý tưởng chủ đạo (controlling idea).

Ví dụ : Da Nang is considered the most worth-living cities in Vietnam.

Topic

controlling idea

Ý tưởng chủ đạo chính là phần giới hạn nội dung của đoạn văn, cho người đọc biết rằng đoạn văn chỉ nói đến những khía cạnh nào đó của chủ đề thôi chứ không phải những khía cạnh khác. Những khía cạnh này sẽ được giải thích, làm rõ, chứng minh ở thân đoạn. Do đó ý tưởng chủ đạo không nên là điều hiển nhiên hoặc là thông tin quá chi tiết.

Ví dụ: - *A laptop is a machine.* (điều hiển nhiên)

- *I bought a new laptop last week.* (thông tin quá chi tiết)

- *A laptop is a useful tool for me to study English,* ý tưởng chủ đạo hợp lý)

3.2. Các câu thân đoạn

Các câu thân đoạn nằm sau câu mở đoạn và cung cấp thêm thông tin cho chủ đề cũng như ý tưởng chủ đạo. Người viết có thể nêu định nghĩa, giải thích và đưa ra ví dụ minh họa ở các câu thân đoạn.

Ví dụ:

Câu mở đoạn: *Young people are too dependent on computers.*

Thân đoạn:

- Đưa ra định nghĩa: *Dependency on computers means that young people cannot perform the normal tasks and functions of daily life without them.*
- Giải thích: *In the old days, people memorized important information, but today's youth rely on their computers, cell phones, and PDA's to do assignments, record numbers, and save important information. As a result, they can find themselves unprepared in an emergency such as an electrical blackout. Once their batteries die, these people will not be able to communicate.*
- Đưa ra ví dụ minh họa: *For example, I do all my schoolwork on my computer. When my computer crashed last week, I lost my only draft of an essay that was due the next day. As a result, I got a bad grade.*

(Effective Academic Writing 1: The Paragraph)

3.3. Câu kết đoạn

Đây là câu cuối cùng trong đoạn. Câu này có thể diễn đạt lại câu mở đoạn bằng từ ngữ, cấu trúc câu khác hoặc tóm tắt các ý chính trình bày ở thân đoạn.

Ví dụ:

- Câu mở đoạn: *My favourite class is psychology.*

Câu kết đoạn: *Learning about how the mind works makes psychology my favourite class.* (tóm tắt các ý chính trong thân đoạn)

- Câu mở đoạn: *For me, a friend is someone who accepts you the way you are.*

Câu kết đoạn: *Someone who likes me the way I am is a good friend for me.* (diễn đạt lại câu mở đoạn)

Ngoài ra, người viết có thể dùng các cách sau để kết thúc đoạn văn:

- cảnh báo người đọc: *If you do not follow these steps, you may not get the grad that you want.*
- đưa ra dự đoán: *The automotive industry will change, and soon everyone will be driving pollution-free cars.*
- đưa ra ý kiến, quan điểm về chủ đề: *Some people might disagree, but I believe lamb is the best meat for grilling.*

B. CÁC DẠNG ĐOẠN VĂN

I. đoạn văn miêu tả (a descriptive paragraph)

1. Định nghĩa

Trong đoạn văn miêu tả, người viết sử dụng từ ngữ để giúp người đọc hình dung về đối tượng được miêu tả. Do đó người đọc có thể hiểu được đối tượng đó trông ra làm sao, mùi vị và âm thanh như thế nào, được đặt ở đâu. khi nào và cảm nhận được cảm xúc của người viết.

2. Bố cục

Câu mở đoạn
- Giới thiệu đối tượng được miêu tả - Thể hiện cảm nhận chung hoặc ý kiến của người viết về đối tượng đó
Thân đoạn
- Cung cấp thêm thông tin về đối tượng - Miêu tả chi tiết về đối tượng (hình thức, tính chất) - Miêu tả chi tiết cảm nhận của người viết
Câu kết đoạn
- Diễn đạt lại câu mở đoạn bằng từ ngữ, cấu trúc câu khác hoặc tóm tắt các ý chính trình bày ở thân đoạn

3. Bài mẫu

The Long Life of my Grandfather's Car

I own a car that has special meaning for me because it belonged to my grandfather. When he was a young man, he saved money so he could buy a beautiful car to use on trips around the country. He finally bought a Cadillac convertible. It was white and blue with silver trim. There were white circles on the tires, and it had a powerful horn that made people jump out of his way. The seats were also white, but the dashboard was black. The steering wheel had a brown leather cover. The mats were gray and always clean. My grandfather took very good care of the car, and after he died my uncle gave it to me. I am very happy because it still has the original motor, and the body is intact. If it has problems, I will fix it myself. I plan to take very good care of my grandfather's car because someday I will use it to travel to all the states and cities that my grandfather visited when he was a young man.

(Effective Academic Writing 1: The Paragraph)

4. Đề luyện tập

Write a paragraph (150-200 words) on the following topics:

1. Describe a firework display.
2. Describe your favourite restaurant.
3. Describe your favourite film/ book.
4. Describe your favourite character.

II. Đoạn văn tường thuật (a narrative paragraph)

1. Khái niệm

Trong đoạn văn tường thuật, người viết kể về những tình tiết, sự kiện, vv. đã xảy ra ở quá khứ, có thể là câu chuyện của bản thân hoặc của một ai đó. Dạng đoạn văn . thường tập trung vào việc trình bày logic và hệ thống theo trình tự thời gian, sự việc diễn ra trước, sự việc nào diễn ra sau. Đoạn văn tường thuật thường bao gồm các vết cần thiết cho sự phát triển của một câu chuyện, ví dụ như: bối cảnh, các nhân vật có hoạt động, nhận xét về sự kiện đó.

2. Bố cục

Câu mở đoạn
- Giới thiệu cho người biết câu chuyện về sự việc gì - Có thể giới thiệu thời gian, địa điểm diễn ra câu chuyện - Thu hút được sự chú ý của người đọc
Thân đoạn
- Kể chi tiết về câu chuyện đã diễn ra như thế nào - Bao gồm cảm nhận của người viết, ví dụ như người viết đã nhìn thấy gì, nghe thấy gì, nghĩ thấy gì, cảm thấy gì - Có thể đưa ra cảm xúc của người viết trong suốt câu chuyện
Câu kết đoạn
- “Đóng lại” câu chuyện - Đưa ra nhận xét hoặc cảm nhận của người viết sau câu chuyện là gì

3. Bài mẫu

A Hair-raising Experience

One evening, my mom was downstairs doing the laundry. As usual, she was trying to do ten jobs at once when she grabbed the wet clothes from the washer and tossed them into the dryer. She slammed the dryer door, turned the timer, and started to run upstairs. All of a sudden, a whining sound stopped her in her tracks. The sound was coming from the dryer. She yelled for me. As I raced downstairs, the sound grew louder and louder. I flung the dryer door open. There to our surprise was Mica, our cat he looked like someone who had just got off a Tilt-A-Whirl ride. His eyes bugged out, and his hair looked like a cartoon character with a finger in an electric outlet. Mica darted out of the dryer and up the stairs. After that, Mom always checked out the dryer before slamming the door, and Mica stayed clear of the laundry room for a long, long time.

(Write Source)

4. Đề luyện tập

Write a paragraph (150-200 words) on the following topics:

1. Your embarrassing experience
2. A strange or interesting incident that you witnessed
3. Your heartbreaking moment

II. Đoạn văn miêu tả quá trình (a process paragraph)

1. Định nghĩa

Trong đoạn văn miêu tả quá trình, người viết tập trung vào việc giải thích cách thức thực hiện một công việc hoặc nhiệm vụ nào đó bằng cách trả lời câu hỏi làm như thế nào, theo cách nào.

2. Bố cục

Câu mở đoạn
- Giới thiệu nhiệm vụ hoặc quá trình mà người viết sẽ giải thích ở thân đoạn
Thân đoạn
- Miêu tả các bước thực hiện một cách chi tiết - Có thể cung cấp thông tin về nhiệm vụ/ quá trình để người đọc hiểu được tại sao nhiệm vụ, quá trình này cần thiết hoặc quan trọng - Có thể bổ sung thông tin về các dụng cụ cần để thực hiện nhiệm vụ quá trình
Câu kết đoạn
- Diễn đạt lại câu mở đoạn bằng từ ngữ, cấu trúc khác - Đưa ra gợi ý hoặc cảnh báo nhằm giúp người đọc thực hiện nhiệm vụ/ quá trình dễ dàng hơn

3. Bài mẫu

Planning a vacation abroad? Here are some suggestions to make your trip successful. First, find out if you need a visa for the country that you want to visit. Make sure you have enough time to apply for it before you buy your ticket. After you have found out about visas, you should research airfares and schedules. Next, look for the best flight for you. Remember, the cheapest flight may stop over in several cities and reduce the amount of time you have to spend at your destination. You might want to fly direct. While you are researching flights, you can also ask your travel agent about getting a good deal on a hotel. It's a good idea to book your flight and hotel early if you are sure of your destination. If you haven't already done it, the next step is to learn about places to visit, the weather, the food, and other details about the country. The Internet can be a very useful source of information. Finally, on the day of your flight, make sure you go to the airport at least two hours before your flight. Now you are ready to start enjoying your vacation!

(College Writing: From Paragraph to Essay)

4. Đề luyện tập

Write a paragraph (150-200 words) on the following topics:

1. How to create a successful profile?
2. How to use social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) sensibly and effectively?
3. How to choose a major in college?

IV. Đoạn văn so sánh - đối chiếu (a compare-contrast paragraph)

1. Định nghĩa

Trong đoạn văn so sánh - đối chiếu, người viết trình bày sự giống và khác nhau của hai đối tượng người, vật, sự việc)

2. Bố cục

Ta có thể viết lần lượt điểm giống hoặc khác nhau của cả hai đối tượng (block organization) hay chia nhỏ từng ý rồi chỉ ra điểm giống và khác nhau của hai đối tượng (point-by-point organization).

Câu mở đoạn	
- Giới thiệu hai đối tượng được so sánh - Trình bày sự giống nhau và/ hoặc khác nhau giữa hai đối tượng	
Thân đoạn	
Block organization - Đối tượng 1: những đặc điểm được so sánh - Đối tượng 2: những đặc điểm tương ứng được so sánh với đối tượng 1 Hoặc - Tất cả điểm giống nhau giữa đối tượng 1 và đối tượng 2 - Tất cả điểm khác nhau giữa đối tượng 1 và đối tượng 2	Point-by-point organization - Điểm giống nhau/ khác nhau 1: đặc điểm: của đối tượng 1 và đối tượng 2 - Điểm giống nhau/ khác nhau 2: đặc điểm của đối tượng 1, đối tượng 2 - Điểm giống nhau/ khác nhau 3: đặc điểm của đối tượng 1, đối tượng 2
Câu kết đoạn	
- Tóm tắt lại những điểm giống nhau và/ hoặc khác nhau giữa hai đối tượng - Đưa ra cảm nhận của người viết về hai đối tượng	

3. Bài mẫu

Block organization

Reading a story in a book is often very different from seeing it as a movie. When you read a story, you need to use your imagination. A book usually gives a lot of description about the people, places, and things in the story, so you can create pictures in your mind. In addition, the conversations between people are always written with details that describe how the people look or feel while they are talking. When you read, you use a lot of imagination to help "see" the characters in the story. However, when you see a movie, it is a different experience. When you watch a movie, you do not need to use your imagination. The pictures on the screen give all the details about the people, places and things in the story. The conversations are spoken out loud, so you just listen and watch. The feelings of the people come through their faces, body movements, and voices. Although a book and a movie might tell the same story, reading a book and watching a movie are very different experiences.

(College Writing: From Paragraph to Essay)

4. Đề luyện tập

Write a paragraph (150-200 words) on the following topics:

1. Compare two historical events
2. Compare two political candidates/ politicians
3. Compare working parents and stay-at-home parents
4. Compare news in a newspaper and news on the Internet

V. Đoạn văn nguyên nhân – hệ quả (a cause-effect paragraph)

1. Định nghĩa

Trong đoạn văn nguyên nhân – hệ quả, người đưa ra nguyên nhân của một sự việc và hoặc ảnh hưởng, tác động của một sự việc.

2. Bố cục

Câu mở đoạn
- Giới thiệu nguyên nhân của sự việc và/ hoặc ảnh hưởng, tác động của sự việc
Thân đoạn
- Giải thích nguyên nhân của sự việc một cách chi tiết - Và/ Hoặc nêu ra các ảnh hưởng, tác động của sự việc một cách chi tiết
Câu kết đoạn
- Tóm tắt lại những nguyên nhân và/ hoặc tác động của sự việc - Thể hiện cảm nhận của người viết về sự việc

3. Bài mẫu Đoạn văn nêu nguyên nhân (A cause paragraph)

Why I Stopped Smoking

For one thing, I realized that my cigarette smoke bothered others, irritating people's eyes and causing them to cough and sneeze. They also had to put up with my stinking smoker's reath. Also, cigarettes are a messy habit. Our house was littered with ashtrays piled high with butts, , matchsticks, and ashes, and the children were always knocking them over cigarettes are expensive, and I estimated that the carton a week that I was smoking cost me unout \$2,000 a year. Another reason I stopped was because I felt exploited. I hated the thought of wealthy, greedy corporations making money off my sweat and blood. The rich may keep getting richer, but - at least as regards cigarettes - with no thanks to me. Cigarettes were also inconvenient. Whenever I smoked, I would have to drink something to wet my dry throat, and that meant I had to keep going to the bathroom all the time. I sometimes seemed to spend whole weekends doing nothing but smoking, drinking, and going to the bathroom. Most of all I resolved to stop smoking when the message about cigarettes being harmful to health finally got through to me. I had known they could hurt the smoker - in fact, a heavy smoker I know from work is in Eagleville Hospital now with lung cancer. But when I realized what secondhand smoke could do to my wife and children, causing them bronchial problems and even increasing their risk of cancer, it really bothered me.

(Exploring Writing: Sentences and Paragraphs 4th edition)

Đoạn văn nêu kết quả (An effect paragraph)

New Puppy in the House

Buying a new puppy can have significant effects on a household. For one thing, the puppy keeps the entire family awake for at least two solid weeks. Every night when the puppy is placed in its box, it begins to howl, yip, and whine. Even after the lights go out and the house quiets down, the puppy continues to moan. A second effect is that the puppy tortures the family by destroying material possessions. Every day something different is damaged. Family members find chewed belts and shoes, gnawed table legs, and ripped sofa cushions leaking stuffing. In addition, the puppy often misses the paper during the papertraining stage of life, thus making the house smell like the public restroom at a city bus station. Maybe the most serious problem, though, is that the puppy causes family arguments. Parents argue with children about who is supposed to feed and walk the dog. Children argue about who gets to play with the puppy first. Puppies are adorable, and no child can resist their charm. Everyone argues about who left socks and shoes around for the puppy to find. These continual arguments, along with the effects of sleeplessness and the loss of valued possessions, can really disrupt a household. Only when the puppy gets a bit older does the household settle back to normal.

(Exploring Writing: Sentences and Paragraphs 2nd edition)

4. Đề luyện tập Write a paragraph (150-200 words) on the following topics:

1. Causes/ effects of getting a college degree
2. Causes/ effects of not getting enough sleep
3. Causes/ effects of a major change in your life

VI. Đoạn văn vấn đề - giải pháp (a problem-solution paragraph)

1. Định nghĩa

Trong đoạn văn vấn đề - giải pháp, người viết giải thích thực trạng của một vấn đề và/ hoặc đưa ra một hoặc nhiều giải pháp cho vấn đề đó.

2. Bố cục

Câu mở đoạn
đi thiệu thực trạng vấn đề và/ hoặc giải pháp
Thân đoạn
Miêu tả thực trạng vấn đề một cách chi tiết Đưa ra các giải pháp cho vấn đề đó.
Câu kết đoạn
Tóm tắt lại những giải pháp cho vấn đề kêu gọi người đọc thực hiện những giải pháp đó

3. Bài mẫu

Deforestation is a serious problem because forests and trees aren't just pretty to look at, they do an important job making the earth's environment suitable for life. They clean the air, store water, preserve soil, and provide homes for animals. They also supply food, fuel, wood products, and paper products for humans. In the past fifty years, more than half of the world's rain forests have been destroyed. Today, the forests of the world are being cut down at a rate of fifty acres every minute! Scientists say that if

deforestation continues, the world's climate may change, floods may become more common, and animals will die. One solution to the problem of deforestation is to use less paper. If you use less paper, fewer trees will be cut for paper making. How can you use less paper? One answer is to reduce your paper use by using both sides of the paper when you photocopy, write a letter, or write a paper for school. A second answer is to reuse old paper when you can, rather than using a new sheet of paper. The backs of old envelopes are perfect for shopping lists or phone messages, and when you write a rough draft of an essay, write it on the back of something else. A final answer is to recycle used paper products instead of throwing them away. Most schools, offices, and neighbourhoods have some kind of recycling centre. If you follow the three Rs - reduce, reuse, and recycle - you can help save the world's forests.

(College Writing: From Paragraph to Essay)

4. Đề luyện tập Write a paragraph (150-200 words) on the following topics:

1. How can social media bullying be prevented?
2. How has texting affected face-to-face relationships?
3. How can we prevent people from dropping out of high school?

VII. Đoạn văn đưa ra ý kiến (an opinion paragraph)

1. Định nghĩa

"trong đoạn văn đưa ra ý kiến, người viết bày tỏ quan điểm, thái độ của mình về một chủ đề hay vấn đề nào đó nhằm thuyết phục người đọc đồng ý với mình với việc đưa ra các lí do thích hợp.

2. Bố cục

Câu mở đoạn
- Giới thiệu chủ đề vấn đề - Người viết thể hiện ý kiến, quan điểm của mình về chủ đề/ vấn đề đó.
Thân đoạn
- Đưa ra lí do giải thích cho ý kiến, quan điểm của người viết - người viết dùng số liệu thực tế, kinh nghiệm bản thân, đưa ra cách giải thích giúp cho ý kiến, quan điểm của mình có tính thuyết phục.
Kết đoạn
* Diễn đạt lại ý kiến, quan điểm của người viết bằng từ ngữ, cấu trúc khác - Đưa ra nhận xét về ý kiến đó - Tóm tắt các lý do chính dẫn đến ý kiến đó

3. Bài mẫu

Driving and Cell Phones

Because cell phones and driving are a deadly mix, I am in favour of a ban on cell phone use by drivers. The most obvious reason for this ban is to save lives. Each year, thousands of drivers are killed because they are talking on cell phones instead of watching the road while they are driving. This first reason should be enough to support a ban on cell phones when driving, but I have two other reasons. My second reason is that these drivers cause accidents that kill other people. Sometimes these drivers kill other drivers; sometimes they kill passengers or even pedestrians. These drivers certainly do not have the right to endanger others' lives! Finally, even in cases where there are no injuries or deaths, damage to cars from these accidents costs us millions of dollars as well as countless hours of lost work. To me, banning cell phones while driving is common sense. In fact, a wide range of countries has already put this ban into effect, including Australia, Brazil, Japan, Russia, and Turkey. Driving a car is a privilege, not a right. We must all be careful drivers, and talking on a cell phone when driving is not safe.

(Great Writing 2: Great Paragraphs)

4. Đề luyện tập Write a paragraph (150-200 words) on the following topics:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "Young people should decide whether to join the army or not on their own."?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "Young people should be required to buy health insurance."?
3. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "People have no right to keep exotic animals as their home pets."?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "Parents should be more engaged in the educational process and what can they do to help kids with homework more efficiently."?

5. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "Students should learn only subjects they like."?

SAMPLE SHORT PARAGRAPHS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

COMPUTER

Nowadays, a computer is very important to everyone. We can use it to find information, play games, store documents, listen to music or chat with friend...

Last year, I bought a laptop in Thanh Hoa city. First, It was very difficult for me to use it. Then, I learnt myself on the internet and some my friends help me to use it. Now I can do various things with my laptop.

Computer is very useful for my job. Every day, I login and check mails from my colleagues. I can finish my job earlier by using my computer.

Computer helps me to find information such as news, inform of your favorite stars or find a job. I can read many kinds of newspapers such as Dantri, vietnamnet, vnexpress, 24h ...etc.

Computer is a source of entertainment. Whenever we fell tired or stress, we can play games on computer. I can listen to music and watch a lot of films.

I usually use my computer for communicating. I can send and get emails. I have a good friend but she is in Ho Chi Minh City, so I can't visit her. Thanks to computer, we can chat together and exchange our documents. She can talk about her life, her school, her friend in Ho Chi Minh and I can too.

In my opinion without the computer, my life with very dull. I love my computer.

A RESTAURANT THAT YOU LIKE

I have eaten in many restaurants so far. My favorite restaurant is Dalan. It is located at the center in Thanh Hoa city. In my opinion, the restaurant "DA LAN" is best places to eat in Thanh Hoa cities.

The facilities in Dalan are very good. There are a lot of large rooms with modern equipment, so we can celebrate various events such as weddings, birthdays, parties.... The waiters and waitress here are very helpful and friendly. They are willing to answer your questions and help you if you need. When you order your food they service very quickly.

Besides it has a very interesting and varied cuisine. It is also a bar. The dishes here are very delicious. The price is very reasonable. Most of the people who have ever eaten Dalan are satisfied with it.

I think Dalan restaurant is getting more and more famous. I hope I will have more chances to eat there.

LOTTERY WIN.

Yesterday, I won the lottery. I got 100 million. I am very happy now and I'm wondering what to do with that money. I think I will do a variety of things.

First, I will buy presents for my wife and my son. I think I will buy a new motorbike. Now my family has only a motorbike. We have to share it every day. I remember buying it ten years ago when we had just got married. We want to buy a new one but we do not have enough money. I intend to buy some comics and many toys for my son. Second, I will buy a misting fan and a LCD television for my parents. These things will certainly make them happy. The weather in Vietnam is very hot in the summer, so the misting fan will make my parents feel more comfortable. Besides that, they can watch their favorite films on that new deletion.

Third, I will send a small part of my money to help the poor children in my village. I will buy some new clothes and some new books for them. I think my gifts will alleviate their difficulties.

A hundred million is not a large amount, but I can do many things if I know how to spend sensibly.

ACCIDENT

Last week, while I was going to Thanh Hoa city, I saw a horrible accident on the road in Dong Son. I stopped and looked around. A man lying on the road and his wife was crying besides. His head was bleeding a lot. He was unconsciuous. Someone was covering his head with a long bandage. I thought his head hit on the road. Some people standing around said that he was over drunk but he still controlled his motorbike and his wife sitting behind. I thought that he should be taken him to hospital as soon as possible, so I called 115 and asked the hospital to send an umbulance and a nurse here.

5 minutes later, an ambulance appeared and took him to hospital. I continued my journey to the city with a real worry for that injured man.

It's very dangerous to drive after drinking alcohol. People had better obey traffic rules so we will have a happier life.

FESTIVAL

Mid Autumn is a special Festival in some countries of Asia in general and Vietnam in particular. In fact, Mid Autumn is the festival which is for children. In Vietnam, this festival originated from the legend: The moon and a kid. The legend explains why the moon is shiniest in mid autumn and why people see a banian tree and a kid on the moon. The moon is called Sister Moon and the kid is Cuoi.

Mid Autumn Festival begins from 14 to 15 in the August in Vietnamese lunar calendar. In these days, children are going to pick the lantern up and go around streets or towns. Children will be given gifts such as pies, candies , star lanterns... They often see lion dance or musical concert. They also join in the mid-autumn lantern parade at night .

However, mid autumn festival is also festival for business. The streets have many stores that sell pies, cakes, toys..etc. This is an opportunity for many people to enjoy many kinds of cake. Pie mid autumn is a kind of special cake that is only in mid autumn festival. The Pie mid autumn has special taste. It is sweet smelling and very delicious. Almost Vietnamese people love pie mid autumn and buy it for family.

Mid Autumn became a tradition festival in Vietnam. It is a part of Vietnamese culture. Anyone who grown up in Vietnam is regular knowing and joining in this festival.

FREETIME ACTIVITIES

As a student, I am quite busy on weekdays. However, at weekends, I have much free time, so I usually spend it on relaxing to prepare for a coming busy week.

First of all, in my free time, I like playing some sports, such as soccer, badminton or basketball, with my friends. Sport not only makes me stronger but also connects me with my friends who have the same hobbies. We sometimes go riding in order that we can combine sporting activity and sightseeing.

If the weather is not fine enough for me to go out with my friends, I like reading books. I have a big bookshelf with many kinds of books but I prefer science books. Through these books, my knowledge is gradually widened.

Thirdly, I also love to listen to music from pop, dance, rock 'n roll to rap or melody. I can listen to music at any place with a small but modern Ipod which is my father's gift for my 12th birthday. Sometimes, I dance freely when listening to my favorite songs. Music really paints my life.

Last but not least, I spend my free time on surfing on Internet. I can chat with my friends from very far distance or I read online news. With Internet, I update many things without having to go anywhere. I can also study English through some interesting websites. In conclusion, I want to use all of my free time to relax and connect with other people.

THE MID- AUTUMN FESTIVAL

There are many festivals in a year in Viet Nam .Today I want to talk about one of them.It's the mid-autumn festival

By tradition the Vietnamese people love their children so much that they organize Mid-Autumn festival for themselves but mainly for their children

This festival is celebrated on the 15th of the eighth month in the lunar calendar .It's called Mid-Autumn festival because this festival takes place exactly in the middle of Autumn when the moon is full.

The preparations for the festival are made a month before .The moon cakes and toys as well as the lanterns of various designs are sold at the market or on the street .People buy moon cake either for themselves or for their children .Some people buy moon cakes as gifts for their friends and relatives .

On that day adults eat moon cakes over their tea while children are served moon cakes,Mid-Autumn festival food and fruit .Children are very keen on marching in a procession of lanterns in shapes of various things and animals too.They are excited and amused by Mid-Autumn toys and lanterns.

It's very interesting to celebrate the Mid- Autumn festival by tradition .

How delighted we feel watching the bright full moon on a cool and breezy evening of Mid-Autumn .

DEFORESTATION

As we know, forests cover approximately one fifth of the worlds land surface and play an important role in our everyday lives. They are one of the most necessary natural resources that have been gifted to mankind. They not only have major role in enhancing the quality of our environment but also influence local and global climate. Forests are also our nation's wealth.

Can you picture our earth without forests, we can, t, but the problem is that “deforestation”. It is a major concern in today's society.

Each year, millions of woodlands are destroyed, the varied species of animals and insects from the forests are extinct. Moreover, the uncontrollable wildfires fueled by weather, wind and dry underwood not only consume our beautiful forests but also the wildlife, our homes and the lives of those who fight the wildfires.

Deforestation is causing many social, economic and ecological problems. One ecological problem is global warming that changes the climate of the whole world. With deforestation we are basically cutting our own lungs. We take away an ecosystem that produces major oxygen and filter our carbon dioxide, destroying forests products influences nation, s wealth, too.

Direct causes of deforestation are agricultural expansion, wood extraction, infrastructural expansion such as road, building and urbanization.

Such activities result in flash floods, land slides and soil erosion, wild animals are robbed of their natural habitats, with fewer trees there is an increase in carbon dioxide but a decrease in oxygen production.

If forests are destroyed, there is no way that human can survive. From oxygen that we breathe in, the food that we eat, to the clothes we wear, we own it to the trees. We won't have fuel, fodder, timber, medicine and other products from the trees.

So what we should do immediately to change it and solve it. Forests can be protected by things we do everyday.

Firstly, we can use recycled paper to help save trees. We avoid destroying paper by consuming less paper and recycling them because one ton of recycled papers save approximately 15 big trees.

Secondly, we need to conserve the old forests, rainforests and plant more forests to make place for wild animals to live. Where deforestation has taken it should be followed by reforestation. I suggest that everyone should sow seeds to grow at least one tree every year.

Thirdly, every citizen from the young to the old especially students in schools should be educated on the benefits of forests and ways of reusing and recycling papers. Everyone should know that man is really trying to destroy forests and directly cutting his life span, actually cutting one tree is equal to subtracting one day of his life .So everyone should protect our forests, prevent wildfires and remind each other to carry out. I think that any act of kindness, no matter how small is never wasted. Beside that our government needs to promulgate effective laws to punish offenders.

In conclusion, I would like to say that forests are our life. So please take care of our forests as well as our earth. I hope that our planet will be more and more green.

READING

Of course, reading is one area you in how to learn English well, but this is something you can learn on your own quite effectively, outside of the classroom or even around other people. Keep a dictionary with you so that you can look up unfamiliar words. Then, you can write these words down in a notebook and use them in a conversation so that when you try to use them again, they will come to you much more easily.

Newspapers, magazines and books all help you learn English well. If you're just starting out, try reading children's books to start. This is especially helpful for people just starting to learn English. There are some books specifically written for people just starting to learn English; the words are quite simple and yet effective enough that if you use them, you can learn to speak simple English quite quickly.

If your English is more advanced, you can try reading from magazines books and newspapers. With these sources, English is more difficult, but they will challenge you if your English is advanced enough that you need more interesting things to read.

When you first begin to read English, don't try to understand every word. Instead, simply try to get a general idea of what you are reading; other words in the sentence will help you do this. If you don't understand the first time you read something, you can always go back later and use your dictionary to look up the words you don't quite know.

WRITING

Another idea in how to learn English well is with writing. When you write, you can practice your English as effectively as you do when you read, only more so. This is because you reinforce your understanding of the language by writing it, which is a physical movement. For best practice, write something every day in English, even if it's a letter to a friend, or a simple message. You can also keep a diary, and use your English skills to write down what happened to you during your day. Start with simple sentences and as you get better, make sentences longer and more complicated.

You can also use the Internet this way, because the Internet will let you "talk" with other people simply by writing. You can visit chat rooms, or write a blog. All of these things help you learn English through writing. When you write, you can also take another look at words you have learned in the past, and use them in sentences to make sure you know them well.

As you learn, you can also look at a variety of writing topics that help you improve your writing skill with graphics and sound. For those who are advanced, I highly recommend a whole range of tools to help both students and teachers improve their writing skills online. This will also help you continue to refine your English and become even more effective in the language.

PART III: ESSAY WRITING OVERVIEW

THEORY

DẠNG 1: DISCUSSION

✚ Hướng dẫn viết mẫu.

In recent years,**CHỦ ĐỀ**.....has become a broad issue to the general public. Some people believe that....**QUAN ĐIỂM 1**.... However, others think that.... **QUAN ĐIỂM 2**..... In my opinion, I agree with the **FORMER/ LATER** idea. Discussed below are several reasons supporting my perspective.

⇒ **Cách 1 dòng**

First and foremost, people should recognize that **QUAN ĐIỂM 1**. A very important point to consider is that..... **LÍ DO 1**..... This means that **GIẢI THÍCH 1**..... To illustrate this point, I would like to mention that.... **VÍ DỤ 1**..... Another point I would like to make is that.... **LÍ DO 2**..... This because of the fact that**GIẢI THÍCH 2**..... For example,...**VÍ DỤ 2**.....

⇒ **Xuống dòng nhưng không cách dòng**

On the other hand, there are several arguments in support of the idea that...**QUAN ĐIỂM 2**... It is also convincing to realise that... **LÍ DO**... This means that ... **GIẢI THÍCH**... A specific example of this is that... **VÍ DỤ**.

⇒ **Cách 1 dòng**

In conclusion, the above mentioned facts have created a dilemma when people evaluate the impact of this issue, and it is still a controversial issue. As far as I am concerned, I put more highlight on the idea that..... People should have further consideration on this issue.

DẠNG 2: AGREE- DISAGREE

✚ Hướng dẫn viết mẫu.

In recent years,**CHỦ ĐỀ**.....has become a broad issue to the general public. Some people believe that....**QUAN ĐIỂM** In my opinion, I partly agree with this idea. Discussed below are several reasons in favor of my perspectives.

⇒ **Cách 1 dòng**

First and foremost, people should recognize that **QUAN ĐIỂM**. A very important point to consider is that..... **LÍ DO 1**..... This means that.....**GIẢI THÍCH 1**.....To illustrate this point, I would like to mention that.... **VÍ DỤ 1**..... Another point I would like to make is that.... **LÍ DO 2**..... This because of the fact that **GIẢI THÍCH 2**..... For example,...**VÍ DỤ 2**.....

⇒ **Xuống dòng nhưng không cách dòng**

On the other hand, there are several arguments against the statement that...**QUAN ĐIỂM** ... In fact, people have this opinion because.... **LÍ DO KHÔNG ĐỒNG Ý 1**.... This means that ...**GIẢI THÍCH**... This can be shown by the example that... **VÍ DỤ**

⇒ **Cách 1 dòng**

In conclusion, the above mentioned facts have created a dilemma when people evaluate the impact of this issue, and it is still a controversial issue. As far as I am concerned, it could have both positive and negative impacts. People should have further consideration on this issue.

DẠNG 3: ADVANTAGES – DISADVANTAGES

✚ Hướng dẫn viết mẫu.

In recent years,**CHỦ ĐỀ**.....has become a broad issue to the general public. Some people believe that.... **QUAN ĐIỂM/ CHỦ ĐỀ**.....has many advantages. However, others think that it could also have some negative effects. In my opinion, its cons could never overshadow its pros. Discussed below are several benefits as well as drawbacks of this issue.

⇒ Cách 1 dòng

First and foremost, people should recognize that there are many advantages of **CHỦ ĐỀ**. A very important point to consider is that **THUẬN LỢI 1** This means that.....**GIẢI THÍCH CHO THUẬN LỢI 1** To illustrate this point, I would like to mention that.... **VÍ DỤ 1**..... Another point I would like to make is that.... **THUẬN LỢI 2**..... This because of the fact that **GIẢI THÍCH CHO THUẬN LỢI 2**..... For example,... **VÍ DỤ 2**.....

⇒ Xuống dòng nhưng không cách dòng

On the other hand, in addition to the important advantages of this problem, it has some disadvantages. In fact, people have this opinion because.... **BẤT LỢI** This means that.... **GIẢI THÍCH**..... This can be shown by the example that....**VÍ DỤ**.....

⇒ Cách 1 dòng

In conclusion, the above mentioned facts have outlined the benefits as well as the drawbacks of this issue. Its advantages should be taken into account. People should take advantage of the pros and minimize the cons of this issue.

DẠNG 4: CAUSES- EFFECTS (NGUYÊN NHÂN VÀ HỆ QUẢ)

✚ Hướng dẫn viết mẫu.

In recent years,**CHỦ ĐỀ**.....has become a broad issue to the general public. Some people believe that.... **QUAN ĐIỂM 1** Although noticeable, the impact of this issue has not been realised by many residents. Discussed below are several causes as well as effects of this issue.

⇒ Cách 1 dòng

First and foremost, people should recognize that there are several main reasons supporting the idea that**QUAN ĐIỂM** A very important point to consider is that..... **NGUYÊN NHÂN 1**..... This means that.....**GIẢI THÍCH 1** To illustrate this point, I would like to mention that.... **VÍ DỤ 1** Another point I would like to make is that.... **NGUYÊN NHÂN 2**..... This because of the fact that **GIẢI THÍCH 2**..... For example,... **VÍ DỤ 2**.....

⇒ Xuống dòng nhưng không cách dòng

There are many serious effects of this issue. one primary effect would be that..... **HẬU QUẢ 1**..... In addition, **HẬU QUẢ 2**.....

⇒ Cách 1 dòng

In conclusion, the above - mentioned facts have outlined the reasons as well as the measures of this issue. Its causes and effects should be taken into account. People should have further consideration on this issue.

DẠNG 5: CAUSES – SOLUTIONS (NGUYÊN NHÂN VÀ GIẢI PHÁP)

✚ Hướng dẫn viết mẫu.

In recent years,**CHỦ ĐỀ**.....has become a broad issue to the general public. Some people believe that.... **QUAN ĐIỂM 1** Although noticeable, the impact of this issue has not been realised by many residents. Discussed below are several causes as well as solutions of this issue.

⇒ Cách 1 dòng

First and foremost, people should recognize that there are several main reasons supporting the idea that**QUAN ĐIỂM** A very important point to consider is that..... **NGUYÊN NHÂN 1**..... This means that.....**GIẢI THÍCH 1** To illustrate this point, I would like to mention that.... **VÍ DỤ 1** Another point I would like to make is that.... **NGUYÊN NHÂN 2**..... This because of the fact that **GIẢI THÍCH 2**..... For example,... **VÍ DỤ 2**.....

⇒ **Xuống dòng nhưng không cách dòng**

In order to resolve such problems, people should take some concerted measures. One primary solution would be that.... **GIẢI PHÁP 1**.... In addition, **GIẢI PHÁP 2**.... However, education is the main way to tackle this issue. People need to be aware of the effects so that they can avoid this problem.

⇒ **Cách 1 dòng**

In conclusion, the above - mentioned facts have outlined the reasons as well as the measures of this issue. The presented suggestions would be very good steps towards solving them. People should have further consideration on this issue.

SAMPLE ESSAYS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

TEST 1

As children grow older, they become increasingly involved with their peer group, a group whose members are about the same age and have similar interests. The peer group-along with the family and the school- is the one of the three main socializing agents. The peer groups is both a positive and negative influence in our life.

Write an essay to discuss the effects of peer group on children

As children grow older, they become increasingly involved with their peer group, a group whose members are about the same age and have similar interests. The peer group - along with the family and the school - is one of the three main socializing agents. However, the peer group is very different from the family and the school. Whereas parents and teachers have more power than children and students, the peer group is made up of equals.

The adolescent peer group teaches its members several important things. Firstly, it teaches them to be independent from adult. Secondly, it teaches social skills that are how to get along with other people and they can handle any difficult in their life. Thirdly, the peer group teaches its members the values of friendship among equals. For example, they can share hobbies together and learn many good things from others.

Beside its positive effects, the peer group including some negative things. To begin with, they imitate bad behaviors of their friends. For example, smoking or drinking and taking part in fighting groups. In addition to, they will also neglect their studying. Moreover, this group also increases the distance of teenagers and their parents because they like joining social activities more than concentrating on learning in school.

In conclusion, the peer group is good or bad depending on themselves. Doing what everyone else is doing is more important than being independent and individual. However, they should adopt adult values, such as wanting to get good grades and good jobs.

TEST 2

Write an essay to discuss both advantages and disadvantages of advertizing

Owing to the development of the mass media, in general, the advertising industry in all over the world has been booming. Although most people agree that this offers tremendous benefits, some say that it may cause negative effect.

It cannot be denied that advertising has a great number of advantages. Firstly, all companies must make people know their brands by means of media when selling items. Secondly, advertisements suggest people what they demand to lead a more convenient life and where to purchase products with best quality. As a result, customers find themselves have more choices on the outlet. Finally, advertising is a creative industry that employs a wide range of people and most jobs related to advertising are now considered well-paying most.

The advertisement, on the other hand, shows many drawbacks. One of them is that they persuade people to buy a product without telling them the disadvantages of it. This has led to the overstatement and even false information of an item's use that we see in advertising industry nowadays. Furthermore, advertising also encourages people to follow the latest trend and causes them to shop lavishly. In addition, many commercials aim at children's interest thus they probably put pressure on their parents to buy the items advertised.

In conclusion, advertising is a form of modern business that every company needs in order to inform people about their products. However, it may be disadvantageous when it stimulates or even deceives people to buy them things a great deal.

TEST 3

Write an essay to discuss negative effects of the Internet

Write an essay to an educated reader to discuss the negative effects of the Internet. Include reasons and any relevant examples to support your answer.

With the development of science and technology, internet is one of the greatest invention of mankind in our modern society. It is widely used on global system. It not only becomes a useful and indispensable tool for us but also influences nearly every aspect of our life. It is certain that internet has brought to us many disadvantages.

Firstly, Internet is the most popular source of spreading viruses. These viruses create different problems in your computer. Viruses that can attack your privacy and get some information about you. It's hard to predict what will happen if you were hacked the account information.

Secondly, internet can have a bad effect to our health risks. We can suffer from many health problems such as optic disease, backache, even obesity and many other diseases due to using the internet for long hours.

The worse of all, it directly or indirectly influences to forming and developing of children's manner. It is widely seen bad programs on internet like pornographic scenes violent, sexual and action films, they are very harmful to children's mind and soul therefore juvenile crimes can't be inevitable and that can ruin all young generation.

In conclusion, it can be observed from the above arguments that the internet it's drawbacks. It has an extremely wide influence on our life. It is very useful to us when we know how to use it. Therefore, we should choose suitable internet programs and duration to use

TEST 4

Write an essay to discuss the benefits of staying single

Single lifestyle is more and more popular in our modern life. Many women choose to be single because of some reasons. Some of them have not met their Mr. Right while others prefer single lifestyle because of its benefits. Indeed, single life gives you many advantages.

Firstly, you can enjoy your life more when you are single. Being single, you have more time for yourself. You can spend all your time to work with your passion and to do your hobbies. Moreover, you also have time to take care of yourself better. When you get marriage, you have to spend your time to do housework, to look after your children and your husband. Some married women said that they even do not have enough time for making up or doing their individual hobbies.

Secondly, when you are single, you are not tied up by responsibilities with your husband or your children. There are no commitments with your husband about how to take care and educate your children or even how to live together happily. You will be more freedom when being single. You can do whatever you like; go wherever you want without any worries about your children and husband.

On the other hand, you will not be upset when your marriage is broken up. When you are single you can avoid this risk, therefore your life will be more wonderful.

In conclusion, being single is clearly a better lifestyle for women in such a modern life because of its mentioned above benefits. However, you should be an intelligent woman to choose rightly which one is better for you whether getting marriage or being a single woman.

TEST 5

Some people think that young people should be required to work for a year before they go to university. Such work gives young people valuable knowledge of the world, which in turns helps them to appreciate their studies and decide what they want to do in life. However, there are those argue that going to university immediately after school is a

Write an essay to discuss what choice in your opinion is better for young people in preparing them for the future career

While some nurture their belief that young people should be required to work for a year before they go to university, I strongly argue that going to university immediately after school is a much better option because of the rationale in the following essay.

A university education can be seen as a process of improving students' analytical thinking. The variety of courses offered at university inspires students in various ways, therefore improving their analytical ability. For example, science courses such as math and biology help students develop a rational way of thinking whereas arts courses such as literature have to let students ponder over issues from a logical, multi-dimensional perspective; and courses in social sciences force students to recognize the ideas that have been traditionally assumed to be acceptable and unproblematic. With the development of these types of analytical thinking, graduates can face future challenges with more confidence and enthusiasm.

Also, university education is expected to improve students' moral standards. This is rooted in universities' belief that students' awareness of responsibility towards their community and their country is of high importance. In this society and civilization, students are encouraged to actively participate in improving the local community. A university that provides care and facilities for physically disadvantaged students may inspire the graduates to better handle situations in the future where they may have to interact with the disabled community. A successful university education is supposed to produce morally sound graduates, therefore increasing their employability.

In conclusion, university education not only helps students locate a decent job but will also develop other qualities. Thus, I believe students should be encouraged to enter university to broaden their knowledge first.

TEST 6

In modern society, fashion is becoming more highly valued in people's choice of clothes. Nowadays, it is not uncommon to see people walking around in brand-name clothes and sunglasses like celebrities. While some people think it is a positive development, others blame for negative aspects of fashion obsession.

Write an essay to discuss your opinion about fashion consciousness.

Nowadays, fashion plays an important role of our modern life. While people think it is a positive development, others criticize the fashion obsession.

Fashion is mainly about clothes. Clothes today are not only for covering your body, they represent for many aspects relating to one person such as personality, hobby, social class. Your clothes can show who you are, what you like, what you tend to be, etc. Therefore, choosing what to wear is an essential part of daily life. Brand-name clothes, sunglasses and other things can make you more stylish in people's eyes. That is why people say that: "Clothes make the man".

However, some people are blaming for negative aspect of fashion obsession. What is fashion obsession? It's a kind of obsession that people who have it always think about fashion. They can spend all time just to think about what to wear today or what clothes to buy when they are shopping. In their point of view, fashion is all. It is absolutely not good. Fashion is an important part, but it is not all of our lives. This kind of obsession makes people deeply sink into fashion and they cannot care about anything except clothes.

Although the fashion obsession brings disadvantages, people should also care about fashion. Polite and suitable wearing is the best way to show your fashion awareness. Moreover, fashion is a big industry in the world and it more and more meets people's demand for wearing now. In short, paying attention to fashionable clothes is good, but don't let it obsesses you.

TEST 7

Some people think governments should spend as much money as possible exploring outer space (for example travelling to the Moon and to other planets). Other people disagree and think governments should spend this money for our basic needs on the Earth.

Whether governments should subsidize outer-space exploration is a subject of debate. While some people expect that amount of budget should be for improving humans' quality of life, I would contend that this branch of science should be given as much financial assistance as possible.

To begin with, that many aspects of our life are quite improved is partly attributed to the development of necessary technologies like satellites and rockets in recent years. For example, we can communicate with each other in a more convenient way thanks to achievements in the aerospace science. A great number of jobs and research fields in universities are also created since that science has become popular.

In addition, the Earth is being overcrowded, which means we no longer have sufficient space and resources for next generations. Exploring outer space provided us with a chance to find out another planet that is suitable for most creatures on Earth, including humans, to live on. It is as well an opportunity to discover certain huge resources or elements on other planets to be the substitution for some exhausted ones on our planet. As the root of poor living standards is the shortage of living space and resources on Earth, it is rational to have more sponsorship for the space science to deal with those difficulties and fulfill humans' basic needs

To conclude, although the improvement of humans' living standards is an important task for any administration, it seems to me that it is a right thing for governments to spend more money on space programs to resolve the urgent issue on Earth.

TEST 8

Discuss what ages in your opinion are more suitable to begin learning a foreign language

In modern world, language plays an indispensable role in both studies and jobs as well as during socializing. Many believe that students at primary schools should start learning a new foreign language and should not wait till secondary school level, while others hold the opposite point of view. As for me, I side with the first one.

On the one hand, children at young age are fast learners. Because children are more flexible and they can grasp any language very easily. Moreover, there is a fact that little kids approximately between five and nine years have a capacity to remember things twice as fast and effectively than another aged people. For example, some children can even start three different languages, such English, French and German together when they are six years old.

On the other hand, more subjects open in secondary school is the other main reason that a new foreign language should be started at younger age. Children start to learn some new subjects, such as Chemistry, Biology and History. The more classes they have, the more homework they need to do after school. Obviously, they would spend little time on a foreign language. There is no doubt that it takes time to master a foreign language, especially the pronunciation. If they spend enough time on practicing their speaking ability, they can speak English more fluently. Therefore, children should learn a foreign language at primary school, instead of secondary school.

In conclusion, in order to learn a foreign language, it is better to start it at primary school rather than secondary school for children. It is also the better way to make the future secured by further studies and applying for the good jobs as well.

TEST 9

Discuss the effects of technology in the classroom

There is a significantly increasing use of technology, such as tablets and laptops, in the classroom. It is often argued that this is a positive development, whilst others disagree and think it will lead to adverse consequence. It is agreed that an increase in technology is beneficial to students and teachers. This essay will take a closer look at this issue.

It is clear that the internet has provided students with access to more information than ever before. Moreover, learners have the ability to research and learn about any subject at the touch of a button. It is therefore agreed that technology is a very useful tool for education. Wikipedia is a prime example, where students can simply type in any keyword and gain access to in-depth knowledge quickly and easily.

However, many disagree and feel that technology deprives people of real human interaction. Human interaction teaches people valuable skills such as discourse, debate and empathy. Despite this, human interaction is still possible through the internet and this essay disagrees technology should be dismissed for this reason. For instance, Skype and Facebook make it possible for people to interact in ways that were never before possible.

In conclusion, while the benefits of technology, particularly the internet, allow students search limitless sources of information, some still feel that people should be wary of this new phenomenon and not allow it to curb face to face interaction. However, as long as we are careful to keep in mind the importance of human interaction in education, the educational benefits are clearly positive.

TEST 10

Effects of media on society

The media plays a big role in society that has both positive and negative effects. Yet, some wonder if the negative effects trump the positive ones. It is true people want to know what is going on in the world around them from their neighborhood to state, federal and international interests. But the media may have more of an effect on society that many are tired of being reminded of on a daily basis.

The media has an important job in providing informative information about things that may have an effect on you or how you live your life. The positive side includes learning about breakthroughs in health, technology, and other areas that can help make a difference now and in the future. At the same time you know what is going on in other places you may have connections with such as family, friends and so forth. The media can be a useful tool in helping you be aware of things that could be harmful or detrimental to you or your loved ones.

On the other hand, the media is known for taking things out of context and even causing panic when it is not necessary. There are certain networks and outlets that people realize they cater to certain audiences or provide information that may not be seem fair or correct. There are times in which too much information is shared or details could have been left to the imagination. There are events that happen in which the media is known for taking things too far such as mass shootings, terrorist attacks, and political controversies to name a few.

In conclusion, the media can help a consumer get the word out about something useful. Nowadays, it seems you have to be more careful about what you learn through the media since some sources are known to provide bogus information. Others see media as a form of entertainment since it can be interesting following stories you find hard to believe that actually happened.

TEST 11

Read the following text from an educational magazine.

Compulsory attendance in university has always been a highly debated subject. Professors view class attendance as an individual student responsibility. However, many students want to be given the freedom to decide which classes to attend. Due to the difficulty of regulating a school-wide attendance policy, most colleges and universities give professors the authority to set their own attendance rules. Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes. Others believe that going to classes should be optional for students.

Write an essay to an educated reader to tell which point of view you agree with. Include specific reasons and any relevant examples to support your answer

Still universities have options for their students to attend class. In my case, I do believe that class attendance should be required seriously since it would help students gain lectures from professors, interact with others to learn teamwork skills, improve relationships and keep away from distractions.

First of all, appearing at class brings students opportunities to met professors and gets practical advices from them. Professors' lectures summarize ideas on a subject so that students could save a great deal of time and efforts in figuring out general concepts. Moreover, professors with deep knowledge and experiences would provide students many expertises. Lacks of teachers' guidance possibly lead to shortage of understanding or even the opposite to primary thoughts. Therefore, attending class should be strictly mandatory.

Secondly, at classes, students could learn how to co-operate with the others. It would be worthy for them since the fact that almost nowadays employers consider their applicant's teamwork skills as a decisive factor. By going to class and interacting with other people, students are able to gain these experiences. Students who often stay at home would face up with troubles when trying to join a public group in the future.

Another reason for students to appear at class is that they could improve their relationship with the others. While study is the primary purpose of universities, meeting and making friend, in my opinion, should be considered as the following task. It is reasonable because students always spend much time on campus and the improvement of relationships has a lot of advantageous conditions, working and playing together for instance. Reality has shown that friends at schools are essential for not only a person's ordinary life but also his career.

Finally, attending class could keep student away from distractions. A huge number of possible causes might interrupt students from study, for example entertain games, parties, camping trips or even society

evil. In contrast, universities provide students with academic environment that help them focus on doing research as well as motivate their thoughts about career.

To sum up, tremendous critical benefits obtained from compulsory class attendance are obvious. Students studying at class could get severely essential directions from their teachers, train teamwork skills, enhance relationships with other people and avoid negative effects on study. Therefore, I strongly recommend that universities should considered attending class an indispensable part of their courses.

TEST 12

Read the following text from a health magazine.

Stress is the feeling of being under too much mental or emotional pressure. Pressure becomes stress when you feel unable to cope. Stress can affect how you feel, think, and behave and even how your body functions. It is worth taking the time to learn different strategies and techniques for managing your stress before there are serious consequences for your mental and physical well-being. People have different ways of escaping the stress and difficulties of modern life. Some read; some exercise; others work in their gardens.

Write an essay to an educated reader to tell what you think is the best way of reducing stress.

In modern life, stress is quite popular problem to everyone. Stress causes negative effects on both physical and mental health. Therefore, it has become a hot topic for many discussions to find solutions for stress. People may get stress when they suffer too much mental and emotional pressure. It is necessary to have suitable ways to manage these pressures before they cause an extremely stressful. In my views, I suggest 2 ways to reduce stress: talking with your friend and have a hobby

First of all, you may feel better if you talk with your friends at a coffee station. I think spending time with friends is a good way to get everything that bothers you out of your mind and also it is a good way to have good friendships. For example, I hang out with my friends when I have some stress in studying. When hanging out with friends, we talk about funny stories like travelling, shopping and so on. Therefore, I can forget all my study and projects.

Next, a great hobby will make you reduce stress effectively. There are a large number of things you can do such as exercise, yoga, reading, painting and so on. Listening music is my favorite hobby. When I have sadness or emotional pressure, I often open English songs. After listening music, I can relieve all stress from working or life.

To sum up, there are various ways that may help you to deal with stress such as talking with your friends and having a hobby. It would be great for you if you know how to balance everything in life because it is worthy to have happy life without stress.

TEST 13

Read the following text from a business magazine.

Success is the most aspired by everyone. Success comes in all shapes and colors. You can be successful in your job and career but you can equally be successful in your marriage, at sports or a hobby. However, success is not easy to achieve. The road leading to the achievement has obstacles that are to be crossed over. Some people believe that success in life comes from taking risks or chances. Others believe that success results from careful planning.

“Success” is the word that urges people to try hard to get no matter how hard things in life are. Some people think that success in life comes from taking risks or chances. Others believe that success results from careful planning. This essay will take a closer look at the issue.

On the one hand, for many people, success is the result of taking risks or chances in life. First, risks bring about valuable experience for people. Even if they cannot manage to overcome the problems, they consider themselves to be successful as they learnt a lot from the failure. Second, some people believe that chances also provide them with success. They claim that with an individual, opportunities are not always there for them to take and make plans with. There are sometimes once-in-a-lifetime chances that people may regret if these are not taken. Therefore, once people take advantages of these opportunities, their success is much more meaningful.

On the other hand, others argue that there will be no success if people do not make careful plans. First of all, it is believed that planning helps things better. A person provided with a chance may find it easier to perform if s/he makes schedules thoroughly. On the contrary, even the person could get stuck in the middle of the process without a plan and s/he may fail. In addition, they demonstrate that a person,

especially a businessperson is regarded to be careful if s/he has a clear plan to conduct steps. They ask to imagine a businessman required to take risks or chances who cannot make a careful planning of what and how to do. This person cannot be successful in his business.

In conclusion, success is not easy to achieve. How successful a person is may depend on both risks or chances taken and careful planning. For me, to succeed in life, people should take full advantages of risks and find ways to schedule for the risks so that we can achieve successfully.

TEST 14

Read the following text from an education magazine.

While compulsory education in some countries such as England begins at the age of five (with many children actually starting at four), in countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Finland, school does not begin until the age of seven.

There are two different points of view regarding this. Some people think that children should begin their formal education at a very early age and should spend most of their time on school studies. Others believe that young children should spend most of their time playing.

Write an essay to an educated reader to tell which point of view you agree with.

Childhood is one of the most important and memorable periods of our lives. We come into the world innocent and unaware and in just a few short years make great physical and mental progress. Although play is an important component of our young lives, in my view, there are significant benefits to be gained from beginning formal education at an early age. My view is based on intellectual and social reasons.

Intellectually, the period from birth to six years is the most significant for brain growth. A child who is surrounded by a rich multi-sensory environment develops infinitely more connection between brain cells, which are the basis of what we call “intelligence”. In this connection, the process of learning to read is of particular significance because it has such a strong positive influence on neural development. Although parents can provide this early intellectual stimulation, in most cases working parents find it difficult to do so. This strengthens the case for enrolling children in a formal education system, which can provide the necessary resources and trained personnel to bring out the best in the child.

Socially, being in a school environment teaches children both how to behave themselves and also how to get along with other children and adults. These lessons in human behaviour are as important as the formal subjects a child must study. By learning how to follow rules, take turns and be respectful a child becomes a part of the social nexus to which we all belong. The formal academic experience, in an objective context, away from the family structure, also satisfies the child’s growing sense of independence. Most children often “play school” in any case, particularly if they have older siblings.

In conclusion, early education offers children a host of benefits at different levels. A child can always play after coming home; in the meantime, the school experience sets the child on a path to success and self-confidence in a competitive, demanding world.

TEST 15

Write an essay to an educated reader to discuss your opinions about the positive and negative aspects of online shopping. Include reasons and any relevant examples to support your answer. You should write at least 250 words.

In this 21st century the growth of internet has changed our way of life, these days nothing is hard, we can do everything online such as watching movies, reading books, paying bills, shopping online, etc.,. These days online shopping is becoming very popular and has become the best choice for many people who do shopping regularly. However, shopping online has some of positive and negative aspects in life.

First and foremost it is the best, easiest and safest shopping in the history. Even at midnight we can do our shopping since it is open 24/7 days and perhaps you can purchase any item from online store without going to the store physically. Secondly, it is affordable and convenient to do shopping online. And moreover we need not have to wait in heavy traffic to reach the store in our area. Lastly, this shopping helps us in keeping our friends and family together all the time, by sending special gifts on behalf of us that ranges from flowers to perfumes, from chocolate to jewellery items, etc, on their special occasions even if we are far away from them.

However, there are some negative impacts of shopping online. Online shopping has not been the safest place to shop. Even in traditional malls there are shoplifters, thieves, and bullies. But online shopping is one of the places where identity theft occurs most frequently. Privacy and security on the

Internet is not as secure as it should be. Online shopping sites have tried to take precautions to minimize these issues. Web sites are improving their security and surveillance on a daily basis.

To conclude, as we have found out there is no easy answers to this question. Nevertheless, shopping online makes a huge difference to peoples' lives in term of time saving and I believe that this is a positive impact in our society.

PART 4: VIẾT BIỂU ĐỒ

I. Dạng bài miêu tả biểu đồ

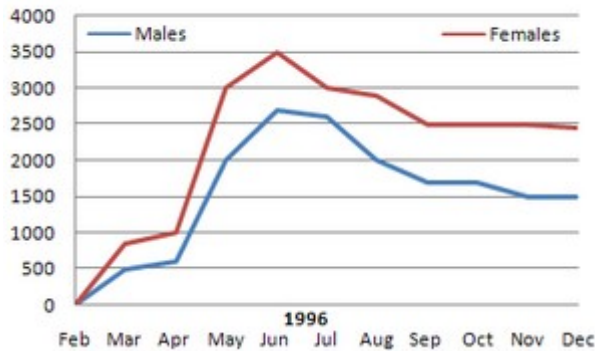
1. Các dạng biểu đồ hay gặp

Các dạng biểu đồ đều có một đặc điểm chung, chúng đều đại diện cho các con số. Nhiệm vụ của bạn là phải mô tả lại các con số đó.

Có bốn loại biểu đồ bạn cần phải mô tả:

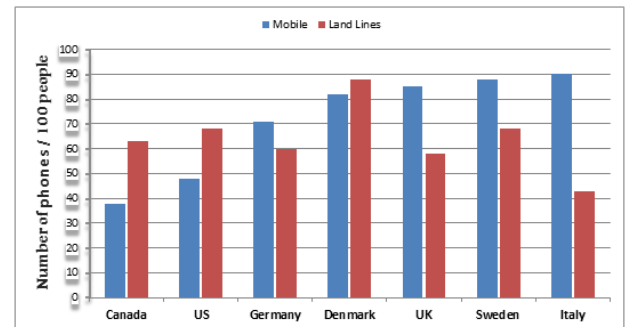
Biểu đồ đường (Line graph)

Flu Rates for Males and Females



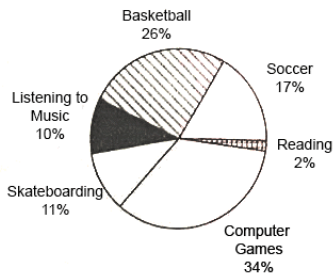
Biểu đồ tròn (Pie chart)

Mobile Phones and Land Lines per 100 people

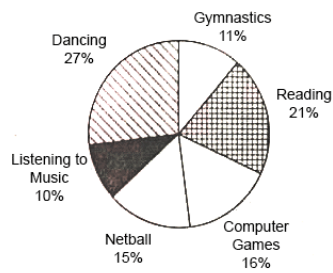


Biểu đồ cột (Bar graph)

Boys' Cultural and Leisure Activities



Girls' Cultural and Leisure Activities



Bảng (Tables)

	Food and drink	Housing	Clothing	Entertainment
France	25%	31%	7%	13%
Germany	22%	33%	15%	19%
UK	27%	37%	11%	11%
Turkey	36%	20%	12%	10%
Spain	31%	18%	8%	15%

2. Cách lựa chọn những thông tin chính

a. Lựa chọn thông tin cho phần overview

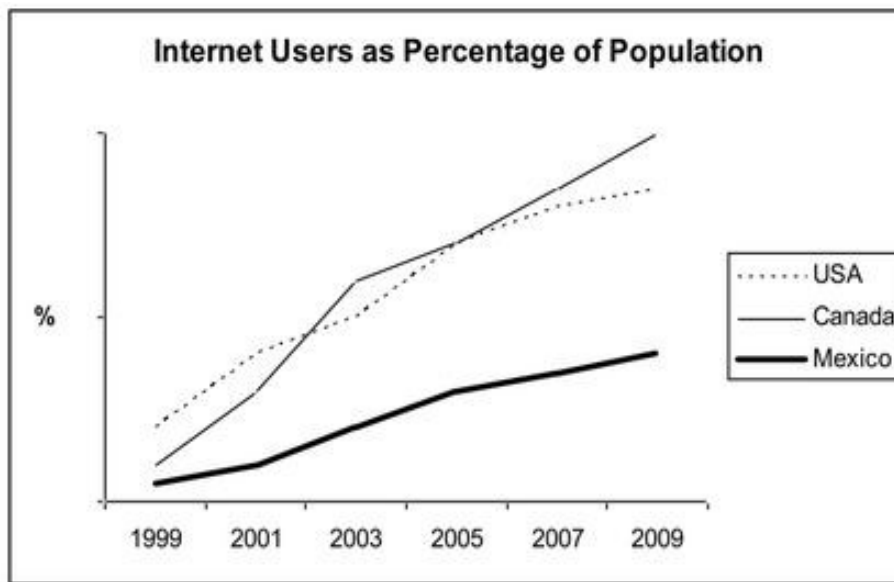
Trong phần này, giám khảo muốn đánh giá khả năng chọn lọc những điểm nổi bật nhất xuất hiện trong biểu đồ. Những đặc điểm này bao gồm:

- **Đặc điểm về xu hướng:** tăng hay giảm?
- **Đặc điểm về độ lớn:** cao nhất? thấp nhất? thay đổi nhiều nhất?

Lưu ý: Không đưa số liệu cụ thể!

Ví dụ:

Internet Users as Percentage of Population



Xu hướng:

- **Đặc điểm về xu hướng:** số người sử dụng Internet đều tăng ở các quốc gia
- **Đặc điểm về độ lớn:** Canada và USA là hai nước có người sử dụng Internet lớn hơn so với Mexico, trong đó ở Canada là nhiều nhất.

Sample Overview:

It is clear that the proportion of the population who used the Internet increased in each country over the period shown. Overall, a much larger percentage of Canadians and Americans had access to the Internet in comparison with Mexicans, and Canada experienced the fastest growth in Internet usage. (Nguồn: *ielts-simon.com*)

b. Lựa chọn thông tin cho phần Body

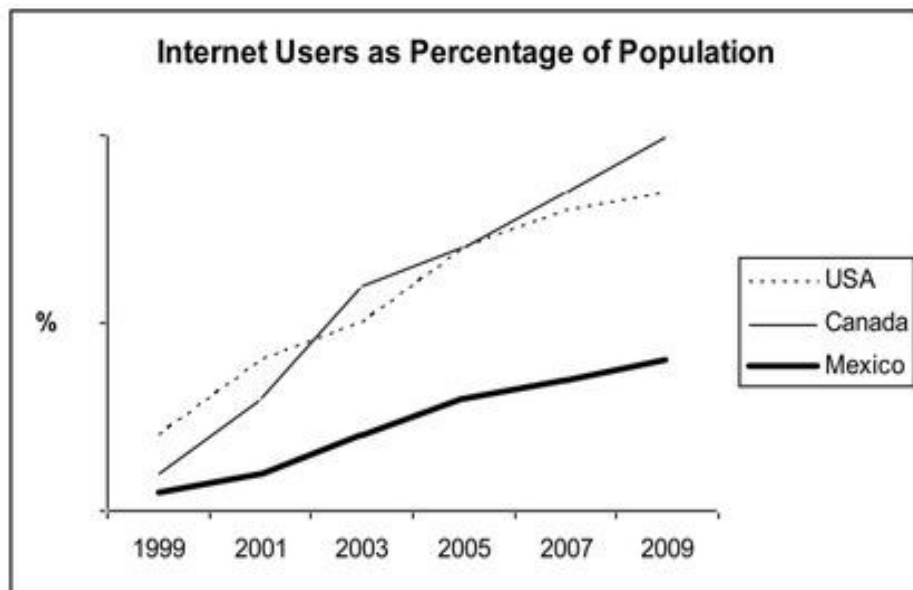
Phần lớn các thí sinh khi đi thi đều cảm thấy khó khăn khi phải chọn ra thông tin cần thiết để viết vào bài. Vì vậy, các bạn cần phải biết lựa chọn ưu tiên. Đề bài yêu cầu chúng ta **“select main features”** – chọn ra những đặc điểm chính. Do đó, chúng ta cần chọn ra 2-3 đặc điểm nổi bật và tập trung mô tả những đặc điểm đó.

Những chi tiết mà ta cần đưa vào trong bài đó là:

- **High/low values** – giá trị cao nhất/thấp nhất
- **Erratic values** – giá trị bất thường
- **Biggest increase/decrease** – tăng giảm nhiều nhất
- **Volatile data** – các số liệu biến động
- **Unchanging data** – các số liệu không thay đổi
- **Biggest majority/minority** – phần lớn nhất/nhỏ nhất (biểu đồ tròn)
- **Major trends** – các xu hướng chính
- **Notable exceptions** – những trường hợp ngoại lệ đáng lưu ý

Ví dụ:

Internet users as Percentage of Population



Đặc điểm chính:

- **Giá trị thấp nhất:** Vào năm 1999, số lượng người dùng internet ở cả ba nước đều thấp, ở Mỹ là 20%, Canada và Mexico thấp hơn với tỉ lệ lần lượt là 10% và 5%.
- **Xu hướng chính tăng lên:** Đến năm 2005, lượng người dùng tăng lên ở cả 3 nước, ở Mỹ và Canada chiếm 70% dân số, trong đó ở Mexico chiếm 25%
- **Giá trị cao nhất:** Đến năm 2009, số người dùng Internet của Canada chiếm 90% dân số, trong khi ở Mỹ và Mexico là 80% và 40%

Sample Body:

In 1999, the proportion of people using the Internet in the USA was about 20%. The figures for Canada and Mexico were lower, at about 10% and 5% respectively. In 2005, Internet usage in both the USA and Canada rose to around 70% of the population, while the figure for Mexico reached just over 25%.

By 2009, the percentage of Internet users was highest in Canada. Almost 100% of Canadians used the Internet, compared to about 80% of Americans and only 40% of Mexicans. (Nguồn: *ielts-simon.com*)

Tips for table!

Đối với dạng bài có liên quan đến bảng, các thí sinh thường gặp khó khăn hơn trong việc đưa ra thông tin chính bởi bảng chứa rất nhiều con số. Dưới đây là một số tips giúp các bạn giải quyết các bài về bảng:

- Trước khi viết, hãy tìm ra những **con số nổi bật**, hãy chọn ra số lớn nhất của mỗi tiêu chí trong bảng (ví dụ ở mỗi cột, mỗi hàng)
- Nếu trong bảng có đề cập về thời gian, tìm ra **con số lớn nhất qua các năm**
- Trong phần overview, phân tích và so sánh các tiêu chí theo **các hàng và cột**
- Trong phần body, các bạn không bao giờ được mô tả từng tiêu chí mà hãy chọn **số liệu lớn nhất và thấp nhất ở từng tiêu chí** và so sánh chúng với nhau.

Ví dụ:

The table below gives information on consumer spending on different items in five different countries in 2002.

Percentage of national consumer expenditure by category - 2002

Country	Food/Drinks/ Tobacco	Clothing/ Footwear	Leisure/ Education
Ireland	28.91%	6.43%	2.21%
Italy	16.36%	9.00%	3.20%
Spain	18.80%	6.51%	1.98%
Sweden	15.77%	5.40%	3.22%
Turkey	32.14%	6.63%	4.35%

Overview:

- Food/Drinks/Tobacco là lĩnh vực có lượng chi tiêu cao nhất
- Leisure/Educatin là lĩnh vực có lượng chi tiêu thấp nhất

Sample overview:

It is clear that the largest proportion of consumer spending in each country went on food, drinks and tobacco. On the other hand, the leisure/education category has the lowest percentages in the table.

Body:

- Ireland và Turkey hai nước có lượng chi tiêu trong lĩnh vực food/drinks/tobacco nhiều nhất. Turkey cũng là nước dẫn đầu về chi tiêu trong lĩnh vực leisure/education trong khi Italy là nước dẫn đầu về chi tiêu trong lĩnh vực clothing/footwear.
- Sweden là nước có chi tiêu thấp nhất trong hai lĩnh vực food/drinks/tobacco và clothing/footwear. Spain là nước có chi tiêu thấp nhất về leisure/education.

Body Sample:

Out of the five countries, consumer spending on food, drinks and tobacco was noticeably higher in Turkey, at 32.14%, and Ireland, at nearly 29%. The proportion of spending on leisure and education was also highest in Turkey, at 4.35%, while expenditure on clothing and footwear was significantly higher in Italy, at 9%, than in any of the other countries.

It can be seen that Sweden had the lowest percentages of national consumer expenditure for food/drinks/tobacco and for clothing/footwear, at nearly 16% and just over 5% respectively. Spain had slightly higher figures for these categories, but the lowest figure for leisure/education, at only 1.98%.

3. Dạng khác: Biểu đồ kết hợp

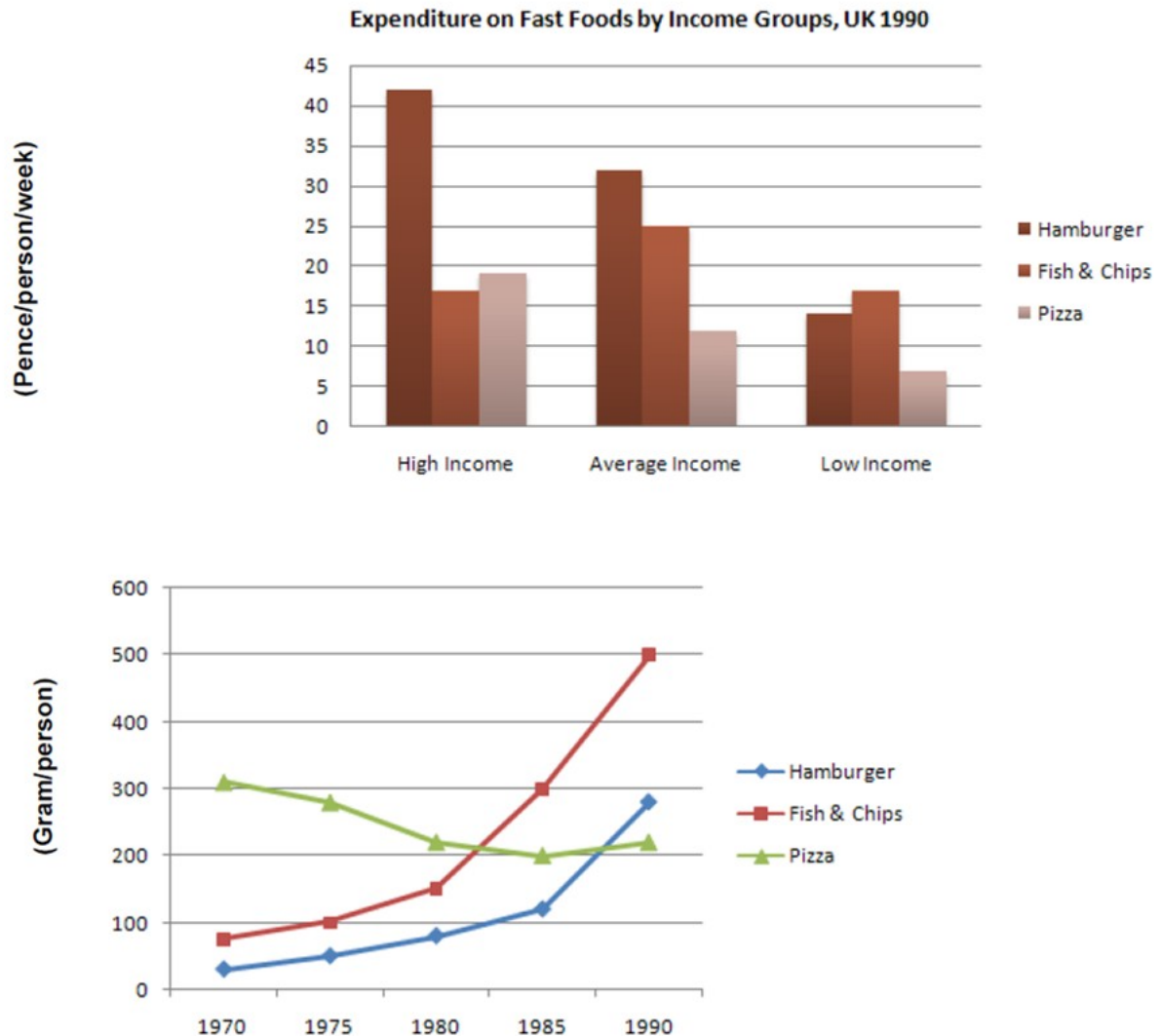
Một dạng biểu đồ khác mà ta hay gặp trong Writing Task 1, đó chính là dạng biểu đồ kết hợp, dạng bài có nhiều hơn một biểu đồ.

The chart below shows the amount of money per week spent on fast foods in Britain. The graph shows the trends in consumption of fast foods.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.



i. NHỮNG LỖI THƯỜNG GẶP KHI LÀM DẠNG BÀI BIỂU ĐỒ KẾT HỢP

- Viết quá nhiều thông tin

Cách khắc phục: chọn ra hai đặc điểm nổi bật nhất từ mỗi biểu đồ và chỉ tập trung mô tả về hai điểm đó. Vì đề bài yêu cầu “summerise” – tóm tắt và “report main features” – báo cáo những ý chính, do đó việc chúng ta viết hết các thông tin là sai.

- Không thể tìm thấy các điểm nổi bật

Cách khắc phục: nhìn vào hình ảnh mà không cần nhìn vào số liệu. Ngoài ra các bạn cũng nên tìm ra các giá trị lớn nhất, nhỏ nhất, xu hướng, thay đổi chính, và so sánh giữa hai biểu đồ hoặc trong cùng một biểu đồ.

- So sánh không đúng chỗ

Cách khắc phục: Nếu như không tìm thấy một sự so sánh nổi bật nào giữa hai biểu đồ, bạn hoàn toàn có thể bỏ qua. Và lưu ý rằng chúng ta có thể so sánh số liệu trong cùng một biểu đồ.

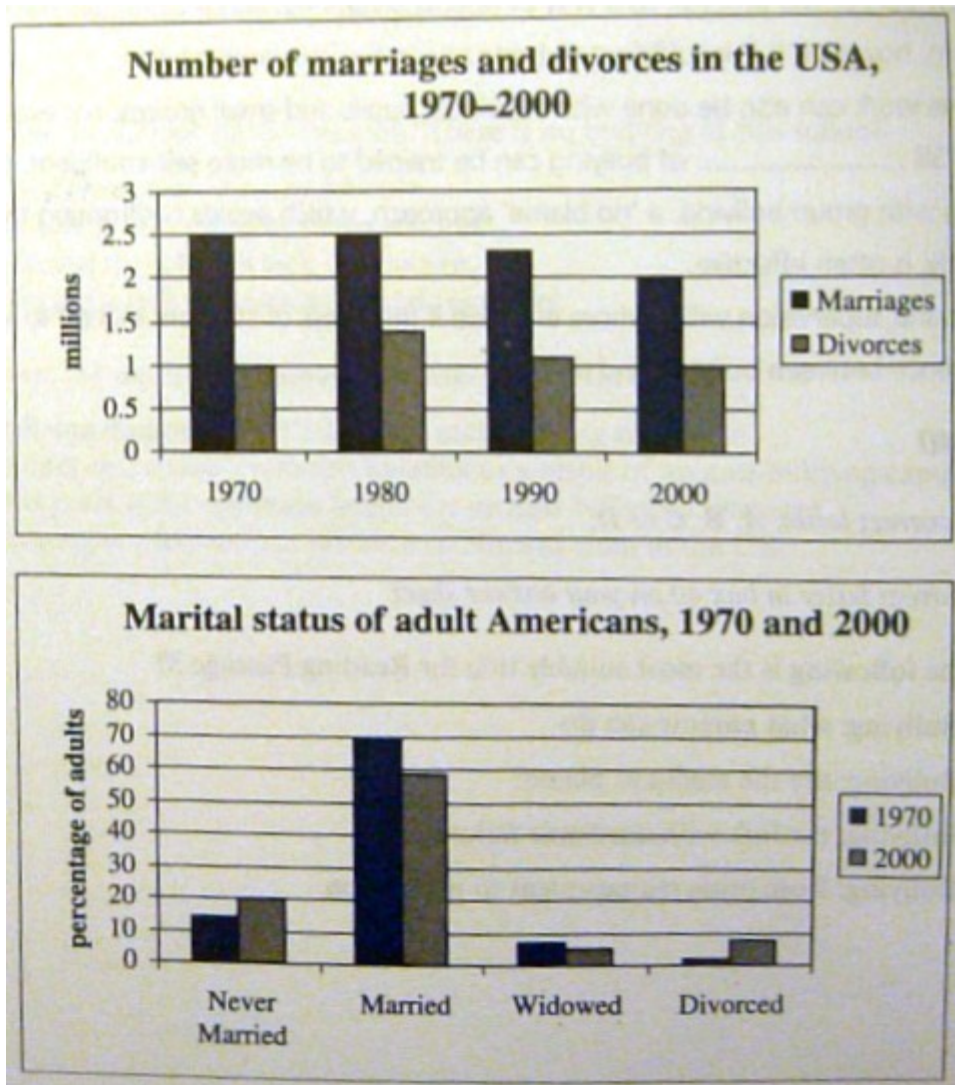
ii. TIPS LÀM BÀI BIỂU ĐỒ KẾT HỢP

1. Cấu trúc làm bài bao gồm: introduction, overview, và chia hai đoạn body dành cho mỗi biểu đồ
2. Nếu như đơn vị khác nhau chúng ta không nên so sánh
3. Nếu có cùng đơn vị chúng ta có thể so sánh
5. Nếu có nhiều hơn hai biểu đồ, ta có thể so sánh các biểu đồ

Ví dụ:

The charts below give information about USA marriage and divorce rates between 1970 and 2000, and the marital status of adult Americans in two of the years.

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



Sample Answer:

The first bar chart shows changes in the number of marriages and divorces in the USA, and the second chart shows figures for the marital status of American adults in 1970 and 2000.

It is clear that there was a fall in the number of marriages in the USA between 1970 and 2000. The majority of adult Americans were married in both years, but the proportion of single adults was higher in 2000.

In 1970, there were 2.5 million marriages in the USA and 1 million divorces. The marriage rate remained stable in 1980, but fell to 2 million by the year 2000. In contrast, the divorce rate peaked in 1980, at nearly 1.5 million divorces, before falling back to 1 million at the end of the period.

Around 70% of American adults were married in 1970, but this figure dropped to just under 60% by 2000. At the same time, the proportion of unmarried people and divorcees rose by about 10% in total. The proportion of widowed Americans was slightly lower in 2000. (Nguồn: ielts-simon.com)

II. NỀN TẢNG NGỮ PHÁP

1. Từ vựng miêu tả xu hướng

Xu hướng	Verb	Noun
	• Rise	• A rise
	• Increase	• An increase
Tăng	• Grow	• A growth
	• Climb	• A climb
	• Go up	• An upward trend
	• Fall	• A fall
	• Decrease	• A decrease
Giảm	• Reduce	• A reduction
	• Decline	• A decline
	• Go down	• A downward trend
	• Drop	• A drop
	• Remain stable/ steady	
Duy trì ở mức ổn định	• Stabilize	• Stability
	• Stay stable/ unchanged	
Dao động	• Fluctuate	• A fluctuation
	• Be volatile	• A volatility
Đạt mức cao nhất	• Hit the highest point	
	• Reach a peak	
Đạt mức thấp nhất	• Hit the lowest point	

2. Cấu trúc câu mô tả sự thay đổi

Cấu trúc	Ví dụ
S + v + adv + number + time period	GM car sales increased significantly from \$5,000 to \$105,000 between 1960 and 2010
There be + a/an + adj + noun + number + in + s + time period	There was a significant increase of \$100,000 in GM car sales, from \$5,000 to \$105,000, between 1960 and 2010.
S + experienced/ saw + a/an + noun + number + time period	GM car sales saw a significant growth in GM car sales, from \$5,000 to \$105,000, between 1960 and 2010.

3. Cấu trúc câu so sánh

Cấu trúc	Ví dụ
Compared to/with	Prices in the UK are high compared to/with prices in Canada and Australia.
In comparison to/with	Prices in the UK are high in comparison to/ with prices in Canada and Australia
While/ Whereas/Although	There are 5 million smokers in the UK, while / whereas only 2 million Canadians and 1 million Australians smoke. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of smokers in the UK decreased dramatically, while / whereas the figures for Canada and Australia remained the same.
However/In contrast/ On the other hand	Although the Middle East produced 100 tons oil, Japan produced none. The Middle East produces high levels of oil; however , Japan produces none. The USA produces large amounts of natural gas. In contrast , South Korea produces none. European countries make great use of solar power. On the other hand , most Asian countries use this method of power

generation very little.

4. Các cấu trúc so sánh khác

Developing countries are **more** reliant on alternative energy production **than** developed countries.

- Solar power accounts for **far less** of the total energy production **than** gas or coal does.
- Hydropower is not **as** efficient **as** wind power
- **Like** Japan, South Korea does not produce any natural gas.
- The Middle East produces **twice as much** oil **as**
- Western countries consume **three times more** oil **than** the Middle East.
- Russia consumes **slightly more** oil than Germany.
- The UAE produced **the same** amount of oil **as** Saudi Arabia.

5. Cách sử dụng giới từ

Khi mô tả số liệu và các đặc điểm, các giới từ như “to”, “by”, “with”, và “at” có vai trò rất quan trọng trong câu. Dưới đây là cách sử dụng các giới từ này trong bài viết, các bạn cùng tham khảo nhé:

1. Dùng giới từ “to” khi mô tả sự thay đổi đến mức nào đó

Ví dụ: In 2018, the rate of unemployment rose to 10%

2. Dùng giới từ “by” khi mô tả sự thay đổi một khoảng nào đó

Ví dụ: In 2009, the rate of unemployment fell by 2% (from 10% to 8%)

3. Dùng giới từ “with” để mô tả phần trăm, số lượng chiếm được

Ví dụ: He won't the election with 52% of the vote

4. Dùng giới từ “at” để thêm con số vào cuối câu

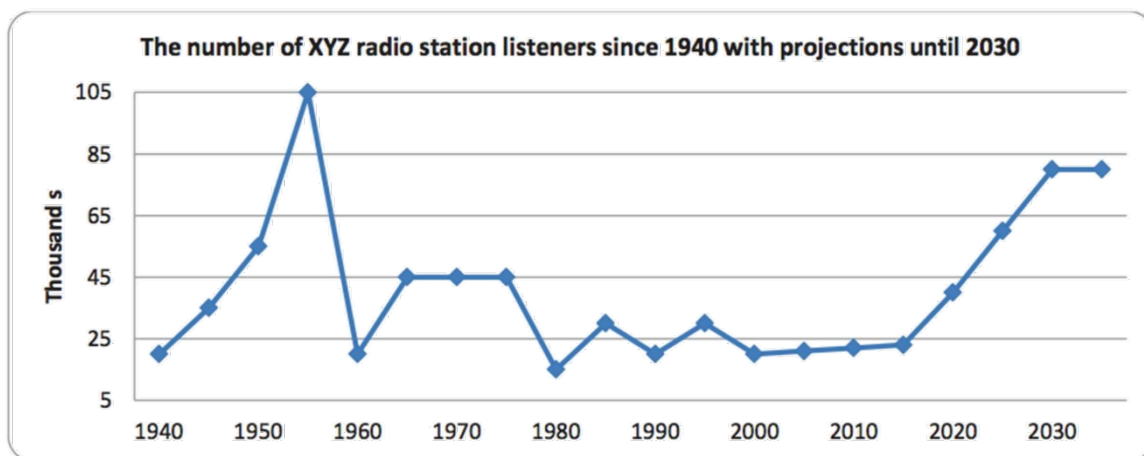
Ví dụ: Unemployment reached its highest point in 2008, at 10%.

IV. BÀI TẬP

1. Nhìn vào biểu đồ dưới đây và mô tả sự thay đổi sử dụng các từ và cụm từ sau:

Mild fluctuations

1. *a peak*
2. *a period of instability*
3. *a significant increase*
4. *a partial growth*
5. *a record high*
6. *figures climbing back*
7. *a marked rise*
8. *a dramatic decrease*
9. *a period of slight volatility*
10. *a leveling out*
11. *a sharp decline*
12. *a plateau*
13. *figures remaining constant*



2. Hoàn thành các câu sau sử dụng giới từ phù hợp:

For, At, On, To, In, By, From, Between, Of, Up, Down, With, And, During

1. 1990 2000, there was a drop 15%.
2. GM car sales peaked 2,000 in 1999.
3. The chart shows a decline 35% the bird population.
4. There has been a significant increase the number of people aged over eighty.
5. There have been dramatic cuts the level of spending on the elderly, reaching a low 11%.
6. Profits rose a low of 4.5 million to a high of 8 million in 2008.
7. Canada and Australia's wheat exports fluctuated 5 million and 6 million respectively.
8. There were significant improvements healthcare 1980.
9. The statistics show a reduction 20% energy costs as a result the measures.
10. Profits fell 10%, from 2,000 to 1,800 in 1970s.
11. The radio station experienced a fall 36,000 listeners to a total audience 2.1 million.
12. The number of students fell a low of 1,500 in the second half of the year.
13. Cases of AIDS shot from 2,400 in 1996 to 4,000 in 2004.
14. Demand reached a peak 45,000 in early March.
15. The number of cars sold remained unchanged in 1999 three million.
16. Students do between three four hours homework a night.
17. The number of accidents 1999 was slightly higher than that of 2000.
18. The figure rose steadily the four years between 1997 2001.
19. Oil production rose dramatically at first but then leveled out \$70 a barrel.
20. There was an increase 50,000 between 1990 and 1992.
21. 1994 1997, sales rose steadily over 20,000.
22. DVD sales peaked 60,000 1992 but then decreased about 10,000 over the next two years.
23. In the year 2000, sales started 10,000. In the first month, there was a rise around 2,000.
24. After some fluctuations, sales in 2000 reached their peak just over 15,000, a rise 5,000 since the beginning of the year. Sales increased over 10,000 between 1994 and 1997, but then dropped more than 10,000 1997 and 1999.
25. In 2008, the rate of unemployment rose 10%.
26. In 2008, the rate of unemployment rose 10%, from 2,000 to 2,200 cases.
27. There was a slight rise the number of men employed.
28. Experts expect there to be a fall approximately 30% over the next decade.
29. The introduction DVDs led to a decline 20% video sales.
30. The figures show a drop 5% student numbers.

31. The health service program spent a total \$2.5 billion on staffing April 2002.
32. The survey hopes to track trends consumer spending.
33. In 2009, the rate of unemployment fell 2% (from 10% to 8%).
34. He won the election 52% of the vote.
35. Unemployment reached its highest level the year 2008 10%.
36. 2002, the cost of an average house in the UK was around £130,000. 2007, the average house price had risen almost £190,000, but it fell back just under £150,000 2008.
37. Japan two gold medals and a silver one stood ahead of the US one gold and one bronze

II. Cách viết Writing Bar Chart

1. Phân tích đề – bước quan trọng nhất trong cách viết Writing Task 1 Bar Chart

Đối với bất kỳ dạng bài nào trong Writing IELTS nói chung và riêng phần Task 1, phân tích đề là một bước vô cùng quan trọng và bắt buộc phải làm nếu bạn muốn đạt band điểm cao.

Với biểu đồ cột, quá trình phân tích đề bao gồm các bước sau:

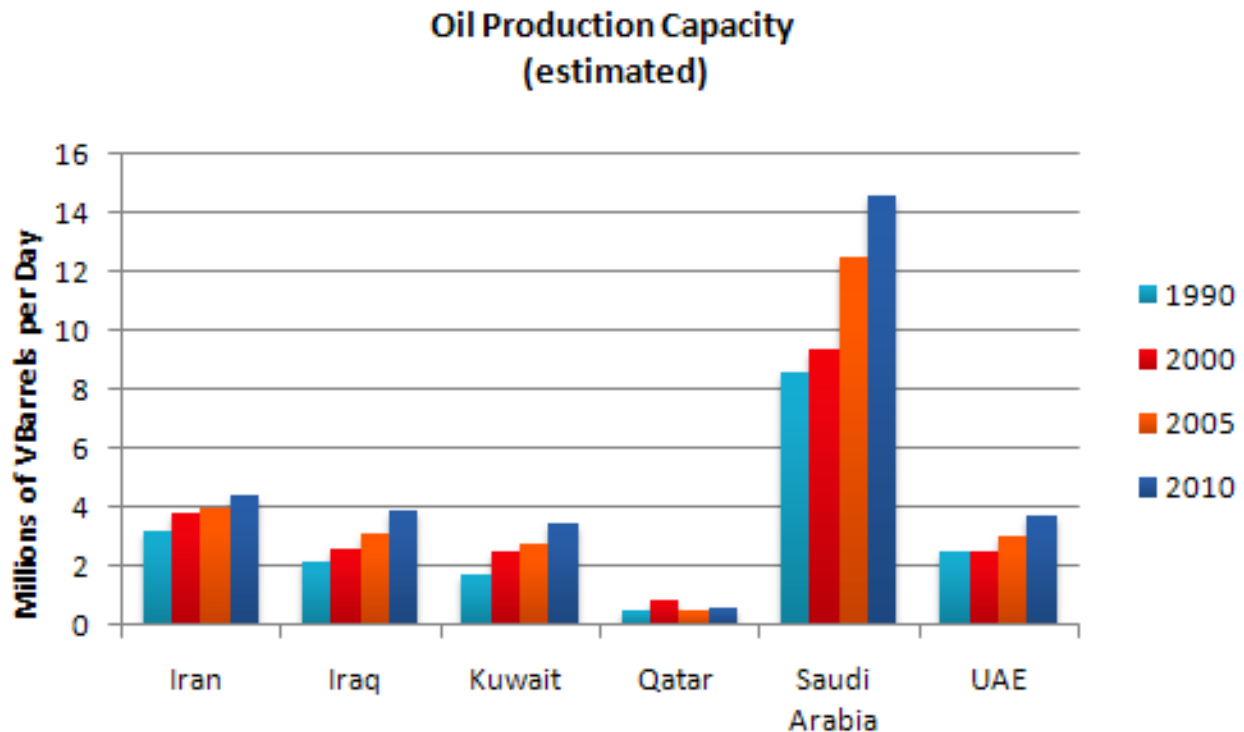
- *Bước 1:* Nhìn vào biểu đồ, xác định xem biểu đồ có sự thay đổi về thời gian hay không.
- *Bước 2:* Xác định trục hoành và trục tung của biểu đồ biểu thị cho hạng mục gì. Tuyệt đối không đọc kỹ các yếu tố, chỉ xác định nhân tố biểu thị.
- *Bước 3:* Đếm xem có bao nhiêu cột trong biểu đồ, cột nào cao nhất, cột nào thấp nhất, cột nào giữ nguyên giá trị. Đối với dạng biểu đồ có thời gian, cố gắng tìm xu hướng tăng giảm của các yếu tố. Từ đó lên dàn ý phù hợp cho bài viết.
- *Bước 4:* Tiến hành viết bài, phân chia thời gian phù hợp cho các phần.

Ta có ví dụ minh họa sau:

“The graph shows estimated oil production capacity for several Gulf countries between 1990 and 2010.

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

- You should write at least 150 words.
- You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.”



Từ đề bài trên, ta có thể phân tích đề như sau:

- Có thể thấy biểu đồ có sự thay đổi về thời gian, cụ thể 4 mốc thời gian chính được đề cập đến là: năm 1990, 2000, 2005 và 2010.
- Trục tung của biểu đồ biểu thị lượng dầu sản xuất được (đơn vị: triệu thùng). Trục hoành của biểu đồ biểu thị sáu quốc gia. Mỗi quốc gia gồm 4 cột màu, tương ứng với 4 năm được đề cập.
- Nhìn qua biểu đồ, có thể thấy các cột ở mỗi quốc gia đều có xu hướng cao lên qua 4 năm (trừ nước Qatar gần như không thay đổi). Các cột ở nước Saudi Arabia luôn cao nhất trong 4 năm. Ngược lại, các cột tại nước Qatar luôn ở mức thấp nhất trong 4 năm.

Như vậy, bạn đã có cái nhìn rõ ràng và khách quan nhất về biểu đồ. Từ đó, bạn có thể dựng được dàn bài phù hợp nhất cho đề bài.

Phân tích đề là bước vô cùng quan trọng trong cách viết Writing Bar Chart

2. Lập dàn ý trong cách viết Writing Task 1 Bar Chart

Sau khi giành từ 1 đến 2 phút phân tích đề, bạn nên tiến hành lập dàn ý (trong khoảng 2 đến 3 phút). Do cấu trúc của bài Writing Bar Chart cũng tương tự với các dạng khác trong Task 1 IELTS (bao gồm 3 phần chính: Introduction, Overview, Body), phần lập dàn ý sẽ chủ yếu dành cho phần Overview và Body.

- Overview: Luôn ưu tiên các xu hướng tăng giảm trong biểu đồ. Nếu biểu đồ không có thời gian, hãy chú ý tới các giá trị lớn nhất và nhỏ nhất trong biểu đồ.
- Body: Phần Body luôn gồm hai đoạn nhỏ. Bạn có thể chia bài viết theo hướng so sánh các hạng mục với nhau, hoặc so sánh hạng mục theo các năm với nhau.

Với ví dụ đề bài nêu trên, bạn có thể **lập dàn ý** theo gợi ý dưới đây:

- **Overview:**
 - 5/6 quốc gia có xu hướng tăng lượng sản xuất dầu trong thời gian từ 1990 – 2010
 - Riêng lượng dầu của Qatar có xu hướng giữ nguyên
- **Body:**

Body 1: Saudi Arabia và Iran

- Năm 1990: Lượng dầu của Saudi Arabia cao nhất, tiếp đó là đến Iran.
- Từ năm 1990 đến 2010: lượng dầu của hai quốc gia đều có xu hướng tăng. Nếu Saudi Arabia tăng mạnh (từ 8.5 đến 14.5 triệu thùng) thì lượng dầu của Iran tăng chậm hơn (chỉ tăng khoảng 1.5 triệu thùng). Trong suốt 4 năm, Saudi Arabia có lượng dầu sản xuất ra lớn nhất trong 6 quốc gia

Body 2: Iraq, Kuwait và UAE; Qatar

- Năm 1990, Iraq, Kuwait và UAE có lượng dầu xấp xỉ nhau (2 triệu thùng). Lượng dầu của 3 quốc gia này có xu hướng tăng nhẹ (khoảng 1 triệu thùng) trong vòng 20 năm.
- Trong khi đó, năm 1990, lượng dầu của Qatar chỉ dừng lại ở mức 0.5 triệu thùng. Sau đó, lượng dầu của quốc gia này gần như không đổi cho đến năm 2010.

Trong cách viết Writing Bar Chart, chú ý lập dàn ý trước khi viết bài

3. Viết bài Writing Task 1 Bar Chart

Sau khi đã lập được dàn ý, bạn có thể bắt tay ngay vào việc viết bài. Khi thi thật, thời gian bạn nên dành cho phần viết bài chỉ kéo dài khoảng 15 phút (trong tổng số 20 phút).

Từ đề bài phía trên, bạn có thể tham khảo bài viết dưới đây:

a) Introduction

Với phần Introduction, bạn chỉ đơn giản paraphrase lại đề bài bằng từ ngữ của mình. Có hai cách paraphrase phổ biến:

- Word by word: khi paraphrase theo cách này, bạn chỉ cần thay thế từng từ trong đề bài bằng từ đồng nghĩa.

Ví dụ, với đề bài trên, ta có thể paraphrase như sau:

The graph = **The bar chart**

shows = **indicates**

estimated oil production capacity = **the estimated amount of produced oil**

for several Gulf countries = **for 6 Gulf nations**

between 1990 and 2010 = **in the period of 1990 – 2010**

- New Structure: với cách paraphrase này, bạn có thể thay đổi cấu trúc chủ vị, chủ động – bị động của đề bài, miễn là ý nghĩa của đề bài không bị thay đổi.

Ta có thể paraphrase lại đề bài trên theo cách New Structure như sau:

“The bar chart reveals how much estimated oil produced in 6 Gulf countries from 1990 to 2010”.

b) Overview

“Overall, it is clear from the chart that the capacity of produced oil in Qatar remained unchanged over the span of 5 years. However, other nations witnessed a climb in the amount of generated oil.”

c) Body

Từ dàn ý trên, bạn có thể xây dựng phần thân bài cho bài viết của mình. Cụ thể:

Body 1:

- Ý 1: **In 1990, the daily number of produced oil barrels in Saudi Arabia reached 8.5 million, followed by the second position, Iran with 3 million barrels.**
- Ý 2: **After 20 years, while the oil production amount of Saudi Arabia increased dramatically to 14.5 million barrels per day, that of Iran saw a growth of around 1.8 million barrels.**

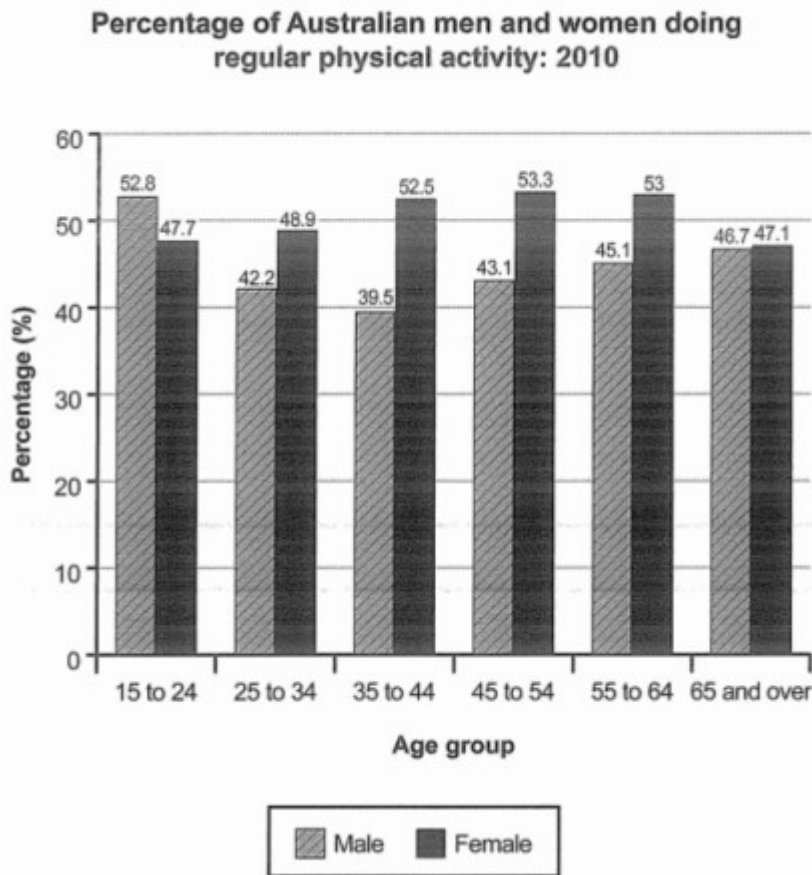
Body 2:

- Ý 1: **Iraq, UAE and Kuwait had the similar oil amount in 1990 (around 2 million barrels a day) and experienced a slight climb in oil capacity when they respectively peaked about 4, 3.8 and 3.5 million barrels per day till 2010.**
- Ý 2: **However, the number of produced oil barrels in Qatar was only 0.4 and stayed unchanged after 20 years.**

Trong phần viết này, bạn có thể lưu ý một số cấu trúc và từ vựng:

- **N + V, followed by + N:** cấu trúc so sánh
- **While + N + V, N + V:** dùng để diễn tả 2 vế mang tính chất tương phản
- **See a growth:** diễn tả xu hướng tăng
- **Experience a climb:** diễn tả xu hướng giảm

Trên đây là bài viết tham khảo của một đề bài Bar Chart có thay đổi thời gian. Ngoài ra, bạn cũng có thể tham khảo bài viết dưới đây của Simon – cựu giám khảo IELTS về dạng Bar Chart không có sự thay đổi về thời gian để hiểu thêm về **cách viết Writing Task 1 Bar Chart**:



“The bar chart below shows the percentage of Australian men and women in different age groups who did regular physical activity in 2010.

The chart compares the proportions of Australian males and females in six age categories who were physically active on a regular basis in the year 2010.

Roughly speaking, close to half of Australian adults did some kind of routine physical activity in 2010. Middle aged females were the most physically active, proportionally, while males aged 35 to 44 did the least physical activity.

In the youngest age category (15 to 24), almost 53% of Australian men but only 47.7% of women did regular physical activity in 2010. However, between the ages of 25 and 44, men were much less active on average than women. In fact, in the 35 to 44 age group, a mere 39.5% of males did some form of regular exercise, compared to 52.5% of females.

Between the ages of 45 and 64, the figure for male physical activity rose to around 45%, while the proportion of active females remained around 8% higher, at 53%. Finally, the percentages of Australian women and men aged 65 and over who exercised regularly were almost identical, at approximately 47%.”

Một số cấu trúc và từ vựng bạn có thể tham khảo từ bài viết của thầy Simon:

- **N + to be + the most + adj + N:** (Middle aged females were the most physically active): so sánh nhất
- **N + to be + less + adj + than + N:** (men were much less active on average than women)
- **rise to:** tăng tới bao nhiêu (the figure for male physical activity rose to around 45%)
- **N + V, while N + V:** (the figure for male physical activity rose to around 45%, while the proportion of active females remained around 8% higher)

Ngoài ra, bạn có thể tham khảo **một số cấu trúc và cụm từ thường được sử dụng trong bài viết Writing Task 1 Bar Chart** dưới đây:

Từ vựng:

Diễn tả xu hướng tăng:

- To grow/ increase/ rise/ climb
- To experience/ to record/ to see a growth/ an increase/ a rise/ a climb in...

Diễn tả xu hướng tiếp tục tăng/ giảm:

- To continue its upward/ downward trend

Diễn tả xu hướng đạt điểm cao nhất:

- To reach/ hit the peak/ highest point of ... / To peak at...

Diễn tả xu hướng chạm điểm thấp nhất:

- To reach/ hit the lowest point/ the bottom/ a trough of...

Diễn tả xu hướng giữ nguyên:

- To remain/ to stay unchanged/ stable/ consistent/ constant/ the same
- To stabilize/ to flatten out/ to level out/ off/ to reach a plateau of/ to maintain the same level/ stand at...

Diễn tả mức độ thay đổi của xu hướng:

- Nhẹ: slight/ modest/ moderate
- Mạnh: dramatic, considerable, sharp, significant, substantial, remarkable, astronomical, enormous, marked

Các từ diễn tả số lượng:

- The amount of / the quantity of N (danh từ không đếm được)
- The number of/ the quantity of N/ the figures for N (danh từ đếm được)

Các cụm từ miêu tả xu hướng trong tương lai:

- To be expected/ projected/ predicted/ likely to V

Các cụm từ diễn tả so sánh gấp:

- The number doubled/trebled/quadrupled between ... and ... (gấp đôi, gấp ba, gấp bốn)
- There was a two-fold increase between ... and ... (tăng gấp đôi)
- The figure in 1994 was twice/ 3 times/ 4 times the 1992 figure (gấp hai, gấp ba, gấp bốn)
- The figure fell by one fifth/ a half/ two fifths (giảm một phần năm, một nửa, hai phần năm)

Cấu trúc:

- **There + to be + data + of + N**

Ví dụ: There is more than 50% of 15-year-old boys playing badminton in their leisure time.

- **The amount/ number/ quantity/ proportion... + of + N + to be + data**

Ví dụ: The percentage of females in Brazil playing badminton in their leisure is approximately 50%.

- **So sánh nhất, at/ with + data**

Ví dụ: The percentage of animals in Brazil is the highest, with 30%.

- **Data + to be + the amount/ number/ quantity/ proportion... + of + N**

Ví dụ: 50% is the percentage of females in Brazil playing badminton in their leisure time.

- **Clause, followed by + Noun Phrase**

Ví dụ: There was a slight increase in the number of animals in Brazil in 1997, followed by a dramatic decrease after 10 years.

- **X verb, Verb-ing, (which verb)**

Ví dụ: The number of animals in Brazil *increased* to 30,000 in 1997, *exceeding* the quantity in Poland, which had only 12,000.

- **The highest/ greatest/ lowest percentage/ proportion/ number/ quantity... / of + N + to be/ V + N**

Ví dụ: The lowest number of animals in 1997 was in Brazil.

- **N + to be + the most/ least common/ popular.... + N**

Ví dụ: Japan is the most popular nations for politicians in 1990.

- **(Far/ Much/ Many/ Considerably/ Significantly/ Dramatically...) + more + N + to be/ V + than ...**

Ví dụ: Far more boxes are made in Poland than in Austria.

III. Các lỗi thường gặp và lưu ý trong cách viết Writing Task 1 Bar Chart

1. Không xác định dạng bài

Việc xác định dạng bài trong Bar Chart vô cùng quan trọng. Nếu Bar Chart có thời gian, bạn cần phải so sánh và đối chiếu để làm nổi bật sự biến đổi về giá trị của từng hạng mục qua các năm, tuyệt đối không được liệt kê từng năm hoặc từng hạng mục riêng lẻ. Một bí kíp để làm dạng Bar Chart có thời gian là hãy coi đề bài tương tự như một bài tập dạng Line Chart (khi bạn nối các cột trong Bar Chart, bạn sẽ có một biểu đồ đường mới).

2. Không dùng từ nối

Một trong các tiêu chí chấm điểm trong IELTS Writing Task 1 nói chung là Coherence and Cohesion (Độ mạch lạc của bài viết). Và việc không dùng từ nối sẽ khiến cho bài viết của bạn trở nên rời rạc, thiếu liên kết.

Trong Task 1, bạn không cần thiết phải đưa quá nhiều từ nối. Các từ đơn giản, thông dụng nhưng vẫn khiến bài viết của bạn chuyển ý thật mượt mà như: Meanwhile, However (Dùng để nối hai câu tương phản); Subsequently, Similarly (Dùng để nối hai câu nghĩa tương đương), Interestingly, Strikingly, It is interesting that..., It is striking that..., The interesting point is that..., (Dùng để chỉ ra đặc điểm nổi bật)

3. Dùng sai từ miêu tả số lượng

Khi miêu tả Bar Chart nói riêng hay các biểu đồ tương tự khác (Line Chart, Pie Chart, Table), bạn thường xuyên phải sử dụng các từ miêu tả số lượng.

Lỗi sai phổ biến là dùng không đúng từ miêu tả số lượng với danh từ đếm được hoặc không đếm được. Ví dụ: The number of sugar, The amount of cups,... Bên cạnh đó, việc chia sai động từ cũng thường xuyên xảy ra khi thí sinh không nắm rõ được đâu là danh từ đếm được, đâu là danh từ không đếm được.

III. Dạng LINE GRAPH

Example: *The graph below shows consumers' average annual expenditure on cell phone, national and international fixed-line and services in America between 2001 and 2010.*

Bước 1: Phân tích đề.

- Đối tượng (chủ ngữ) của biểu đồ là gì?

Chủ ngữ ở đây là: Average annual expenditure on cell phone, national and international fixed-line services

- Đơn vị là gì?

Đơn vị ở đây là: \$

- Có mốc hay khoảng thời gian không?

Ở đây chúng ta có 9 mốc thời gian từ 2001 đến 2010.

-Số đường có trong biểu đồ ?

Có 3 đường trong biểu đồ.

-Thì của động từ?

Ở ví dụ này, những mốc thời gian là ở trong quá khứ, nên ta sẽ dùng thì quá khứ đơn (between 2001 - 2010)

Bước 2: Paraphrase đề bài - viết Introduction

Viết lại bằng ngôn ngữ, cấu trúc của mình, tránh những từ ngữ đã được đề sử dụng. Đoạn này chúng ta chỉ nên viết 1-2 câu thôi.

Bước 3: Xác định ý và viết Overview

Chúng ta sẽ viết xu hướng chung của biểu đồ, không nên nêu những số liệu cụ thể khi viết phần này. Phần này chúng ta sẽ viết 1-2 câu và viết theo 2 ý sau:

- Đặc điểm về xu hướng: tăng hay giảm? dao động liên tục hay giữ nguyên?
- Đặc điểm về độ lớn: đây nào, điểm nào cao nhất, thấp nhất, hoặc thay đổi lớn nhất.

Example: It is clear that while the yearly spending on mobile phones increased significantly, the opposite was true for national landline phone expenditure. Also, the figure for international fixed-line service was lowest during the period.

Bước 4: Lựa chọn, nhóm thông tin và viết 2 đoạn Body.

Chúng ta sẽ viết 2 đoạn cho dạng biểu đồ này mỗi đoạn sẽ viết 4-5 câu, dựa vào số lượng đường có trong biểu đồ ta sẽ có cách viết cụ thể.

Example:

Body 1: (từ 2001 đến 2006)

In 2001, there was an average of nearly \$700 spent on national landline phones by US residents, in comparison with only around \$200 each on mobile phones and international landline services. Over the next five years, the average amount poured into national fixed-line phones fell by approximately \$200. By contrast, yearly spending on cell phones witnessed a significant increase of roughly \$300. At the same time, the figure for overseas landline services fluctuated slightly below \$300.

Body 2: (từ 2006 đến 2010)

In 2006, US consumers spent the same amount of money on mobile and national fixed-line services, with just over \$500 on each. From the year 2006 onwards, it can be seen that the average yearly expenditure on mobile phones surpassed that on national fixed-line phones and mobile phones became the most common means of communication. To be specific, yearly spending on mobile phone services increased to nearly \$750 in the last year, while the figure for national landline phone ones decreased to about \$400 at the end of the period. During the same period, there was a stability in the figure for overseas phone calls.

4. Bố cục bài viết IELTS Writing dạng biểu đồ đường - Line Graph

1) Bố cục bài viết sẽ giống các bài task 1 khác:

+ Introduction: paraphrase câu đề bài. Tức là viết lại câu của đề bài sử dụng từ vựng của bạn.

+ Overview: tìm 2 đặc điểm chung của biểu đồ. Thường với biểu đồ này bạn có thể lưu ý một số đặc điểm sau để tìm cho nhanh:

- Đặc điểm về xu hướng: nhìn từ đầu năm đến cuối năm xem xu hướng chung của đây là gì ?

Là tăng ? giảm ? hay dao động liên tục ?

- Đặc điểm về đây nổi bật nhất: ví dụ đề bài cho năm 3,4 đây -> tìm xem đây nào nằm cao nhất, thấp nhất, hoặc thay đổi lớn nhất...

+ Body 1 : 2 khổ thân bài của một bài biểu đồ này thường sẽ là mô tả số liệu, xu hướng của số liệu. Lưu ý luôn luôn so sánh các thông tin với nhau, không mô tả riêng rẽ

+ Body 2: như trên

2) Sử dụng quá khứ đơn (ví dụ: increased, fell..) cho các năm trong quá khứ, 'is expected/predicted to' khi đưa ra dự đoán cho các năm trong tương lai

Bố cục của dạng bài này có 3 phần: introduction, overview, body paragraph. Thì trong body paragraph chúng ta sẽ viết 2 đoạn.

Introduction:

Phần này, chúng ta sẽ đề cập tới cả 2 biểu đồ, chúng ta nên paragraph lại ý của đề bài, lưu ý là không nên sử dụng các từ vựng đã được dùng trong đề, ta viết lại theo 1 cấu trúc khác và sử dụng những từ khác.

Để viết 'Instruction' các bạn hãy sử dụng 1 – 2 câu miêu tả cho người đọc biết là biểu đồ này nói lên điều gì như, khoảng thời gian, địa điểm, cái gì được mô tả...

Một phương pháp hữu ích cho việc viết Instruction là hãy 'paraphrase' lại ý chính của tiêu đề/câu hỏi
Tiêu đề: "The line graph below shows changes in the amount and type of fast food consumed by Australian teenagers from 1975 to 2000."
Paraphrase thành: The line graph illustrates the amount of fast food consumed by teenagers in Australia between 1975 and 2000, a period of 25 years.

Overview

Ta chỉ ra **xu hướng chính**, những **sự thay đổi rõ ràng**, mang tính tổng quát nhất hay những thông tin nổi bật trong mỗi biểu đồ, tránh nói dài dòng, miên man hoặc nói đánh giá quá chung về biểu đồ.

- **Xu hướng:** Vì Line Graph chủ yếu mô tả về xu hướng phát triển của sự vật, hiện tượng nên một Overview phải cho người đọc thấy rõ được xu hướng đó bằng cách viết các cấu trúc câu mô tả xu hướng của biểu đồ. **Nhóm những thông tin trong biểu đồ thành 2 nhóm tương đồng có cùng xu hướng hoặc sự thay đổi.**
- **Số liệu cao nhất và số liệu thấp nhất:** Hãy chú ý đến những số liệu cao nhất và thấp nhất trong biểu đồ vì nó có thể là mốc để đánh giá những số liệu khác trong biểu đồ.
- **Tốc độ thay đổi của số liệu:** Sau khi đã làm hai bước trên, bạn phải xem tốc độ tăng hay giảm của số liệu ra sao. Ở đây, bạn có thể dùng các trạng từ chỉ tốc độ thay đổi: rapidly, quickly, swiftly, suddenly, steadily, gradually, slowly...
- **Số liệu của đường nào cao hơn/ thấp hơn đường nào trong suốt giai đoạn** được miêu tả hoặc trong hầu hết giai đoạn được miêu tả. (dùng cấu trúc so sánh)

Không nhắc đến số liệu

Lưu ý rằng Overview chỉ đưa ra đánh giá về những điểm nổi bật nhất của Line Graph và xu hướng phát triển hay đi lên của hiện tượng được nhắc đến trong bài. Cho nên, bạn không được phép đưa số liệu vào phần Overview. Vì phần Bodies (phần phân tích số liệu trong bài viết) sẽ thực hiện công việc đó.

Body:

Ta sẽ viết 2 đoạn, mỗi đoạn sẽ viết về 1 quãng thời gian hoặc 1 xu hướng chính, ý chính của biểu đồ.

Trong mỗi đoạn, ta chỉ viết những thông tin nổi bật. Vì biểu đồ chứa nhiều thông tin, ta nên **chọn lọc thông tin quan trọng nhất, không nên viết hết tất cả thông tin, số liệu vào bài** tránh tình trạng thông tin quá nhiều, không cần thiết và sẽ dẫn đến không đủ thời gian.

Phải nêu được **điểm tương đồng** của các dữ liệu như xu hướng thay đổi của chúng (tăng lên, giảm xuống, không thay đổi...). Sau đó **nhóm chúng vào làm hai nhóm thông tin để miêu tả trong 2 đoạn văn**. Mỗi đoạn có 3 – 4 câu miêu tả cho một nhóm thông tin.

Một số lưu ý:

- Nhớ đưa các dữ liệu chi tiết như con số cụ thể vào khi miêu tả (ví dụ như đạt điểm cao nhất là..., thấp nhất là..., đạt đến..., ...)
- **Không miêu tả từng đường biểu diễn hay nhóm thông tin một cách riêng biệt mà hãy lồng thêm sự so sánh giữa các đường/nhóm với nhau.** Có thể so sánh chúng tại các điểm nổi bật như bắt đầu, cuối cùng, cao nhất, thấp nhất, tăng/giảm đột ngột, xu hướng của chúng...
- Khi biểu đồ biểu thị nhiều mốc thời gian hoặc con số, chắc chắn bạn không thể đề cập hết chúng trong bài viết. Khi đó hãy **tập trung vào miêu tả hay so sánh những mốc nổi bật như bắt đầu, cuối cùng, cao nhất, thấp nhất, tăng/giảm đột ngột, xu hướng của chúng...**
- Hãy sử dụng thì quá khứ đơn (increased, fell..) để miêu tả thông tin của các năm đã qua và sử dụng "will" hay "is expected/predicted to..." cho những mốc thời gian trong tương lai (những năm chưa đến).
- VD:

In 1975, the most popular fast food with Australian teenagers was fish and chips, being eaten 100 times a year. This was far higher than Pizza and hamburgers, which were consumed approximately 5 times a year. However, apart from a brief rise again from 1980 to 1985, the consumption of fish and chips gradually declined over the 25 year timescale to finish at just under 40 times per year.

In sharp contrast to this, teenagers ate the other two fast foods at much higher levels. Pizza consumption increased gradually until it overtook the consumption of fish and chips in 1990. It then leveled off from 1995 to 2000. The biggest rise was seen in hamburgers, increasing sharply throughout the 1970's and 1980's, exceeding fish and chips consumption in 1985. It finished at the same level that fish and chips began, with consumption at 100 times a year.

5. Những điểm cần lưu ý trong khi phân tích dạng Line graph trong IELTS WRITING

Chú ý về thời gian của biểu đồ để sử dụng thì cho phù hợp.

- Nếu thời gian là quá khứ, thì dùng quá khứ đơn.
- Nếu thời gian là tương lai, thì dùng tương lai.
- Nếu miêu tả sự thay đổi kéo dài từ quá khứ đến tương lai, thì dùng hiện tại đơn hoặc hiện tại hoàn thành
- Sử dụng thì quá khứ đơn để miêu tả thông tin của các năm đã qua và sử dụng những từ như “will” hay “is expected/predicted to...” cho những mốc thời gian trong tương lai.

6. Cách phân đoạn bố cục đoạn thân bài trong IELTS WRITING DẠNG LINE GRAPH

Nhìn chung, các bạn có thể phân tích Line Graph theo hai cách cơ bản sau đây:

Cách 1: Nhóm body theo thời gian

Đối với những Line Graph không có quá nhiều số liệu, bạn có thể phân chia mốc thời gian làm hai phần, tương ứng với hai đoạn trong phần body

Body 1: Miêu tả đầu tiên và điểm giữa

Body 2: Miêu tả điểm thời gian cuối cùng

In 1970, around 5 million UK commuters travelled by car on a daily basis, while the bus and train were used by about 4 million and 2 million people respectively. In the year 2000, the number of those driving to work rose to 7 million and the number of commuting rail passengers reached 3 million. However, there was a small drop of approximately 0.5 millions of bus users.

By 2030, the number of people who commute by car is expected to reach almost 9 million, and the number of train users is also predicted to rise, to nearly 5 million. By contrast, buses is predicted to become a less popular choice, with only 3 million daily users.

Ở đây, người viết đã chia Body làm 2 phần: Body 1 (từ năm 1970 đến năm 2000) và Body 2 (“By 2030”, để chỉ mốc thời gian từ năm 2000 đến 2030).

Cách 2: Nhóm body theo đặc điểm về xu hướng

Cách thứ 2 có thể là một sự lựa chọn tốt hơn với những biểu đồ có quá nhiều đường. Các bạn có thể nhóm các đường có chung xu hướng vào 1 body.

A glance at the graph provided reveals some striking similarities between the Chinese and US birth rates during the period from 1920 to 2000.

It is evident that both nations saw considerable fluctuations in fertility, with lows during the 1940s and highs during the 1950s.

Increasing from approximately 10 percent in 1920 to 15 percent in 1935, China's birth rate then plunged to a low of just 5 percent in the 1940s. This was followed by a period of exponential growth, with fertility in the country reaching a peak of 20 percent in 1950. The latter half of the century, however, brought a sustained decline in this figure.

The US birth rate, meanwhile, fluctuated at somewhere between 11 and 13 percent prior to 1940, before dropping sharply to less than 5 percent in 1945. The following 5 years saw a rapid climb in this rate, to somewhere in the vicinity of 15 percent in 1950, followed by a steady fall.

Body 1 được sử dụng để đưa ra số liệu của China và body 2 được sử dụng để mô tả số liệu của USA

7. Từ vựng mô tả xu hướng và cấu trúc cần dùng trong dạng Line graph trong IELTS WRITING

Một số cấu trúc nên dùng khi đưa ra dự đoán về tương lai:

+ **Cấu trúc 1:**

[Predictions/ Expectations/ Anticipations/ Forecasts/ Estimates/ Evaluations/ Calculations] + [show/ reveal/ indicate] + (that) it will drop dramatically.

+ *Cấu trúc 2:*

It is + [predicted/ expected/ anticipated/ forecast/ estimated/ evaluated/ calculated] + that the number of cars will drop dramatically.

+ *Cấu trúc 3:*

The number of cars are + [predicted/ expected/ anticipated/ forecast/ estimated/ evaluated/ calculated] to drop dramatically.

Cấu trúc miêu tả sự thay đổi

- There+ be+ a/an + Adj + N + in + “what” + complement+ Time period

Ex: There is a dramatic increase in the proportions of urban population in all 4 countries surveyed during the period shown

S + experienced/ saw/ witnessed + a/an + Adj + N + Number+ Time period

- A/an + Adj + N + Number + was seen/witnessed + in + S + Time period
- Time period + witnessed/saw/experienced + a/an + Adj + N + in + Noun phrase

Một vài cấu trúc khác:

- Before/After + V_ing, S+V+adv
- There was a/an + adj + N1, followed by + a/an +adj+ N2
- Starting / Standing at + số liệu + năm, S+ V +adv
- S + V +adv, V-ing, and then V
- While S + V, S+ V
- Cụm "for most of the period" (dùng cho phần lớn quãng thời gian của biểu đồ (>80%))
- S+ V, which was followed by ...
- S+V, but later+ V
- S+V beforeV-ing

Một số cấu trúc để bắt đầu đoạn Overview

- It is clear from the graph/table...
- It can be seen from the graph/table...
- It is evident that...
- As the graph/table shows,...
- As can be seen from the graph/table,...
- As is shown by the graph/table,...
- As is illustrated by the graph/table,...
- From the graph/table it is clear,...

TỔNG HỢP BÀI MẪU IELTS WRITING

The given graph shows the consumption of fast food in UK (per week) from 1970 to 1990.

Write a report for a university lecturer making comparisons where relevant and reporting the main features.



The line graph compares the weekly consumption of three different types of fast food in the UK between 1970 and 1990.

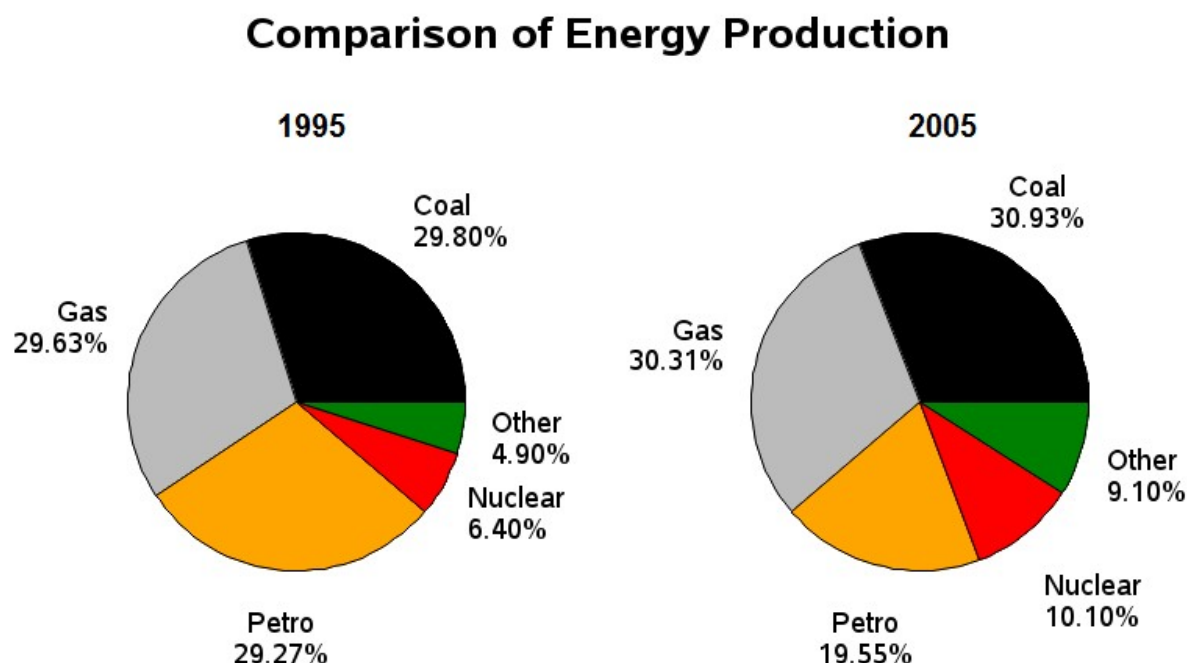
During the research period, the quantities of Hamburger and Fish & Chips eaten both rose significantly. By contrast, there was a slight decrease in the figure for Pizza.

In 1970, the amount of Pizza consumed was highest, at more than 300 grams, while only around 80 and 30 grams of Fish & Chips and Hamburger were eaten respectively. The amount of Pizza consumed slightly fell to more than 200 grams in 1980, whereas the figures for two other types gradually went up.

During the second half of the study, Fish & Chips weekly consumption increased dramatically to 500 grams in 1990 and became the highest figure. Similarly, Hamburger's figure experienced a slight rise to about 300 grams. After dropping gradually and reaching its lowest point of 200 grams in 1985, the amount of Pizza eaten became the lowest figure.

(160 words)

2. *The chart below shows a comparison of different kinds of energy production in France in 1995 and 2005.*



The pie charts compare the production of various types of energy in France in two years

1995 and 2005.

It is clear that the percentage of Coal being produced was highest in both years. Meanwhile, the figure for Other types of energy was by far lowest.

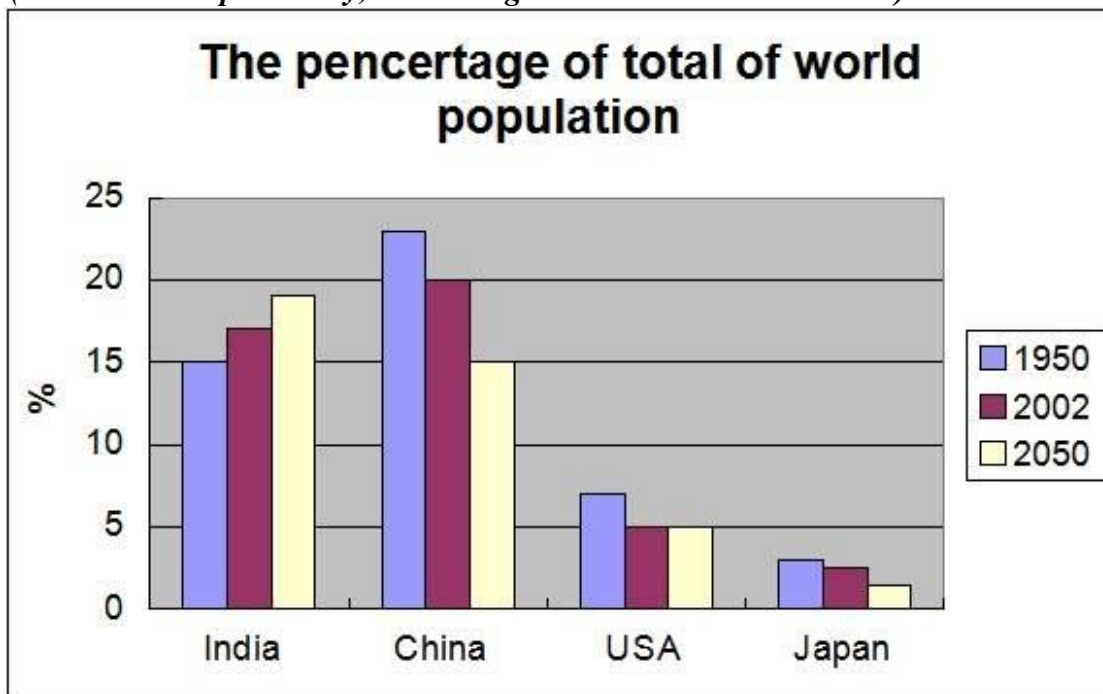
In 1995, Coal's production accounted for the highest proportion, at 29.80% of the total energy production in France, while the rates of Gas and Petro produced were slightly lower, at 29.63% and 29.27% respectively. By contrast, only 6.40% of the total production belonged to Nuclear energy.

In 2005, the percentage of Coal made insignificantly went up and remained the highest figure in the chart, at 30.93%. The figure for Gas rose slowly to 30.31%, while Petro's production experienced a dramatic fall of nearly 10% to only 19.55%. There were sharp increases in the figures for Nuclear and Other types of energy to 10.10% and 9.10% respectively.

(152 words)

3. The bar chart shows the percentage of the total world population in four countries in 1950 and 2002, and projections for 2050.

(Bài mẫu cho 2 phần body, chưa bao gồm introduction và overview)



In 1950, the rate of the population in China was highest, at around 23%, while the figure for India was slightly lower, at 15%. About 7% of people in the world were from the USA, compared to only less than 5% for Japan. From 1950 to 2002, the figure for the Indian population rose slowly to approximately 17%, while China, the USA and Japan all witnessed declines in their population proportions.

In 2050, it is predicted that the percentage of the Indian population will increase to nearly 20% and become the highest figure compared to other countries. By contrast, the population proportions of China and Japan are projected to decrease to 15% and about 2% respectively. Meanwhile, the figure for the USA is likely to remain the same, at 5%.

(130 words)

The percentage of school aged boys in two different age groups who participated in 5 different sports in the UK in 2010

sports	boys 6-11	boys 12-16
football	87	78
basketball	35	25
cricket	45	34
rugby	23	21
swimming	19	19

The table compares the proportions of 6-11 and 12-16 year-old boys taking part in 5 kinds of sport in the UK in 2010.

It is clear from the table that boys aged 6-11 were more likely to play sports. Football was relatively the most popular type of sport for both age groups in the year 2010.

In 2010, the percentage of 6-11 year-old boys who played football stood at 87%, while the figure for the 12-16 age group was slightly lower, at 78%. 35% of schoolboys aged 6-11 participated in basketball, compared to only 25% of the older group. Swimming was the least common kind of sport, with only 19% of both age groups taking part in this activity.

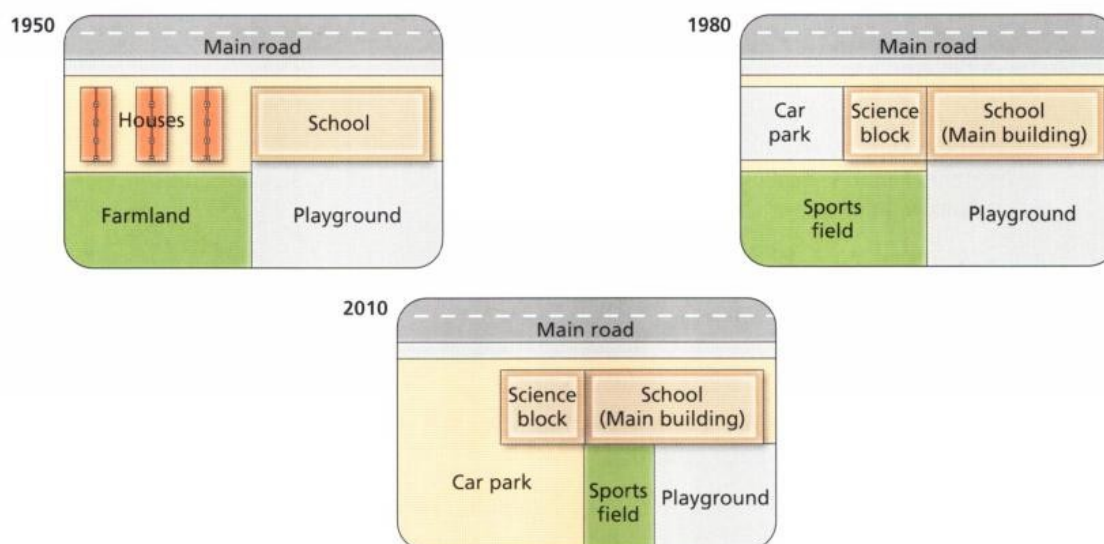
In the same year, the proportion of boys aged 12-16 playing cricket was 34%. Meanwhile, 45% of the other group participated in this sport. Schoolboys who played rugby accounted for 23% and 21% of the 6-11 and 12-16 age groups respectively.

(160 words)

The diagrams below show the changes that have taken place at West Park Secondary School since its construction in 1950.

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

Write at least 150 words.



The maps show the developments that occurred at West Park Secondary School during a 60-

year period from 1950 to 2010.

It is clear from the maps that the biggest change that happened at the school was the construction of a car park. Additionally, houses and farmland had completely disappeared by 2010.

In 1950, the school was quite small and it was located to the south of the main road. There were residential houses in the northwest corner, but those houses were demolished in 1980 to make way for a car park and a science block. Farmland was also destroyed and replaced by a sports field, while the playground in the southeast area still existed.

From 1980 to 2010, the car park was dramatically extended, and the sports field was moved a little to the east, forcing the playground to become smaller. Meanwhile, the science block and the main building of the school still remained close to the main road.

(159 words)

OTHER MODEL ESSAYS:

In some countries, online shopping is replacing shopping in stores. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

Currently, people are increasingly doing their shopping on the Internet instead of going to stores. I personally believe this tendency has both positive and negative effects, which will be discussed below.

On the one hand, there are some benefits of online shopping. Firstly, it is a quicker and cheaper way to shop since people can buy products at home without having to go to stores or shopping malls. For example, Amazon and eBay are two popular websites that provide a huge number of different products, and customers can visit those sites and make purchases easily, which allows them to save time and the costs of travelling. Secondly, online shopping allows people to have a wider range of choices as they can compare different brands and products. For instance, buyers can easily compare the shoes of Converse and Adidas, while it is difficult to do that at physical stores.

On the other hand, online shopping can be negative in several ways. The first drawback is that customers cannot try products before making a purchase. For example, a girl cannot try wearing a dress to see if it fits her body. Furthermore, products sold online are often less reliable, and the product that people finally get delivered to their house might have a poorer quality than expected. Finally, because online shopping is easier and cheaper, people tend to buy too much, which would lead to a large waste of money. This is less likely to happen if shopping in stores is more popular.

In conclusion, I believe the fact that shopping on the Internet is replacing shopping in physical stores is both positive and negative.

(273 words)

Developments in technology have brought various environmental problems. Some believe that people need to live simpler lives to solve environmental problems. Others, however, believe technology is the way to solve these problems. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

The improvements in technology currently bring about harmful effects on the environment. While some people believe having simpler lives is the only solution, I would argue that technological advances can help to tackle these environmental problems.

On the one hand, it is believed that individuals need to live simple lives and rely less on technology. The first suggestion is that people should walk or cycle rather than drive cars. This is because the current number of cars being manufactured and used is increasing, which causes high levels of exhausted fumes and makes air pollution become serious. Additionally, people should try to reduce their consumption of electricity so that the exploitation of natural resources such as fossil fuels or nuclear power can be minimised. An example of this idea is the annual event called Earth Hour where everyone is asked to turn their lights off for sixty minutes.

On the other hand, I believe the developments of technology can greatly contribute to environmental protection. Firstly, because of those improvements, people are able to come up with ways to recycle materials such as paper or glass, which reduces the problem of waste disposal. Secondly, technology can also help to create electricity using renewable resources. For example, many countries in the world have built plants that utilise solar energy to generate power. As a result, it is not necessary to rely on non-renewable resources, and people can create electricity without significantly damaging the

environment.

In conclusion, while some people think that they should live simpler lives to prevent environmental issues, I would argue that these problems can be dealt with by technological improvements.

(270 words, by IELTS Quang Thắng)

Some people think that there should be some strict controls about noise. Others think that they could just make as much noise as they want. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The problem of noise pollution is currently increasing in the modern society. While some individuals believe the levels of noise being created should be strictly controlled, I would argue that people should have the right to produce noise if they want to.

On the one hand, there are several reasons why the government should control the amount of noise produced. The first reason is that too much noise can significantly affect people's health. Living in a place that is too noisy can cause problems such as headaches, which can decrease the health levels of people, especially old ones. Additionally, noise can disturb people's work or study. For example, a university student will not be able to concentrate on his preparation for exams if his neighbours keep singing too loud.

On the other hand, I believe people can make as much noise as they want because of some reasons. Firstly, producing noise is sometimes considered a type of recreational activities. For instance, singing or cheering for a football club can be relaxing, and everyone has the right to do those things. Secondly, as the world is becoming more modern, people have found ways to deal with the problem of noise. Scientists have invented walls and windows that can block out the noise, which allows individuals to focus on their work without being disturbed. Therefore, the problem of noise can be reduced and there is no need for people to keep quiet.

In conclusion, while there are reasons why the levels of noise should be limited, I believe people should have the right to make noise.

(264 words)

It is now possible for scientists and tourists to travel to remote natural environment, such as the South Pole. Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

As technology has developed, people can now travel to remote natural areas. While there are some advantages of this trend, I would argue that its disadvantages are more significant.

On the one hand, visiting isolated natural places has some benefits. Firstly, this is a newer and more interesting type of travelling. Going to other cities or countries has been too common for most people, so it might be more exciting for them to explore new places such as the South Pole or the Amazon rainforest. This gives them valuable experiences and unforgettable memories. Secondly, when visiting remote areas, people, especially scientists, might acquire more knowledge about the natural habitat. For example, when coming to the North Pole, scientists can learn about the life of polar bears which live far away from humans.

On the other hand, I believe there are great drawbacks of this development. The first one is that travelling to remote natural areas can be risky if the travellers are not sufficiently prepared. For instance, the temperature at the South Pole is usually very low, which adversely affects people's health. Travelling to forests can also be dangerous as people have to face the risk of being attacked by wild animals. Also, since visiting isolated places often requires a large amount of investment in researching and ensuring the safety of travellers, the costs of travelling tend to be high. Therefore, it seems like only scientists and rich people can afford this activity, so this development is likely to benefit only a small group of individuals.

In conclusion, I believe the disadvantages of people being able to travel to remote areas outweigh its advantages, and this is a negative development.

(280 words)

Some people think that the best way to ensure road safety is to increase the minimum legal age for driving cars or riding motorbikes. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some individuals argue that raising the minimum legal age for driving cars or riding motorbikes is the most effective method of increasing road safety. While I accept that this policy is good in some ways, I believe there are better measures to reduce traffic accidents.

To begin with, I believe it is a good idea to increase the minimum age required for driving. Firstly, when people are young, they are usually less mature and less responsible with their manners, so they might not be aware of the importance of following the rules. Therefore, it is reasonable to ban them from travelling on the street to prevent them from breaking the law and causing accidents. Secondly, as older people are more experienced, they can know how to react quickly to handle dangerous situations on the road, while younger ones might not be able to. To illustrate, if the brakes of a car suddenly stop working, a young driver might panic, and accidents are more likely to occur.

However, I would argue that there are better methods of ensuring road safety. The first one is to have stricter punishments for driving offenders. For example, people who break traffic rules should be required to pay huge fines or be banned permanently from commuting on the street. This makes commuters more likely to respect the law, and traffic accidents can be reduced. Another solution is to encourage people to use public transport rather than private vehicles. This can be done by reducing the price and increasing the frequency of buses and tubes to make it more convenient for users.

In conclusion, I believe apart from increasing the legal age for driving, there are more effective ways to make sure that travelling on the street is safe for everyone.

(294 words)

Some people believe that developing countries should concentrate on improving industrial skills whereas others argue that these countries should promote education first. Discuss the both viewpoints and give your own opinion.

People have different views about whether developing countries should focus on enhancing industrial skills or education. While there are some benefits of improving working skills, I would argue that education should be the top priority of these nations.

There are several reasons why industrial skills should be improved. Firstly, since developing countries often lack workers with specialised ability, the governments of these countries should invest more in training and enhancing working skills to provide sufficient work force. For example, in Vietnam, there are currently very few people who work in the automobile manufacturing industry, so it is necessary to increase the number of workers in this field. Secondly, when workers' practical skills are improved, the productivity of factories would be enhanced. As a result, more goods with higher qualities would be produced, which generates more money for the whole nation.

However, I believe promoting education would lead to a more stable growth for developing countries. The first reason is that since education provides basic knowledge for people, it is likely to assist in the development of other industries. For instance, education can help scientists to come up with new technologies, which allows workers to produce modern devices such as smart phones. The second benefit of improving the education system is that this would produce good citizens. Being well educated, people would be more likely to have good behaviour such as obeying the law, and this contributes to the development of the entire society. If inadequate attention is paid to education, the growth of countries will only be short-term.

In conclusion, I think developing countries should concentrate more on enhancing education because it will bring about stable and long-term developments.

(279 words)

Nowadays, many families have both parents working. Some working parents believe other family members like grandparents can take care of their children, while others think childcare centres provide the best care. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Currently, many parents tend to be busy working, and they need to rely on someone else to take care of their offspring. While some people think childcare organisations can offer the best care, I would argue that it is better for children to be looked after by their grandparents.

On the one hand, it is believed that youngsters should be sent to childcare centres for some reasons. The first one is that since those centres are professional organisations, their staff are often well trained and therefore have good babysitting skills. For example, when a child falls over and gets himself injured, a staff can react quickly and give him first aid. Furthermore, children can have a chance to make friends with their peers when coming there, which might increase their communication and language abilities. If

they are looked after by their family at home, they might feel a bit lonely.

On the other hand, I believe it is a better idea for grandparents to take care of their grandchildren. Firstly, as grandparents have lived for many years and have brought up their own offspring, they have much experience in raising children. For instance, they might know how to calm the baby down when he cries. Secondly, grandparents are family members, so they love their grandchildren more than other people do. As a result, they tend to spend much more time and effort caring for their grandchildren compared to a childcare staff. Finally, youngsters looked after by their grandparents are likely to become more family-oriented and appreciate the value of a happy family.

In conclusion, while there are some benefits of children being sent to childcare centres, I believe they should be raised by their own grandparents.

(286 words, written by IELTS Quang Thắng)

In some countries the average weight of people is increasing and their levels of health and fitness are decreasing.

What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?

People around the world are currently getting more obese, and they also have to face with increasing health problems. There are some factors leading to this, and effective solutions should be produced soon to prevent this issue.

To begin with, there are several elements that cause health deterioration. Firstly, individuals these days tend to eat too much fast food. This kind of food is extremely convenient and time-saving, so people increasingly consume fast food despite knowing its harmful effects. As a result, those diners who eat an excessive amount of fast food are more likely to suffer from obesity or diabetes. Secondly, young people often lack physical activities due to their limited free time. In this modern life, everyone is busy working and therefore does not have enough time for exercises.

However, some feasible measures could be used to tackle this problem. First, the government should limit the amount of fast food consumed. This can be done by increasing tax rates on selling fast food or running advertising campaigns to raise people's awareness. The quality of fast food restaurants must also be controlled by the authorities. Furthermore, citizens should be encouraged to exercise more. The government needs to invest more money on constructing sports facilities or holding sports competitions for non-professionals. For example, office workers might have more incentive to play sports if they can win money from taking part in competitions.

In conclusion, the health of people is getting worse because of some reasons, and there should be some possible solutions for this serious problem.

(254 words)

Many young people who leave school hold a negative attitude towards learning. Why does this happen? What are the solutions?

An increasing number of school leavers are currently having a negative attitude towards studying. This problem is caused by some factors, and it should be tackled by some effective solutions.

There are some reasons why young people who leave school dislike learning. Firstly, the school curriculum is usually too demanding. Apart from attending lectures, students are also required to complete a large number of assignments and group projects, so they might feel stressed and exhausted after studying intensely. Gradually, they are against learning. Secondly, students often have to learn many unnecessary subjects that do not provide any benefits for their future. For example, when studying History, learners must memorise events in the past although they cannot apply this sort of knowledge into earning money later on. As a result, high school education might be considered a waste of time.

Fortunately, some measures could be taken to prevent this problem. The first solution would be to make lessons more interesting. For instance, visual aids such as video clips should be added in order to attract learners' attention. Therefore, studying would become a hobby rather than an obligation, and

students would have greater motivation to learn. Secondly, lessons that are not necessary should be cut down, and schools should only provide knowledge that students can apply in their future career. When the number of non-essential subjects is reduced and the school syllabus becomes more practical, learners would really see the benefits of education.

In conclusion, school leavers tend to have a negative attitude towards learning because of some reasons, and solutions should be produced soon to tackle this issue.

(267 words)

1. Popular events like the football World Cup and other international sporting occasions are essential in easing international tensions and releasing patriotic emotions in a safe way.

Every four years, the whole world stops to watch international sporting events such as the Olympics and the Football World Cup in which athletes show their best performance to make their country proud of them. These sporting occasions have proved to be helpful in easing international tensions in difficult times when powerful leaders were trying to control the world's economy and other governments were fighting over land.

The Olympic Games are one of the best examples which prove how sporting events can bring nations together, at least temporarily. From ancient History, when Greeks and Romans would interrupt battles to participate in the games, to the more recent international disputes, when athletes from Palestine and Israel would forget their differences, compete pacifically and even embrace each other after an event. Moreover, these popular events have called the world's attention to the terrible consequences of wars; thus some leaders have tried to accept agreements to end their dispute and live peacefully.

Similarly, international sporting events show benefits in some developing countries which live in a daily internal civil war. For example, Brazil has a high rate of unemployment, lack of education, hunger, crime, poverty and corruption which leads to an immense embarrassment of being Brazilian and a low self-esteem. However, when the Football World Cup starts, the Brazilian squad, which is considered the best team in the world, provokes an amazing feeling of pride in their country. Most people seem to forget all their problems and even the criminal activity decreases. They paint roads with the national colors, use wear the Brazilian team shirt and buy national flags. Moreover, the competition brings families and neighbors together and even rival gangs watch the games and celebrate peacefully.

In conclusion, popular sporting events play an important role in decreasing international tensions and liberating patriotic feelings as History has shown.

This is a great essay, the ideas, language, structure of paragraphs and sentences, grammar show high level of English. In my opinion it is Band 8. Keep up the good work.

2. As computers are being used more and more in education, there will be soon no role for teachers in the classroom.

There is no doubt that education and the learning process has changed since the introduction of computers: The search for information has become easier and amusing, and connectivity has expedited the data availability. Though experts systems have made computers more intelligent, they have not yet become a substitute of the human interaction in the learning process. In my opinion; what can be expected, is a change of the teachers' role but not their disappearance from the classroom.

Nobody can argue that the acquisition of knowledge is more fun and easier with computers. The mere activity of touching and exploring this device constitutes an enjoyable task for a kid. This, accompanied with the relaxing attitude and software interactivity, usually conduce to a better grasping of new knowledge. At a higher educational level; the availability of digital books, simulator and other academic materials, provide the student with an ever accessible source of information, that otherwise would not be at hand.

But, besides the increasing complexity and behavior of intelligent software, which is usually embedded in the academic digital material, the need of human interaction in the learning process will always be present, at least in the foreseeable future. There is the necessity for a human being to be able to determine what the specifics needs of each individual are. The expertise of a teacher in how to explain and adapt complex

concepts to different individuals can hardly be mimicked by a computer, no matter how sophisticated its software is.

As computers are becoming a common tool for teaching, teachers should be more aware of their role as guides in the acquisition of knowledge rather than transmitters of facts. They have to be open - minded to the changes that are taking place, keep updated and serve as a problem solvers in the learning process, thus allowing students to discover the fact for themselves.

To summarize, in my personal view, teachers play and will play an important role in the classroom, especially at the primary level. No matter how complex computers become, there will be no replacement for the human interaction, but in the way how this interaction takes place.

Excellent essay! Are you a native English speaker? Well done. The only problem: too long, 365 words instead of 250-265 maximum.

3. Even though globalization affects the world's economies in a positive way, its negative side should not be forgotten. Discuss.

In the present age, globalization is playing an increasingly important role in our lives. But in the meantime whether it is a blessing or a curse has sparked a heated debate. Some people argue that globalization has a fundamentally beneficial influence on our lives, while many others contend that it has a detrimental effect as well.

A convincing argument can be made about globalization not only playing a pivotal role in the development of technology and economy, but also promoting the cultural exchange between different countries. To start with, it is the globalization that impelled many corporate to become an international group, thereby making a contribution to the local technology and employment. Specifically, when a multinational group establish a factory in a developing country, the new equipment, the new management skills and the job vacancies are all in the best interest of the local society. Moreover, people worldwide can get to know each other better through globalization. It is easy to see that more and more Hollywood blockbusters show cultures different from American, some recent examples are 'Kungfu Panda' and 'The Mummy'.

Admittedly, profit - driven globalization has severely affected young people. Today, in the metropolises in different countries, it is very common to see teenagers wearing NIKE T-shirts and Adidas footwear, playing Hip-Hop music on Apple iPods and eating at KFC. The culture that took a thousand years to form just seems similar in these cities; it is looks like you can only distinguish them by their language. Meanwhile, in some developing countries, sweat workshops are always a concerning issue. For instance, reports show that some teenagers employed by NIKE's contractors work in smelly factories over 14 hours a day, but are only paid fifty cents per hour.

In summary, I would concede that globalization does come with some adverse effects. Despite that fact, benefits created by it far outweigh the disadvantages. Overall, I am convinced that we should further promote globalization and meanwhile the local government should take measures to combat culture assimilation and sweat workshops.

This essay is extremely long (338 words instead of the advised 250-265). It has a sound structure, your position is clearly expressed, the information is well-organized, and structure-wise the sentences are fine. The vocabulary is impressive and there only were a few grammatical errors (see comments underlined in blue). Overall, looks like a band 7.5 + essay.

4. In some countries children have very strict rules of behavior, in other countries they are allowed to do almost anything they want. To what extent should children have to follow rules?

The extent to which children have to follow rules is in itself a very complex issue, since children across the world grow up in very different cultures. In India for example, the level of morality is very high and children are to be very submissive to their parents as well as other adults around them. This, however, is not the case for the Western countries of the world where children follow the motto "Thou shalt do what thou wilt" as promoted by celebrities and rock stars. I believe that following strict rules has both advantages as well as serious drawbacks as discussed below.

Firstly, strict rules of behavior create responsible and respectful children who in turn mature into respectful adults. This forms a stable society which is virtually free from vices such as prostitution and drug abuse.

Secondly, if children do not follow strict rules of behavior, they will get out of hand and become work-shy and indolent. This will then create a burden on society since the government has to find ways to cater for these social ills.

However, forcing children to follow strict rules of behavior does not always yield positive results as discussed above, most of the time it backfires and works against society. For example, teenagers are more likely to do the opposite of what they are told to do simply because they want to be independent. Children should also have rights to exercise their free will and develop their own pattern of behaviors. Strict rules simply destroy the individuality of children if they are imposed on them.

At the end of the day, it is clear that children should be guided by rules, but these rules should not be imposed on them because as human beings, they need to have room to develop their own traits of character and adopt a behavioral pattern of their own.

This essay is too long (309 words instead of advised 250-265). Otherwise this work is a very good one; it covers the task, your position is clear, the ideas are well-organized, expressed, explained and supported. The sentences show a wide range of language structures, cohesive devices and the grammar is fine. Overall, looks like a band 7.5 or higher essay.

5. Even though globalization affects the world's economies in a very positive way, its negative side should not be forgotten. Discuss.

Globalization is such a commonly used term in the twentieth century. It simply means that the world has become integrated economically, socially, politically and culturally through the advances of technology, transportation and communication. It is undeniable to say that globalization has resulted in both positive and negative effects which must be addressed accordingly.

To begin with, globalization has contributed to the world's economies in many beneficial ways. The advances in science and technology have allowed businesses to easily cross over territorial boundary lines. Consequently, companies tend to become more productive, competitive thereby raising quality of goods, services and the world's living standard.

Secondly, several companies from the more developed countries have already ventured to establish foreign operations or branches to take advantage of the low cost of labor in the poorer countries. This kind of business activity will provide more influx of cash or investment funds into the less developed countries.

However, one cannot deny the negative effects which have derived from globalization. One crucial social aspect is the risk and danger of epidemic diseases which can easily be spread as the mode transportation is easier and faster in today's advance society. This is evidenced in the recent bird's flu disease which has infected most Asian countries over a short time frame.

As large corporations invest or take over many off-shore businesses, a modern form of colonization will also evolve which may pose certain power pressure on the local governments of the less developed countries. Unemployment rates in the more developed regions like Europe may also escalate as corporations choose to outsource cheaper work force from Asian countries.

In conclusion, I like to reiterate that globalization is inevitable and we must urge individuals, companies and governments to use a more balanced approach by taking appropriate steps to deal with matters relating to the financial or economical gains versus the social, political or ecological concerns of the world.

This essay is too long, 318 words instead of 250-265. Otherwise (except for some minor grammatical errors) it is a very nice work. It covers the task, has the right structure, the paragraphs are coherent and logically connected by elegantly used linking words, the structure of sentences is fine and so is your vocabulary. Looks like a Band 7.5 or higher essay.

6. Financial education should be mandatory component of the school program. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

It is an obvious fact that financial aspects are a major part of daily life, as an adult and even as a young individual. Each and every one of us has to make financial decisions concerning recreation, health, education and more. The question is whether to start with financial education as part of school program or postpone it for a later stage in life.

To begin with, being able to understand the value of money, the way the economic system works and interpret financial news and its implications is a virtue. Without this virtue, an individual, and even a young one, might suffer, to some extent. For example, a child who does not understand the concept of money might find it more difficult to except choosing only one present out of more possible ones.

In addition, many adults are lacking financial analysis capabilities. Quite often, the reason can be a shaky basis or insecurity when it comes to financial terms and concepts. Starting from an early age, building a strong background, can very likely prevent such a situation.

However, financial education necessarily involves quantifying and setting prices and value for services and goods. It can be easily turn young people into cynical and cold-hearted human beings. Furthermore, a tendency to self-concentration and egoism might rise when one start measuring everything from a profit making perspective.

In conclusion, financial education has both pros and cons. In my opinion, the advantages are stronger than the disadvantages, making financial education an advisable component of school program. The disadvantages should be thought of as a certain price that young people have to pay due to the characteristics of the world that we live in.

This is a wonderful essay. It covers the task, is correctly structured, the paragraphs are logically connected, the structure of sentences shows excellent command of English. The vocabulary is fine and both spelling and grammar are very good. See comments underlined in blue for some minor corrections. Overall, looks like a Band 7.5 - 8 essay.

7. As computers are being used more and more in education, there will be soon no role for teachers in the classroom.

There have been immense advances in technology in most aspects of people's lives, especially in the field of education. Nowadays, an increasing number of students rely on computers for research and to produce a perfect paper for school purposes. Others have decided to leave the original way of learning to get knowledge through online schools. These changes in the learning process have brought a special concern regarding the possible decrease of importance of teachers in the classroom.

Some people believe the role of teachers started to fade because computers have been helping some students to progress in their studies quicker than when compared with an original classroom. For example, in the same classroom, students have different intellectual capacities, thus some would be tied to a slow advance in their studies because of others' incapacity of understanding. In this way, pupils could progress in their acquisition of knowledge at their own pace using computers instead of learning from teachers.

However, the presence of a teacher is essential for students because the human contact influences them in positive ways. Firstly, students realize that they are not dealing with a machine but with a human being who deserves attention and respect. They also learn the importance of studying in group and respect other students, which helps them to improve their social skills.

Moreover, teachers are required in the learning process because they acknowledge some student's deficiencies and help them to solve their problems by repeating the same explanation, giving extra exercises or even suggesting a private tutor. Hence, students can have a bigger chance not to fail in a subject.

In conclusion, the role for teachers in the learning process is still very important and it will continue to be in the future because no machine can replace the human interaction and its consequences.

This is a great essay. Looks like Band 8 to me. No improvements are necessary, Keep up the good job!

8. Improvements in health, education and trade are essential for the development of poorer nations. However, the governments of richer nations should take more responsibility for helping the poorer nations in such areas.

Today's world has been divided into developing and industrialised countries which the main difference between them is the amount of money that governments apply in important sectors such as education, health and commerce. Most of the poorer nations are buried in debts as a result of their unbalanced finances which are reflected in a failed health care, an unstructured education system and a weak

international trade. This vicious cycle will continue indefinitely unless wealthier nations show interest in minimizing the worldwide economic differences, as well as taking more responsibility for assisting unfortunate countries.

Most of the African countries live in sub-human conditions because of the extreme poverty, upheaval, hunger, disease, unemployment, lack of education and both inexperienced and corrupt administrations. The devastating consequences of the AIDS epidemic in those countries could improve if the infected populations receive free drugs to control the disease, have access to health professionals and get information on how to prevent its spread. But this can only be achieved through international help programs in which leaders of the world's richest countries donate medicine and also send doctors and nurses to treat and educate those in need.

Moreover, most of the poor countries rely on selling agricultural products and raw material to rich nations and buying industrialized products from them resulting in a huge financial deficit. Consequently, they borrow a significant amount of money from the World Bank to try to improve their broken economies, but sometimes the money disappears with no significant changes and they cannot even pay the interest to the bank. Regarding this issue, last year the G8, which is comprised of leaders of the eight richest nations, decided to forgive billions of dollars worth of debt owed by the world's poorest nations. In addition, they developed adequate loan programs to financially assist those countries.

In conclusion, leaders of the industrialised countries play an indispensable role in assisting developing nations deal with essential areas such as health, education and trade. Also, their aid is the key to break the vicious cycle, which results in poverty and death.

This is an amazing essay, looks like Band 8 to me, nothing to improve here.

9. Using a computer every day can have more negative than positive effects on children. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Essay 1 – High Score – Band 8-9

In today's modern world, computers are an essential part of everyday life. **Around the globe**, children often use computers from a very young age. Although it is important for children to participate in various well-balanced activities, in my opinion, children who use the computer daily are actually developing a critical skill for future success. The bases for my views are personal, academic, and professional.

From a personal point of view, computers are an invaluable resource to help young people explore the world around them. For example, children who use Internet to satisfy their curiosity about diverse topics are already becoming independent learners. No child with a computer is ever bored! By starting early in their lives, children feel totally at ease around computers; they are also able to take advantage of the wide range of services computers provide.

From an academic viewpoint, children have no choice but to master this technological invention. For instance, when I was in university, students brought their laptops to class to take notes, do research and exchange information. They wrote assignments, created presentations and developed databases. Children who build early confidence and experience in these abilities are at a distinct advantage over those who have not.

From a professional perspective, the computer has found a permanent place in the workplace. Today, employers still pay to provide computer training to their employees. Tomorrow, corporations will expect prospective job applicants to already possess these critical job skills. Consequently, parents who encourage their child to use the computer for a reasonable period of time daily are in fact investing in the child's future career.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that the computer as a technological tool is here to stay. The sooner children become computer-literate, the better for many aspects of their future lives.

10. Successful sports professionals can earn a great deal more money than people in other important professions. Some people think this is fully justified while others think it is unfair.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

The world of sports is a multimillion dollar industry. Around the globe, people flock to sporting events or watch their favourite teams faithfully each week on television. As a result, professional sports athletes receive huge salaries – well above, for example, those of doctors, lawyers, teachers or social workers. There is some debate about whether such outrageously high salaries are justified.

On one hand, sport is viewed as a professional career, in which the top players should rightly earn high salaries. Athletes train rigorously from an early age to become peak performers in their field. They face tremendous pressure in each and every game, match or competition. Their personal lives are compromised and they lose all privacy. At the same time, their strong achievements bring honour and attention, not only to themselves, but also to their teams, schools, cities or countries.

On the other hand, various professions contribute to making our world run smoothly. Doctors put in at least ten years of grueling study and internship; their work saves lives. Teachers educate and inspire young people to be responsible citizens: their efforts produce the citizens of tomorrow. Social workers rescue individuals facing physical, mental and psychological challenges: their intervention creates safer societies. Yet, professionals in the fields above usually struggle to get by, despite their meaningful and critical contribution to the world.

In my view, paying enormous salaries to sportspeople is unnecessary. We need to reconsider our social priorities and eliminate the great disparity in income received by diverse professionals. By doing so, we can build societies in which each one feels valued, appreciated and appropriately compensated for their own vocation or specialization.

11. In some countries, young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decide to do this. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Taking a “gap year” off between high school and university has become a popular option among many young people. This time off provides a break after many years of formal study. Some students use this time to travel around the world, others volunteer and still others begin working. The idea behind each of these activities is to do something hands-on and refreshing, which enables young people to learn more about themselves and their place in the world around them.

The benefits of taking a year off are plentiful. On a personal level, students who travel away from home develop their independence and self-confidence. On a cultural level, they learn about viewpoints, traditions and perspectives different from their own. Professionally, students get a taste of diverse workplaces, which might inspire a possible career interest. Intellectually, they examine their own beliefs and ideas in relation to those of others in a new environment. All these advantages combine to make a strong case for taking the one-year break.

Nevertheless, there are also dangers involved in taking such a long break. Academically, the main drawback is that students can get sidetracked from their studies. A year is a long time and students could lose the good study habits and sense of discipline they had when they were in a formal academic structure. If they begin working, they could also be deluded into thinking that they’re making a lot of money. They could lose the benefit of college or university education and the chance to earn a higher income all their lives.

In conclusion, whether to take a year-long break or not is an individual decision. Each young person should consider his or her motivations carefully and decide on what’s most desirable. Time is a precious resource and people of all ages, including young people, should treat it with respect.

12. Universities should accept equal numbers of men and women in every subject. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Gender issues have been increasing in importance through the centuries. In almost every sphere of human activity, there has been a movement towards greater equality between men and women. Although I agree that universities should open their doors to all students alike, in my view, they need not set a fixed limit on the number of men and women they accept in each subject. The bases for my views are psychological and personal.

Psychologically speaking, men and women are simply different, though they have the same potential for greatness. For example, women tend to be more intuitive, sensitive to others and caring. This means they may feel drawn, on the basis of their personalities, to certain kinds of professions such as teaching, nursing, or psychology, even if all fields are open to them. In such a context, it is best for universities to choose the best applicants, regardless of gender.

Personally, students need to discover their true calling. This is an individual matter and is not influenced by the universities reserving seats for men or women. For example, if the majority of women shy away from math or engineering, perhaps it has to do with their upbringing, which has influenced their interests. The universities will not be able to reverse this trend, though they should always look out for the most qualified candidates.

In conclusion, equality cannot be forced upon people – not in the area of education, employment or family life. Equality is about having choices and those who prove themselves capable will qualify for university, regardless of gender. It is only right that universities reflect and respect these free and natural choices being exercised by their students.

13. The rising levels of congestion and air pollution found in most of the world cities can be attributed directly to the rapidly increasing number of private cars in use. In order to reverse this decline in the quality of life in cities, attempts must be made to encourage people to use their cars less and public transport more. Discuss possible ways to encourage the use of public transport. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

In a world of increasing environmental awareness improved public transport represents the way of the future. Although people do enjoy the convenience and privacy of traveling in their own private vehicles, in my opinion they may choose public transport if it fulfills certain conditions. These conditions fall into three broad categories: attitudinal, financial and logistical.

From an attitudinal perspective, people must first be convinced of the benefits of public transportation. An educational or public relations campaign must be launched to sensitize those who might have disregarded this possibility before. People should be familiarized with the environmental, social and personal benefits for present and future generations. This is one step.

From a financial perspective, public transportation must be a clear and viable benefit to consumers. In other words, it must be more affordable than driving to work every day. For example, if people know that by using bus and subway, they can save enough money to take a free holiday each year, many more individuals would be persuaded to travel in this way. This is another critical step.

From a logistical perspective, public transportation should be convenient for commuters. City planners and transport officials must ensure that frequent and reliable public transportation is available for each citizen. For people to make the habit of traveling by bus or subway, they must know that they will be able to get to various places on time. Transport vehicles must be well maintained, subway and bus drivers should be customer-oriented and service must be punctual and efficient. This is an additional important step.

In conclusion, through a multi-pronged approach, it is possible to increase the use of public transportation. City officials and politicians can lead the way by utilizing these forms of transport themselves and bringing about change through personal example. Then, more citizens will follow suit and we may all hope to live in a cleaner, less polluted environment.

14. Many people believe that women make better parents than men and that this is why they have a greater role in raising children in most societies. Others claim that men are just as good as

women at parenting. Write an essay expressing your point of view. Give reasons for your answer. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

A child is born to two parents – a man and a woman. Both sexes play a crucial role in raising the child. Although fathers can make excellent parents, in my opinion, mothers are in reality better parents based on their natural intuition and compassionate tendencies.

Firstly, for a wide variety of socio-cultural reasons, women tend to have more intuitive intelligence than men. It is this intuition that enables the mother to know when her child needs her. In addition, women often know how to read non-verbal signals in human behaviour, which can alert them to issues and problems in the child's life. All of these "perceptive skills" play a major role in making the mother a close, responsible and responsive parent.

Secondly, most mothers share an inimitable bond with their children. Perhaps this bond arises during the nine months of pregnancy; perhaps it is reinforced through the act of breastfeeding. Whatever the cause, there often appears to be a lifelong silver chord or psychic connection between mother and child. As a result, the mother is able to evaluate the child's actions from the viewpoint of his/her intentions, and not just results. This empathy is priceless and cannot easily be replicated. Although fathers may form deep loving bonds with their children, they may not be able to match the depth of closeness shared by mother and child. In conclusion, although both parents are certainly capable of caring for the child, the mother often makes a better parent. Anyone who has experienced the unconditional acceptance of a mother's love can bear witness to this reality.

15. What factors are related to academic success in high school students?

High school is a critical time in the life of young people. On the one hand, teenagers are eager to enjoy their freedom and independence. On the other hand, they must be disciplined enough to keep their priorities straight. In my opinion, three social institutions impact high school students the most at this vulnerable time – the family, peer group and school.

Firstly, the family plays the central role by providing the backdrop in a young person's life. A positive family environment provides love, support and encouragement for the student to do his/her best. Simultaneously, the family aims to instill discipline and ambition in the child. The influence and expectations of family members remain paramount at this time and throughout a young person's life.

Secondly, as a child turns into a teenager, the peer group begins to play an increasingly important role in his/her life. The friendships one develops at this highly sensitive stage can affect one's attitude to studies, authority, society and the world. In the right company, young people can get involved in positive activities that support their academic performance. With the wrong crowd, teenagers could develop a host of unhealthy and dangerous habits which impact not only their grades but all aspects of their lives.

Lastly, the school itself is a deciding factor in the student's academic success. A variety of elements determine how the students feel about school: the teachers, the staff, the facilities, the subjects, the text books, the method of instruction and more. All of these have a significant impact on the young person's motivation to excel.

In conclusion, high school success is the product of various influences. We are all fortunate that, aside from a few unfortunate exceptions, the majority of students worldwide aspire to do well and grow up to become active and healthy participants in the world around them.

16. Foreign language instruction should begin in kindergarten. Discuss.

According to a famous saying, "The limits of my language are the limits of my world." Indeed, the ability to speak several languages is considered one of the hallmarks of a cultured person. From this perspective, foreign language instruction should begin as early as possible in order to achieve near-native fluency. The reasons behind this approach are intellectual, social and professional.

Intellectually, learning a foreign language at a young age enables children to develop their brain. At this age, children's minds are like sponges and their capacities are limitless. They have less inhibition or biases against learning different subjects. They can learn one, two or three languages without confusion; it would only serve to expand their minds. Therefore, it is ideal to start teaching a foreign language in kindergarten.

Socially, learning a foreign language enables the young child to enter a wider cultural world. By learning to speak, think and understand a different language, the child develops greater cross-cultural awareness. This critical ability enables the child to make friends with, identify with and empathize with others who speak the additional language.

Professionally, by learning a foreign language in kindergarten, the child expands his/her future career horizons. In today's increasingly globalized world, bilingual and multilingual individuals are in high demand. The child who achieves this fluency naturally and easily at a young age already has an edge over others in the job market.

In summary, numerous benefits flow from teaching a foreign language from kindergarten. The child will most likely grow up to thank those who made such a learning experience possible.

17. Band 9 sample IELTS writing on parents' support etc.

While many individuals complain that they are not sufficiently clever to succeed in life, I firmly believe that personality and development are decided more by education and training after birth than any given gene.

To begin with, environment is a determining factor of one's personality. One may think that personality is already shaped once a baby is born, but in fact there are many contributing factors. The baby, for instance, would most likely be pessimistic if he or she lived in a poor family, where the baby always received punishment from his parents. His view of life would be very different from another individual who lived happily in a perfectly nurturing family with encouragement and psychological support from his parents.

Further, education after birth plays a significant role in one's development. Education, which helps children develop their thinking and accumulate their knowledge, is a deciding factor of one's success. For example, a high-school level person commonly may not to the extent of a person who has received an university education. This is not only because of the greater breadth of knowledge acquired, but also due to a more critical and focused way of thinking that is imparted and refined during one's senior education. A wolf child, to offer another instance, due to a deficiency of education by contact with human beings, could hardly live in our society or self-develop.

Admittedly, nature, decided by the genes given by one's parents, also affects one's personality and development. One can clearly find differences among younger kids in their learning ability, which could prove the importance of genes in this regard. However, when compared with other factors after birth, the role genes play in one's personality and development may not be particularly significant. Not all genius will inevitably be successful, and similarly not all great men are genius in their childhood. Therefore, I hold that environment and education after birth weigh heavier than nature in regard to one's personality and development.

18. Band 9 sample IELTS writing on compete or cooperative.

Competition and cooperation play a large role in the advancement of society, both in business and non-business areas. Competition forces people to improve their products or services, and hence benefits the recipients of these products or services. Cooperation, however, plays an even more important role in development of individuals and the society as a whole, because it drastically increases the scale of these improvements. Working in groups and teams far increases the productivity of individuals. Thus, I firmly believe children should be taught to cooperate rather than to compete.

First of all, cooperation is an important skill in the future life of all children. They will need to live with other people throughout their life, since they will not study alone, work alone, nor spend their leisure time alone. If they do not know how to cooperate with their classmates, their colleagues, and other family members, then they will lose the chance to live happily. Thus, cooperation skills should be taught before they grow up to face serious problems living with others.

Furthermore, cooperation is a significant contributing factor to the development of society. While competition generally ends in a win-lose result, cooperation advocates that one plus one is larger than two, three or even a larger number. For example, the competition of two business firms would ultimately lead to the result that one becomes stronger and the other fails and goes out of business. However, if they cooperate with each other successfully, they may group together to form an enterprise larger than the mere sum of the

two. The more successful cooperation there is, the better the society develops. Thus, cooperation should be taught to children, because eventually they will be the executives of important corporations.

Admittedly, competition also plays a significant role in many areas. Stressed by the competition, individuals and organizations have to struggle to survive, and so they are forced to make improvements and develop.

However, in comparison, cooperation is more effective in helping individuals and societies to develop, because it benefits not only individuals, but also society as a whole. The reality is that children should be taught both, but if forced to choose only one, parents should undoubtedly teach their kids to cooperate rather than to compete.

19. Should parents be obliged to immunise their children against common childhood diseases? Or do individuals have the right to choose not to immunise their children?

The issue of whether we should force parents to immunise their children against common diseases is, in my opinion, a social rather than a medical question. Since we are free to choose what we expose our bodies to in the way of food, drink, or religion for that matter, why should the question of medical “treatment” be any different?

Medical researchers and governments are primarily interested in overall statistics and trends and in money-saving schemes which fail to take into consideration the individual's concerns and rights. While immunisation against diseases such as tetanus and whooping cough may be effective, little information is released about the harmful effects of vaccinations which can sometimes result in stunted growth or even death.

The body is designed to resist disease and to create its own natural immunity through contact with that disease. So when children are given artificial immunity, we create a vulnerable society which is entirely dependent on immunisation. In the event that mass immunisation programmes were to cease, the society as a whole would be more at risk than ever before.

In addition there is the issue of the rights of the individual. As members of a society, why should we be obliged to subject our children to this potentially harmful practice? Some people may also be against immunisation on religious grounds and their needs must also be considered.

For these reasons I feel strongly that immunisation programmes should not be obligatory and that the individual should have the right to choose whether or not to participate.

20. Several languages are in danger of extinction because they are spoken by very small numbers of people. Some people say that governments should spend public money on saving these languages, while others believe that would be a waste of money. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

It is true that some minority languages may disappear in the near future. Although it can be argued that governments could save money by allowing this to happen, I believe that these languages should be protected and preserved.

There are several reasons why saving minority languages could be seen as a waste of money. Firstly, if a language is only spoken by a small number of people, expensive education programs will be needed to make sure that more people learn it, and the state will have to pay for facilities, teachers and marketing. This money might be better spent on other public services. Secondly, it would be much cheaper and more efficient for countries to have just one language. Governments could cut all kinds of costs related to communicating with each minority group.

Despite the above arguments, I believe that governments should try to preserve languages that are less widely spoken. A language is much more than simply a means of communication; it has a vital connection with the cultural identity of the people who speak it. If a language disappears, a whole way of life will disappear with it, and we will lose the rich cultural diversity that makes societies more interesting. By spending money to protect minority languages, governments can also preserve traditions, customs and behaviours that are part of a country's history.

In conclusion, it may save money in the short term if we allow minority languages to disappear, but in the long term this would have an extremely negative impact on our cultural heritage.

21. Band 9 sample IELTS writing on violence in movies and society. Topic: The government should control the amount of violence in films and on television in order to decrease violent crimes in society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It has been suggested that the government should control the amount of violence in films and on television in order to decrease the rate of violent crimes in society. It would certainly be easy to garner support for such a move, but solely adapting such a policy will do little to effect social change.

The question has often been raised as to what extent media violence actually influences behavior. One can readily recount incidences of a child or young person viewing some violent behavior in a movie or on television and then trying to reproduce that situation in real life. It is hard to estimate the amount of violence which can be traced back to television shows or movies but the existence of such incidences is undeniable. Logically, removing this violent content should directly reduce the incidence of such violence but this relationship between violent media content and violent behavior is not so simple.

While much has been recorded of young people imitating media violence, little has been directed to the influence of sad violence on those who are able to differentiate the imaginary situations in movies and on television from reality. If one were to find no similar relationship it could be immediately surmised that the most direct solution is increased supervision of young people, and not the modification of media content. The degree to which people are influenced by what they see in the media depends directly on how responsibly they are educated about the relationship of fiction and reality.

Watching comedies does not transform one into a comedian, and watching violent movies does not directly make one violent. Rather than taking crude half measures to repair complex social problems, more focus must be placed on the nature of interpersonal relationships, social responsibility and personal accountability.

22. Band 9 sample IELTS writing on university education and jobs.

There is no doubt that helping students find a job is one of the primary functions of university education, but universities do exist for other purposes such as improving students' analytical skills and raising students' moral standards.

A university education can be seen as a process of improving students' analytical thinking. The variety of courses offered at university inspires students in various ways, therefore improving their analytical ability. For example, science courses such as math and biology help students develop a rational way of thinking whereas arts courses such as literature have to let students ponder over issues from a logical, multi-dimensional perspective; and courses in social sciences force students to recognize the ideas that have been traditionally assumed to be acceptable and unproblematic. With the development of these types of analytical thinking, graduates can face future challenges with more confidence and enthusiasm.

Also, university education is expected to improve students' moral standards. This is rooted in universities' belief that students' awareness of responsibility towards their community and their country is of high importance. In this ever-degenerating society and civilization, students are encouraged to actively participate in improving the local community. A university that provides care and facilities for physically disadvantaged students may inspire the graduates to better handle situations in the future where they may have to interact with the disabled community. A successful university education is supposed to produce morally sound graduates, therefore increasing their employability.

In conclusion, university education not only helps students locate a decent job but will also develop other qualities such as enhancing their analytical skills and cultivating their hunger and spirit for life.

23. Band 8 sample IELTS writing on guns. Topic: Unlike other countries, police in UK does not carry guns. Some think it leaves citizen unprotected. Others think it reduces the overall violence in UK society. Discuss.

This should be a familiar scene in a Hollywood detective movie: an American police officer, armed with a pistol in case of a sudden strike from a misty corner, patrols a dark alley in search of the criminal element. In the meantime, his UK counterparts have to do the same job with merely a short baton in hand. He is like a fearless knight fighting for honour against enemies armed with guns with only his lance. Naturally, the ending will always be unfavourable to him. Or the ending will always not be to the delight of the spectators. Police, as protectors of his people, should do what they can, and use whatever means they can, to keep people out of harm's way. But in the UK, police are on duty without carrying a gun, which is a very bad idea. They are handicapping themselves.

Generally speaking, gun is recognized as an emblem of power and justice of police. It is clear that a police with gun on is able to prevent those potential criminal activities. For instance, a pistol on the belt works effectively to stop crimes ranging from those robbery, theft, and rape and it can also force the criminals to be arrested.

Furthermore, gun serves as a reliable friend while the police crashes into an emergent situation like gun fighting or commotion. Guns are not expected to be employed to finish off the chaos but to help the police survive before the reinforcement comes.

Meanwhile, the violence rate is rising in UK due to the global terrorism. Unlike the ordinary gangster and robbers who are armed with daggers and knives, a large number of international terrorists are equipped with semi-auto rifles and massive destruction weapons. Proper measures must be taken to limit the uneven contrast of power and the great efforts should be made to protect civilians from the harm of terrorist attack. However, there is an old saying "combat poison with poison", say, an overall upgrading of UK police equipment couldn't be better to meet the needs. It is all necessary that every police carries a pistol while they are on duty, that would be the practicable way to ensure the public security in Britain.

As a consequence, having carry guns by police will evidently benefit people in UK, and of which will lead to a more steady and harmonic society. If there must be a controversy, it would go to whether the government should place a curb upon the possible abuse of gun.

24. Band 9 sample IELTS writing on money and success.

The notion of success holds different meanings for different people and groups. Such meanings have changed and evolved over time. Actually, many propose that possessing an abundance of money implies success. However, this view is rendered obsolete in the minds of those individuals who hold that one's success cannot be measured strictly by money.

Material possession has been traditionally accepted as the measurement of one's success or social status. When we initially refer to someone, we routinely mention how much money he owns and thereby believe this individual to be quite successful if he is wealthy. In addition to this perpetuated concept, owning a lot of money is typically related to one's work ability and thus some people may simply consider money as a prime measurement of one's success.

However, this view has changed recently since many people have come to recognize that money in many cases cannot bring about happiness, health and success. A more precise, contemporaneous definition of success means doing the things one perceives are valuable to themselves and beneficial for others. The winner of the Nobel Prize for peace may think he has achieved success although he is rewarded little financial benefit. A person who loves animals and makes an effort to save animals that are on a path of extinction may think he has gained success although he may have expended all of his money on his career. Another individual may define success as being able to make artistic masterpieces that can be accepted by public. As a composer, success is having his work praised by adoring fans and who help cause the work to be bought the world over. Similarly, holding an exhibition in a famous art gallery may connote success for a painter.

People adhere to various concepts defining success. Money surely cannot be the only measurement of success. Acquiring true happiness in life and attaining success means having the freedom and capability of doing that which you enjoy and believing it to be valuable.

25. Band 8 sample IELTS writing: stricter punishment and road safety.

Recent years have witnessed a worsening trend in road safety. According to statistics from the local authority, the number of traffic accidents in 2004 was 20% greater than that of the previous year. The issue is gaining more and more concern of the public, some of whom propose that stricter punishment on traffic offenders should be the only way to ensure road safety. As far as I am concerned, I hold that punishment should not be only solution to the problem.

There is certainly no denying that stricter penalties may to some extent bring down the number of accidents on motorways as a deterrent to driving offenses. Besides, the government may enjoy a greater revenue from severer fines, which can in turn be used to improve road conditions.

However, we shall never overlook the other side of the coin: punishment has its downsides. Fines, as the most common penalty for driving violations, tend to instill in people the misconception that money can pay off their guilt and resolve the problem. As a result, we can see many cases where the traffic offender commits the same or another mistake even after having been fined a lot. In spite of heavier punishment, road safety cannot be enhanced unless drivers are equipped with sufficient driving skills and knowledge. Recently there have emerged many irresponsible driving schools that have produced a host of unqualified drivers, contributing to more traffic offences. Thus tight control on driving schools and the driving testing system is needed as well to improve road safety. Furthermore, advertisements and campaigns concerned should be launched to raise the public awareness. When people are fully aware of the importance of abiding by traffic rules, accidents may hopefully be eliminated.

From the above discussion, it is clear that only stricter punishment is not enough to enhance road safety. Instead, it should go hand in hand with closer control on driving schools and the testing system as well as higher public awareness.

26. There are many different types of music in the world today, Why do we need music? Is the traditional music of a country more important than the international music that is heard everywhere nowadays?

The day the world was created, music was born. Nature has wonderful rhythms and sound which cannot be matched to anything in this world. The sound of recurring waves of the sea, the flow of the river, voice of the cuckoo all have been a great influence on mankind. Music has grown into human beings over years, shaped by various improvements, used to depict the mood of the person who plays it.

International music has under grown a massive reach in the last decade due to better globalization, communication and shrinking of the world. However there have been developments in traditional music which are more influenced by the culture and tradition of a country. The reach of music across borders has created a healthy environment and has provided opportunities for creativity by combining international music and traditional music.

Earlier in the 1980's people heard romantic, soft, western music which has dramatically changed to rock music now. Hip hop music which were very popular earlier have transcended and although people love to hear them they have been out fashioned in today's music world.

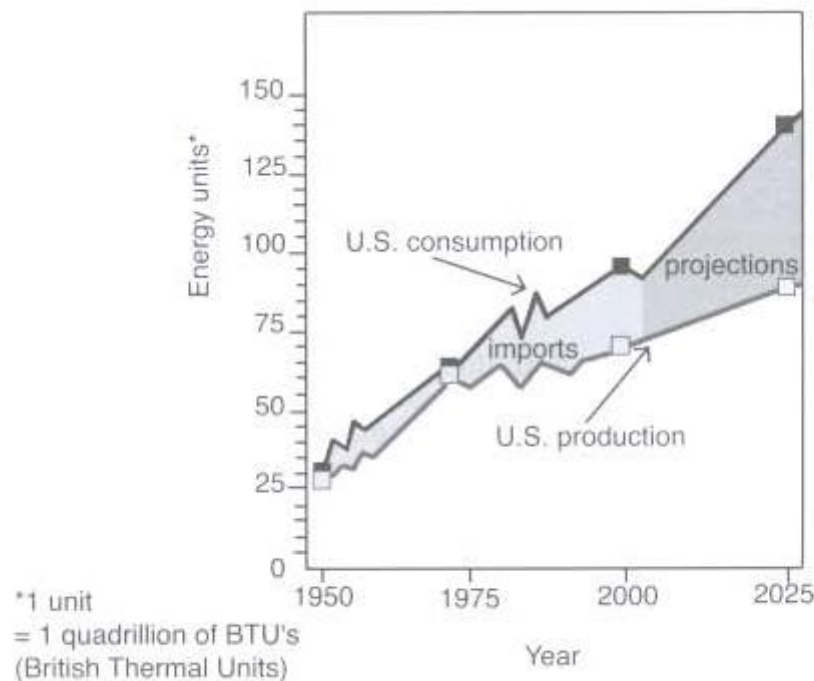
Traditional music of a country is unique for every country and it has its roots too. They depict the culture, tradition of the society. For example, in India, every occasion has a music relevant to the mood. The classical music 'ragas' have specific collection of notes which when sung during particular time of a day gives peace of mind to body and soul. Not to deny the fact that the traditional music have undergone changes too. There have been adaptations made from the international music. The instruments used have been very different and more advanced keeping in pace with technological advancements. Although they have been changes, the basic structure of the traditional music remains unique and unchanged.

Research shows that music can heal and cure diseases. They can soothe ones feelings and relaxes our mind. Every individual has a sense of taste for music, which is very unique. Some like jazz, rock some classical and some hip hop. Whatever it is music has been one of the major part time experiences for human beings. Music keeps everyone rejuvenated throughout his life, which proves its necessity.

Traditional music and international music are two different things altogether. It is very important for both of them to exist, more for the former, because it gives the sense of the tradition, culture and is more than just an art. In this ever-changing world it becomes imperative that our future generations get to know about the

traditional music which is more native of the country. Hence I feel traditional music is more important than international music.

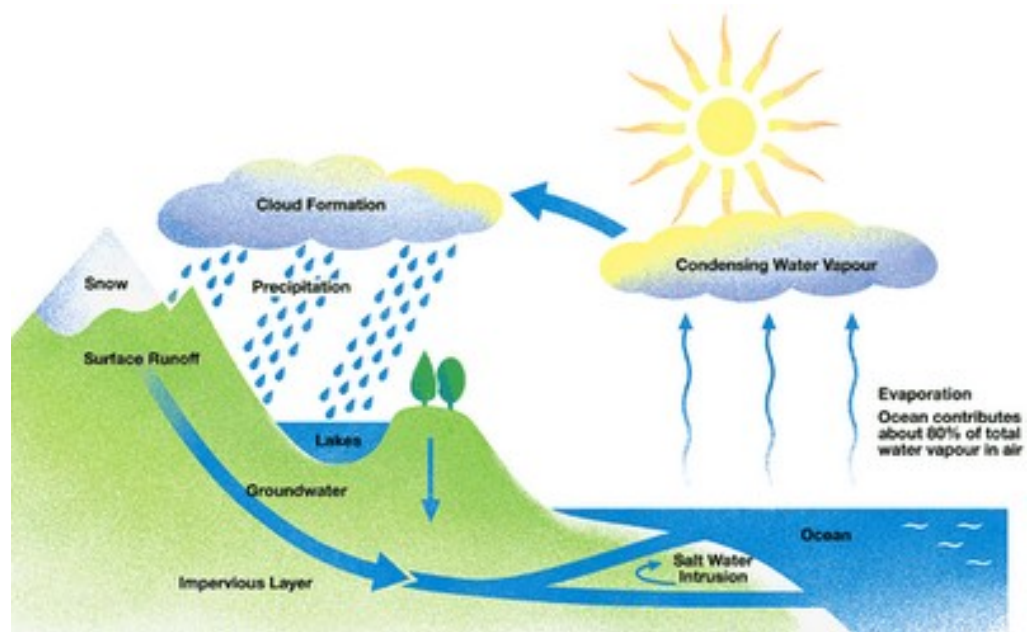
Band 9 Task 1



The graph shows changes in the gap between US energy consumption and production since 1950. It also estimates trends up to 2025. Between 1950 and 1970 both production and consumption increased from just over 30 units to about 65, and although consumption was consistently higher, the difference was marginal during this period. However, production grew only gradually over the next 30 years to reach 70 units in 2000. In contrast, growth in consumption was steeper and more fluctuating, reaching 95 units by 2000. Energy imports needed to bridge this gap therefore increased from very little in 1970 to a substantial 25 units in 2000.

Projections up to 2025 indicate that this trend is likely to continue, with the gap between production and consumption widening. By 2025 it is expected that consumption will reach 140 units, while production will reach only 90, so more than 30% of energy consumed (50 units) will have to be imported. Overall, the graph indicated that energy production in the US is not keeping up with consumption, so imports will continue to increase.

The diagram below shows the water cycle, which is the continuous movement of water on, above and below the surface of the Earth.



The picture illustrates the way in which water passes from ocean to air to land during the natural process known as the water cycle.

Three main stages are shown on the diagram. Ocean water evaporates, falls as rain, and eventually runs back into the oceans again.

Beginning at the evaporation stage, we can see that 80% of water vapour in the air comes from the oceans. Heat from the sun causes water to evaporate, and water vapour condenses to form clouds. At the second stage, labelled 'precipitation' on the diagram, water falls as rain or snow.

At the third stage in the cycle, rainwater may take various paths. Some of it may fall into lakes or return to the oceans via 'surface runoff'. Otherwise, rainwater may filter through the ground, reaching the impervious layer of the earth. Salt water intrusion is shown to take place just before groundwater passes into the oceans to complete the cycle.

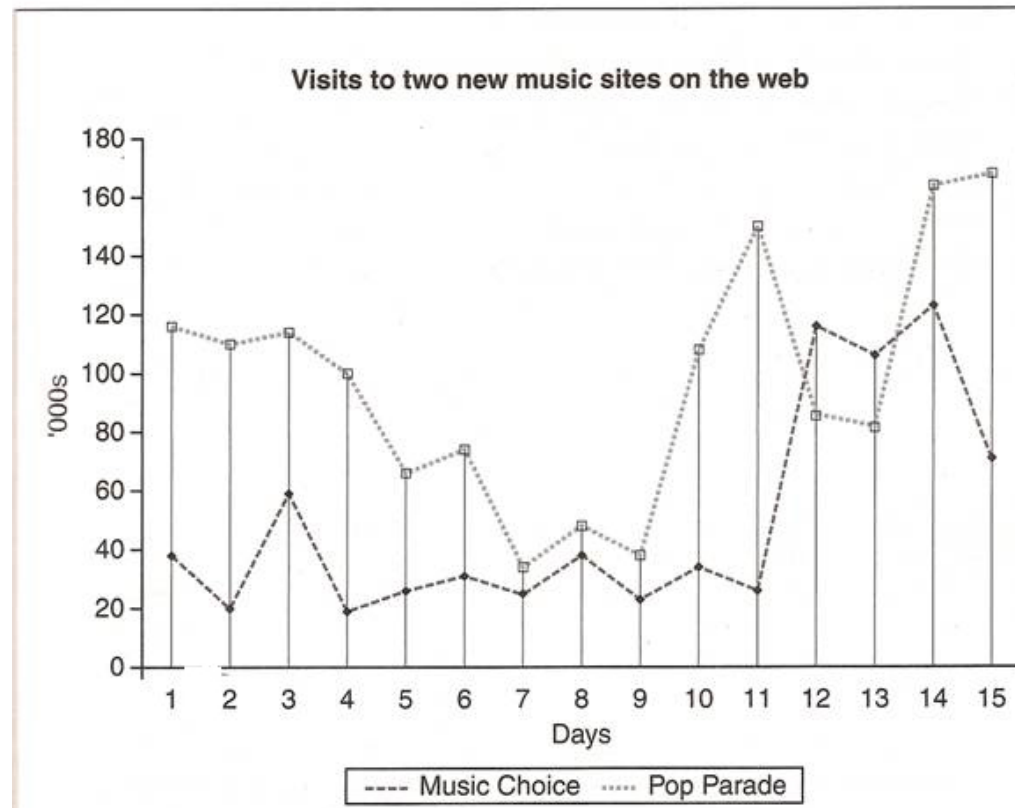
Graph Sample 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The graph below compares the number of visits to two new music sites on the web.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

Write at least 150 words.



The graph exhibits people using new music places on the internet in fifteen days period of time namely personal choice and trendy pop music. The overall trend shows fluctuation with slight increased towards the end of the period.

Starting with Music Choices websites; 40,000 people went on this new site on the first day. Half of them backed out the next day. In contrast to this pop parade net sites were visited by 120,000 music lovers on the day one which decreased slightly on the next day there after regaining the same fame on 3rd day.

After 3rd day the enthusiasm for both music lines on the internet dropped slowly- reaching maximum fall of 40,000 on the 7th day. Whereas Music Choice gained popularity, slightly improving to get the original strength of 30,000 viewers on the screen, but was getting still less visitors then their opponent Pop group i.e. 40,000 on day 7.

In the beginning of the next week both gained remarkable recovery after few fluctuations for 8th and 9th day having 40,000 and 50,000 visitors respectively, reaching to their peaks of one and half thousand new visitors for Pop Parade on the 11th day showing the contrast of very few people visiting music capital choice for the same day. Thereafter, Music Choice gained popularity on the 12 day for having more than 120,000 new visitors on web.

In the end of the period Pop sites were visited by maximum viewers of 180,000 where as sites located to Music Choice were not explored by more than 80,000 explorers on the last day of the report.

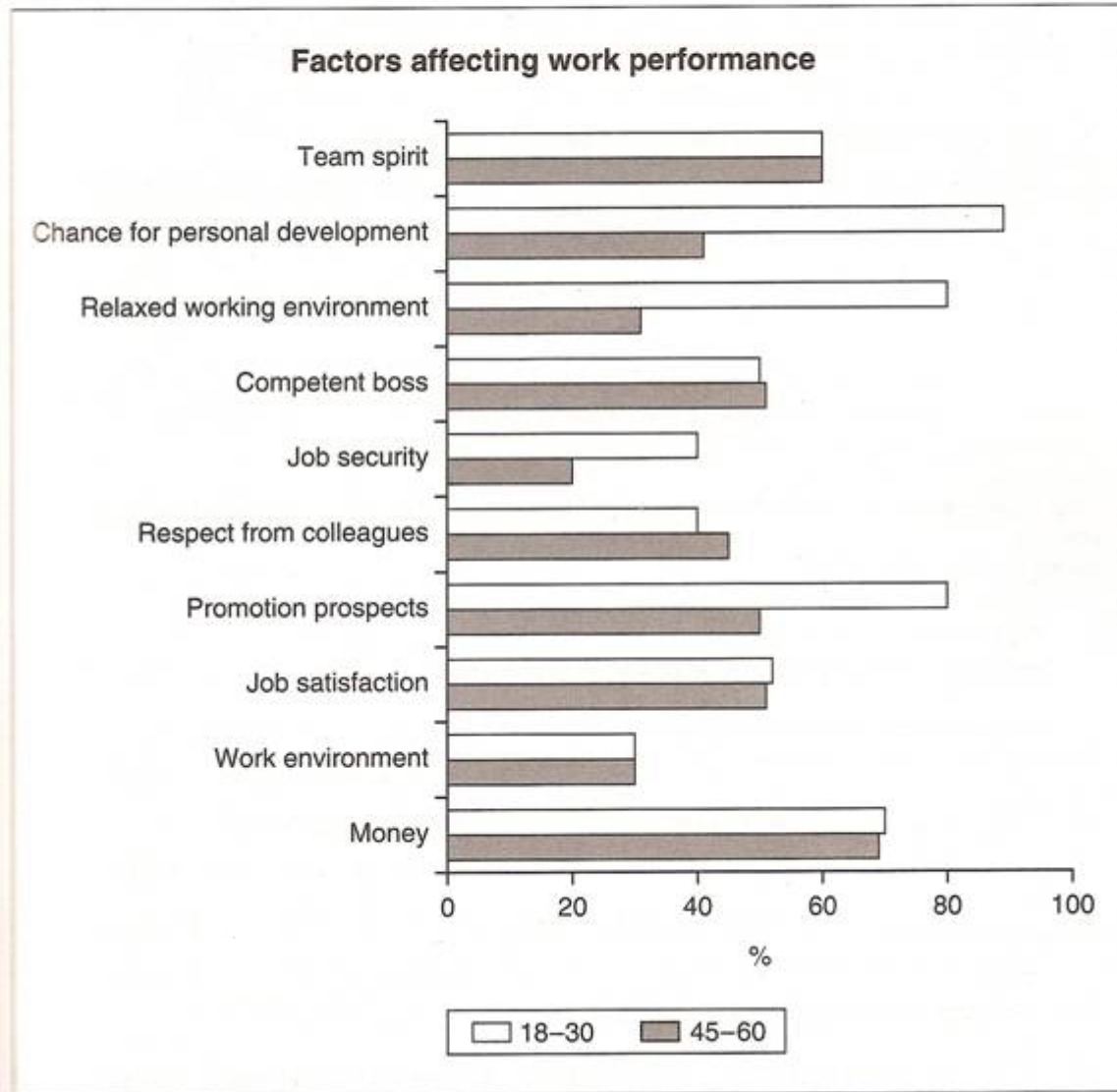
Graph Sample 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The bar chart below shows the results of a survey conducted by a personnel department at a major company. The survey was carried out on two groups of workers: those aged from 18–30 and those aged 45–60, and shows factors affecting their work performance.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information below.

Write at least 150 words.



The bar chart indicates a survey on two different age groups on the factors contributing to make their environment pleasant for working.

These factors are divided into internal and external factors. The internal factors are the team spirit, competent boss, respect from colleagues and job satisfaction. The external factors are chance for personal development, job security, promotional prospects and money.

On the internal factors above 50 % in both age groups agreed that team spirit, competent boss and job satisfaction are essential to make their environment pleasant. Whereas on the external factors, there are contrasting results. On the chance of personal development and promotional aspects, 80% to 90% of the younger groups were in favor while only less than 50% of the older group thought so. A similar pattern is also noted on job security. With regards to money, 69% to 70% on both age groups said it is essential.

In conclusion, the internal factors have similar responses from the two age groups while they had dissimilar responses on the external factors.

Graph Sample 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The table below shows the results of a survey of the average number of cars per hour using three suburban roads during working hours in a ten-year pollution monitoring programme. Traffic calming* was introduced in Harper Lane at the beginning of 1999.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the data below.

*traffic calming = methods of slowing down traffic, e.g. by building raised areas across roads.

Write at least 150 words.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Harper Lane	82	100	386	542	654	915	204	173	178	193
Great York Way	600	720	700	667	630	695	911	902	900	900
Long Lane	400	450	600	800	638	700	1000	1200	1400	1400

The data exhibits the conclusion of study of the average number of cars passing on three different roads between 1993 and 2002. In general the trend was upward over the period.

The most striking feature is that there was a dramatic increase in the number of cars passed on the Long Lane from 1993 to 2001, during which the number increased from 400 cars in 1993 to 1400 cars in 2001. However, the number was stable during the following year at 1400 cars.

The evidence reveals that the number of cars on Harper Lane rose between 1993 and 1998. One year before the introduction of the methods to slow down traffic, the number declined with slight fluctuation.

The facts show that the average number of cars passed on Great York Way increased significantly from 1993 to 1999, the same year in which methods to slow down traffic was introduced. There were 600 cars in 1993 and 911 cars in 1999. However there was a slight reduction in the number of cars during the following years.

To sum up the introduction of traffic calming had a non significant impact on the cars passing on roads Long Lane and Great York Way. In comparison there was a slight effect on the cars passing on Harper Lane.