

## LỜI NÓI ĐẦU CỦA TÁC GIẢ

Hi các bạn,

Mình là Ngọc Bách. Các bạn đang cầm trên tay quyển sách IELTS Writing nửa đầu năm 2019 được viết bởi mình và đã được review bởi giám khảo IELTS bản xứ. Có thể các biết đề thi IELTS thường ra lại các năm trước, thậm chí ra giống hệt 100% -> ôn thi lấy đề từ đề Writing năm trước là sát nhất với thi thật

Cuốn sách được viết với mục đích nhằm giúp cho tất cả các bạn đang tự học IELTS Writing có một tài liệu cập nhật nhất với đề thi thật, ngoài ra đảm bảo độ chính xác, đáng tin cậy nhất có thể để các bạn tham khảo

Các bạn có thể tìm thấy rất nhiều tài liệu chia sẻ trên mạng về IELTS, nhưng mình khẳng định tài liệu các bạn đang cầm trên tay là một trong những tài liệu mất rất nhiều thời gian biên soạn, được viết công phu, chi phí tốn kém nhất (chủ yếu là chi phí để giám khảo chữa bài. 300k cho 1 bài task 1, 600k cho 1 bài task 2).

Do vậy, mình hy vọng các bạn có thể cố gắng hết sức tận dụng tối đa nguồn tài liệu quý này để ôn tập, luyện thi IELTS cho tốt. Đừng chỉ down về rồi bỏ đấy sẽ rất phụ lòng của người soạn sách là mình.

Chúc các bạn học tốt và hy vọng nhận được tin báo điểm tốt từ các bạn (Các bạn có thể gửi về email [ieltsbach1707@gmail.com](mailto:ieltsbach1707@gmail.com) thông báo kết quả điểm để mình vui và có động lực soạn thêm các sách mới ^^)

-Ngọc Bách-

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## Mục lục

<b>Đề thi 05/01/2019 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Task 1: The diagrams illustrate the design of a single and double room study area.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Đề thi 15/01/2019 .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Task 1: The diagram shows the small-scale production of smoked fish .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Task 2: Nowadays, many people cannot read or write. What problems does this cause? What measures can governments take to solve these problems? .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Đề thi 02/02/2019 .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Task 1: The charts show school expenditure and the proportion of students who gained higher education diplomas and degrees in Singapore from 2000 to 2012.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Task 2: More and more people want to buy famous brands of clothes, cars and other items. What are the reasons? Do you think it is a positive or negative development? .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Đề thi 10/02/2019 .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Task 1: The graph below shows the amount of electricity produced from different energy sources to supply the city of New York between 1980 and 2000.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Task 2: In most successful organisations, some people believe that communication between managers and workers is important, while other people said that other factors are more significant. What is your opinion? .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Đề thi 14/02/2019 .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Task 1: The table shows the expenditure on various types of food in one European country in 1992, 2002 and 2012. ....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Task 2: Some people claim that museums and art galleries are not needed today, because everyone can see historical objects or art works by computer. Do you agree or disagree? ..</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Đề thi 23/02/2019 .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Task 1: The chart shows the average class size in six countries and compares it with the world average class size in 2006.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Task 2 (trùng đề 2/2/2019): More and more people want to buy famous brands of clothes, cars and other items. What are the reasons? Do you think it is a positive or negative development? .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Đề thi 24/02/2019 .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Task 1: The plan below shows a typical American and Japanese office. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Task 2: Some people believe that all wild animals should be protected. Others say that only a few wild animals should be protected. Discuss both views and give your opinion.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Đề thi 02/03/2019 .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Task 1: The diagrams illustrate the process of building an igloo. ....</b>	<b>38</b>

Task 2: The world of work is changing rapidly and people cannot depend on the same job or the same conditions of work for life. Discuss the possible causes for these changes and give your suggestions on how people should prepare for work in the future.....	40
<b>Đề thi 07/03/2019 .....</b>	<b>44</b>
Task 1: The charts below show the proportion of people's spending on different commodities and services in a particular European country in 1958 and in 2008.....	44
Task 2: Research suggests that the majority of criminals who are sent to prison commit crimes when set free. What are the reasons? What can be done to solve the problem? .....	45
<b>Đề thi 09/03/2019 .....</b>	<b>49</b>
Task 1: The charts below show the performance of a bus company in terms of punctuality, both actual and target (what actually happened compared to what the company was trying to achieve) and the number of complaints from passengers.....	49
Task 2: Some people believe that the only purpose of films is to entertain. But others say films should have educational value. Discuss both views and give your opinion.....	50
<b>Đề thi 14/03/2019 .....</b>	<b>53</b>
Task 1: The flow chart below shows the procedure to get a driving license in the US. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.....	53
Task 2: In some countries, small town-centre shops are going out of business because people tend to drive to large out-of-town stores. As a result, people without cars have limited access to out-of town stores, and this may result in an increase in the use of cars.....	54
<b>Đề thi 15/03/2019 .....</b>	<b>57</b>
Task 1: The line graph shows the number of trips to other countries by UK residents for various purposes between 1989 and 2001. ....	57
Task 2: Nowadays, many animal species are becoming extinct. Some people believe that countries and individuals must solve this problem, others believe that human beings are more important. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. ....	58
<b>Đề thi 19/03/2019 .....</b>	<b>61</b>
Task 1: The diagram below shows the changes which took place in a coastal area called Portland from 1950 to 2007.....	61
Write a report for a university lecturer describing the diagrams below. ....	61
Task 2: In many countries not enough students are choosing to study science subjects. What are the causes? And what will be the effects on society? .....	63
<b>Đề thi 23/03/2019 .....</b>	<b>66</b>
Task 1: The 2 maps show an area before and after building the hydroelectric dam.....	67
Task 2: It is expected that there will be a higher proportion of older people than that of young people in many countries in the future? Do you think it is a positive or negative development?.....	68
<b>Đề thi 24/03/2019 .....</b>	<b>72</b>

Task 1: The charts show the sales of new cars in Australia in 1984, 1993 and 2013 .....	72
Task 2: Some people think that hard work and determination bring success. Others think other factors such as money and good appearance are more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion? .....	73
Đề thi 28/03/2019 .....	76
Task 1: The maps show a beautiful beachfront area in Australia in 1950 and today. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.....	77
Task 2: In some countries, advertisers increase the amount of advertising which tries to persuade children to buy snacks, toys and other goods. Parents object to such pressure on children. But some advertisers claim that there is useful information in these advertisements. Discuss both views and give your opinion.....	78
Đề thi 06/04/2019 .....	82
Task 1: The chart shows the percentage of males and females who were overweight in Australia from 1980 to 2010.....	82
Task 2: People have little understanding of the importance of the natural world. What are the reasons for this, and how can people learn more about the natural world? .....	83
Đề thi 13/04/2019 .....	87
Task 1: The maps below show the changes to an art gallery floor plan in 2005 and the present day. ....	87
Đề thi 25/04/2019 .....	89
Task 1: The chart shows the percentage of car manufacturer's total car sales in different regions from 2006 to 2010. ....	89
Task 2: In many countries today, people in cities either live alone or in small family units, rather than in large family groups. Is this a positive or negative trend? .....	90
Đề thi 04/05/2019 .....	94
Task 1: The bar chart shows the number of cars per 1000 people in 5 countries in Europe in 2005, 2009 and 2015, compared with the European average. ....	94
Task 2: Today, many children spend a lot of time playing computer games and little time on sports. What are the reasons for this and is it a positive or negative development? ....	95
Đề thi 11/05/2019 .....	98
Task 1: The chart below gives information about car ownership per household in the UK from 1975 to 2005.....	98
Task 2: Some businesses find that their new employees lack basic interpersonal skills, such as cooperative skills. What are the causes and suggest some possible solutions. ....	100
Đề thi 18/05/2019 .....	103
Task 1: The chart shows the percentage of the adult population employed in different categories in 2003 and 2013.....	103

**Task 2: Advertising is all around us; it is an unavoidable part of everyone's life. Some people say that advertising is a positive part of our lives. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

..... 104

**Đề thi 23/05/2019** ..... 107

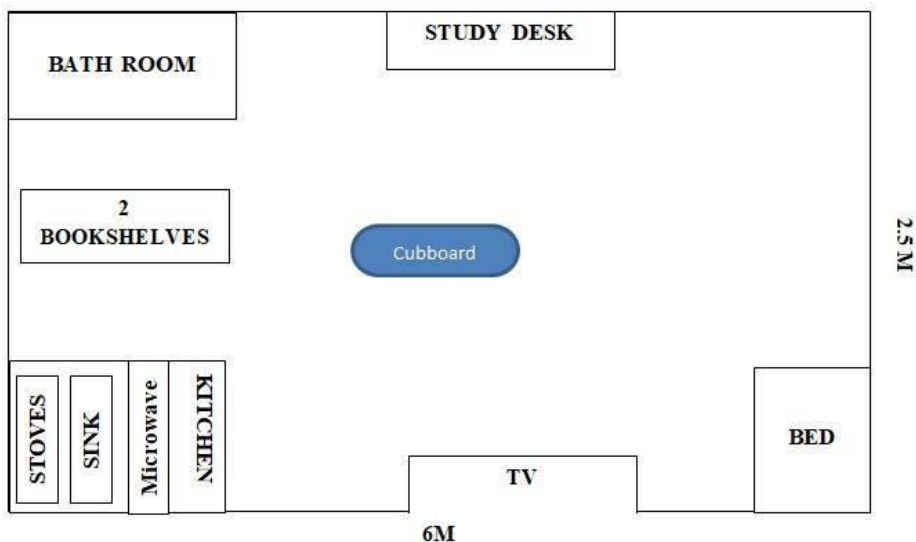
**Task 1: The line graphs show the distribution of employment among agriculture, manufacturing industry and services in 3 countries in 1980 and 2020** ..... 107

**Task 2: In many cities there is little control on the design and construction of new homes and office buildings, and people can build houses in their own style. What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a situation?**..... 108

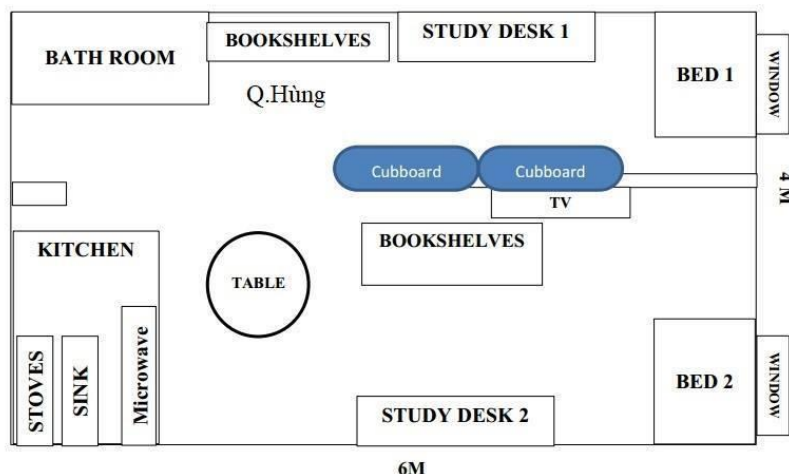
Đề thi 05/01/2019

Task 1: The diagrams illustrate the design of a single and double room study area.

SINGLE ROOM -\$200 PER WEEK



DOUBLE ROOM -\$350 PER WEEK



### Report Plan:

- Paraphrase paragraph: illustrate>show; design>layout; study area>room with study facilities
- Summary/overview paragraph: (1) double room is more expensive (2) it has windows, more cupboards, desks and beds.
- Paragraph 3: compare the cost and size of the rooms
- Paragraph 4: compare the kitchens, beds and windows
- Paragraph 5: compare the centre of the rooms and location of the desks and TV.

### Report:

The diagrams show the layout of a single room and a double room with study facilities.

**Overall, although** more expensive, the double room has windows and more cupboards, desks and beds than the single room.

The single room costs £200, **whereas** the double room is much dearer at £350 per week. **While** both rooms are 6m wide, the double room has a length of 4m, **compared with** just 2.5m for the single room.

In the single room, there are 2 bookshelves between the bathroom and kitchen, but the double room has a table outside the kitchen. Both kitchens have a stove, sink and microwave. On the opposite wall, the double room has two beds, each one by a window, **compared with** one bed for the single room.

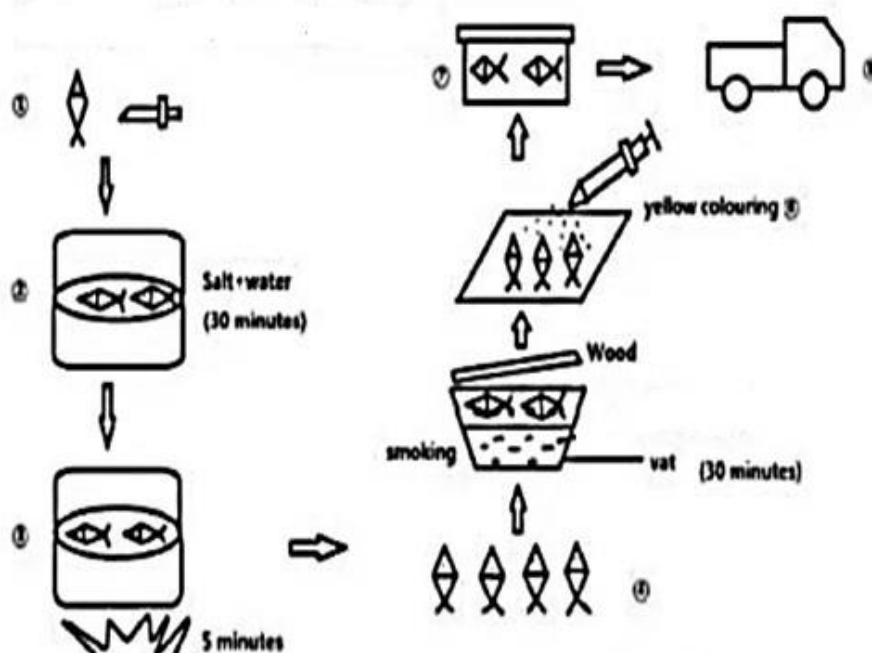
In the centre of the single room, there is only a cupboard, **while** a study desk and a TV occupy opposite walls. **In contrast**, there are 2 cupboards, a TV and extra bookshelves in the middle of the double room, which has 2 study desks and a bookshelf on the other walls.

179 words



Đề thi 15/01/2019

Task 1: The diagram shows the small-scale production of smoked fish



Note:

I am unable to edit the diagram. Please delete 2 mistakes in the diagram. The words ‘small scope about the production of smoking fish’ and ‘smudging’ are incorrect in this context. You can simply delete them.

In the process of smoking in the vat, the fish are hung on wires to ‘smoke’. This is not clear in the diagram, but this is the process that is carried out. If it is possible to label these wires, it will help students.

### Report Plan:

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** diagram>flow-chart; production of smoked fish>process of smoking fish
- **Summary/Overview paragraph:** (1) there are 8 stages (2) name the first stage and the last stage
- **Paragraph 3 (before smoking)** – cleaning, placing in salt water, cooking for 5 minutes

- **Paragraph 4 (smoking process) – smoking, add colouring, pack in boxes, transportation.**

### **Report:**

The flow-chart illustrates the different stages in the small-scale process of smoking fish.

Overall, it is clear that the process has 8 stages, beginning with the preparation of the fish and ending with the delivery of the finished product.

First, the fish are cleaned with a knife and prepared ready for the production process, before being placed in a container of salt water for 30 minutes. Next, they are cooked for 5 minutes in hot salted water, and the fish are then removed.

The process of smoking is now ready to start. In a vat, the fish are hung by wires on top of some material which burns and produces smoke. The vat is covered with wood, so that the smoke cannot escape. After 30 minutes, the fish are smoked and ready for the next stage, which is the addition of yellow colouring. The smoked fish are then packed in closed containers and, finally, transported in trucks to where they will be sold.

163 words.

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**Task 2: Nowadays, many people cannot read or write. What problems does this cause? What measures can governments take to solve these problems?**

### **Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the statement in the question. There are serious problems, but governments can take measures to solve them.
- **Paragraph 2:** problems (1) individuals cannot understand important information, such as official documents. They may lose rights
- **Paragraph 3:** solutions (1) provide literacy classes (2) government staff with responsibility to help people who are illiterate (3) governments in developing countries must ensure basic education for everyone.

- **Conclusion: the problem is serious, but there are steps which governments should take.**

### Essay:

It is true that even today, illiteracy is widespread. **While** this presents serious difficulties for individuals and society, there are steps that governments should take to deal with the problem.

When people can neither read nor write, they are disadvantaged in important ways. **In terms of** the individual consequences of illiteracy, dealing with bureaucracy is a nightmare. Reading and writing – or even adding a signature to – an official document is often necessary, **for example** when people have to apply for social welfare benefits. From the perspective of society in general, it is difficult to integrate economic migrants into society who are perhaps illiterate in their home countries, or are unable to read and write in the language of the host country. This makes the task of constructing a multicultural society difficult if minority groups are forced to do sweated labour, simply because they are illiterate and excluded from better-paid jobs.

There are, however, policies which national and local authorities can adopt to improve matters. **Firstly**, resources should be allocated to provide basic literacy classes in local colleges or social and community centres to help people to learn to read and write. **Secondly**, government departments must employ staff who have specific responsibility for helping illiterate people to cope with the confusing mass of official paperwork. In this way, they will not be discriminated against, **for instance** by losing welfare rights to which they are entitled. **Finally**, governments even in developing countries must ensure that everyone has the right to a basic education which enables them to read and write.

**In conclusion, although** illiteracy is a serious problem, there are steps which governments should take to help those who can neither read nor write.

282 words

### Vocabulary from *Society*:

- **to integrate into society**

Meaning: to become accepted as a member of a social group, especially when a person comes from a different culture

Example: Children from minority groups often find it easy **to integrate into society** because they attend schools which are multicultural.

- **economic migrants**

Meaning: people who move from their own countries to a new country in order to find work or to have a better standard of living

Example: As a result of global inequalities of wealth, many **economic migrants** have fled to developed countries.

- **a multicultural society**

Meaning: a society which includes people of different origins, traditions and languages

Example: Immigration has led to the development of **multicultural societies** in the US, Europe and Australia.

- **minority groups**

Meaning: small groups within a community that are different because of their origin, religion, language or traditions

Example: Children from **minority groups** are sometimes victims of bullying at school.

- **sweated labour**

Meaning: hard work that is done for low wages in poor conditions; the people who do this work

Example: Conditions of **sweated labour** still exist in many developing countries.

- **social and community centres**

Meaning: places where people who live in the same area can meet for events or to do different activities

Example: Elderly people who live alone are able to make friends and enjoy life more if local authorities provide **social and community centres**.

- **to discriminate**

Meaning: to treat one person or group worse/better than another in an unfair way

Example: It is illegal **to discriminate on the grounds of** race, sex or religion.

### **Vocabulary from *Government*:**

- **to adopt policies**

Meaning: to start to use particular policies

Example: In order to deal with traffic congestion, the government must **adopt policies** to restrict the use of private cars.

- **national and local authorities**

Meaning: government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area

Example: Tackling crime is a responsibility of both **national and local authorities**.

- **to allocate resources to**

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

### **Other vocabulary:**

- **illiteracy** [noun]:

Meaning: the fact of not knowing how to read or write

Example: **Illiteracy** is a serious problem in Brazil, where over 10% of the population cannot read or write.

- **disadvantaged** [adjective]:

Meaning: not having things, such as education or enough money, that people need in order to have a good life

Example: He lives in a **disadvantaged** area of the city, where there are no schools and everyone is poor.

- **bureaucracy** [noun]:

Meaning: the system of complicated official rules or ways of doing things organised by a government

Example: One of the problems of moving to another country is having to deal with the **bureaucracy**.

- **nightmare** [noun]:

Meaning: a dream, or an experience, that is very frightening or unpleasant

Example: When she became sick, her holiday turned into a **nightmare**.

- **to cope with** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to deal successfully with something difficult

Example: To be a chef in a busy restaurant, you must be able **to cope with** the stress of the job.

- **paperwork** [noun]:

Meaning: the written work that is part of a job, such as filling in forms or writing reports or letters

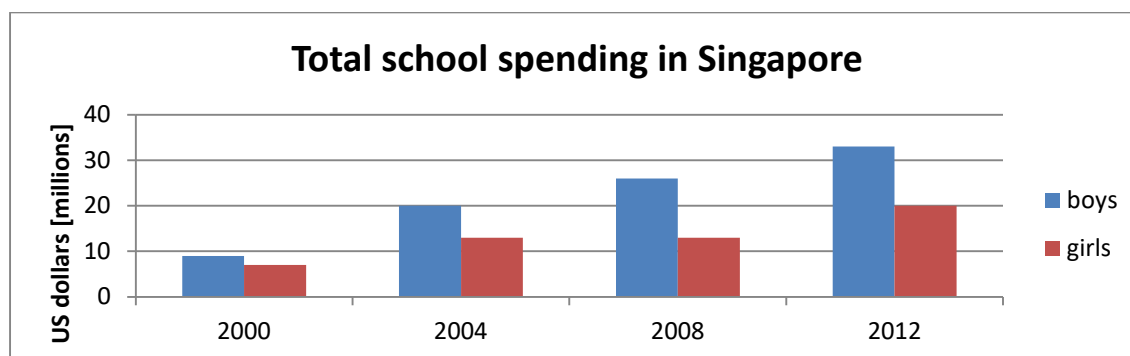
Example: Many government departments are trying to reduce the amount of **paperwork** in order to cut their costs.

- **welfare** [noun]:

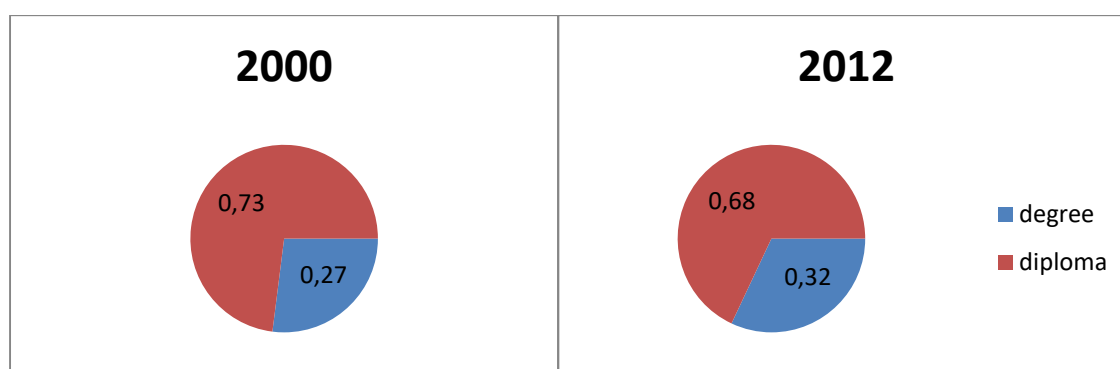
Meaning: practical or financial help provided by the government to help people in need

Example: The government is introducing a new **welfare** programme to help poor people.

**Task 1:** The charts show school expenditure and the proportion of students who gained higher education diplomas and degrees in Singapore from 2000 to 2012.



**Degree and diploma qualifications  
in higher education (Singapore)**



**Report Plan:**

- Paraphrase (write one sentence for each type of chart): show>illustrate: expenditure>spending; show>compares: proportion>percentage
- Overview/summary paragraph: (1) total school expenditure increased (2) a higher percentage of students gained diplomas rather than degrees
- Paragraph 3: (bar chart). Give figures and trends for boys schools; compare with figures and trends for girls schools
- Paragraph 4: compare the percentages and trends for those who gained degrees and diplomas.

**Report:**

The bar chart illustrates the total spending on boys and girls schools in Singapore between 2000 and 2012. The pie chart compares the percentage of students in higher education in Singapore who gained diplomas and degrees in 2000 and 2012.

**Overall, it is clear that** total school expenditure rose over the period. In addition, a higher proportion of students gained diplomas compared with those who were awarded degrees.

In Singapore, \$9 million was spent on boys schools in 2000. This figure rose steadily to \$20 million and \$26 million in 2004 and 2008, respectively. In 2012, spending reached a peak of \$33 million. **In contrast**, the expenditure on girls schools was lower. From a total of \$7 million in 2000, **however**, spending on schools for girls also saw a steady increase, reaching a peak of \$20 million at the end of the period.

There was an increase in the proportion of higher education students in Singapore who gained degrees. The percentage rose from 27% in 2000 to 32% in 2012, **whereas** the proportion of those who graduated with diplomas decreased from 73% in 2000 to 68% in 2012.

188 words

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**Task 2: More and more people want to buy famous brands of clothes, cars and other items. What are the reasons? Do you think it is a positive or negative development?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the statement in the question. It is a totally negative development
- **Paragraph 2: reasons:** (1) companies identify their brands with glamour and success – Cristiano Ronaldo, Victoria Beckham (2) brand names tell others how wealthy we are – it encourages jealousy
- **Paragraph 3: it is a negative development** (1) companies encourage us to spend money on designer goods and buy happiness (2) socially, designer products are desirable items to steal – a lot of street crime is to rob people of their cell phones
- **Conclusion:** we can identify reasons, but the development is completely negative

**Essay:**



It is true that a growing number of people want to buy well-known designer labels of many consumer products. **While** there are some obvious reasons for this trend, I believe that it is a totally negative development.

The reasons for the increasing consumer concern with brand names are simple to explain. **Firstly**, the marketing departments of giant corporations aim to identify their goods with a glamorous and successful lifestyle, and people are easily swayed by advertisements. Companies often use celebrity endorsement to promote their products, with famous people **like** Cristiano Ronaldo or Victoria Beckham. **Secondly**, the possession of a Mercedes car or a Gucci handbag, for example, advertises one's own wealth and taste to others. The idea behind owning a brand name is to make others jealous.

However, I would argue that this is a completely negative development. **In terms of** what ordinary people can afford, consumers are encouraged by corporations to squander their savings on designer goods which the companies promise will improve their lives and make them happy. **From a social perspective**, such messages are very dangerous, encouraging crime, **for example** to steal the latest cell phones from people in the street. The target audience is often young people, who companies seek to attract by promoting brand awareness of their products such as Coca Cola, Nike or Samsung. These are now considered to be essential items to have in our modern global village.

**In conclusion**, there are some important reasons to explain why many people find brand name products so attractive. **Although** famous designer labels are increasingly in demand, I would argue that this form of consumerism gives people a false idea of what is important in our lives.

281 words.

#### **Vocabulary from *Media and Advertising*:**

- **to be swayed by advertisements**

Meaning: to be influenced to buy things as a result of advertising

Example: If consumers **were** not easily **swayed by advertisements**, the advertising industry would not exist.

- **celebrity endorsement**

Meaning: A form of brand or advertising campaign that involves a well-known person using their fame to help promote a product or service

Example: **Celebrity endorsement** by famous TV stars is commonly used by companies to encourage consumers to trust and buy their products.

- **to promote their products**

Meaning: to make products popular by advertising them

Example: Most large enterprises contract specialist marketing companies **to promote their products**.

- **target audience**

Meaning: consumers whom businesses aim at when selling their products

Example: Companies which sell soft drinks, like Coca Cola, aim mainly at a **target audience** of children and adolescents.

- **brand awareness**

Meaning: the action of bringing the name of a company to the attention of the public

Example: Advertising, not the quality of the product, is responsible for creating **brand awareness** among consumers, as can be seen by the success of market leaders such as Nike or Coca Cola.

### Vocabulary from *Business and Money*:

- **to squander savings**

Meaning: to waste money by not using it to your advantage

Example: James **squandered all his savings** in an unsuccessful business venture to sell ice cream in Alaska.

### Other vocabulary:

- **glamorous** [adjective]:

Meaning: especially attractive, exciting and different from ordinary things

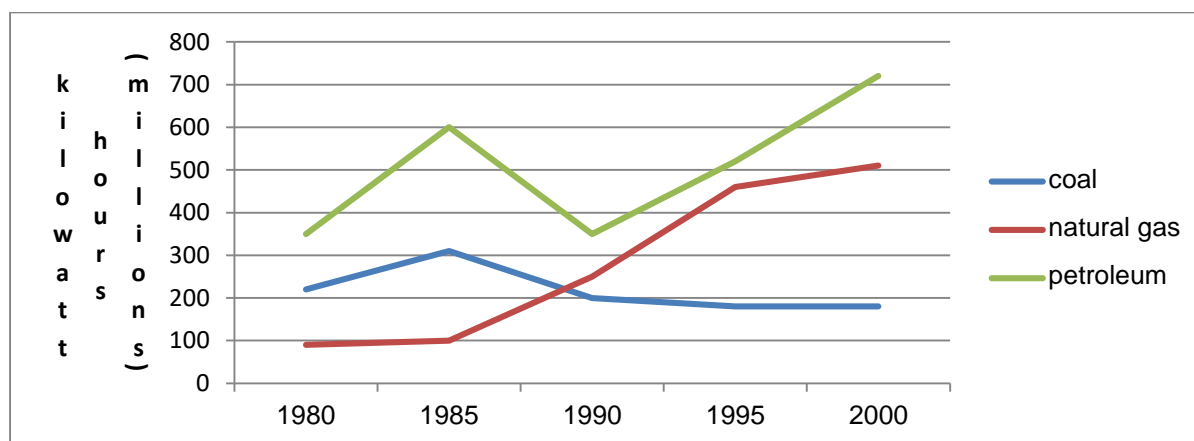
Example: She appeared on TV in a **glamorous** dress.

- **consumerism** [noun]:

Meaning: the act of buying or using goods or services

Example: Mary was surprised at the **consumerism** of Western society – everybody seemed to want to buy more and more things.

**Task 1:** The graph below shows the amount of electricity produced from different energy sources to supply the city of New York between 1980 and 2000.



**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** shows >compares; the amount of >how much; produced >generated; between 1980 and 2000 >from 1980 to 2000
- **Overview/summary paragraph** (1) petroleum supplied the most energy (2) natural gas overtook coal
- **Paragraph 3:** petroleum – report trends and figures
- **Paragraph 4:** summarise and contrast trends and figures for coal and natural gas

**Report:**

The line graph compares how much energy was generated from three sources to supply New York with electricity from 1980 to 2000.

**Overall**, it is clear that petroleum supplied the most energy. Also, natural gas became a more important source of energy supply than coal during this period.

In 1980, petroleum produced about 360 million kw hours of electricity for New York. This figure then rose to 600 million kw hours in 1985, before falling to around 370 million kw hours in 1990. **However**, there was then a sharp increase, reaching a peak of over 700 million kw hours at the end of the period.

**On the other hand**, coal declined as an energy source. **While** the figure rose from 220 million to 300 million kw hours from 1980 to 1985, it then decreased steadily to 200 million kw hours in 1990. The figure then remained stable, declining slightly by the year 2000. **In contrast**, natural gas generated less than 100 million kw hours of electricity in 1980. Production then rose dramatically, overtaking coal in 1990, and reaching a peak of over 500 million kw hours in 2000.

186 words

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**Task 2: In most successful organisations, some people believe that communication between managers and workers is important, while other people said that other factors are more significant. What is your opinion?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. **My opinion:** job satisfaction is the most significant factor for a successful organisation.
- **Paragraph 2:** communication in (1) a factory (2) a shop (3) a hospital. The role of management.
- **Paragraph 3:** a successful organisation must have a happy workforce. Factors in job satisfaction. Loyal workers who support each other = a successful organisation. Management is not necessary.

**Essay:**

It is true that many people argue that, in any efficient organisation, it is vital that there is good communication between managers and workers. In my opinion, **while** this is one aspect to consider, I consider that other factors are more important.

**On the one hand**, in order to conduct a business or organisation effectively, communication among all the workforce is necessary. A breakdown in communications may be one reason why a production process in a factory comes to a stop. The management may not be aware, **for example**, of problems with a machine or the raw material, if they do not regularly consult the workers. In a store, the manager must train the staff to offer good customer service, so that the employees understand how to provide this. In an organisation **such as** a hospital, the managers have to see the big picture, and talk constantly to doctors, nurses and support staff to ensure that everyone knows their tasks and has everything they need to carry them out.

**On the other hand**, I would argue that job satisfaction is the most important factor in creating a successful working environment. No organisation can prosper if the workers are dissatisfied. An authoritarian style of management which dictates to the workforce is no basis for reaching a consensus. When workers enjoy a decent salary, with sick leave, holiday entitlement and a retirement package, then the organisation will benefit enormously from the loyalty of their staff. Supportive work colleagues cooperate to ensure that things run smoothly, and therefore I believe that worker cooperatives without management are the future.

**In conclusion**, in a traditional management structure, communication with the workers is important. **However**, when the workforce organises itself, this results in an effective organisation with satisfied workers.

293 words

#### **Vocabulary from *business and money*:**

- **to conduct a business**

Meaning: to operate a business in a particular way

Example: It is important to **conduct a business** with honesty in order to gain the confidence of customers.

- **to reach a consensus**

Meaning: to come to an agreement

Example: The directors of the company have **reached a consensus** on the new business plan.

#### **Vocabulary from *communication and personality*:**

- **a breakdown in communications**

Meaning: a misunderstanding which results from people failing to discuss and resolve something

Example: The dispute between the workers and the employer was the result of **a breakdown in communications** over wages.

- **to see the big picture**

Meaning: to understand all the important aspects of a situation

Example: Students sometimes get confused with so many details to remember, but our history teacher is able to help us **see the big picture**.

#### **Vocabulary from *work*:**

- **job satisfaction**

Meaning: the good feeling that you get when you have a job that you enjoy  
Example: A high salary is not necessarily the most important factor in **job satisfaction**.

- **working environment**

Meaning: the conditions that you work in

Example: If work is to be enjoyable, then a friendly **working environment** is essential.

- **sick leave**

Meaning: permission to stay away from work because of illness or injury

Example: Important factors when choosing a job include holiday entitlement, **sick leave** and a company pension scheme.

- **holiday entitlement**

Meaning: the number of days off work that you are allowed as holidays

Example: It is important to know the **holiday entitlement** before accepting a job.

- **retirement package**

Meaning: the money or other benefits that you receive from a company or organization when you stop working there because of your age

Example: Companies who value their employees should offer a generous **retirement package**.

- **supportive work colleagues**

Meaning: people that you work with who give you help and encouragement

Example: A very important aspect of job satisfaction is having **supportive work colleagues**.

### Other vocabulary:

- **raw material** [noun]:

Meaning: a basic material that is used to make a product

Example: These trees provide the **raw material** for high-quality paper.

- **to prosper** [verb]:

Meaning: to develop in a successful way, to be successful

Example: Since the new government was elected, the economy **is prospering**.

- **authoritarian** [adjective]:

Meaning: believing that people should obey authority and rules, even when these are unfair, and even if it means that they lose their personal freedom

Example: The school has become very **authoritarian**, and the new head teacher has imposed strict rules.

- **to dictate** [verb]:

Meaning: to tell somebody what to do, especially in an annoying way

Example: What right do they have **to dictate** how we live our lives?

- **workers cooperative**

Meaning: owned and run by the workers involved, with the profits shared by them

Example: The factory is now a **workers cooperative**, with representatives of the workers responsible for organising production.



**Task 1:** The table shows the expenditure on various types of food in one European country in 1992, 2002 and 2012.

The amount spent on various foodstuffs in Italy (millions of euros)			
	1992	2002	2012
Beef	45	43	54
Chicken	38	41	56
Butter/margarine	8	9	8
Potatoes	11	14	18
Coffee	9	7	7
Milk	13	10	14

**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** shows>compares; expenditure>how much was spent; various>different; types of food>foodstuffs
- **Overall/summary paragraph:** (1) most money was spent on beef and chicken (2) a rise in spending on most of the foodstuffs
- **Paragraph 3:** report and compare figures and trends for spending on beef and chicken
- **Paragraph 4:** report and compare figures and trends for all the other food items.

**Report:**

The table compares how much was spent on different foodstuffs in Italy in the years 1992, 2002 and 2012.

Overall, it is clear that Italian consumers spent more on beef and chicken than on other foodstuffs. Expenditure on most food items increased over the period.

In 1992, spending on beef was slightly higher than on chicken, at 45 million and 38 million euros, respectively. While the amount spent on chicken rose over the period, reaching a peak of 56 million euros in 2012, expenditure on beef fell to 43 million euros in 2002 before rising to 54 million euros in 2012.

Spending on butter/margarine was relatively stable at around 8 million euros during this period. However, there was a steady increase in spending on potatoes, from 11 million euros in 1992 to 18 million euros in 2012. In contrast, the amount spent on coffee decreased from 9 million euros at the start of the period, to 7 million euros in 2002 and 2012. Finally, expenditure on milk fluctuated at 13 million, 10 million and 14 million euros in 1992, 2002 and 2012, respectively.

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**Task 2: Some people claim that museums and art galleries are not needed today, because everyone can see historical objects or art works by computer. Do you agree or disagree?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the statement in the question. Partly agree
- **Paragraph 2:** museums and art galleries are expensive to run. This cannot be justified: (1) governments have other priorities to consider (2) people can access their collections freely and instantly online
- **Paragraph 3:** though not essential, museums and art galleries (1) are often beautiful, historic buildings, e.g. National Gallery, London (2) give people to see the chance to see something in its actual size – dinosaurs in the New York museum.
- **Conclusion:** they are not needed, thanks to computers, but it will be sad to lose them.

**Essay:**

It is true that technology gives most people a chance to see historical objects and works of art on a computer screen. I partly agree with the view, therefore, that museums and art galleries are no longer necessary.

It is very expensive to maintain a museum or art gallery, and governments often have to provide funding for these institutions. If national or local authorities have to allocate resources to keep these cultural facilities open, then less money is available to spend on health, education and social services. Faced with such a choice, some countries opt for a mixed funding model for the arts in order to reduce costs. Therefore, I believe that it is an unaffordable luxury to retain these wonderful public collections. Their artefacts and paintings can all be accessed freely and almost instantly at the touch of a key on a computer keyboard.

**While** I agree that museums and art galleries are not essential in this computer age, I would be sad to see their disappearance. **Firstly**, the buildings which house their collections are themselves part of our tangible cultural heritage. **For example**, the National Gallery in London is a striking and impressive historic building. **Secondly**, the feeling of awe on seeing the size of the great dinosaur skeletons in the Natural History Museum in New York would be impossible to experience by simply looking at an image on a laptop or cell phone. It would be an immense loss if such places were to close their doors to the public.

**In conclusion**, although these cultural facilities have unique aesthetic qualities, now that people can access their treasures thanks to the digital revolution, the expense of keeping them open cannot be justified.

284 words

#### **Vocabulary from *government*:**

- **to provide funding for**  
Meaning: to give money to enable something to be done  
Example: **Providing funding for** health care must be a priority of governments.
- **national or local authorities**  
Meaning: government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area  
Example: Tackling crime is a responsibility of both **national and local authorities**.
- **to allocate resources to**  
Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something  
Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

#### **Vocabulary from *society*:**

- **social services**  
Meaning: a system that is organized by the government to help people who have financial or family problems; the department or the people who provide this help  
Example: Governments should assist poor families through the provision of adequate **social services**.

#### **Vocabulary from *art*:**

- **a mixed funding model for the arts**  
Meaning: a model in which some money to support the arts is given by the government and some money is provided by private individuals or commercial organizations.  
Example: I would argue that **a mixed funding model for the arts** is the best way to support artists, musicians and writers by combining public and private money to provide funds and even donations.
- **the aesthetic qualities of something**  
Meaning: The qualities related to beauty and understanding the beauty of something.  
Example: One advantage of studying the arts is that students learn to appreciate **the aesthetic qualities of paintings, literature and music**.

### Vocabulary from *housing and architecture*:

- **tangible cultural heritage**

Meaning: refers to physical artifacts produced, maintained and transmitted intergenerationally in a society

Example: **Tangible cultural heritage** includes buildings and historic places, monuments, artifacts, etc., which are considered worthy of preservation for the future.

### Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **the digital revolution**

Meaning: the advancement of technology to the digital technology available today

Example: **The digital revolution** has fundamentally changed the way that people work, communicate, behave and even think.

### Other vocabulary:

- **collection** [noun]:

Meaning: a group of objects, often of a similar type, that have been collected.

Example: John is very enthusiastic about his **collection** of stamps from South America.

- **artifact** [noun]:

Meaning: an object that is made by a person, often an object of historical or cultural interest

Example: The British Museum has many **artifacts** of ancient Egyptian civilisations, such as gold jewellery and objects used in cooking.

- **to house** [verb]:

Meaning: to be the place where something is kept

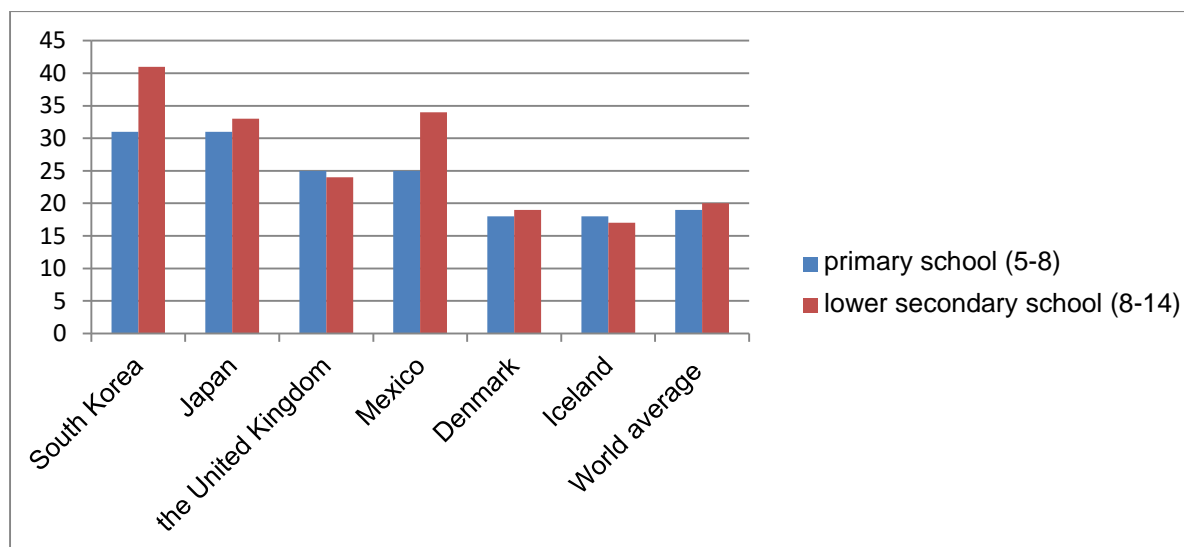
Example: The gallery **houses** 2000 paintings by modern artists.

- **awe** [noun]:

Meaning: feelings of being very impressed by something

Example: Seeing the Eiffel Tower in Paris for the first time, she stood silent for several minutes in **awe**.

**Task 1:** The chart shows the average class size in six countries and compares it with the world average class size in 2006.



**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** shows>illustrates; class size>number of students in a class; six countries>various countries
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) the largest figures were for South Korea (2) class sizes were generally smaller in primary schools
- **Paragraph 3:** select numbers and make comparisons for primary schools
- **Paragraph 4:** select numbers and make comparisons for lower secondary schools

**Report:**

The chart illustrates the average numbers of students in a class in various countries in 2006, compared with the world average.

**Overall**, it is clear that South Korea had the largest class sizes and that class sizes in primary schools were generally smaller than in lower secondary schools.

There were 31 students in an average primary school class in both South Korea and Japan, **while** the figure for the UK and Mexico was 25. **In contrast**, class sizes in primary schools in Denmark and Iceland were significantly smaller at 18, which was just below the world average of 19.

**In terms of** lower secondary schools, the average class size in South Korea was 41. This figure was much higher than Mexico and Japan, with classes of 34 and 33, respectively. The number

of students in a class in Denmark averaged only 19, similar to the world average of 20. **However**, the UK and Iceland were the only countries in which the average class size was smaller in the lower secondary schools than in primary schools.

175 words

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**Task 2 (trùng đề 2/2/2019): More and more people want to buy famous brands of clothes, cars and other items. What are the reasons? Do you think it is a positive or negative development?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** agree that many people want to buy famous brands. **Opinion:** it is a negative trend.
- **Paragraph 2:** reason – the influence of advertising, using celebrities to give products a glamorous image; example Cristiano Ronaldo.
- **Paragraph 3:** a negative development – (1) brands are expensive, because of their luxury image (2) consumers are manipulated with false dreams
- **Conclusion:** advertising responsible; it is negative because consumers are manipulated.

**Essay:**

It is true that many people love to buy designer brands of consumer goods. While some reasons can be suggested to account for this, I would argue that it is a completely negative trend.

The principal reason for the popular desire to own designer brands is the influence of the advertising industry. Consumers are easily swayed by advertisements and large corporations use brand awareness in order to promote their products. One of the strategies employed by the marketing industry is celebrity endorsement. **For example**, commercial advertising may associate a particular product with a sporting hero or film star, and a footballer **such as** Cristiano Ronaldo adds to his already fabulous income by promoting deodorants and sportswear for men. By buying the product, consumers dream they somehow share the glamour and success of these celebrities.

I believe that this is an undesirable development for two reasons. **Firstly**, in order to gain a competitive edge on their competitors, large companies do market research to discover where and how to advertise their goods. Brands are usually expensive for people to buy, so the companies focus on promoting a luxury image, to make consumers pay more because, after all, one perfume or handbag is little different from another. **Secondly**, by persuading people that they can enjoy a desirable lifestyle by buying a particular brand of product, consumers are

manipulated to buy goods impulsively. They can then post photos of themselves, with their designer clothes, bags or cars on social networking sites for all their followers to see.

In conclusion, the desire to own designer label products is created by advertising, and I believe that it is a negative development which involves the manipulation of consumers.

281 words

#### **Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:**

- **to be swayed by advertisements**

Meaning: to be influenced to buy things as a result of advertising

Example: If consumers **were** not easily **swayed by advertisements**, the advertising industry would not exist.

- **brand awareness**

Meaning: the action of bringing the name of a company to the attention of the public

Example: Advertising, not the quality of the product, is responsible for creating **brand awareness** among consumers, as can be seen by the success of market leaders such as Nike or Coca Cola.

- **to promote their products**

Meaning: to make products popular by advertising them

Example: Most large enterprises contract specialist marketing companies **to promote their products**.

- **celebrity endorsement**

Meaning: A form of brand or advertising campaign that involves a well known person using their fame to help promote a product or service

Example: **Celebrity endorsement** by famous TV stars is commonly used by companies to encourage consumers to trust and buy their products.

- **commercial advertising**

Meaning: advertising on the radio or television, between or during programmes.

Example: **Commercial advertising** on television provides the revenue for most TV channels.

- **to buy goods impulsively**

Meaning: to buy things suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have

Example: Advertising motivates consumers **to buy goods impulsively**.

#### **Vocabulary from *business and money*:**

- **to gain a competitive edge**

Meaning: to achieve an advantage over another company or organization, often by providing the same goods or services at a lower price

Example: The high quality of VW cars, combined with their affordable price, has enabled the company **to gain a competitive edge** over all its rivals in world markets.

- **to do market research**

Meaning: to collect information about what people buy and why

Example: Advertising companies do a lot of **market research** before they design promotion campaigns.

### **Vocabulary from *communication and personality*:**

- **social networking sites**

Meaning: a website on which you communicate with people who share your interests

Example: Young people today waste too much time on **social networking sites** such as Facebook or Twitter.

### **Other vocabulary:**

- **to account for** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to be the explanation or the cause of something

Example: The bad weather **accounted for** the small number of people at the beach.

- **strategy** [noun]:

Meaning: a plan that is intended to achieve a particular goal

Example: The government should have a **strategy** to reduce unemployment.

- **glamour** [noun]:

Meaning: the attractive or exciting quality that makes a person or thing seem special, often because of wealth or status

Example: He was influenced by the **glamour** of Hollywood to become an actor.

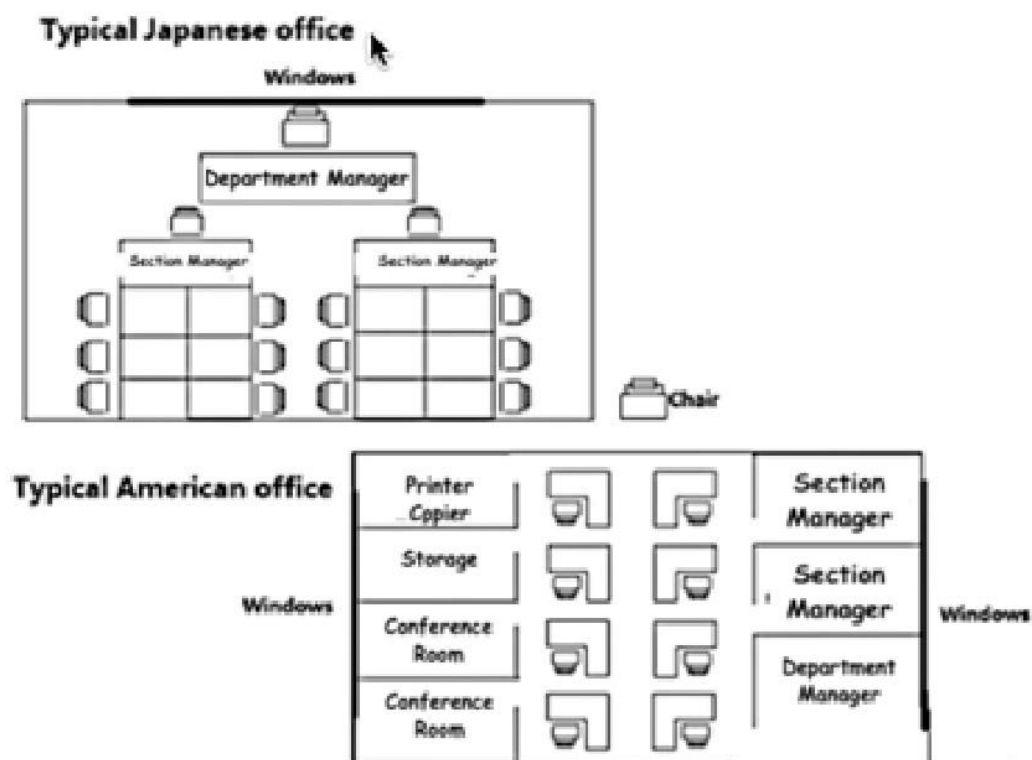
- **to manipulate** [verb]:

Meaning: to control or influence somebody in a dishonest way, so that they do not realise it

Example: Politicians usually know how **to manipulate** public opinion.



**Task 1:** The plan below shows a typical American and Japanese office. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant



**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** plan>diagram; shows>compares
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) Japanese office – the Department Manager is in the centre (2) American office – conference rooms are part of the plan
- **Paragraph 3:** compare where the Department Managers and Section Managers sit
- **Paragraph 4:** compare where the workers sit and mention the conference and other rooms in the American office.

**Report:**

The diagram compares the layout of a typical office in Japan and America.

**Overall**, it is clear that the Department Manager occupies a central position in the Japanese office. In the American office, conference rooms are included in the plan.

In the Japanese office, the Department Manager sits in front of the large window in the centre. The American office, **however**, has two windows, one on each side of the room, and the desk of the Department Manager is in the corner of the room on the right. **While** in the Japanese office the Section Managers sit in front of the Department Manager, the Section Managers in the American office sit at the side of the Department Manager, but also in front of one of the windows.

There are two conference rooms, a printer/copier room and a storage area in the American office, on the left side. **In contrast**, these are absent in the Japanese office. The desks of the workers in the Japanese office are in front of the Section Managers, **whereas** the American office workers occupy separate individual desks. Finally, there is a chair outside the Japanese office for people waiting to enter the room.

197 words

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**Task 2: Some people believe that all wild animals should be protected. Others say that only a few wild animals should be protected. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the question statement. **My opinion:** some wild animals, but not all, should be protected
- **Paragraph 2:** moral argument for protecting all wild animals from exploitation or slaughter – examples, elephants, whales
- **Paragraph 3:** practical argument for only protecting animals in danger of extinction. Need to regulate numbers of many species – example, rats.
- **Conclusion:** impossible to save all wild animals, so give priority to endangered species.

**Essay:**

It is true that people hold different opinions about the extent to which wild animals should be protected. **While** it is difficult to justify the protection of every wild animal, I believe that some wild animals ought to be protected.

**On the one hand**, some people put forward the moral argument that humans have no right to kill any animal in the wild. They argue that it is a violation of animal rights. They believe that it is necessary for everyone to treat animals humanely, and they correctly condemn the many forms of animal exploitation, animal suffering and even animal slaughter in the world today.

**For example**, animal lovers will argue the need to eliminate poaching of elephants in Africa or India and to establish more wildlife reserves. **In terms of** the oceans, there is an international campaign for an end to the practice of whaling.

**On the other hand**, I tend to agree with those who argue that only animals on the brink of extinction should be protected. Their views combine practical and moral arguments. Although they recognise the ethical dilemmas, they believe that the numbers of some species of animals must be regulated. Rats, **for example**, are everywhere and they are a danger to human health, contaminating food and water and carrying diseases. If their numbers were not reduced, the consequences would be serious. Therefore, people should mainly be concerned with protecting rare or endangered species of wild animals.

In conclusion, because it is impossible to protect every species of wild animal, I believe that priority should be given to saving those species which are in danger of becoming extinct.

272 words

### Vocabulary from *animal rights*:

- **in the wild**

Meaning: in a natural environment not controlled by people

Example: Animals **in the wild** are able to exhibit their natural behaviour.

- **a violation of animal rights**

Meaning: an action that harms or acts against animal rights

Example: Animal lovers contend that showing cruelty to animals is unjustifiable because it is **a violation of animal rights**.

- **to treat animals humanely**

Meaning: to be kind to animals and treat them in such a way that they do not suffer

Example: Some people feel that animals in zoos are not **treated humanely**.

- **animal exploitation**

Meaning: the use of animals in order to get an advantage from them

Example: **Animal exploitation** can take various forms, including the testing of new drugs and cosmetic products on animals.

- **animal suffering**

Meaning: physical or mental pain that an animal is feeling

Example: Some people believe that experimenting on animals is a way that we can fight and find cures for diseases, so they believe that this takes priority over **animal suffering**.

- **animal slaughter**  
Meaning: the killing of animals for meat  
Example: Some vegetarians are opposed to eating meat because they do not agree with **the slaughter of animals**.
- **animal lovers**  
Meaning: people who like animals very much, and feel love for them  
Example: Many people who claim to be **animal lovers** nevertheless eat meat.
- **to eliminate poaching**  
Meaning: to stop all illegal hunting of wild animals  
Example: In wildlife reserves, guards should be employed **to eliminate poaching** and protect endangered species of animals.
- **wildlife reserves**  
Meaning: protected areas for wild animals  
Example: The creation of **wildlife reserves** is essential to save animals such as tigers from extinction.
- **the practice of whaling**  
Meaning: the activity of hunting and killing whales  
Example: In order to protect these beautiful creatures, **the practice of whaling** must be banned completely.
- **ethical dilemmas**  
Meaning: a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two different things, relating to beliefs about what is morally right and wrong  
Example: Governments are facing **ethical dilemmas** surrounding the use of laboratory animals in experiments.

#### **Vocabulary from *the environment*:**

- **on the brink of extinction**  
Meaning: an animal or plant which has almost disappeared from the planet  
Example: Before the captive breeding program in zoos, the giant panda was **on the brink of extinction**.
- **endangered species**  
Meaning: plants or animals that only exist in very small numbers, so that in future they may disappear forever  
Example: One example of an **endangered species** is the lowland gorilla, which has almost disappeared as a result of the destruction of its forest habitat.

### Other vocabulary:

- **to condemn** [verb]:

Meaning: to express very strong disapproval of something, especially for moral reasons

Example: The government issued a statement **condemning** the killings.

- **to contaminate** [verb]:

Meaning: to make a substance or place dirty

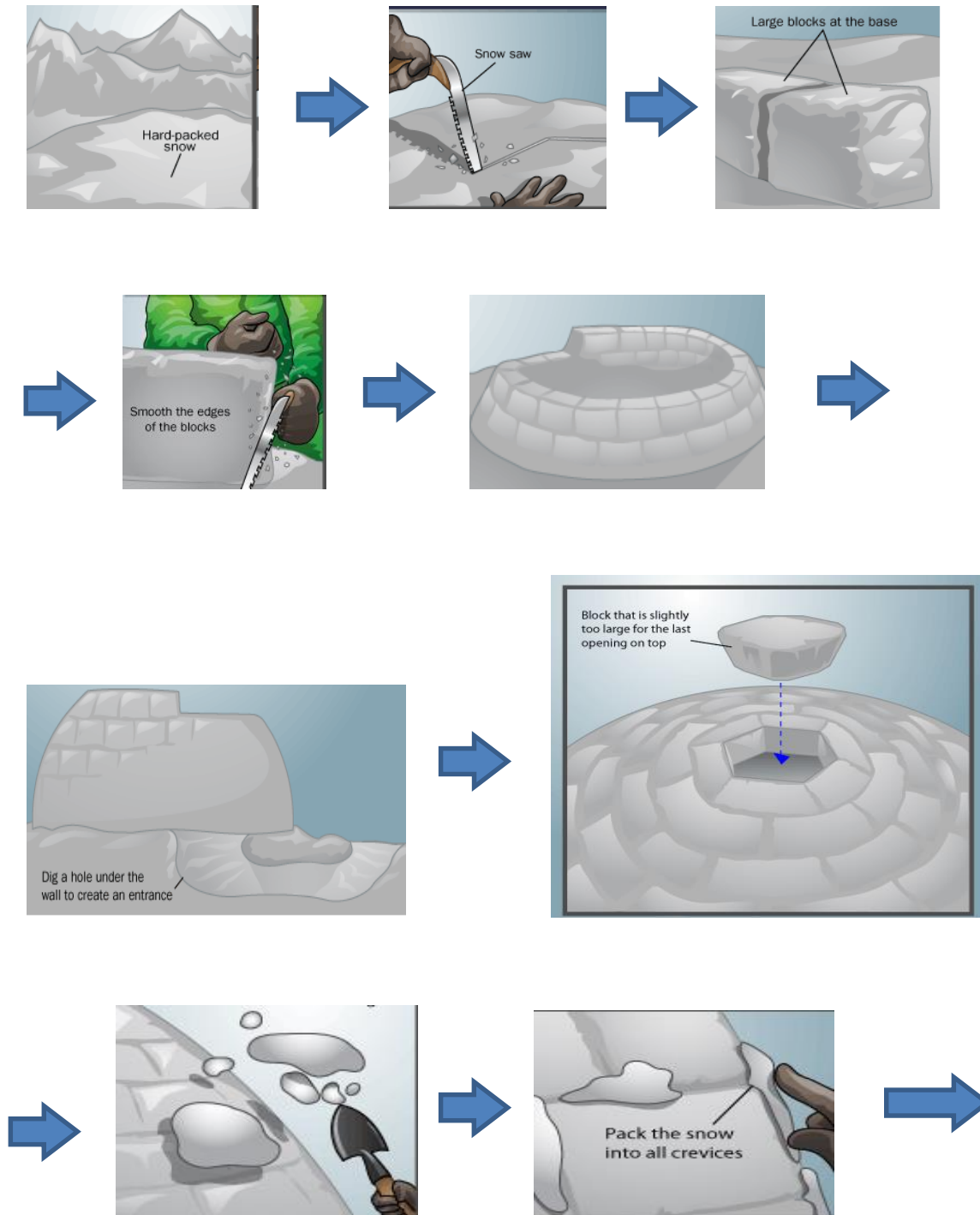
Example: The drinking water of the city **was contaminated** by chemicals from a factory.

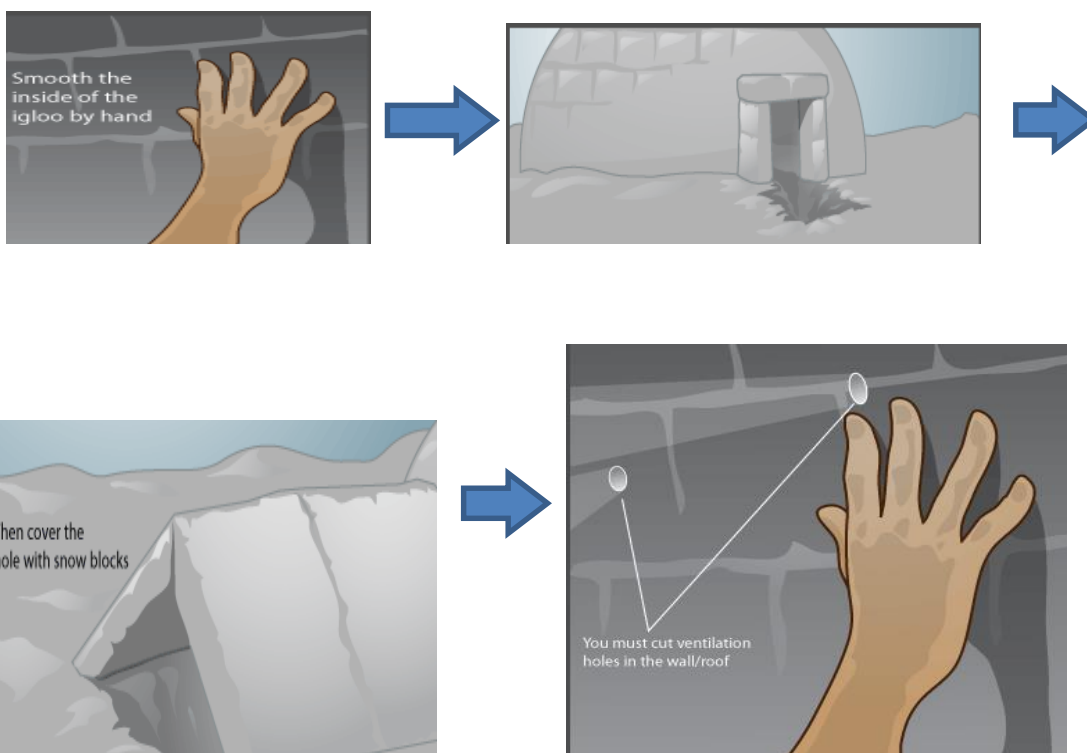
- **priority** [noun]:

Meaning: something that you think is more important than other things, and therefore should be dealt with first

Example: The **priority** of the new government is to improve the health service.

**Task 1: The diagrams illustrate the process of building an igloo.**





### Report Plan:

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** diagrams>pictures; illustrate>show; process>different steps involved; building>constructing
- **Overall/summary paragraph:** number of stages (13); mention the first and last steps
- **Paragraph 3:** describe steps 1-7: making the shape using snow
- **Paragraph 4:** describe steps 8-13: the steps to finish the construction

### Report:

The pictures show the different steps involved in constructing an igloo.

Overall, there are 13 stages, from finding hard-packed snow to cutting ventilation holes in the wall and roof of the finished igloo.

Using a snow saw, blocks are cut in hard-packed snow. Large blocks are used for the base. Next, the edges of the blocks are smoothed and placed to form a circle. Then, an entrance is made by digging a hole under the circular wall. The last opening on the top is filled by a large block, carefully cut to the exact size.

After that, snow is thrown on the igloo and packed into all the crevices or gaps. Inside the igloo, the walls are smoothed by hand. Next, the entrance is built and the hole is covered with

snow blocks. Finally, ventilation holes which allow air to enter are cut in the walls and roof, and the igloo is finished.

153 words.

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**Task 2: The world of work is changing rapidly and people cannot depend on the same job or the same conditions of work for life. Discuss the possible causes for these changes and give your suggestions on how people should prepare for work in the future.**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** agree that work is changing, and say that there are ways to prepare for these changes.
- **Paragraph 2:** cause for changes: new technology (1) manufacturing industries – mechanisation (example: product design) (2) service industries – online shopping/self-service checkouts (example: order pickers in warehouses replace shop staff)
- **Paragraph 3:** suggestions (1) employees – flexible work hours or change location (2) employers – provide training to update employees skills
- **Conclusion:** technology has resulted in many changes at work, but people must find ways to adapt.

**Essay:**

**It is true that** in the modern workplace, employees can no longer rely on keeping the same job, or even the same working conditions, for life. **While** there are some important reasons for this, there are also ways in which people might prepare for work in the future.

The most important cause for such changes is the introduction of new technology. **In terms of** manufacturing, few workers can expect to have a steady job. This is an inevitable consequence of mechanisation and, while this increases labour productivity, it also reduces the need for workers. In product design, **for instance**, advances in technology, using computer software packages, have resulted in the loss of conventional skills of creative drawing. In service industries, online shopping and self-service supermarket checkouts result in fewer staff. Order pickers, working alongside robots, in vast warehouses like Amazon mean fewer assistants in stores to provide personal service to customers.

**However**, people must prepare for the future world of work. **One suggestion** is that workers should be prepared to welcome change by accepting the need for flexible working hours, or



even moving to another area or country to find employment. **Another suggestion** is that employers ought to play their part by providing vocational courses and training at work, so that their employees can learn new skills. **For example**, a person serving customers in a store would also be able to tackle administrative work requiring them to be computer literate.

**In conclusion**, although leading-edge technology has changed how people work, employers and employees must find ways to adapt to such changes.

261 words

#### **Vocabulary from *work*:**

- **to have a steady job**

Meaning: to have a job which you are unlikely to lose, but which is usually the same routine

Example: Although some people prefer to change jobs, others prefer **to have a steady job** and a set daily routine at work.

- **labour productivity**

Meaning: the rate at which a worker, a company or a country produces goods, and the amount produced, compared with how much time, work and money is needed to produce them

Example: Wage rates depend on levels of **labor productivity**.

- **flexible working hours**

Meaning: hours of work that can be changed by agreement between the employer and the employee

Example: For some employees, **flexible working hours** are more important even than a high salary.

#### **Vocabulary from *traditional vs modern*:**

- **an inevitable consequence**

Meaning: certain to happen and unable to be avoided or prevented

Example: Some people suppose that the loss of traditional cultures is **an inevitable consequence** of technological development.

- **conventional skills**

Meaning: traditional and common skills

Example: Technology can contribute positively to keeping alive **conventional skills** and ways of life.

- **to welcome change**

Meaning: to accept change with enthusiasm

Example: While it is important to **welcome change**, the public must try to preserve all that is worthwhile from the past.

### Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **advances in technology**

Meaning: the improvement or development in technology

Example: Recent **advances in medical technology** are making a great contribution to the search for a cure for Aids.

- **online shopping**

Meaning: shopping while connected to the internet

Example: For people who are physically disabled, or even for people who are simply very busy, **online shopping** is convenient and may also be cheaper.

- **supermarket checkouts**

Meaning: the place where you go to pay for the things that you have bought

Example: Personal service in shops has been replaced by the impersonal experience of superstore shopping and queues at **supermarket checkouts**.

- **to be computer literate**

Meaning: able to use computers well

Example: In today's competitive job market, it is essential **to be computer-literate**.

- **leading-edge technology**

Meaning: the most advanced position in technology

Example: Manufacturers of electronic devices always advertise their products as having the latest **leading-edge/cutting-edge technology**.

### Vocabulary from *education*:

- **vocational courses**

Meaning: courses which provide students with the skills and knowledge that they need to do a particular job

Example: Governments should extend the provision of **vocational courses** for those who want to learn a trade, for example as electricians, plumbers or mechanics.

### Other vocabulary:

- **mechanisation/mechanization** [noun]:

Meaning: changes made to a process, so that the work is done by machines, not people

Example: For many years, we have seen the increasing **mechanisation** of farm work.

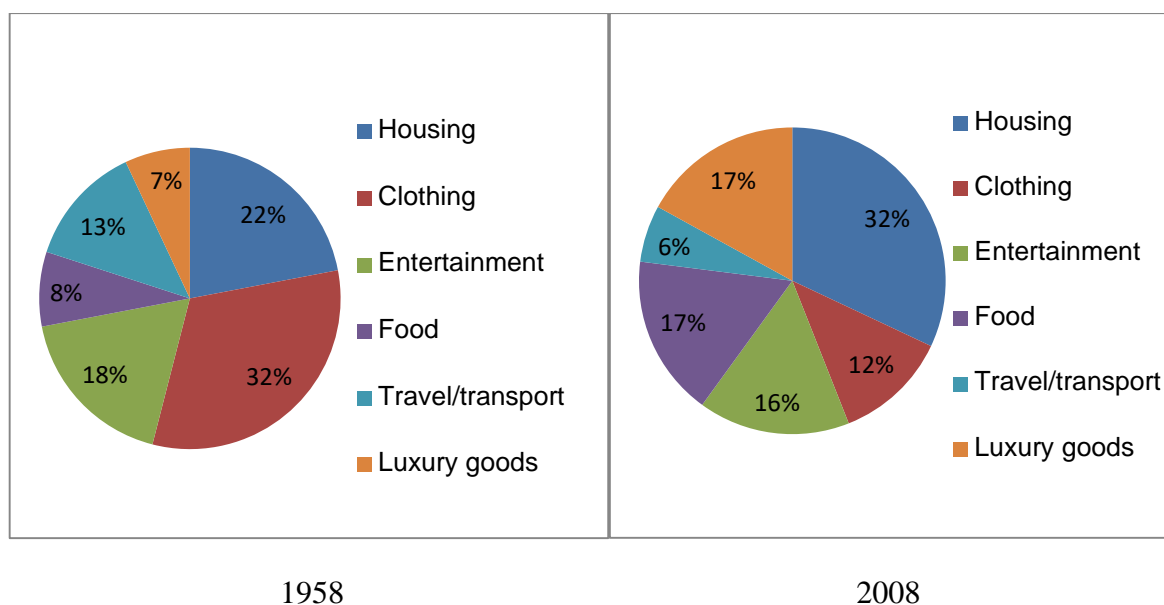
- **service industries** [noun]:

Meaning: the part of a country's economy that provides services to customers

Example: More and more of the workforce are now working in **service industries**, such as sales, advertising, banking or tourism.

- **order pickers** [noun]:  
Meaning: people used to pick goods from storage and package or deliver them for customers  
Example: John and Mary work as **order pickers** for Nike in the large warehouse outside the city.
- **to tackle** [verb]:  
Meaning: to make a determined effort to deal with a difficult problem or situation  
Example: The climbers are determined **to tackle** the highest mountain in the world this year.

**Task 1:** The charts below show the proportion of people's spending on different commodities and services in a particular European country in 1958 and in 2008.



**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** show>compare; proportion>percentage; different>various; commodities>goods
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) % spent on housing, food and luxury goods rose (2) % spent on clothing and travel/transport declined
- **Paragraph 3:** report figures and compare trends for housing, food and luxury goods
- **Paragraph 4:** report figures and compare trends for spending on clothing and travel/transport. Expenditure on entertainment was stable.

**Report:**

The pie charts compare the percentage of people's expenditure on various goods and services in one European country in 1958 and 2008.

**Overall,** it is clear that **while** spending on housing, food and luxury goods increased in 2008 as a proportion of total expenditure, the percentage spent on clothing and travel/transport fell.

In 1958, people spent 22% of their income on housing costs and this rose to 32% in 2008. The proportion spent on food more than doubled from 8% in 1958 to 17% in 2008. A **similar** increase was seen in spending on luxury goods from 7% to 17% in the same years.

**In contrast**, the percentage of total expenditure on clothing declined dramatically, from 32% to just 12% in 1958 and 2008, respectively. **Similarly**, the proportion spent of travel/transport fell by more than half to only 6% in 2008. Spending on entertainment, **however**, remained relatively stable, with a slight decrease from 18% in 1958 to 16% in 2008.

160 words

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**Task 2: Research suggests that the majority of criminals who are sent to prison commit crimes when set free. What are the reasons? What can be done to solve the problem?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question; state that there are important reasons, but also possible solutions
- **Paragraph 2:** reason 1 – prison as punishment, not rehabilitation; reason 2 – influence of dangerous criminals on other offenders
- **Paragraph 3:** solution 1 – provide education/training in prison to help ex-offenders find jobs; solution 2 – isolate dangerous criminals who will encourage others to re-offend
- **Conclusion:** there are important reasons, but solutions are possible.

**Essay:**

It is true that a large proportion of criminals are known to re-offend after they have been released from prison. There are some important reasons for this return to a life of crime, but there are solutions which could mitigate the problem.

I believe that there are two principal reasons why many criminals who have served their sentences, commit further crimes when they are released back into society. **Firstly**, prison is popularly regarded as an institution whose purpose is to punish wrongdoers. There is a public outcry against being soft on crime, and many argue that only the full weight of the law will act as a deterrent, even though this is obviously not working. As a result, few resources are allocated to prison programmes which will help ex-offenders to make a fresh start in society. **Secondly**, prisons are overcrowded and often violent places, in which the most hardened

criminals influence and intimidate other inmates, and form networks to plan future crimes, **such as** a criminal prison gang called the PCC do in Brazil.

Steps should be taken to solve these problems. **One solution** is reintegrating offenders back into the community. Programmes which provide vocational training or academic study opportunities must be implemented in order to give prisoners a chance of rehabilitation and to find work. Some universities in the UK and the USA, **for example**, offer degree programmes to enable offenders to gain qualifications. **Another solution** is to segregate the most dangerous convicts, in order to prevent intimidation and bullying in prisons, from which offenders are released as even more expert criminals.

In conclusion, while important reasons for the rate of re-offending can be identified, some steps must be taken to implement workable solutions.

286 words

### **Vocabulary from *crime and punishment*:**

- **to serve a prison sentence**  
Meaning: to remain in prison as a punishment  
Example: They are **serving** long **prison sentences** for their part in the assassination.
- **to release back into society**  
Meaning: to give freedom to prisoners who have finished their sentences.  
Example: He was **released back into society** after serving two years of a five-year sentence.
- **to punish wrongdoers**  
Meaning: to punish people who do something illegal  
Example: Stricter measures must be introduced by governments **to punish wrongdoers**.
- **to be soft on crime**  
Meaning: not to impose strict punishments on offenders  
Example: In order to deter criminals effectively, governments must not follow policies which **are soft on crime**.
- **the full weight of the law**  
Meaning: all the strictest punishments available according to the laws of a country.  
Example: In order to deter crime, **the full weight of the law** must be imposed for all serious offences.
- **to act as a deterrent**

Meaning: a measure which makes somebody less likely to do something

Example: Longer prison sentences would **act as a deterrent** and would be one useful measure to tackle rising crime.

- **to make a fresh start**

Meaning: to try something new after making mistakes in one's life

Example: I believe that people should have the opportunity **to make a fresh start** after they are released from prison.

- **to reintegrate back into the community**

Meaning: to restore someone into society through education or therapy

Example: There is an increasing focus among policy-makers and practitioners on identifying programs and strategies that will help prisoners successfully **reintegrate back into their communities** without re-offending.

- **a chance of rehabilitation**

Meaning: a chance of helping someone to have a normal life after serving a prison sentence

Example: We should give ex-offenders **a chance of rehabilitation** and teach them how to become useful members of society.

### **Vocabulary from *society*:**

- **an outcry against**

Meaning: a reaction of anger or strong protest shown by people in public

Example: The new tax provoked a **public outcry**.

- **to segregate somebody**

Meaning: to separate people for some reason and treat them in a different way

Example: Although society no longer tolerates the policy of **segregating whites from blacks**, many people of different origins live in their own separate communities.

### **Vocabulary from *government*:**

- **to allocate resources to**

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

### **Other vocabulary:**

- **to re-offend** [verb]:

Meaning: to commit a crime or crimes for a second time, or for more times

Example: What is the best way to stop a criminal from **re-offending**?

- **to mitigate** [verb]:

Meaning: to make something less harmful or less serious

Example: The government is giving food and homes to the poor in order **to mitigate** the terrible poverty in the country.

- **hardened** [adjective]:

Meaning: having developed a way of dealing with bad experiences, so that they no longer upset you

Example: The man had been in prison many times for different crimes, and everybody knew that he was a **hardened** criminal.

- **to intimidate** [verb]:

Meaning: to frighten or threaten somebody, so that they will do what you want

Example: In an attempt **to intimidate** the demonstrators, the police used dogs to attack them.

- **inmate** [noun]:

Meaning: one of the people living in a prison

Example: The prison has 500 **inmates**, and is very overcrowded.

- **convict** [noun]:

Meaning: a person who is guilty of a crime and who has been sent to prison

Example: The police are looking for an escaped **convict**. He has a long beard and he is aged 35.

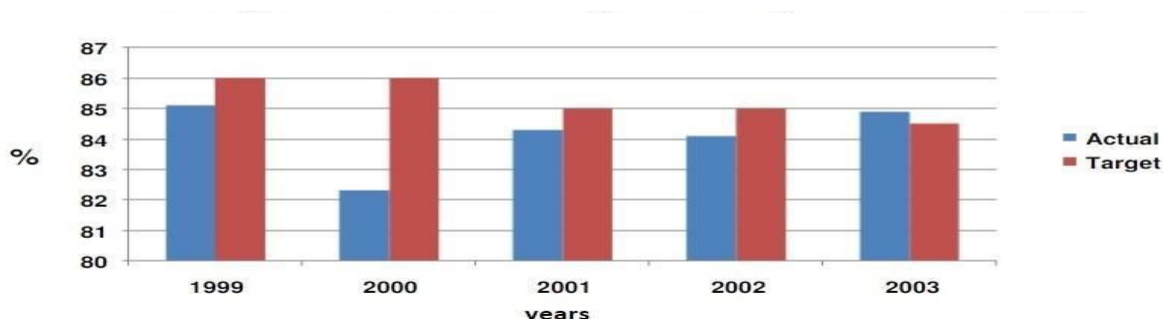


**Task 1:** The charts below show the performance of a bus company in terms of punctuality, both actual and target (what actually happened compared to what the company was trying to achieve) and the number of complaints from passengers.

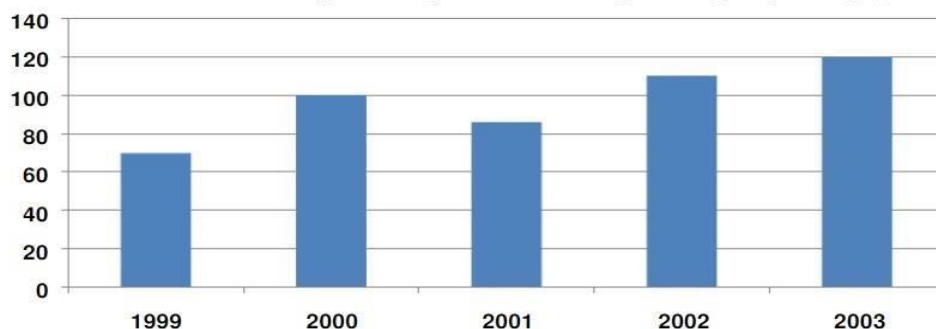
Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words

**Percentage of services arriving on time (target and actual)**



**Number of complaints (per thousand passenger journeys)**



**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** show>compare/illustrate; punctuality>arriving on time; make 1 sentence for each chart
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (first chart) – most years the company did not achieve the target figure; (second chart) – the number of complaints increased over the period.

- **Paragraph 3 (first chart):** select and report the actual and target figures and describe the trends for actual punctuality
- **Paragraph 4 (second chart):** compare the number of complaints over the period, describing the trend.

### Report:

The first chart compares the percentage of bus services arriving on time with the target figure set by the company from 1999 to 2003. The second chart illustrates the number of complaints by passengers over the same period.

**Overall**, it is clear that in most years, the bus services failed to achieve the target figure for punctuality. In general, the number of complaints from passengers rose over the period.

In 1999, 85% of services arrived punctuality, almost equalling the target figure. **However**, the following year punctuality fell to around 82%, **compared with** the target of 86%. In the next three years, the proportion of bus services actually arriving on time fluctuated slightly from 84% to 85%. Only in 2003 did the bus company exceed its target of 84.5% punctuality.

The number of complaints per thousand passenger journeys was 70 in 1999. In 2000, this figure increased significantly to 100. **In contrast**, in 2001 the number of complaints then fell to around 85, before rising again to 110 and 120 in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

174 words

**Task 2: Some people believe that the only purpose of films is to entertain. But others say films should have educational value. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

### Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. Give my opinion – I agree with the second view
- **Paragraph 2:** films should only entertain. An escape from the stress of daily life – e.g. ‘Mission Impossible’.
- **Paragraph 3:** films should also teach/make us think – historical themes, e.g. ‘Titanic’; even future themes – e.g. ‘Jurassic Park’ stimulates interest in dinosaurs.
- **Conclusion:** films should instruct as well as entertain.

## Essay:

It is true that some people think that films should just be for entertainment, **while** others believe that they should inform as well as entertain. I strongly agree with the second view that the film industry should not be simply a source of entertainment.

**On the one hand**, many people watch films solely in order to be entertained. To appeal to audiences, therefore, the film industry usually focuses on the portrayal of scenes of violent action, accompanied by spectacular effects. Some people say that we need such films to provide an escape from the stresses of daily life. Although each film must contain some kind of story, these action movies bombard audiences with the simplistic theme of bad characters—often alien monsters – chasing the heroes for 90 minutes. Certainly, the purpose of such movies, **such as** ‘Independence Day’ or the ‘Mission Impossible’ series can only be to entertain, since they have no serious message or even factual content.

**On the other hand**, I concur with the view that films should be instructive as well as entertaining. **Firstly**, historical films **like** ‘Titanic’ or ‘Schindler’s List’ have some basis in fact for people to learn about the past. The target audience for such serious films is surprisingly large, suggesting that many people want films to tackle these subjects. **Secondly**, even films about the future can have some educational themes to make audiences think. **For example**, despite their absurd exaggerations, the ‘Jurassic Park’ movies have probably inspired many youngsters to want to know more about dinosaurs.

**In conclusion**, **while** films should obviously entertain audiences and hold their attention, their purpose should also be to add to people’s knowledge and understanding of the world.

280 words

## Vocabulary from *art*:

- **to appeal to audiences**

Meaning: to attract or interest those who go to watch a play or film. Example: Films which deal with contemporary social issues are likely **to appeal to audiences**.

- **the portrayal of something**

Meaning: the act of showing or describing something/somebody in a book, painting, play or film

Example: In the past, **the portrayal of women** in art was often as possessions, owned by rich men.

## Vocabulary from *education*:

- **to bombard someone with something**

Meaning: to continually send someone something, esp. messages to inform or influence them.

Example: Every day it seems as if we **are bombarded with** e-mail messages warning of computer viruses.

### Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:

- **target audience**

Meaning: consumers whom businesses aim at when selling their products

Example: Companies which sell soft drinks, like Coca Cola, aim mainly at a **target audience** of children and adolescents.

### Other vocabulary:

- **effects** [noun]:

Meaning: special looks or impressions that somebody, such as a film director, wants to create

Example: Film-making today is very expensive, because of all the special **effects** like explosions or crashes.

- **simplistic** [adjective]:

Meaning: simple, but ignoring complicated parts which are important

Example: There is no **simplistic** solution to the environmental crisis of today.

- **content** [noun]:

Meaning: the subject matter of a book, film etc

Example: The **content** of the course depends on what the students want to study.

- **to concur** [verb]:

Meaning: to agree

Example: Everyone **concurs** that the President is corrupt.

- **instructive** [adjective]:

Meaning: giving a lot of useful information

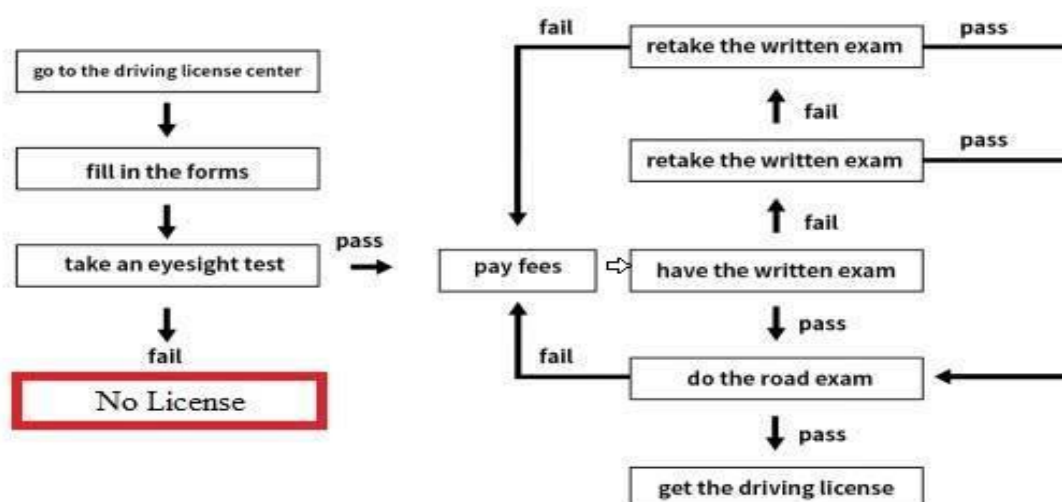
Example: The documentary on the pollution of the seas was very **instructive**.

- **to hold the attention of someone**

Meaning: to maintain the interest of someone in something

Example: Although the lecture was long, it was so interesting that it **held the attention** of the students.

**Task 1:** The flow chart below shows the procedure to get a driving license in the US. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



### Report Plan:

- Paraphrase paragraph: shows>illustrates; procedure>steps; get>obtain
- Paragraph 2: stages up to taking the written exam
- Paragraph 3: next stages – failing or passing the written exam
- Paragraph 4: final stages: failing or passing the road exam.

### Report:

The chart illustrates the steps necessary to obtain a US driving license.

First, it is necessary to go to the driving license centre and fill in the forms. An eyesight test is then given, and no license can be given to those who fail this test. However, those who pass the eyesight test must then pay the fees and take a written exam.

The result of the written exam determines the next steps. Those failing the written exam may then retake it and, if they pass, they are then able to take the road exam. Some people may fail the written test and they are allowed to sit it for a third time and, once more, if they pass they can take the road exam. If they fail the written exam again, they must pay fees before being allowed to retake the written exam once more. Others, **in contrast**, pass the written exam first time and may then take the road exam immediately.

Finally, all who pass the road exam will get the driving license. Those who fail must pay fees again and retake both the written and road exams.

190 words

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**Task 2: In some countries, small town-centre shops are going out of business because people tend to drive to large out-of-town stores. As a result, people without cars have limited access to out-of town stores, and this may result in an increase in the use of cars. Do you think the disadvantages of this change outweigh its advantages?**

### Essay Plan:

**Introduction:** refer to the task question. **My opinion:** the disadvantages are greater than the advantages

**Paragraph 2:** advantages – (1) avoid traffic jams in city centres e.g. London (2) convenient for carrying a lot of shopping, using the large car parks.

**Paragraph 3:** disadvantages – (1) city centre areas become deserted, crime and poverty increase there (2) poor people do not have cars and cannot benefit from out-of-town stores

**Conclusion:** the disadvantages outweigh the benefits.

### Essay:

It is true that in many countries, people now routinely use their cars to shop at large supermarkets or superstores outside the town centre. **While** this has a number of advantages, I would argue that the disadvantages of this trend outweigh the benefits.

**On the one hand**, there are benefits to be gained by shopping at out-of-town stores. **Firstly**, in big cities **like** London, motorists who shop in city centre stores have to pay a congestion charge to enter the central urban zone. They may also be unable to avoid rush hour traffic jams when city centre traffic grinds to a halt. **Secondly**, if there is a lot of shopping to carry, then a car is very convenient and, **for example**, the food items for all the family can be loaded into the car. Of course, such out-of-town megastores provide ample free parking and encourage car use, in contrast to the stores in the centre of town.

**On the other hand**, I believe that there are important drawbacks which outweigh any benefits. **One problem** is that convenient shopping is a feature of urban living and nothing is more

depressing than a row of boarded-up shops and derelict buildings where the city centre stores used to be. Without these shops, inner city areas become areas of crime and poverty. **Another disadvantage** is that poorer people do not have cars, and out-of-town stores may be inadequately served by buses. Unless local authorities upgrade and expand public transport provision, the convenience of out-of-town shopping is denied to the poorest members of the community.

**In conclusion**, despite the advantages of out-of-town superstores, I consider that the benefits are outweighed by the drawbacks.

278 words.

### **Vocabulary from *transport*:**

- **a congestion charge**

Meaning: an amount of money that people have to pay for driving their cars into the centre of some cities, as a way of stopping the city centre from becoming too full of traffic

Example: More cities should follow the example of London and introduce a **congestion charge** in order to ease traffic flow in the city centre.

- **rush hour traffic jams**

Meaning: the time when most people are travelling to or from work/school and so there is too much traffic on the roads.

Example: If factories and offices introduced flexible working hours, this would help employees to avoid **rush hour traffic jams** to get to or from their place of work.

- **to grind to a halt**

Meaning: to go slower and then stop completely

Example: In my city, Paris, traffic regularly **grinds to a halt** during the rush hour.

- **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**

Meaning: to improve bus and train services and to make these services more available

Example: One way to reduce traffic on the roads is **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**.

### **Vocabulary from *cities*:**

- **a feature of urban living**

Meaning: a typical quality of city life

Example: Having access to a well organised and qualified educational system is a positive **feature of urban living**.

- **boarded-up shops**

Meaning: shops with their windows and doors covered with wood

Example: In some inner city areas of New York, there are derelict buildings and **boarded-up shops** as a result of poverty and crime.

- **derelict buildings**

Meaning: buildings not used and in bad condition

Example: **Derelict buildings** in cities are sometimes occupied by homeless people or drug addicts.

- **inner city areas**

Meaning: the parts near the centre of a city, which often have social problems

Example: Recent immigrants to cities often have to live in crowded **inner city areas**, which have huge problems of crime and poverty.

### Other vocabulary:

- **to load** [verb]:

Meaning: to put a large quantity of things into something

Example: The washing machine was **loaded** with dirty clothes.

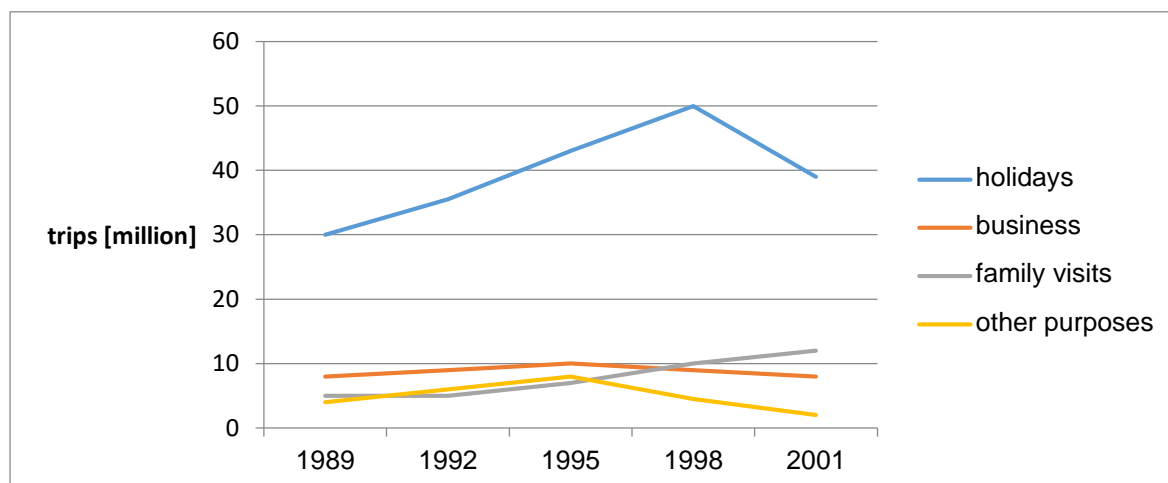
- **ample** [adjective]:

Meaning: enough or more than enough

Example: We allowed **ample** time to get to the airport, and as a result we arrived an hour early.



**Task 1:** The line graph shows the number of trips to other countries by UK residents for various purposes between 1989 and 2001.



**Total number of trips [millions]**

1989	1992	1995	1998	2001
47	55,5	68	73,5	61

### Report Plan:

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** shows>illustrates; the number of>how many; various purposes>different reasons
- **Overall/summary paragraph:** (1) most trips were to go on holiday (2) the total number of trips grew 1989-1998
- **Paragraph 3:** select and report data and trend for holiday trips
- **Paragraph 4:** select and report data and trends for the other 3 categories
- **Paragraph 5:** report the data and trend shown in the table

### Report:

The graph illustrates how many trips to other countries were made by residents of the UK for different reasons from 1989 to 2001.

**Overall**, it is clear that holidays were the reason for most trips. The total number of trips grew steadily between 1989 and 1998.

In 1989, UK residents made 30 million holiday trips were made to other countries. The figure reached a peak of 50 million in 1998, before declining to just under 40 million in 2001.

Business trips rose from 8 million in 1989 to a peak of 10 million in 1995. The figure then fell to 8 million again at the end of the period. There was a **similar** trend for the number of trips for other purposes, doubling to a peak of 8 million between 1989 and 1995, before declining to only 2 million in 2001. **In contrast**, trips to visit family members increased steadily to 12 million over the period.

In total, 47 million trips were made in 1989. This number grew to 55, 5 and 68 million in 1992 and 1995 respectively. **While** the figure then rose to 73, 5 million in 1998, it declined to 61 million in 2001.

195 words

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**Task 2: Nowadays, many animal species are becoming extinct. Some people believe that countries and individuals must solve this problem, others believe that human beings are more important. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. **My opinion:** the campaigns to save animals from extinction and to address human needs are not in opposition
- **Paragraph 2:** need to address human needs – struggles to end poverty, war etc – (1) create a more egalitarian world and (2) spend less on defence, eg. the US defence budget
- **Paragraph 3:** the protection of endangered species and human welfare go together: (1) eco-tourism eg. tiger reserves in India (2) end pollution – this helps people and animals (3) individuals can support the green movement
- **Conclusion:** the campaigns to save wildlife and human life could and should combine.

**Essay:**

It is unfortunately true that many species of animals are now on the brink of extinction. **While** some people believe that the interests of human welfare should be a government priority, I agree with those who argue that urgent action must be taken to prevent the further loss of animal species.

**On the one hand**, everyone who has a social conscience will admit how important it is to bring about major socio-economic changes to benefit the mass of humanity. **Firstly**, the effects of poverty, famines and natural disasters across the world are shown on TV screens every day.

Therefore, the struggle for a more egalitarian society, in which natural resources are shared, must be pursued vigorously. **Secondly**, another issue that must be addressed if everyone is to have a decent life is to end wars. The huge allocation of resources to defence budgets - \$750 billion annually in the USA alone – could be used to preserve human life, not destroy it.

**On the other hand**, I agree with those in the green movement who insist that the protection of endangered species of animals and the protection of the human species go hand-in-hand. Governments should implement environmentally-friendly policies, protecting wildlife habitats, such as the tiger reserves in India, while will create local jobs in eco-tourism. They should also introduce restrictions on pollution and other forms of environmental degradation. **For example**, the dumping of toxic waste into the rivers and oceans, kills rare marine creatures and destroys traditional fishing communities. Individuals must play a part too, by supporting organisations like Greenpeace or the World Wildlife Fund.

**In conclusion**, I believe that the welfare of humans cannot be separated from saving animal species from extinction, and the campaign for both objectives should unite everyone.

291 words

#### **Vocabulary from *the environment*:**

- **on the brink of extinction**

Meaning: an animal or plant which has almost disappeared from the planet

Example: Before the captive breeding program in zoos, the giant panda was **on the brink of extinction**.

- **the green movement**

Meaning: all the organisations concerned with the protection of the environment

Example: Individuals should join one of the organisations which form part of **the green movement**, in order to campaign for changes in official policy on the environment.

- **endangered species**

Meaning: plants or animals that only exist in very small numbers, so that in future they may disappear forever

Example: One example of an **endangered species** is the lowland gorilla, which has almost disappeared as a result of the destruction of its forest habitat.

- **environmentally friendly**

Meaning: behavior or products that do not harm the environment

Example: We can help to protect the environment by using detergents and cosmetics that are **environmentally friendly**.

- **environmental degradation**

Meaning: the process or fact of the environment becoming worse

Example: Africa is a continent in which **environmental degradation** is evident in the spread of deserts and the extinction of animal species.

- **toxic waste**

Meaning: poisonous, unwanted waste produced by factories

Example: Many species of fish are endangered as a result of the **toxic waste** dumped by industries into the rivers and the sea.

### Vocabulary from *government*:

- **to be a government priority**

Meaning: something which is so important that the government should deal with it first.

Example: In developing countries, spending on health and education should **be top government priorities**.

- **to allocate resources to**

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

- **to introduce restrictions on**

Meaning: to limit what people can do or what can happen

Example: The government must **introduce restrictions on** smoking in public places.

### Vocabulary from *society*:

- **a social conscience**

Meaning: the state of being aware of the problems that affect a lot of people in society, such as being poor or having no home, and wanting to do something to help these people

Example: Charities depend on the **social conscience** of the public in order to obtain donations and recruit volunteer helpers.

- **socio-economic changes**

Meaning: changes relating to the society and economy of a country

Example: Mass migration to cities is a result of **socio-economic changes** that include the industrialisation of agriculture.

- **an egalitarian society**

Meaning: a society in which everyone has the same rights and opportunities

Example: I believe that crime would be reduced if we lived in a more **egalitarian society**.

### Vocabulary from *tourism*:

- **eco-tourism**

Meaning: organized holidays which are designed so that tourists damage the environment as little as possible.

Example: **Ecotourism** will become increasingly popular in the future, as more and more people become aware of the need to protect the environment.

### Other vocabulary:

- **to bring about** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to make something happen

Example: Climate change is going **to bring about** the rise in sea level over the world.

- **to go hand-in-hand** [expression]:

Meaning: to happen together or to exist together

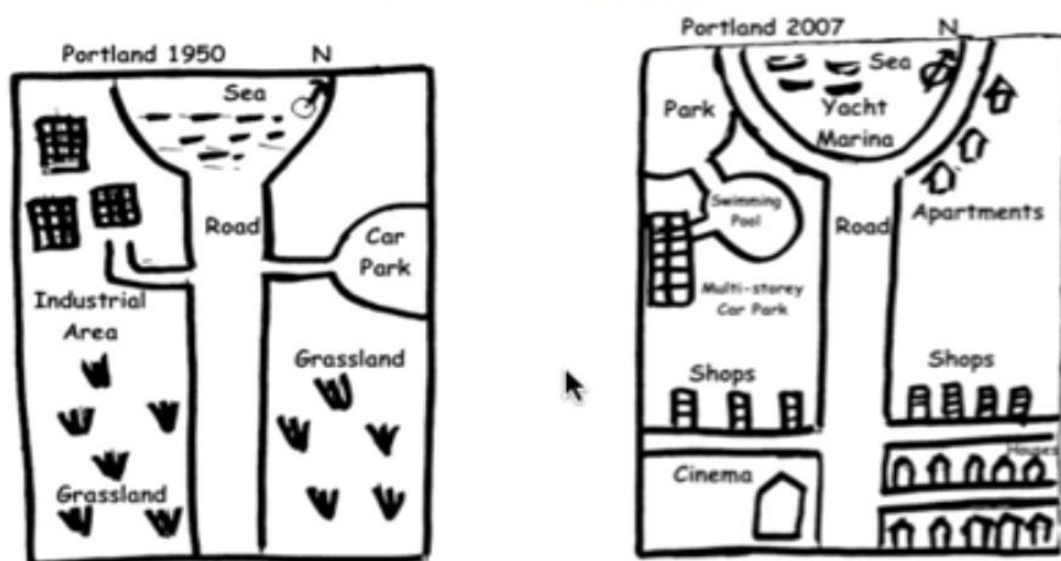
Example: Economic growth and the creation of more jobs usually **go hand-in-hand**.

**Đề thi 19/03/2019**

**Task 1: The diagram below shows the changes which took place in a coastal area called Portland from 1950 to 2007.**

**Write a report for a university lecturer describing the diagrams below.**

## COASTAL TOWN



### Report Plan:

- Paraphrase paragraph: diagram>plans; show>illustrate; changes>growth
- Overview/summary paragraph: (1) 1950 grassland >2007 new developments (2) new roads were built to join the main road
- Paragraph 3: compare the areas on the south of the plans in 1950 and 2007 – new shops, houses and a cinema; new roads
- Paragraph 4: compare the areas on the north of the plans – industrial area in 1950 > park, swimming pool, multi-storey car park in 2007; main road extended to connect to new yacht marina and apartments in 2007.

### Report:

The plans illustrate the growth of the coastal town of Portland in the years 1950 and 2007.

**Overall**, it is clear that the area of grassland in 1950 was cleared to make way for new developments in 2007. **Also**, the road network was extended over the period.

In 1950, the south of Portland was grassland. **However**, in 2007 this area was occupied by a cinema and a row of shops on the west of the main road, and by another row of shops and two rows of houses on the east side of the main road. Smaller roads connected these developments to the existing main road.

The industrial area in the north-west of the town in 1950 was replaced by a park and an adjacent swimming pool in 2007. There was **also** a new multi-storey car park next to the swimming pool, replacing the car park located in the north-east of the town in 1950. The main road was extended, providing access to a new marina for yachts by 2007, and new apartments, overlooking the marina.

175 words

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**Task 2: In many countries not enough students are choosing to study science subjects. What are the causes? And what will be the effects on society?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question; some causes and social effects can be identified
- **Paragraph 2:** causes – (1) gender discrimination – only boys do science (2) other subjects are now more popular – business/management offer good job prospects and high salaries
- **Paragraph 3:** social effects – (1) the environment, lack of scientists to meet the challenges of climate change/global warming/achieving sustainable development (2) health, lack of scientists to find cures for diseases e.g. Alzheimer's disease among ageing populations
- **Conclusion:** some causes can be identified and serious problems for society will result.

**Essay:**

It is true that in some countries there is a shortage of students opting for science courses. **While** it is necessary to identify the possible causes of this trend, it is also necessary to predict the effects on society.

I believe that there are at least two major causes of the lack of appeal of science subjects. **Firstly**, many schools and college are behind the times and have been slow to dismiss traditional ideas that girls should not study science. This sexist attitude regards the study of science as a traditional male preserve, thus it is time for university science faculties to abolish selection procedures based on gender. **Secondly**, subjects such as business and management are attracting growing numbers of students. Many young people consider that the job prospects in these areas offer the greatest financial rewards and the best chance to move up the career ladder.

There will be serious effects on society if more students do not choose to study science subjects. **In terms of** the environment, **one result** will be a lack of trained professionals to find solutions to urgent problems, such as the need to conduct research into alternative energy sources and to help society to achieve sustainable development. **For example**, more scientists will be necessary to lead the fight against climate change and to meet the enormous challenge of global warming. **From the perspective of** health, **another outcome** could be a lack of qualified researchers to search for a cure for life-threatening conditions, such as the increase in degenerative illnesses like Alzheimer's disease, as people live longer.

**In conclusion**, some causes of this problem can be identified, and the serious effects on society must not be underestimated.

282 words

#### **Vocabulary from *communication and personality*:**

- **behind the times**

Meaning: refers to a person who is old-fashioned and has not adopted certain modern customs, beliefs, or behaviors

Example: He was angry when they said that his accounting methods were **behind the times** because he did not use computer software.

#### **Vocabulary from *traditional versus modern*:**

- **to dismiss traditional ideas**

Meaning: to decide that traditional ideas are not important and not worth considering anymore

Example: Although the views of older people may sometimes seem unhelpful in today's world, we should not **dismiss all traditional ideas** as irrelevant.

#### **Vocabulary from *gender*:**

- **sexist attitudes**

Meaning: beliefs that women should be treated unfairly because of their gender

Example: In developed countries, **sexist attitudes** in the workplace are no longer tolerated by employers or employees.

- **a traditional male preserve**

Meaning: to be exclusively reserved for men

Example: In British society, some social and sports clubs were **traditional male preserves** which women were not allowed to enter.

- **selection procedures based on gender**

Meaning: the act of choosing someone according to their gender.

Example: The selection of university students should be based on merit, and it would be both impractical and unfair to change to **a selection procedure based on gender**.

#### **Vocabulary from *work*:**

- **job prospects**

Meaning: the chances of being successful and having more opportunities at work

Example: People with qualifications and experience usually have the best **job prospects**.



- **to move up the career ladder**

Meaning: a series of stages by which you can make progress in your career

Example: Ambitious employees look for a job in which there is a chance **to move up the career ladder**.

#### Vocabulary from *the environment*:

- **alternative energy sources**

Meaning: refers to any energy source that is an alternative to fossil fuel

Example: Clean energy which does not pollute the Earth can only come from greater reliance on **alternative energy sources**.

- **to achieve sustainable development**

Meaning: economic development that is achieved without depleting natural resources

Example: Organic methods must be introduced everywhere in order **to achieve sustainable development in agriculture**.

- **to fight against climate change**

Meaning: To try to prevent changes in climate patterns, such as rainfall, temperature and winds.

Example: Unless we consume less of the Earth's natural resources, it will be impossible **to fight climate change** and safeguard our future.

- **global warming**

Meaning: the process by which the Earth is getting hotter, as a result of the greenhouse effect – in particular the increase in carbon dioxide in the air.

Example: Perhaps the major environmental challenge which faces humanity today is **global warming**, because it threatens our survival.

#### Vocabulary from *health*:

- **to search for a cure**

Meaning: the process of looking for a way to make a sick person healthy again

Example: It is the responsibility of governments to enable doctors **to search for a cure** for diseases by providing adequate funding.

- **life-threatening conditions**

Meaning: illnesses which are likely to kill somebody

Example: Great advances have been made in the treatment of **life-threatening conditions** such as cancer and heart disease.

- **a degenerative illness**

Meaning: an illness that becomes worse as time passes

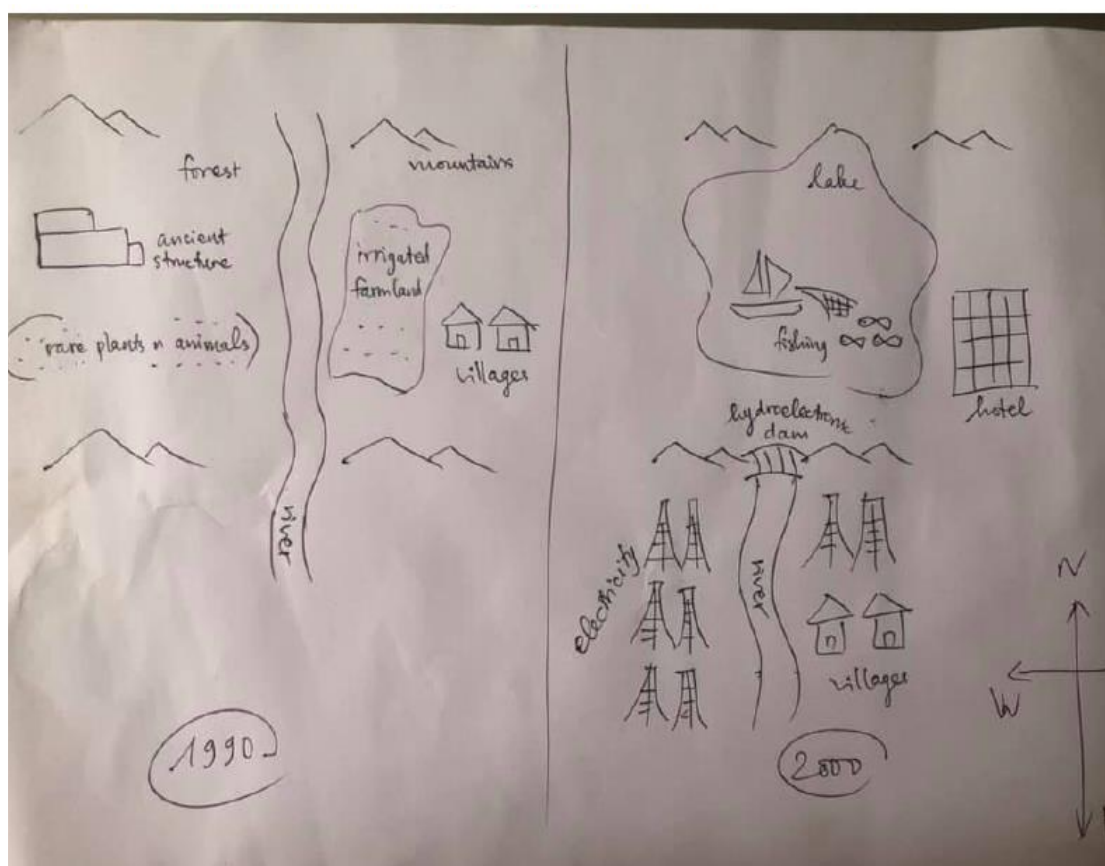
Example: Breakthroughs in medical science are providing more effective treatment for **degenerative illnesses** such as Alzheimer's disease.

**Other vocabulary:**

- **to opt for** [phrasal verb]:  
Meaning: to choose to take – or not to take – a particular course of action  
Example: She hesitated for a long time before she finally **opted for** a career in music.
- **to abolish** [verb]:  
Meaning: to officially end a law, a system or an institution  
Example: The government passed a new law **to abolish** slavery.
- **to underestimate** [verb]:  
Meaning: to not realize how good, strong, determined somebody (or something) really is  
Example: The general realized that he **had underestimated** the size and strength of the enemy.

**Đề thi 23/03/2019**

**Task 1: The 2 maps show an area before and after building the hydroelectric dam**



**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** show>illustrate; building>construction; give dates 1990 and 2000
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) 1990 map – area of rare plants and animals (destroyed in 2000) (2) the villages were relocated in 2000
- **Paragraph 3:** report features of the 1990 map on the west and east sides of the river. Report what this area became in 2000 (a lake and hotel)
- **Paragraph 4:** report other features of the 2000 map, south of the lake: electricity pylons and the relocated villages

**Report:**

The maps illustrate an area in 1990 before the construction of a hydroelectric dam, and the same area in 2000 after the dam was constructed.

**Overall,** it is clear that the area of rare plants and animals which existed in 1990 was destroyed, and that the villages were relocated south of the dam in 2000.

In 1990, an ancient structure and an area with rare plants and animals were located to the west of the river. On the east bank of the river, there was irrigated farmland and some villages nearby. **However**, in 2000 a lake was created which covered this whole area. The lake was used for sailing and fishing, while a hotel occupied the site where the villages had been located.

The map for 2000 shows the hydroelectric dam in the mountains south of the lake. On both sides of the river, there were electricity pylons. The new site for the villages was on the east side of the river, south of the electricity installations.

167 words

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**Task 2: It is expected that there will be a higher proportion of older people than that of young people in many countries in the future? Do you think it is a positive or negative development?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Refer to the task question. My opinion: a positive development**
- **Paragraph 2 – negative aspect – increasing costs of looking after the elderly – it will be hard for governments to meet health costs**
- **Paragraph 3 – positive aspects (1) fewer jobs, due to technology, need to reduce the workforce (2) need to reduce world population – fewer young people – or face an environmental crisis**
- **Conclusion – although health care for the elderly is a problem, there are positive aspects to this trend (a reduced work force, less pressure on natural resources).**

**Essay:**

It is predicted that in many countries the percentage of the elderly population will be higher than the proportion of the young generation. **While** this will create some problems, I believe that it is on balance a positive development.

**On the one hand**, the main issue confronting countries with a large elderly population is the cost of providing public health services. As people grow older, they generally need more medical attention. It will, therefore be necessary for governments to impose spending cuts or to raise taxes on incomes or goods in order to provide funding for increased health care. In countries **like** the USA and the UK, many people fear that they may be faced with large health bills in their old age and have decided to take out private health insurance. They argue that the resources of a welfare state will not be adequate to guarantee good health care when they are old.

**On the other hand**, I agree with those who argue that the world is changing and fewer young people will be required to work in future. **Firstly**, advances in technology mean fewer young workers are needed. Robotics technology is still in its infancy, but fewer workers are needed now in many occupations. **For example**, labour-saving appliances have replaced many workers in the industrial and service sectors. **Secondly**, as populations age, the number of people will decline. The present world population of about 9 billion is depleting the natural resources on which everyone depends.

**In conclusion**, although the health costs of caring for an increasingly elderly population will be high initially, an ageing population will avoid both the future problems of an army of young jobless people, and also population pressure which will provoke an ecological crisis.

290 words

### **Vocabulary from *health*:**

- **public health services**  
Meaning: the agencies funded by the government to protect and promote the health of the population  
Example: I would argue that funding for **public health services** should be the main priority of all governments.
- **to take out private health insurance**  
Meaning: to make regular payments to an insurance company, who will pay for medical or hospital treatment when you need it  
Example: In countries with poor public health services, many people have **to take out private health insurance** in order to receive adequate medical treatment.

### **Vocabulary from *government*:**

- **to impose spending cuts**  
Meaning: to introduce new rules to spend less money on something  
Example: It is essential for the authorities **to impose spending cuts** on space programs in order to fund health services.
- **to raise taxes on**  
Meaning: to increase the amount of tax on something  
Example: Governments should **raise taxes on** cigarettes to persuade more people to give up smoking.
- **to provide funding for**  
Meaning: to give money to enable something to be done

Example: **Providing funding for** health care must be a priority of governments.

- **a welfare state**

Meaning: a taxation system which allows governments to provide for the economic and social well-being of its citizens

Example: In order to eradicate poverty, I believe that **a welfare state** should be established in all developing countries.

### Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **advances in technology**

Meaning: the improvement or development in technology

Example: Recent **advances in medical technology** are making a great contribution to the search for a cure for Aids.

- **robotics technology**

Meaning: the design, construction and operation of robots

Example: There are examples of **robotics technology** everywhere, from space programs to manufacturing.

- **to be in its infancy**

Meaning: to be in the early development of something

Example: It is clear that robotics technology is **still in its infancy**, and it is impossible to imagine the possible future developments.

- **labour-saving appliances**

Meaning: machines that reduce the amount of work or effort needed to do something.

Example: The technological revolution in the home started with the introduction of **labour-saving appliances** such as washing machines and dishwashers.

### Vocabulary from *the environment*:

- **to deplete natural resources**

Meaning: To reduce the amount of natural resources.

Example: Timber companies must not be allowed **to deplete natural resources** by cutting down trees without planting new trees to replace them.

- **an ecological crisis**

Meaning: a serious situation that occurs when the environment of a species or a population changes in a way that destabilizes its continued survival

Example: Environmental degradation caused by human activity is provoking **an ecological crisis** which threatens our existence.

### Other vocabulary:

- **to confront (a problem or difficulty)** [verb]:  
Meaning: to appear and to need to be dealt with by somebody  
Example: The economic crisis is the main issue **confronting** the government.
- **to be faced with** [expression]:  
Meaning: if you are faced with a particular situation, you have to deal with it  
Example: The cost of child care is one of the problems that single parent families **are faced with**.
- **adequate** [adjective]:  
Meaning: enough for a particular purpose or need  
Example: At the university, there was **adequate** provision for disabled students to attend classes without difficulty.
- **jobless** [noun]:  
Meaning: without a job  
Example: When the factory closed, 500 workers were left **jobless**.

**Task 1:** The charts show the sales of new cars in Australia in 1984, 1993 and 2013



**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** show>compare; sales of new cars>figures for new cars sold; 1984, 1993 and 2013> three different years
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) sedans were the highest proportion (2) the total number of new cars sold increased
- **Paragraph 3:** percentages: report and compare trends for the 3 categories.
- **Paragraph 4:** numbers: report and compare total numbers of new cars sold and compare trends/numbers for each category.



## Report:

The pie charts compare figures for new cars sold in Australia in three different years.

**Overall**, it is clear that the percentage of sedans sold was the highest category in each year, **while** the total number of all new cars sold increased over the period.

In 1984, the proportion of sedans sold was 55% of total sales of new cars, compared with 'Others' and SVUs, at 26% and 19% respectively. **Although** only half of new cars sold in 1993 were sedans, by 2013 the proportion rose again to 57%. **In contrast**, the proportion of 'Others' and SVUs sold increased slightly in 1993, before falling again to 24% and 19% respectively in 2013.

**In terms of numbers**, total sales rose by 20,000 over the period, to a peak of 52,000 by 2013. **While** the sales of 'Others' fell slightly in 2013 to 12,480 new vehicles compared with almost 300 more in 1993, this was still much higher than the 1984 figure. Sales of sedans rose steadily to reach almost 30,000 in 2013, and SVU sales increased from just over 6000 in 1984 to almost 10,000 in 2013.

186 words

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**Task 2: Some people think that hard work and determination bring success. Others think other factors such as money and good appearance are more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion?**

## Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion – money is the key factor for success
- **Paragraph 2:** hard work and determination are important (1) at work – to deal with a heavy workload (2) at home – to support and raise a family
- **Paragraph 3:** money and appearances are most valued today. (1) without money, you cannot run a business or mix with influential people e.g. failed entrepreneurs, film stars (2) with money, you advertise your success

## Essay:

It is true that some people believe that the key factors for success in life are hard work and determination, although others place more importance on money and smart appearance. **While** all these are necessary, I would argue that money is the single most essential factor for those who wish to achieve success.

**On the one hand**, the determination to work hard is essential for anyone who wants to earn a living and raise a family. **Firstly**, this is true **in terms of** employment, because most jobs impose a heavy workload on employees. Even jobs **such as** serving customers in stores, supermarkets or coffee shops, offering a minimum wage, no job prospects and no promotion opportunities demand hard work and dedication. **Secondly, from a perspective of** life outside work, simply supporting a family involves commitment and a lot of effort to maintain a close-knit family. Such parental involvement is the basis of preparing children to enter adult life, and to pursue a successful career.

**On the other hand**, money and appearances are the things most valued in the modern world. People are increasingly judged by their wealth or their smart and fashionable clothes. Without money, it is impossible to think about running your own business or developing contacts with rich and influential people who can help you to get ahead in life. Most aspiring entrepreneurs, film or sports stars, **for example**, do not achieve their dreams, and are considered by society as failures. If you have money, then designer clothes and celebrity status advertise your success to others.

**In conclusion**, it is a sad reality that of all the factors most likely to bring success, money is, in my opinion, the most important.

283 words

#### **Vocabulary from *business and money*:**

- **to earn a living**  
Meaning: to earn money  
Example: I used to **earn a living** as a teacher, but now I sell used cars.
- **a heavy workload**  
Meaning: having many tasks to perform  
Example: Many employees of the company take time off work because of illness and stress due to the **heavy workload**.
- **to run your own business**  
Meaning: to have a business which you own  
Example: I was tired of working for other people, so I decided **to run my own business**.

#### **Vocabulary from *work*:**

- **a minimum wage**  
Meaning: the lowest wage that an employer is allowed to pay by law  
Example: **A minimum wage** is necessary in order to ensure a decent standard of living for low-paid workers.
- **job prospects**

Meaning: the chances of being successful and having more opportunities at work  
Example: People with qualifications and experience usually have the best **job prospects**.

- **promotion opportunities**

Meaning: chances to move to a more important position in a company or organization

Example: Perhaps the most important factor when choosing a job are the **promotion opportunities/promotion prospects**.

- **to pursue a successful career**

Meaning: to have a series of jobs in a particular area of work, with more responsibility as time passes

Example: While many people wish **to pursue a successful career**, for others it is more important to find work which is interesting and enjoyable.

### Vocabulary from *family and children*:

- **to support a family**

Meaning: to have enough money to be able to look after a family

Example: Young people often delay marriage because they do not earn enough money **to support a family**.

- **a close-knit family**

Meaning: a family having strong relationships with each other, helping with problems and enjoying a lot of time together

Example: Children who come from **a close-knit family** generally perform well at school and enjoy a happy childhood.

- **parental involvement**

Meaning: the act or process of parents when taking part in their children's activities.

Example: **Parental involvement** allows parents to monitor school and classroom activities, and to coordinate their efforts with teachers to encourage acceptable classroom behavior and ensure that the child completes schoolwork.

- **to enter adult life**

Meaning: the stage when adolescents are almost old enough to be legally independent of their parents

Example: Parents who have devoted time and thought to raising and educating their children have given them a good preparation **to enter adult life**.

### Other vocabulary:

- **to impose** [verb]:

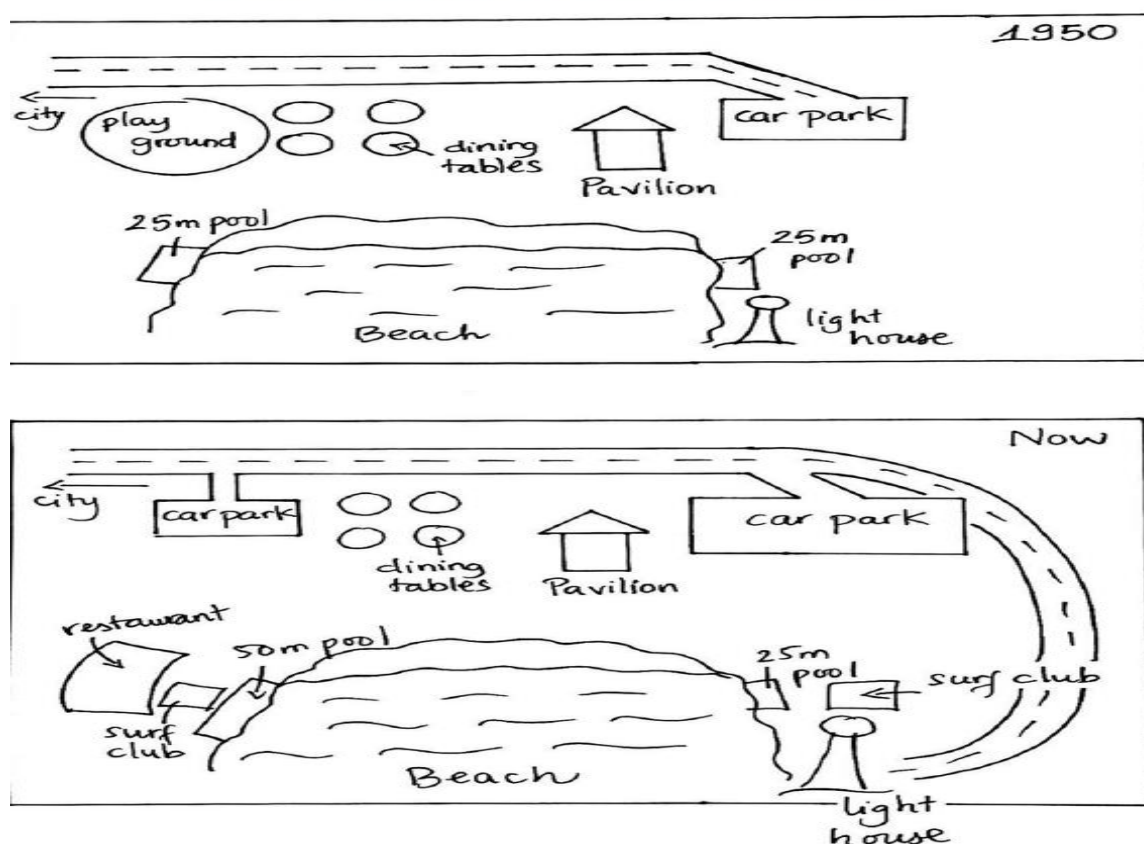
Meaning: to force somebody to have to deal with something difficult

Example: The new tax law **imposed** heavy financial burdens on many people.

- **commitment** [noun]:  
Meaning: the willingness to work hard and give your time and energy to a job or activity  
Example: A career as an actor requires 100% **commitment**.
- **to judge** [verb]:  
Meaning: to form an opinion about something or somebody  
Example: The interview panel **judged** him on his untidy appearance, so he did not get the job.
- **influential** [adjective]:  
Meaning: having a lot of influence on something or somebody  
Example: She plans to become an actress, because she has a lot of **influential** contacts in the film industry.
- **to get ahead in life** [expression]:  
Meaning: to succeed in life  
Example: You will never **get ahead in life** if you waste your money.
- **aspiring** [adjective]:  
Meaning: wanting to be successful  
Example: He is an **aspiring** artist, but I think that he does not have much talent.

**Đề thi 28/03/2019**

**Task 1: The maps show a beautiful beachfront area in Australia in 1950 and today. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.**



### Report Plan:

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** show > compare; today > the present
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) new surf clubs and a restaurant (2) the road now goes to the lighthouse.
- **Paragraph 3:** the top part of the maps: (1) changes to the car parks (2) the road extended
- **Paragraph 4:** the bottom part of the maps – the beachfront: (1) changes to the pools (2) the new surf clubs and restaurant.

### Report:

The maps compare an Australian beachfront in 1950 and the present.

**Overall,** it is clear that surf club facilities and a restaurant now form part of the beachfront area. Also, the road now extends as far as the lighthouse.

In 1950, there was only one car park in the area. That car park is now larger, and another, smaller car park has replaced the playground. **However,** the pavilion and dining tables remain

in the same place. The road finished at the car park in 1950, but now it continues to the lighthouse.

**While** there were two pools of 25 metres in 1950, now there is only one 25 metre pool, and a new 50 metre pool has taken the place of the other smaller pool. Two surf clubs now occupy part of the beachfront. One club is next to the 50 metre pool, while the other club is near the lighthouse. **Although** the area had no restaurant in 1950, there is now a new restaurant behind the 50 metre pool and one of the surf clubs.

176 words

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**Task 2: In some countries, advertisers increase the amount of advertising which tries to persuade children to buy snacks, toys and other goods. Parents object to such pressure on children. But some advertisers claim that there is useful information in these advertisements. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question; state opinion – agree that advertising pressurises children
- **Paragraph 2:** view 1 – companies simply provide useful information about products – for example, advertising new products on the market. In this way, children learn the skill of making consumer choices
- **Paragraph 3:** view 2 – (1) children are too young to make informed choices, they are easily influenced by marketing, and pressured into wanting what their friends have (2) childhood is a time to enjoy play and adventure, not to be trained to be consumers
- **Conclusion:** advertising puts too much pressure on children and has no useful purpose in their development.

**Essay:**

It is true that commercial advertising in many countries is sometimes aimed at children. **While** there are some who argue that advertisements contain product information that is useful for youngsters, I agree with those critics who believe that advertising pressurises children into wanting things which are neither necessary nor desirable.

**On the one hand**, some companies deny that they put pressure on children to buy their goods, and argue that they are simply informing children about the range of choices open to them. When firms promote their products, they bring the attention of youngsters to new toys or sweets. **For example**, a new chocolate bar may be launched and children will only learn about it if it is advertised. Therefore, it is justified to aim at children as a target audience because they need to learn how to make consumer choices. If products were not promoted to youngsters, they would enter adult life without acquiring this useful skill.

**On the other hand**, I concur with the criticisms of those who consider that parents should be wary of the marketing to which they expose their children. **Firstly**, children are too young to be able to make informed judgments. They tend to be swayed by advertisements. It is, **for instance**, easy to promote brand awareness among children, so that if a classmate has the latest Barbie doll or Captain America toy, everyone in the class then wants to have the same thing. **Secondly**, youngsters should be allowed to enjoy the simplicity of childhood play and adventure, free of the pressures to consume which seems to be an inevitable consequence of modern life.

In conclusion, I agree with the view that advertising puts too much pressure on children, and develops no useful childhood qualities.

291 words

### **Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:**

- **commercial advertising**  
Meaning: advertising on the radio or television, between or during programmes.  
Example: **Commercial advertising** on television provides the revenue for most TV channels.
- **to promote their products**  
Meaning: to make products popular by advertising them  
Example: Most large enterprises contract specialist marketing companies **to promote their products**.
- **to launch a product**  
Meaning: to introduce a new product  
Example: Companies have recognised that the services of the marketing industry are essential **to launch a new product** successfully.
- **a target audience**  
Meaning: consumers whom businesses aim at when selling their products  
Example: Companies which sell soft drinks, like Coca Cola, aim mainly at a **target audience** of children and adolescents.
- **to be wary of something**  
Meaning: not completely trusting or certain about something  
Example: Consumers must always **be wary of** the claims made in advertisements, because such claims are often exaggerated or untrue.
- **to be swayed by advertisements**  
Meaning: to be influenced to buy things as a result of advertising

Example: If consumers **were** not easily **swayed by advertisements**, the advertising industry would not exist.

- **brand awareness**

Meaning: the action of bringing the name of a company to the attention of the public

Example: Advertising, not the quality of the product, is responsible for creating **brand awareness** among consumers, as can be seen by the success of market leaders such as Nike or Coca Cola.

### Vocabulary from *family and children*:

- **to enter adult life**

Meaning: the stage when adolescents are almost old enough to be legally independent of their parents

Example: Parents who have devoted time and thought to raising and educating their children have given them a good preparation **to enter adult life**.

### Vocabulary from *traditional versus modern*:

- **an inevitable consequence**

Meaning: certain to happen and unable to be avoided or prevented

Example: Some people suppose that the loss of traditional cultures is **an inevitable consequence** of technological development.

### Other vocabulary:

- **youngster** [noun]:

Meaning: a young person or a child

Example: The class is for **youngsters** aged 8 to 14.

- **to pressurise/pressurize** [verb]:

Meaning: to persuade somebody to do something, especially by making them feel that they have to do it

Example: She did not want to accept the job, but she was **pressurized** by her parents into taking it.

- **firm** [noun]:

Meaning: a business or company

Example: She got a job in an engineering **firm** after finishing university.

- **to concur** [verb]:

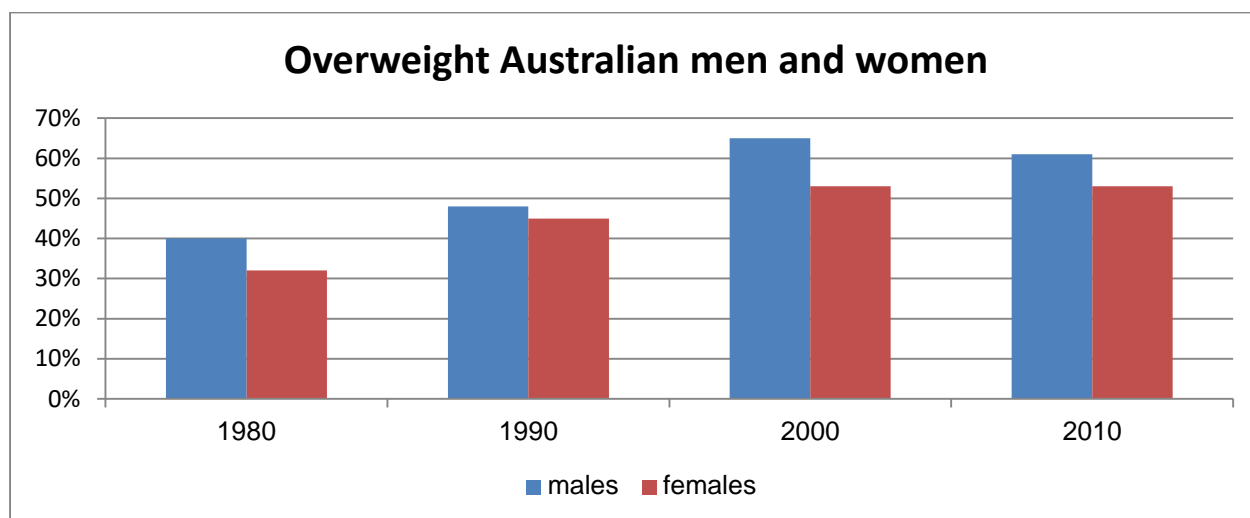
Meaning: to agree



Example: Scientists **concur** that climate change is taking place.

Đề thi 06/04/2019

**Task 1:** The chart shows the percentage of males and females who were overweight in Australia from 1980 to 2010.



**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** shows>illustrates; percentage>proportion; males and females>men and women; from 1980 to 2010> between the years 1980 and 2010.
- **Overview summary/paragraph:** (1) the percentage of overweight males was higher than the percentage of females (2) the percentages generally rose over the period.
- **Paragraph 3:** report the figures and describe the trend for males
- **Paragraph 4:** contrast the figures for women: report the figures and describe the trends.

**Report:**

The bar chart illustrates the proportion of Australian men and women who were overweight between the years 1980 and 2010.

**Overall**, it is clear that the percentage of overweight males was higher than the percentage of overweight females, **while** the figures for both genders rose over the period.

In 1980, 40% of men in Australia were overweight and this figure increased to 48% in 1990. **Although** the proportion then reached a peak in 2000 of 65%, it then fell slightly to just over 60% in 2010.

**In contrast**, the proportion of overweight Australian women was lower than the figures for males who were overweight. **However**, there was a steep rise in the percentage of overweight females from just over 30% at the beginning of the period to 45% in 1990. There was a further

significant increase to 53%, just over half of all women, in 2000. This figure remained the same in 2010.

152 words

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**Task 2: People have little understanding of the importance of the natural world. What are the reasons for this, and how can people learn more about the natural world?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. 2 important reasons, and ways in which the problem can be tackled
- **Paragraph 2:** reason – traditional life has disappeared (1) at work – people work indoors, no contact with nature (2) culture – disappearance of festivals connected with the natural world e.g. spring or harvest celebrations. Young people interested in electronic media instead
- **Paragraph 3:** solutions –(1) get involved in voluntary environmental work (2) more study of nature and the environment in school (3) more nature documentaries in the media
- **Conclusion:** reasons can be identified, but there are ways to deal with the problem.

**Essay:**

It is true that most people do not realize how important the natural world is. **While** there are some reasons to explain this lack of knowledge, there are ways in which people can improve their understanding.

I believe that the major reason why many people do not appreciate the value of the natural world is the disappearance of traditional ways of life. **In terms of** work, hunting, fishing or agriculture are now the occupation of a small minority of the workforce in most countries. Advances in technology mean that most people now spend a large part of their day in a closed working environment, **such as** an office, shop or factory, without any contact with nature. **From a cultural perspective**, traditional festivals related to the natural seasons in agricultural communities have fallen by the wayside. Celebrations of nature, **for example** at times of spring or harvest, which once provided a link to our roots, continue only in the hands of an ageing population, while younger generations are addicted to the electronic media.

However, people can learn about the natural world in three important ways. **Firstly**, there are many opportunities to become involved in local volunteer work, carrying out environmentally friendly tasks **like** planting trees. **Secondly**, schools should include nature studies and environmental science in the curriculum. **Finally**, more nature documentaries on TV and the internet would stimulate a revival of interest in the world around us. They are an excellent means of informing the public about life on the planet, and the need to combat the environmental degradation which threatens it.

**In conclusion**, although there are important reasons why there is little public understanding of the natural world, there are ways in which this lack of knowledge can be overcome.

289 words

### Vocabulary from *traditional versus modern*:

- **the disappearance of traditional ways of life**  
Meaning: the fact that traditional ways no longer exist  
Example: The advances in technology that have driven industrialisation in developed countries have certainly contributed to **the disappearance of traditional ways of life**.
- **to fall by the wayside**  
Meaning: if something falls by the wayside, it is no longer used  
Example: An increasing reliance on modern technology has resulted in some conventional skills **falling by the wayside**.
- **to provide a link to our roots**  
Meaning: to connect with previous generations  
Example: Traditional skills **provide a link to our roots**, and they are part of our shared heritage.
- **in the hands of an ageing population**  
Meaning: dependent on the elderly  
Example: Some traditional crafts which are now **in the hands of an ageing population** are at risk of disappearing completely in the next five years.
- **a revival of interest in**  
Meaning: the process of something becoming more popular again  
Example: There has recently been **a revival of interest in** traditional music and songs.

### Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **advances in technology**

Meaning: the improvement or development in technology

Example: Recent **advances in medical technology** are making a great contribution to the search for a cure for Aids.

### Vocabulary from *work*:

- **working environment**

Meaning: the conditions that you work in

Example: If work is to be enjoyable, then a friendly **working environment** is essential.

### Vocabulary from *health*:

- **to be addicted to**

Meaning: to be unable to stop taking harmful drugs, tobacco or alcohol.

Example: More specialist clinics, offering treatment and advice, are required to help people who **are addicted to** drugs.

### Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:

- **the electronic media**

Meaning: broadcast media which use electronic technology, such as the internet, television, radio, DVDs etc

Example: In contrast to print media, **the electronic media** are growing in popularity, especially among the youth.

### Vocabulary from *the environment*:

- **environmentally friendly**

Meaning: behavior or products that do not harm the environment

Example: We can help to protect the environment by using detergents and cosmetics that are **environmentally friendly**.

- **environmental degradation**

Meaning: the process or fact of the environment becoming worse

Example: Africa is a continent in which **environmental degradation** is evident in the spread of deserts and the extinction of animal species.

### Other vocabulary:

- **harvest** [noun]:

Meaning: the time of year when crops are collected on a farm

Example: Churches in the UK still celebrate the **harvest** festival, when the crops are collected in the autumn.

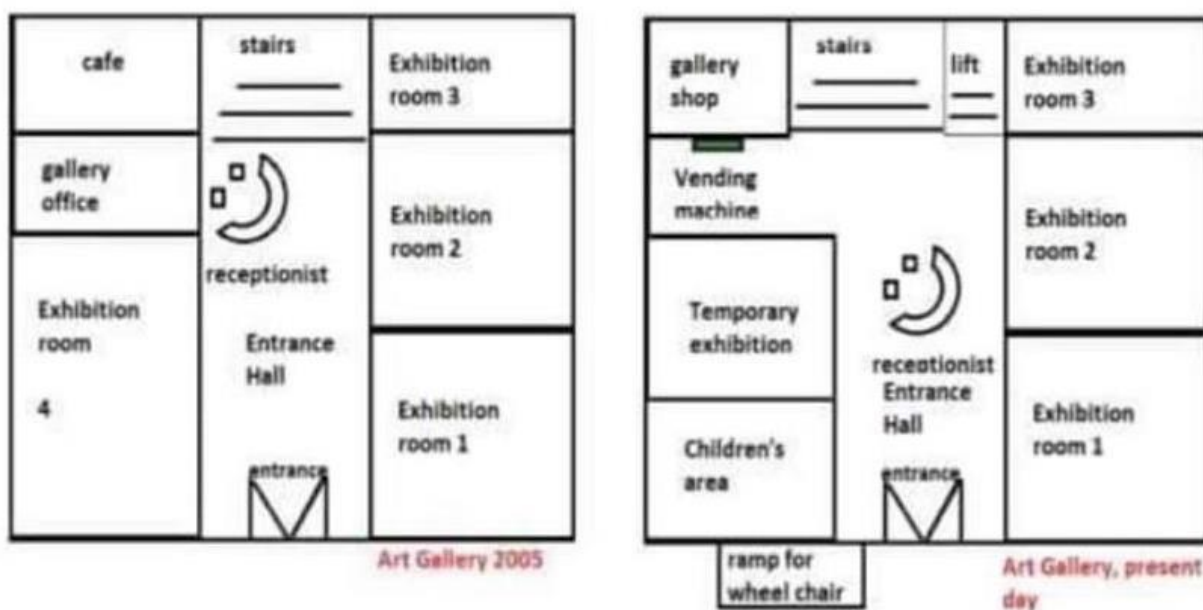
- **to stimulate** [verb]:

Meaning: to encourage something to develop

Example: The exhibition of her paintings **has stimulated** a lot of interest in her art.

Đề thi 13/04/2019

Task 1: The maps below show the changes to an art gallery floor plan in 2005 and the present day.



### Report Plan:

- Paraphrase paragraph: maps>diagrams; show>illustrate; changes>alterations
- Overview/summary paragraph: (1) children's area and temporary exhibition space replace exhibition room 4 (2) a lift and a ramp now give access for people with wheelchairs
- Paragraph 3: report on changes to the areas on the right and left of the entrance hall
- Paragraph 4: report on changes to (1) the entrance hall (2) the gallery shop replaces the café (3) a new lift and wheelchair ramp are on the present plan.

### Report:

The diagrams illustrate the alterations to the floor plan of an art gallery from 2005 to the present.

**Overall**, it is clear that a children's area and temporary exhibition space has replaced a large exhibition room. A ramp and a lift now provide access for wheelchair users.

The present day plan shows that the 3 exhibition rooms to the right of the entrance hall remain the same as in 2005. **In contrast**, to the left of the entrance hall, there is a major change. A temporary exhibition space and children's area now replace exhibition room 4 in the 2005 plan.

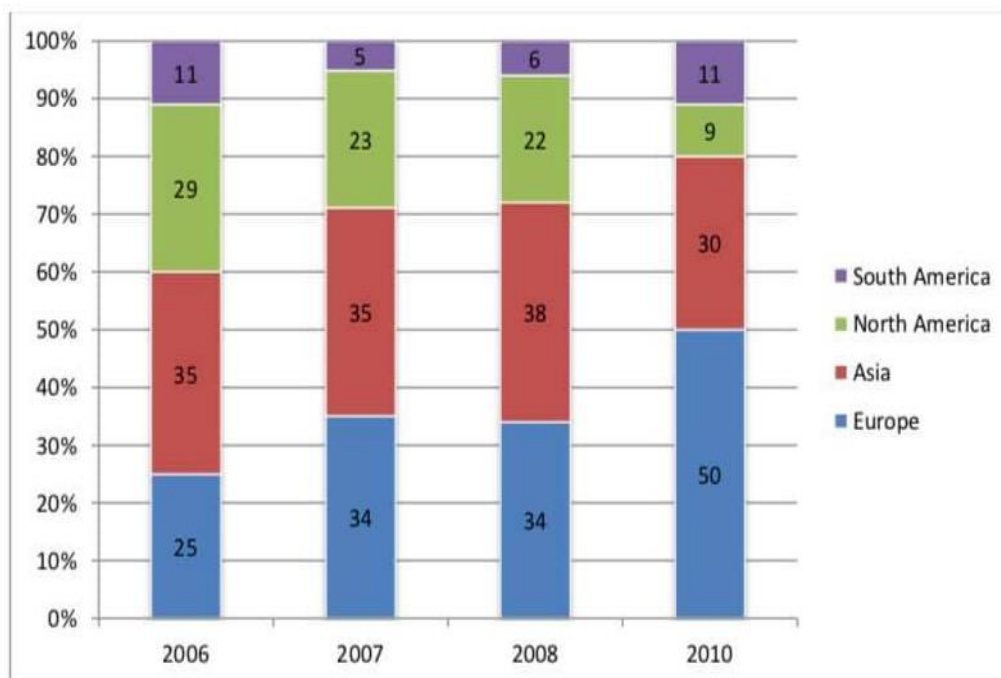
The reception desk was at the end of the entrance hall in 2005, directly in front of the gallery office. **However**, the desk is now in front of the entrance and a vending machine now occupies the place of the gallery office. A gallery shop replaces the café marked on the 2005 plan. In 2005, there were stairs at the end of the entrance hall, **although** now there is also a lift next to the stairs. Near the entrance, a wheelchair ramp is shown on the present plan.

188 words



Đề thi 25/04/2019

**Task 1:** The chart shows the percentage of car manufacturer's total car sales in different regions from 2006 to 2010.



### Report Plan:

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** chart>bar chart; shows>illustrates; percentage>proportion; from 2006 to 2010>between 2006 and 2010
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) % of car sales in Asia and Europe was higher (2) % of car sales in North America declined
- **Paragraph 3:** report on the trends and figures for Asia and Europe
- **Paragraph 4:** report on the trends and figures for North and South America

### Report:

The bar chart illustrates the proportion of cars sold by manufacturers in four regions between 2006 and 2010.

**Overall**, it is clear that the percentage of total car sales was higher in Asia and Europe than in the other regions. **In contrast**, the proportion of car sales in North America declined over the period.

In 2006, 35% of manufacturers' total car sales were in Asia, and this percentage remained steady the following year. **Although** the proportion then rose to 38% in 2008, it fell to 30% in

2010. In Europe, the percentage of total car sales doubled over the period from 25% in 2006 to 50% in 2010.

There was a significant decline in the proportion of car sales in North America. The figure in 2006 was 29%. **However**, this decreased to 23% and 22% in 2007 and 2008, respectively. The figure then fell dramatically to just 9% at the end of the period. **Despite** a fall in 2007 and 2008, total car sales in South America in 2010 then recovered to the 2006 figure of 11%.

177 words

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**Task 2: In many countries today, people in cities either live alone or in small family units, rather than in large family groups. Is this a positive or negative trend?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question; opinion – the trend is equally positive and negative
- **Paragraph 2:** positive – lack of housing in cities, only small living spaces are affordable, so people can afford decent accommodation only if they live alone or in a small family unit
- **Paragraph 3:** negative – (1) socially (2) financially – the benefits of living in a large family are lost – example: loss of social contact, sharing expenses, chores.
- **Conclusion:** there are equal positive and negative aspects.

**Essay:**

It is true that in recent years, many urban dwellers have tended to live on their own or in nuclear families. In my opinion, this trend has both positive and negative consequences in equal measure.

**On the one hand**, the rise in smaller households is a positive trend primarily for economic reasons. The migration of people from rural to urban areas has resulted in an enormous increase in demand for housing. The housing stock has been inadequate to cope with this demand, and so property developers have taken advantage of this population shift to raise house prices and rents. They have built apartment blocks which provide accommodation for only single people or small families. If they do not wish to endure squalid housing conditions, therefore, it is clearly necessary for people to live alone or in small, usually family, groups.

**On the other hand**, there are negative aspects of this trend. With the mass exodus of people to cities, ties of kinship are broken as the extended family which lived together in the

countryside is broken up. Socially, family gatherings take place only rarely and, financially, living costs can no longer be shared between many family members living under the same roof. **For example**, grandparents or other relatives used to help with household expenses, child-minding and cooking. Individuals rarely felt lonely or isolated, experiencing a sense of alienation as they sometimes do in cities, without such family support.

**In conclusion**, I believe that this trend has equally significant positive and negative aspects for both social and financial reasons.

258 words

### Vocabulary from *cities*:

- **urban dwellers**

Meaning: people who live in a city or a town

Example: The main reason that prevents **urban dwellers** from building relationships with their neighbours is fear of strangers.

- **the migration of people from rural to urban areas**

Meaning: the movement of people from the countryside to cities

Example: In recent times, **the migration of people from rural to urban areas** has dramatically increased, causing numerous problems.

- **the housing stock**

Meaning: all the houses available for living in

Example: The inadequate **housing stock** in most cities has resulted in high rents, overcrowded living conditions and the growth of slum areas.

- **to be inadequate to cope with**

Meaning: not good enough to deal with a problem

Example: The rapid growth of cities has meant that urban infrastructure, such as housing, water and waste disposal services **have been inadequate to cope with** the demands of an increasing population.

- **population shift**

Meaning: a change in the numbers of people who live in a particular area

Example: The last two centuries have seen a global **population shift** of people from rural areas to cities.

- **to endure squalid living conditions**

Meaning: very dirty and unpleasant conditions in which to live

Example: Newcomers to a city are often forced **to endure squalid living conditions**.

- **a mass exodus**

Meaning: the movement of a lot of people from a place

Example: Recently, there has been a **mass exodus** of workers from the villages to the towns.

- **a sense of alienation**

Meaning: the feeling that you have no connection with the people around you

Example: Unfortunately, urbanisation also creates a **sense of alienation** in people.

### **Vocabulary from *family and children*:**

- **a nuclear family**

Meaning: a family consisting of a father, mother and their children

Example: The **nuclear family** has replaced the extended family as the most common form of family structure throughout the world.

- **ties of kinship**

Meaning: the fact of being related in a family, with links of friendship and assistance to other family members

Example: In the modern world, people are always moving to a new place to live, and this has weakened traditional **ties of kinship**.

- **an extended family**

Meaning: a family group with many members, including parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins etc

Example: In the past, the **extended family** was a form of support when any members were ill or suffered some misfortune.

- **a family gathering**

Meaning: a meeting of family members for a particular purpose

Example: In traditional societies, **family gatherings** are common to celebrate special occasions.

- **child-minding**

Meaning: caring informally (not in schools) for children when parents are busy or working

Example: Working mothers with very young children face the problem of organising **child-minding** while they are away from home.

### **Vocabulary from *housing and architecture*:**

- **a property developer**

Meaning: a person who buys land or buildings, and then makes improvements in order to sell them for more money

Example: City planning cannot be left in the hands of **property developers**, who are only interested in making money.

- **apartment blocks**

Meaning: large buildings with apartments on each floor.

Example: Having to live in an **apartment block** is now considered a normal part of city life.

### Other vocabulary:

- **tend (to/towards something)** [verb]:

Meaning: to be likely to do something or to happen in a particular way

Example: When I'm tired, I **tend to** make mistakes.

- **to break up** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to come to an end and go away in different directions

Example: After many difficulties in their relationship, the couple decided **to break up** and live separate lives.

- **under the same roof** [expression]:

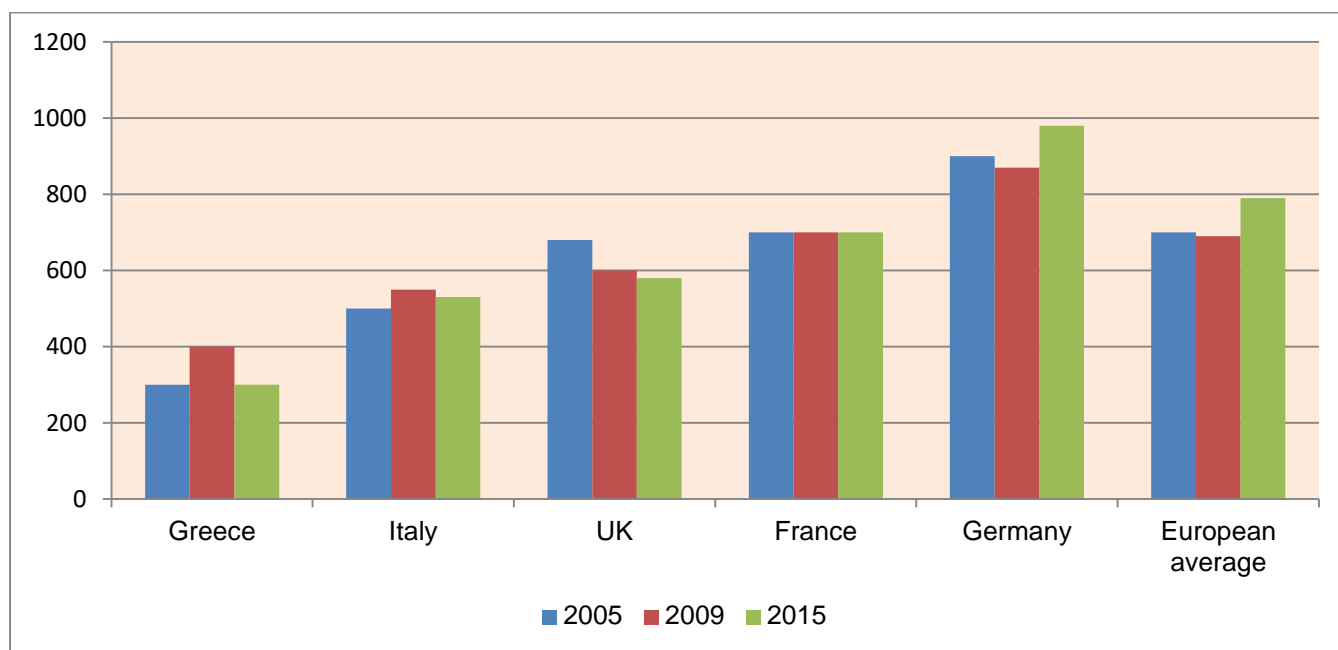
Meaning: in the same building or house

Example: I find it impossible to live **under the same roof** as my brothers – they are too noisy!

Đề thi 04/05/2019

**Task 1:** The bar chart shows the number of cars per 1000 people in 5 countries in Europe in 2005, 2009 and 2015, compared with the European average.

Summarise the information and make comparisons where relevant.



### Report Plan:

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** shows>illustrates; the number of cars>how many cars; per 1000 people>per 1000 of the population
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) car ownership in Greece was the lowest figure (2) car ownership in Germany was higher than the average for Europe
- **Paragraph 3:** select/report figures and compare trends in Greece, Italy and the UK
- **Paragraph 4:** select/report figures and compare trends in France, Germany and the European average

### Report:

The chart illustrates how many cars were owned per 1000 of the population in five European countries in three different years. The figures for the European average are also given.

**Overall**, it is clear that the figures for car ownership in Greece were lower than those in the other countries. **In contrast**, car ownership in Germany was higher than the European average.

There was an increase in the number of cars owned in Greece from 300 per 1000 of the population in 2005 to 400 in 2009, before decreasing to 300 again in 2015. Car ownership in

Italy **saw a similar trend**, reaching a peak of 580 in 2009. **However**, in the UK the number of cars fell over the period from 680 per 1000 people in 2005 to 580 in 2015.

**While** the number of cars owned per 1000 people remained constant in France, at 700, in Germany the figures were much higher than the European average. In 2005, the figure was 900, and this fell slightly before rising to 980 in 2015. The average in Europe increased over the period, from 700 in 2005 to 790 ten years later.

191 words

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**Task 2: Today, many children spend a lot of time playing computer games and little time on sports. What are the reasons for this and is it a positive or negative development?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question and state my opinion: totally negative
- **Paragraph 2:** one main reason – the power of advertising to promote computer games. Most children have access to computers nowadays. Companies target children, and are always bringing out new products. Children play computer games, not sports.
- **Paragraph 3:** these games damage children's health because (1) they don't take exercise, so physically – they get fat – personal example (cousin) (2) children become socially isolated – mental health problems result.
- **Conclusion:** advertisers are responsible and children's health suffers – so it is a negative development

**Essay:**

It is true that many youngsters waste hours and hours on computer games, neglecting sports and physical exercise. I believe that there is at least one important factor to account for this trend, which is in my opinion a totally negative one.

I would argue that the marketing industry is chiefly culpable for the fact that a growing number of children are addicted to computer games. Even in developing countries, a lot of youngsters these days are computer-literate, and software companies know how children are easily swayed by the novelty of playing new games. Through their advertising, such companies aim specifically at children as their target audience to promote their products. These soon become obsolete and are replaced by new ones. As a result, children are not taking up sports. Instead,

they find their excitement in imaginary virtual worlds of gaming rather than the real, physical world.

The main argument against computer games is that they are detrimental to children's health. **Firstly**, a sedentary lifestyle is encouraged by playing computer games, **whereas** youngsters need to take regular exercise. Without sport, children may become prone to obesity. My cousin, **for example**, never plays any sports and he is putting on weight, mainly because of all the hours that he spends playing computer games. **Secondly**, too much time spent on computer games may lead to social isolation and resulting mental health problems. It might be a good idea for computer games to be sold with a warning that they carry health risks, like cigarettes or alcohol.

**In conclusion**, advertisers are responsible for the gaming obsession of many youngsters, and I consider that this has serious negative consequences for health.

279 words

### Vocabulary from *health*:

- **to be addicted (to something):**  
Meaning: to be unable to stop taking harmful drugs, tobacco or alcohol.  
Example: More specialist clinics, offering treatment and advice, are required to help people who **are addicted to** drugs.
- **to be detrimental to health:**  
Meaning: to be harmful to health  
Example: Lying in the sun for too long can **be detrimental to health** and result in skin cancers.
- **a sedentary lifestyle:**  
Meaning: involving little exercise or physical activity  
Example: A **sedentary lifestyle** is a major factor in health problems such as obesity and heart disease.
- **to be prone to obesity:**  
Meaning: to be likely to become fat [in an unhealthy way]  
Example: Children who are addicted to watching television, instead of playing outdoor games, **are more prone to obesity**.
- **mental health problems:**  
Meaning: related to illnesses of one's mind  
Example: Overwork may sometimes result in **mental health problems**, such as anxiety and depression.



### Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **to be computer-literate:**

Meaning: able to use computers well

Example: In today's competitive job market, it is essential **to be computer-literate**.

- **to become obsolete:**

Meaning: to be no longer used because something new has been invented

Example: Technological innovation is now so rapid, that even the latest electronic devices soon **become obsolete**.

### Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:

- **to be swayed by:**

Meaning: to be influenced to buy things

Example: If consumers **were** not easily **swayed by** advertisements, the advertising industry would not exist.

- **target audience:**

Meaning: consumers whom businesses aim at when selling their products

Example: Companies which sell soft drinks, like Coca Cola, aim mainly at a **target audience** of children and adolescents.

- **to promote their products:**

Meaning: to make products popular by advertising them

Example: Most large enterprises contract specialist marketing companies **to promote their products**.

### Vocabulary from *sport and exercise*:

- **to take up sport:**

Meaning: to start doing a sport, to start doing exercise

Example: Governments should provide sports facilities to encourage more people to **take up sport**.

- **to take regular exercise:**

Meaning: to start doing exercise, for example every day/every week...

Example: My brother **takes regular exercise**, walking in the park every day.

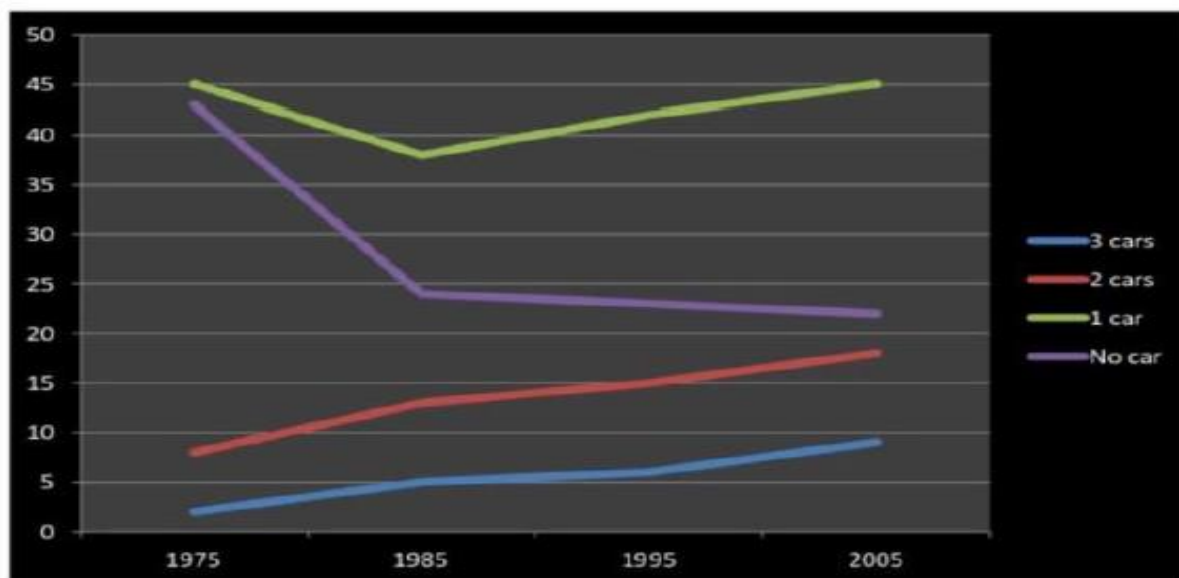
### Other vocabulary:

- **hours and hours** [expression]:  
Meaning: for a very long time  
Example: I waited **hours and hours** until the train finally arrived.
- **to neglect** [verb]:  
Meaning: to fail to pay enough attention to something  
Example: John **neglected** his studies, and of course he failed the exam.
- **to account for** [phrasal verb]:  
Meaning: to be the explanation or the cause of something  
Example: The bad weather may have **accounted for** the small crowd.
- **culpable** [adjective]:  
Meaning: responsible and deserving blame for doing something wrong  
Example: The police investigated the accident, but they have not yet found the person who was **culpable**.
- **gaming** [noun]:  
Meaning: playing computer games  
Example: He is at his computer most nights, because of his passion for **gaming**.
- **to put on weight** [expression]:  
Meaning: to become heavier and fatter  
Example: She's **put on weight** since she quit smoking and started to eat more chocolates.
- **social isolation** [noun]:  
Meaning: being alone and lonely, without much contact with other people  
Example: **Social isolation** is a problem if people spend too much time online with virtual friends.

**Đề thi 11/05/2019**

**Task 1: The chart below gives information about car ownership per household in the UK from 1975 to 2005.**

Percentages



### Report Plan:

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** gives information about>shows changes; car ownership>the number of cars owned; from 1975 to 2005>over a period of 30 years from 1975.
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) car ownership increased (2) % of households with no cars decreased, households with 2 or 3 cars increased.
- **Paragraph 3:** select, report and compare figures and trends for no car and 1 car.
- **Paragraph 4:** contrast trends with paragraph 3 – select, report and compare figures and trends for 2 cars and 3 cars.

### Report:

The line graph shows changes in the number of cars owned per household in the UK over a period of 30 years from 1975.

**Overall**, it is clear that car ownership rose during this period. In particular, **while** the figure for the proportion of households with no car fell, the figures for households with 2 or 3 cars increased.

In 1975, almost 45% of UK households had no car. This proportion decreased dramatically to just 25% in 1985, and then declined slowly to 22% by the end of the period. Despite a fall in 1985, the percentage of households with one car remained relatively constant at 45%.

**In contrast**, fewer than 10% of households owned 2 cars in 1975, **compared with** about 3% which had 3 cars. Both figures then saw a steady increase. At the end of the period, 18% of households had 2 cars, double the percentage of households with 3 cars.

**Task 2: Some businesses find that their new employees lack basic interpersonal skills, such as cooperative skills. What are the causes and suggest some possible solutions.**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question and state that solution can be adopted
- **Paragraph 2: causes.** (1) home-life, families are no longer close e.g. shared meal times (2) at school – individual achievement is more important than team-work
- **Paragraph 3: solutions** (1) develop cooperative skills – e.g. activity weekends – companies in Europe, the USA (2) strict rules of work to develop interpersonal skills of new employees
- **Conclusion:** refer again to the causes and solutions.

**Essay:**

It is true that some companies complain about the poor interpersonal skills of their new staff. **While** some reasons for this can be identified, there are solutions which firms should adopt.

As many new employees are school-leavers, the causes of this problem can be found in the home and in the school. A child's personality is shaped during the formative years of home-life and schooling. **In terms of the home,** close-knit families are a thing of the past in many societies, and youngsters do not learn to live in harmony with one another and with their parents. **For example,** meal times used to be occasions when families ate together and discussed the tasks to be done and the problems of each family member. **In school,** children are encouraged to achieve individual excellence in exams, rather than to have social skills and to be team-players.

**However,** in order to conduct a business efficiently, firms must take steps to train new employees to acquire interpersonal skills. **Firstly,** cooperative skills should be developed, making the most of the latest management techniques. Some companies in Europe and the USA, **for example,** organise challenging activity weekends during which staff must work as teams to do mountain-climbing or climbing and camping. Working together, their survival skills are put to the test. **Secondly,** codes of conduct at work should be strictly enforced for both new and existing employees to facilitate communication and cooperation.

**In conclusion**, although some reasons can be suggested as probable causes of this problem, there are measures which companies should take to develop the interpersonal skills of new staff.

265 words

**Vocabulary from *family and children*:**

- **to shape a child's personality:**

Meaning: to decide or influence the form of a child's personality

Example: Parents are very influential in shaping their children's personality through the example that they set.

- **formative years:**

Meaning: A period of a person's life, usually childhood, that has a big influence on the person they become later in life

Example: UNICEF states that the early childhood years from birth through age 8 are **formative years** in terms of intelligence, personality and social behavior.

- **a close-knit family:**

Meaning: a family having strong relationships with each other, helping with problems and enjoying a lot of time together

Example: Children who come from **a close-knit family** generally perform well at school and enjoy a happy childhood.

**Vocabulary from *communication and personality*:**

- **to live in harmony with one another:**

Meaning: to live with others in a way which avoids conflict or disagreement

Example: The students who share the house are all good friends and they are able **to live in harmony with one another**.

- **to have social skills:**

Meaning: to have the personal skills required for successful communication and interaction

Example: In all jobs which involve dealing with the public, it is important **to have good social skills**.

- **to be a team player:**

Meaning: a person who willingly cooperates with others

Example: Employees who **are good team players** are more likely to be selected for promotion.

- **codes of conduct:**

Meaning: voluntary rules which people accept in a situation

Example: The **code of conduct** is voluntary but it is seen as a sign of best practice.

### Vocabulary from *business and money*:

- **to conduct a business:**

Meaning: to operate a business in a particular way

Example: It is important to **conduct a business** with honesty in order to gain the confidence of customers.

- **to make the most of something:**

Meaning: to make something appear as good as possible; to exploit something; to get as much out of something as is possible.

Example: They designed the advertisements **to make the most of** the product's features.

### Vocabulary from *tourism*:

- **to put to the test:**

Meaning: to see what someone or something can achieve, to find out how good someone or something is

Example: Adventure tours put my survival skills **to the test**.

### Other vocabulary:

- **excellence** [noun]:

Meaning: the quality of being very good

Example: The hospital is recognised as a centre of **excellence** in research and teaching.

- **to acquire** [verb]:

Meaning: to obtain by your own efforts, ability or behaviour

Example: She **has acquired** a good knowledge of English.

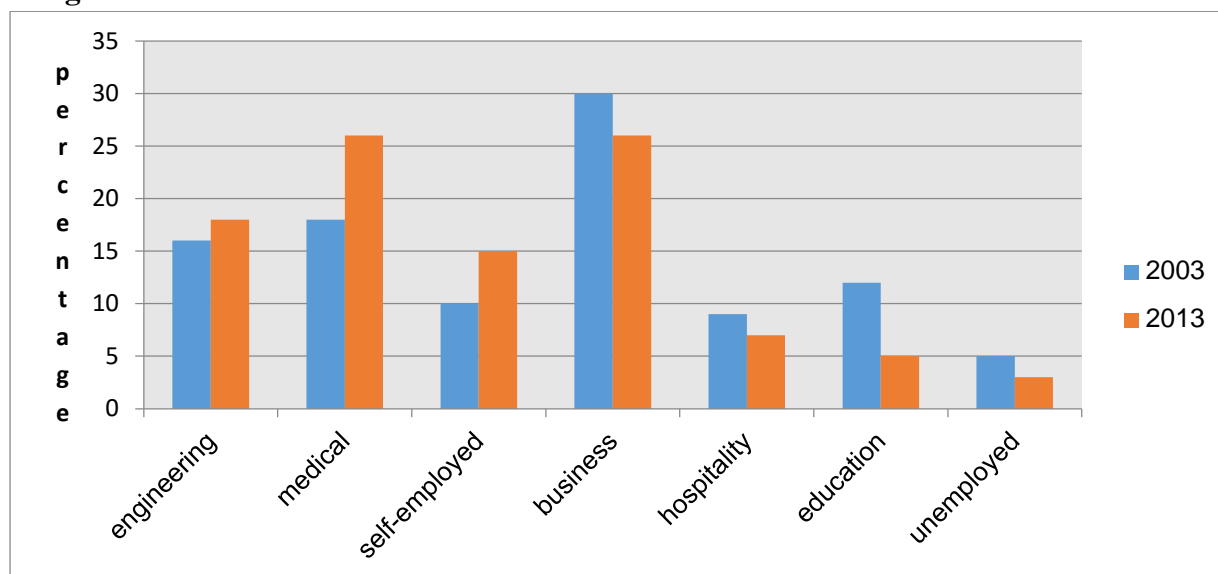
- **challenging** [adjective]:

Meaning: difficult in an interesting way that tests your ability

Example: In the bad weather, the mountain climbers faced a **challenging** task to reach the top.

Đề thi 18/05/2019

**Task 1:** The chart shows the percentage of the adult population employed in different categories in 2003 and 2013.



### Report Plan:

- **Paraphrase paragraph:** shows >compares; percentage>proportion; adult population>adults; different categories>various sectors
- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) highest % of adults employed was in business and medical sectors (2) the % of those working in the engineering, medical and self-employed categories went up
- **Paragraph 3:** report and compare figures and trends in the engineering, medical and self-employed sectors
- **Paragraph 4:** report and compare figures and trends in the other sectors.

### Report:

The bar chart compares the proportion of adults employed in various sectors in 2003 and 2013.

**Overall**, it is clear that the business and medical sectors accounted for the highest percentages of adults employed. The proportion of those employed in the engineering, medical and self-employed sectors increased in 2013, **compared with** the 2003 figures.

In 2003, 16% of adults were employed in engineering and this rose to 18% in 2013. There was a more dramatic increase in employment in the medical sector, rising from 18% to 26% in those years. The proportion of self-employed went up from 10% in 2003 to 15% in 2013.

**In contrast**, the percentage of those employed in the other categories witnessed a decline. In 2003, 30% of adults worked in business, compared with 12% in education and 9% in hospitality. By 2013, these figures had fallen to 26%, 5% and 7% respectively. Finally, unemployment remained low at 5% of adults in 2003, decreasing to 3% ten years later.

**Task 2: Advertising is all around us; it is an unavoidable part of everyone's life. Some people say that advertising is a positive part of our lives. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

**Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question and give my opinion – largely negative
- **Paragraph 2:** positive aspect – it may provide useful information e.g. choice of a holiday destination (give personal example)
- **Paragraph 3:** negative aspects – (1) disturbs privacy – telesales (give personal example); (2) it persuades people to buy things they do not need and cannot afford – celebrity endorsement technique; (3) it may make false claims about the product
- **Conclusion:** advertising is largely negative – results in stress and false dreams.

**Essay:**

It is true that nobody can escape the power of advertising these days, whether this is commercial or online advertising, or even telemarketing. **While** some argue that it is a positive part of our lives, I believe that this is rarely the case.

**On the one hand**, a few advertisements provide useful information about products or services which are available on the market. **For example**, someone may be planning to book the holiday of a lifetime, but there is a bewildering range of possible destinations to choose from. Really informative advertising can help a customer to make the right choice of holiday resort to meet their needs and to suit their pockets. In my own case, I found some tourist brochures very helpful when I was looking for a quiet destination to get away from it all and relax. In some cases, therefore, advertising is a positive part of our lives.

**On the other hand, however**, I consider that advertising is largely unnecessary and intrusive. **Firstly**, it is intrusive, because we are constantly surrounded by the images and sounds of advertisements, disturbing our privacy. **For instance**, I regularly receive telesales marketing calls on my phone when I am busy or trying to read a book. **Secondly**, some people are easily swayed by advertisements to buy goods impulsively. Techniques **such as** celebrity endorsement of products **like** sportswear persuade people to buy things that they do not need and cannot afford. **Finally**, people must be wary of advertising which makes false or exaggerated claims, which will lead to disappointment if they buy the product.

**In conclusion**, I believe that most advertising has a negative impact on our lives, in terms of stress and the creation of false dreams of fulfilment.



### Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:

- **commercial advertising**  
Meaning: advertising on the radio or television, between or during programmes.  
Example: **Commercial advertising** on television provides the revenue for most TV channels.
- **online advertising**  
Meaning: advertising a product or service on the internet  
Example: The growing popularity of **online advertising** has resulted in a loss of revenue for the printed media in general.
- **telemarketing**  
Meaning: a method of selling things or taking orders for sales by telephone  
Example: **Telemarketing** has become a growth industry, employing millions of people across the world.
- **to be swayed by advertisements**  
Meaning: to be influenced to buy things as a result of advertising  
Example: If consumers **were** not easily **swayed by advertisements**, the advertising industry would not exist.
- **to buy goods impulsively**  
Meaning: to buy things suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have  
Example: Advertising motivates consumers **to buy goods impulsively**.
- **celebrity endorsement**  
Meaning: A form of brand or advertising campaign that involves a well known person using their fame to help promote a product or service  
Example: **Celebrity endorsement** by famous TV stars is commonly used by companies to encourage consumers to trust and buy their products.
- **to be wary of**  
Meaning: not completely trusting or certain about something  
Example: Consumers must always **be wary of** the claims made in advertisements, because such claims are often exaggerated or untrue.

### Vocabulary from *tourism*:

- **to book**  
Meaning: to reserve something, such as a hotel room or a ticket  
Example: I'd like **to book** a table for two at 8pm this evening, please.

- **the holiday of a lifetime**  
Meaning: a special holiday that you are unlikely to repeat  
Example: He is planning **the holiday of a lifetime** to see pandas in China.
- **a holiday resort**  
Meaning: a place where lots of people go for a holiday  
Example: If you like to lie on the beach, Thailand offers some very popular **holiday resorts**.
- **to get away from it all**  
Meaning: to have a holiday in a very quiet place where you can relax.  
Example: Tourists have always traveled to natural areas of beauty to avoid the noisy crowds and **to get away from it all**.

#### Other vocabulary:

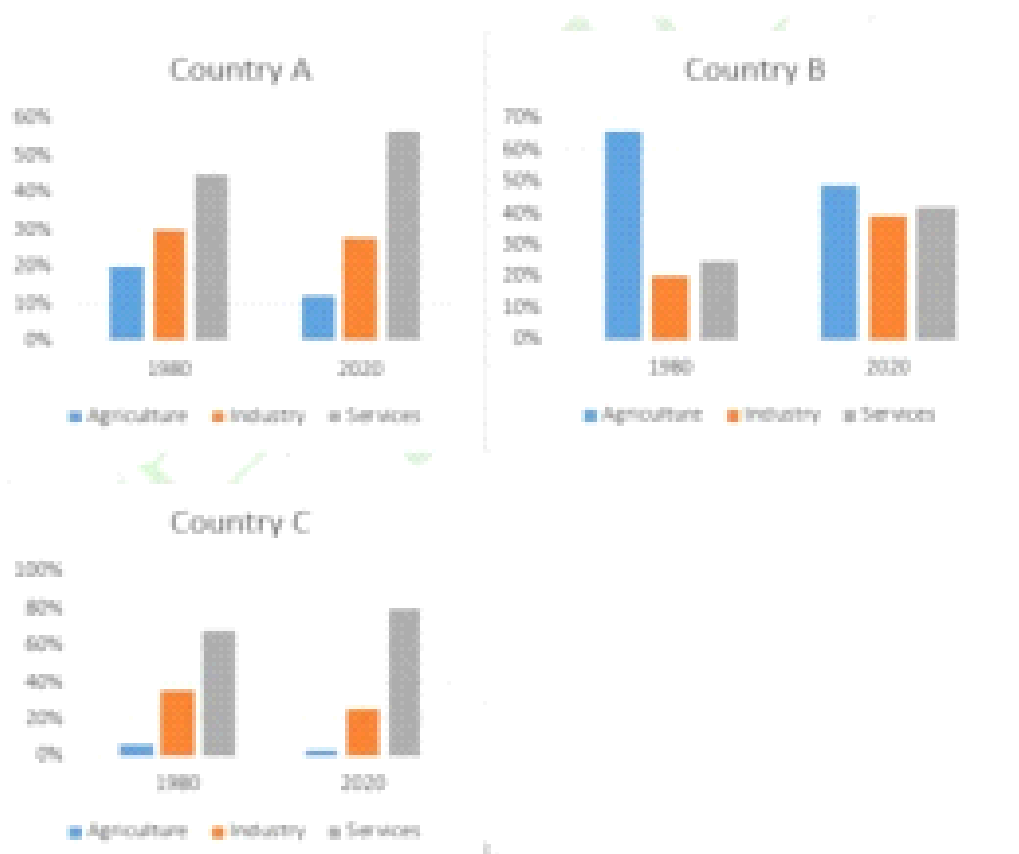
- **bewildering** [adjective]:  
Meaning: making you feel confused because there are too many things to choose  
Example: There is a **bewildering** variety of online games to choose from.
- **to meet one's needs** [expression]:  
Meaning: to have the things that somebody requires in order to live in a comfortable way or achieve what they want  
Example: The gym provides a wide range of equipment designed **to meet all your needs** for exercise and training.
- **to suit one's pocket** [expression]:  
Meaning: to be affordable for the money that you have to spend  
Example: The travel agency has holidays **to suit your pocket**, whether you want a luxury holiday or a short city break.
- **brochure** [noun]:  
Meaning: a small magazine or book containing pictures or information about something or advertising something  
Example: Send for a free colour **brochure** for a selection of our latest holidays.
- **intrusive** [adjective]:  
Meaning: too noticeable or direct, in a way that is disturbing or annoying  
Example: She found the constant presence of the media very **intrusive**, invading her privacy every day.
- **privacy** [noun]:  
Meaning: the state of being alone and not watched or disturbed by other people

Example: He read the letter lately in the **privacy** of his study.

- **telesales** [noun]:  
Meaning: a method of selling things by telephone  
Example: Every day I receive **telesales** calls from companies – it's very annoying!
- **fulfilment** [noun]:  
Meaning: happiness and satisfaction with having what you want or need, or what you have done  
Example: Gaining a place at university gave her a sense of **fulfilment** at what she had achieved.

Đề thi 23/05/2019

**Task 1: The line graphs show the distribution of employment among agriculture, manufacturing industry and services in 3 countries in 1980 and 2020**



**Report Plan:**

- **Paraphrase paragraph: show>compare; the distribution of employment>how employment was distributed; agriculture, industry and services>3 different sectors of the economy;**

- **Overview/summary paragraph:** (1) % of agricultural workers declined (2) % of those working in services increased
- **Paragraph 3: agriculture** - report figures, contrast Country B with the other countries
- **Paragraph 4: industry** - report key figures to contrast figures for Countries A and C with figures for Country C
- **Paragraph 5: services** - figures for all 3 countries rose. The highest percentage was in Country A - give percentages.

### **Report:**

The graphs compare how employment was distributed among three different sectors of the economy in three different countries in 1980 and 2020.

**Overall**, it is clear that in all the countries the proportion of those employed in agriculture declined over the period, **while** the percentage providing services increased in each country.

In Country B, a high proportion of the working population were employed in agriculture. The figure in 1980 was about 65%, although this fell to about half in 2020. **In contrast**, only 20% worked in agriculture in Country A in 1980, and this figure fell to 10% in 2020. In Country C an insignificant proportion worked in agriculture.

There was a small decrease in the percentage of industrial workers in Countries A and C between 1980 and 2020, **whereas** in Country B the proportion of those working in industry doubled from 20% to 40% in these years.

Finally, employment figures in the service sector rose between 1980 and 2020. The highest percentage was in Country A, increasing from 45% in 1980 to 55% in 2020.

171 words

**Task 2: In many cities there is little control on the design and construction of new homes and office buildings, and people can build houses in their own style. What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a situation?**

### **Essay Plan:**

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question and state own opinion - the disadvantages outweigh the advantages

- **Paragraph 2: advantages** - (1) more housing is built because there are no controls, so this provides homes for people (2) more affordable office space may bring more employment to the city
- **Paragraph 3: disadvantages** - (1) unplanned development may result in sprawling suburbs, slums and sink estates e.g. (2) uncontrolled design creates an ugly city e.g. skyscraper office blocks overshadow landmarks.
- **Conclusion: lack of planning and control = ugliness/chaos. Drawbacks outweigh the benefits.**

### Essay:

**It is true that** national and local authorities in some cities around the world fail to introduce restrictions on planning. **While** this allows great freedom of choice for property developers and individual homeowners, I believe that the disadvantages outweigh such benefits.

**On the one hand,** uncontrolled construction of housing and offices encourages investment in a city. If there are few planning regulations to adhere to, investors are more likely to speculate on increasing the housing stock, often using the most cost-effective designs. With more available housing, there should be fewer people living on the streets. **In terms of** the construction of office buildings, without controls on the provision of high-rise buildings, a huge amount of space can be made available for companies to locate in a particular city. This might potentially increase employment opportunities in the area.

**On the other hand,** there are major drawbacks when urban development is unplanned in this way. **Firstly**, urban sprawl is encouraged, and this is an undesirable feature of many modern cities. In some US cities, **for example**, sprawling suburbs have sprung up while at the same time slum areas and sink estates have been allowed to decay in the inner city areas. **Secondly**, when individuals can put up buildings to any design which they want, the result is that the city simply becomes an eyesore. Buildings may simply not blend in with each other. **For instance**, towering skyscrapers may be constructed next to famous landmarks, completely overshadowing them.

**In conclusion**, I would argue that the unplanned growth of cities has produced both ugliness and chaos. Such drawbacks greatly outweigh any benefits.

268 words

### Vocabulary from *government*:

- **national and local authorities** Meaning: government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area  
Example: Tackling crime is a responsibility of both **national and local authorities**.
- **to introduce restrictions on** Meaning: to limit what people can do or what can happen Example: The government must **introduce restrictions on** smoking in public places.
- **to adhere to** Meaning: to limit what people can do or what can happen  
Example: The government must **introduce restrictions on** smoking in public places

### Vocabulary from *housing and architecture*:

- **a property developer** Meaning: a person who buys land or buildings, and then makes improvements in order to sell them for more money  
Example: City planning cannot be left in the hands of **property developers**, who are only interested in making money.
- **high-rise buildings** Meaning: tall modern buildings (not as tall as skyscrapers) Example: The centre of my city is now full of **high-rise buildings**, mainly offices and apartments, and the city has lost its old charm.
- **to be an eyesore** Meaning: to be ugly to look at Example: The new multi-storey car park in the city centre **is a real eyesore**.
- **towering skyscrapers** Meaning: very tall modern buildings, usually in a city Example: While some people think that the cities of the future will be filled with **towering skyscrapers**, there are those who consider this vision to be a nightmare.
- **a famous landmark** Meaning: a building that is very important because of its historical or modern significance  
Example: The White House must be the most **famous landmark** in the USA, photographed by millions of visitors over the years.

### Vocabulary from *cities*:

- **the housing stock** Meaning: all the houses available for living in  
Example: The inadequate **housing stock** in most cities has resulted in high rents, overcrowded living conditions and the growth of slum areas.

- **to be living on the streets** Meaning:  
to be without a place in which to live Example: On my first visit to a big city in the UK – London – I was shocked to see the number of young people **living on the streets**.
- **urban sprawl** Meaning: a large area covered with buildings that spreads from the city into the countryside in an ugly way Example:  
Legislation is needed to control the **urban sprawl** which is destroying the green areas near cities.
- **sprawling suburbs** Meaning: an area outside of the centre of a city where people live, but which is spreading without control into the surrounding countryside Example:  
The growth of **sprawling suburbs** makes it more difficult for people to commute to their place of work.
- **slum areas** Meaning:  
parts of a city where the houses are poor and the houses are dirty and in bad condition Example: Young people growing up in **slum areas** often turn to a life of crime.
- **sink estates** Meaning:  
housing located in a poor area of a city where social conditions are bad Example: The **sink estates** in my city are areas of high crime where it is dangerous to walk at night.
- **inner city areas** Meaning: the parts near the centre of a city, which often have social problems Example: Recent immigrants to cities often have to live in crowded **inner city areas**, which have huge problems of crime and poverty.

### Other vocabulary:

- **to speculate** [verb]: Meaning:  
to buy a house or other property, hoping to make a profit when you sell it, but with the risk of losing money Example: She won some money, so she decided **to speculate** on buying a house which she would sell in the future.
- **cost-effective** [adjective]: Meaning:  
giving the best possible benefits or profits in comparison with the money that is spent Example: The use of security cameras is a very **cost-effective** method of preventing crime.
- **to spring up** [phrasal verb]: Meaning:  
to appear or develop quickly or suddenly Example: Playing areas for children **are springing up** all over the city.

- **to blend in (with something)** [phrasal verb]:  
Meaning: If something blends in, then it is similar to - or matches - its surroundings  
Example: The green colour of the curtains **blend in** with the brown colour of the sofa.
- **to overshadow** [verb]:  
to make something (or somebody) seem less important  
Meaning: Example: The beautiful old church **has been overshadowed** by a towering skyscraper.
- **chaos** [noun]:  
Meaning: a state of complete confusion and lack of order  
Example: Heavy snow has resulted in complete **chaos** on the roads.