

IELTS WRITING
ACADEMIC & GENERAL
TRAINING MODULES
TASKS & ASSESSMENT
CRITERIA

Ebrahim Tahasoni

Cert. TESOL, Academic IELTS 9.0
www.tahasoni.com

OVERVIEW OF THE WRITING TEST

ACADEMIC MODULE

- ⦿ 60 minutes
- ⦿ Two tasks
 - Task 1: a report
 - Describe a visual or a set of data
 - ~20 minutes
 - 150 words minimum (no maximum limit)
 - Task 2: an essay
 - Write about a given topic
 - ~40 minutes
 - 250 words minimum (no maximum limit)

OVERVIEW OF THE WRITING TEST

GENERAL TRAINING MODULE

- 60 minutes
- Two tasks
 - Task 1: a letter
 - Write a letter using the prompts given
 - ~20 minutes
 - 150 words minimum (no maximum limit)
 - Task 2: an essay
 - Write about a given topic
 - ~40 minutes
 - 250 words minimum (no maximum limit)

ACADEMIC TASK 1

THE TASK

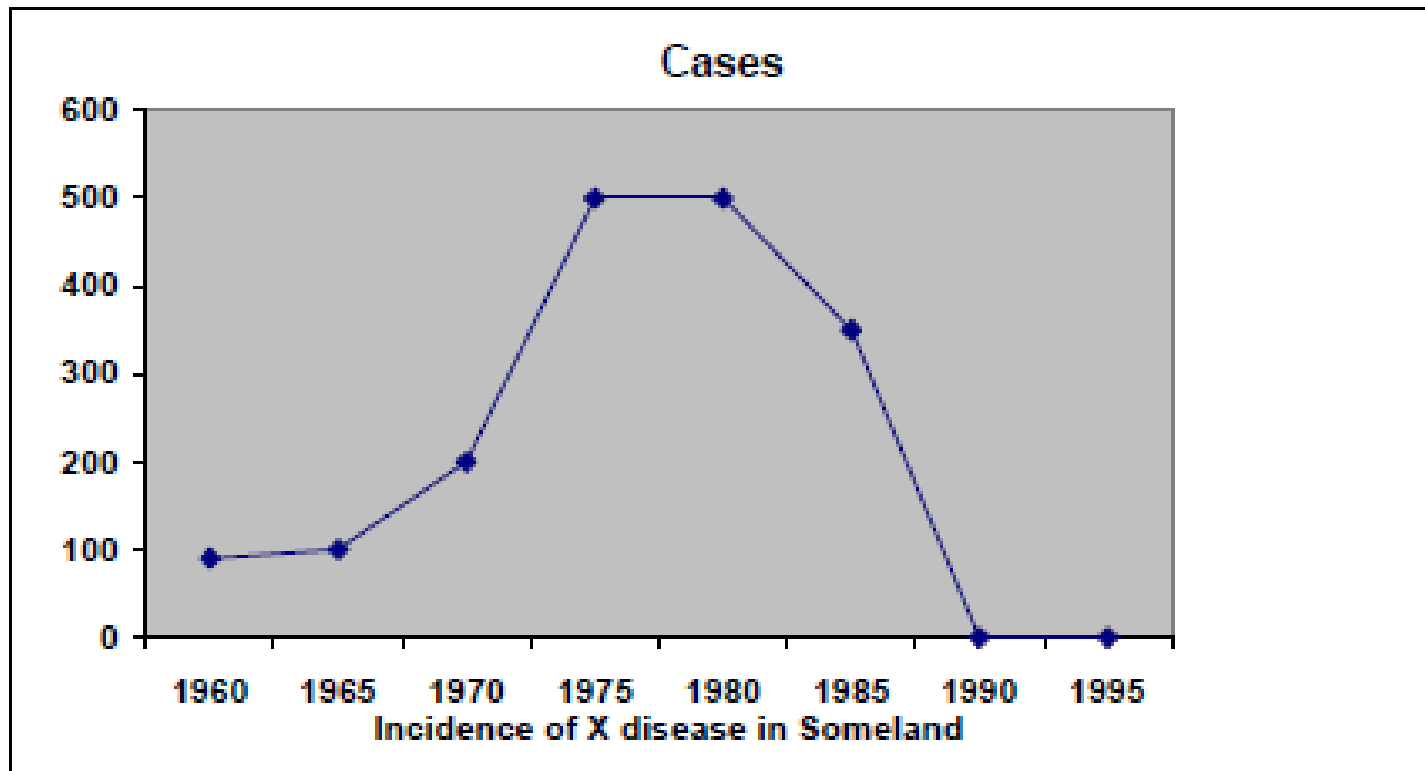
- Summarise the information
 - Select the main features
 - Report the main features
- Make comparisons where relevant
- Write at least 150 words

ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

○ Graphs

- Single-variable line graph

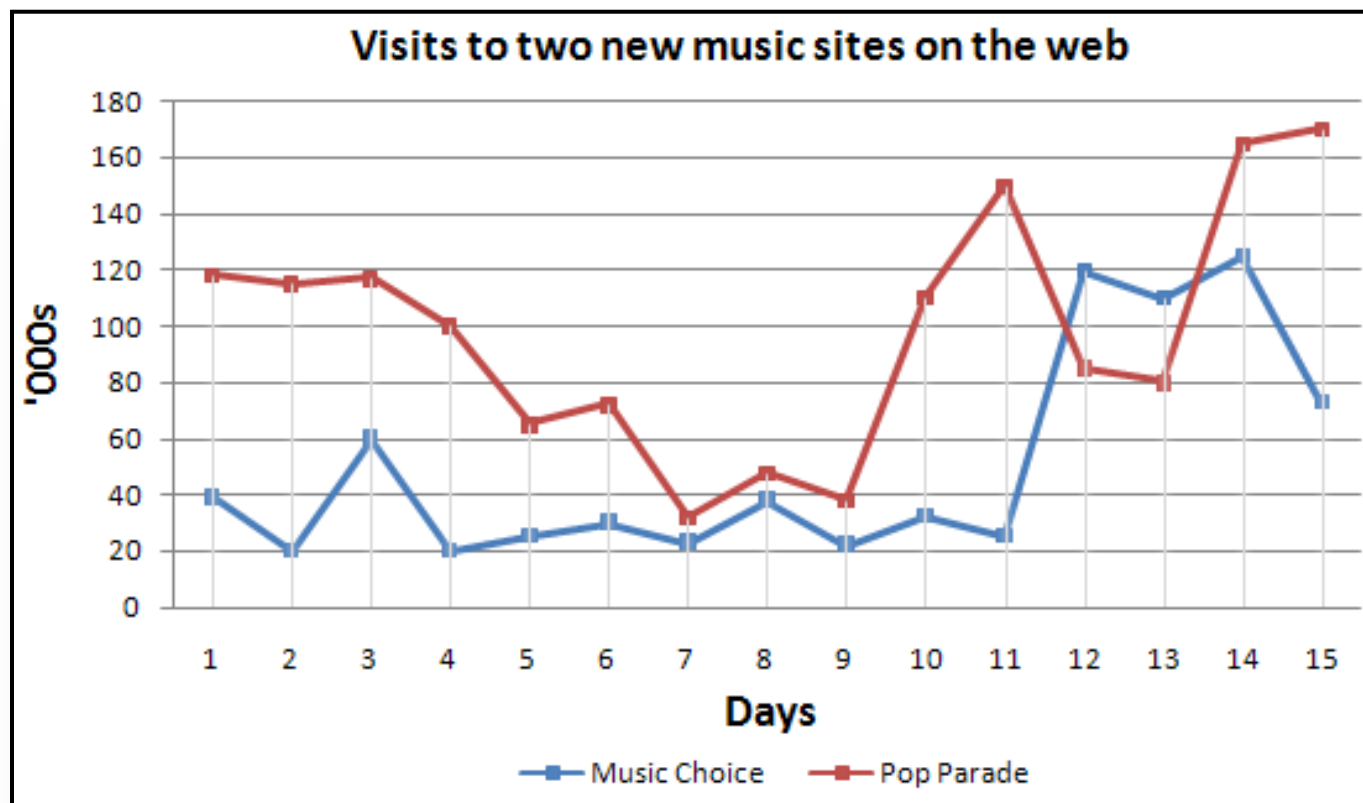


ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

⦿ Graphs

- Multiple-variable line graph

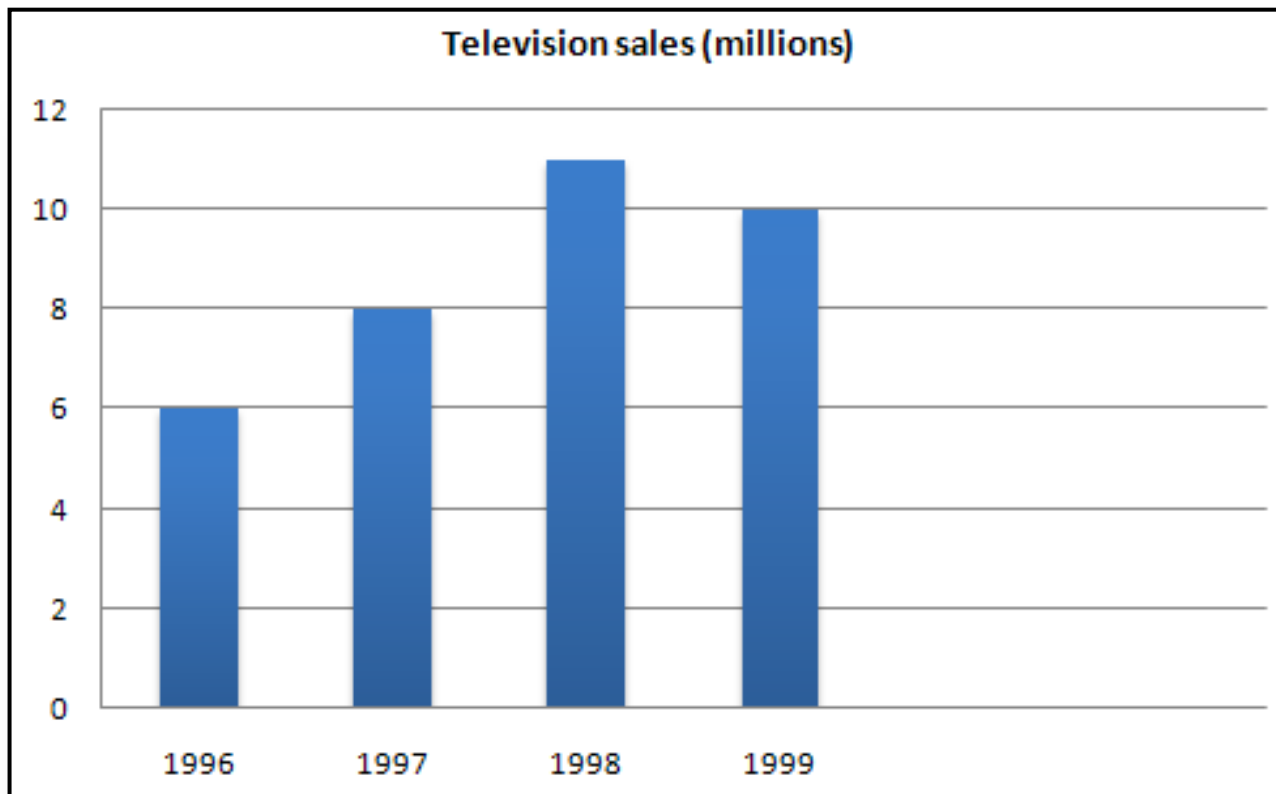


ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

○ Charts

- Single-variable bar chart

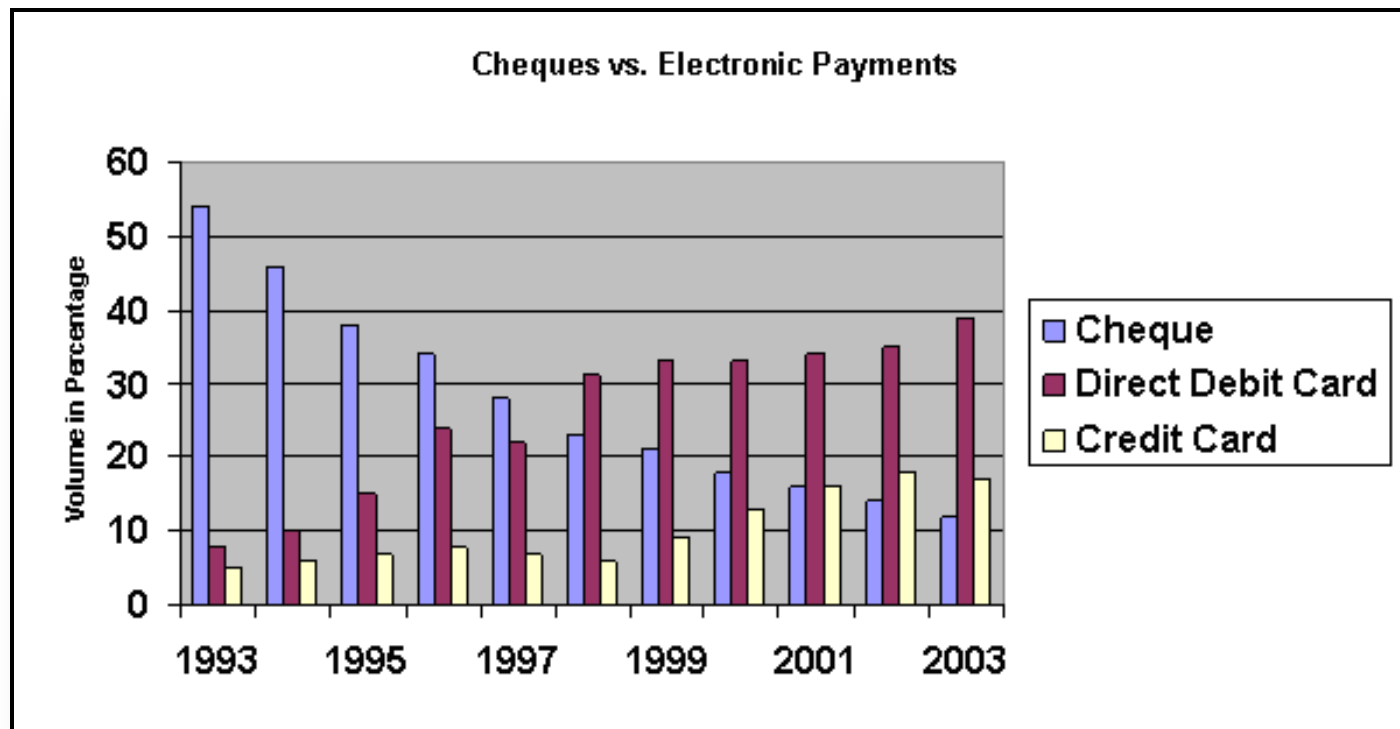


ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

○ Charts

- Multiple-variable bar chart

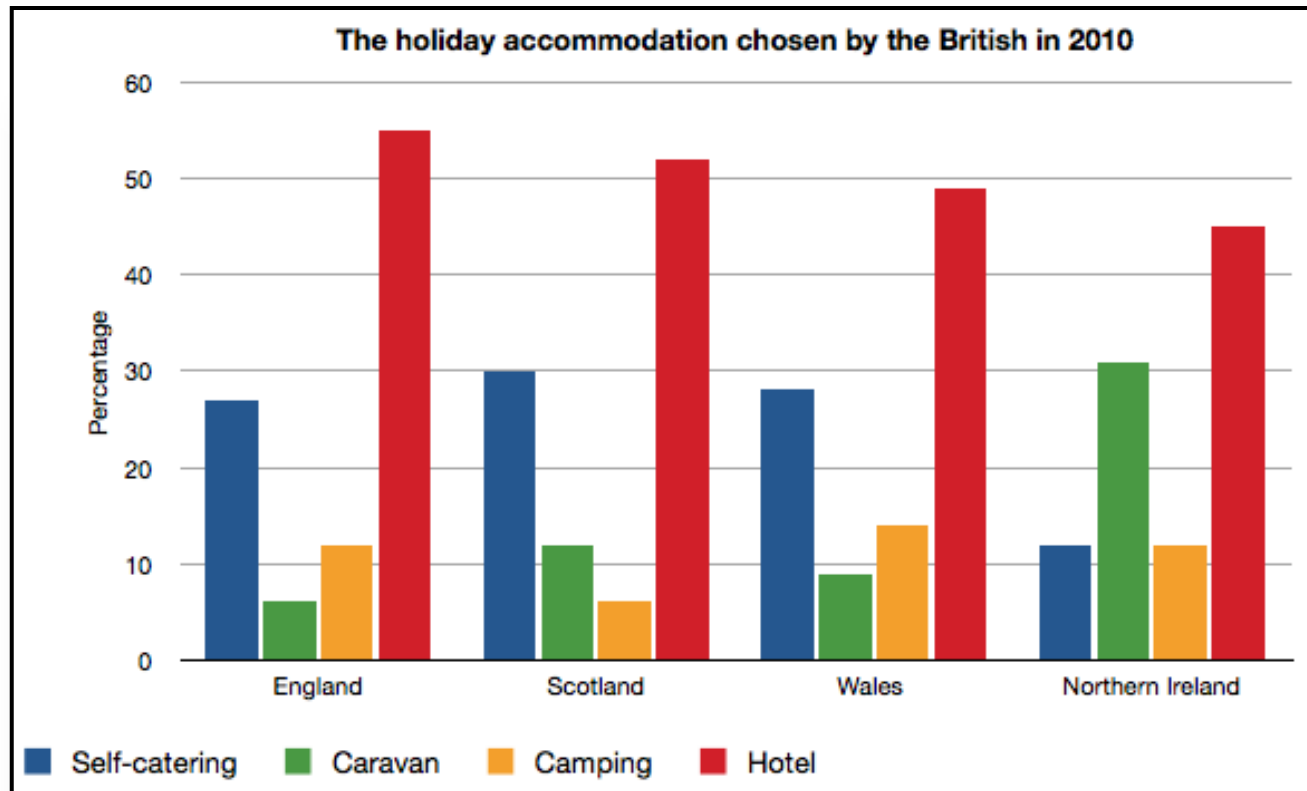


ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

○ Charts

- Comparison bar chart

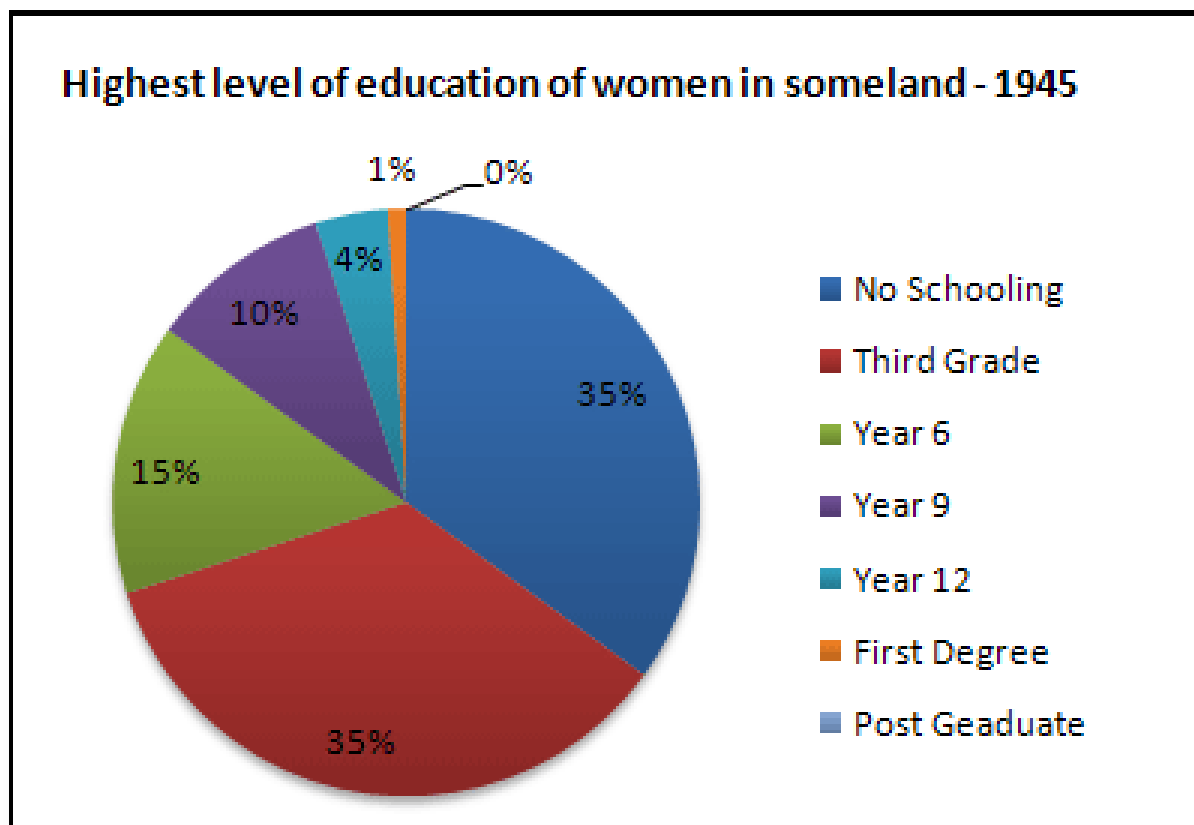


ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

○ Charts

■ Pie Chart



ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

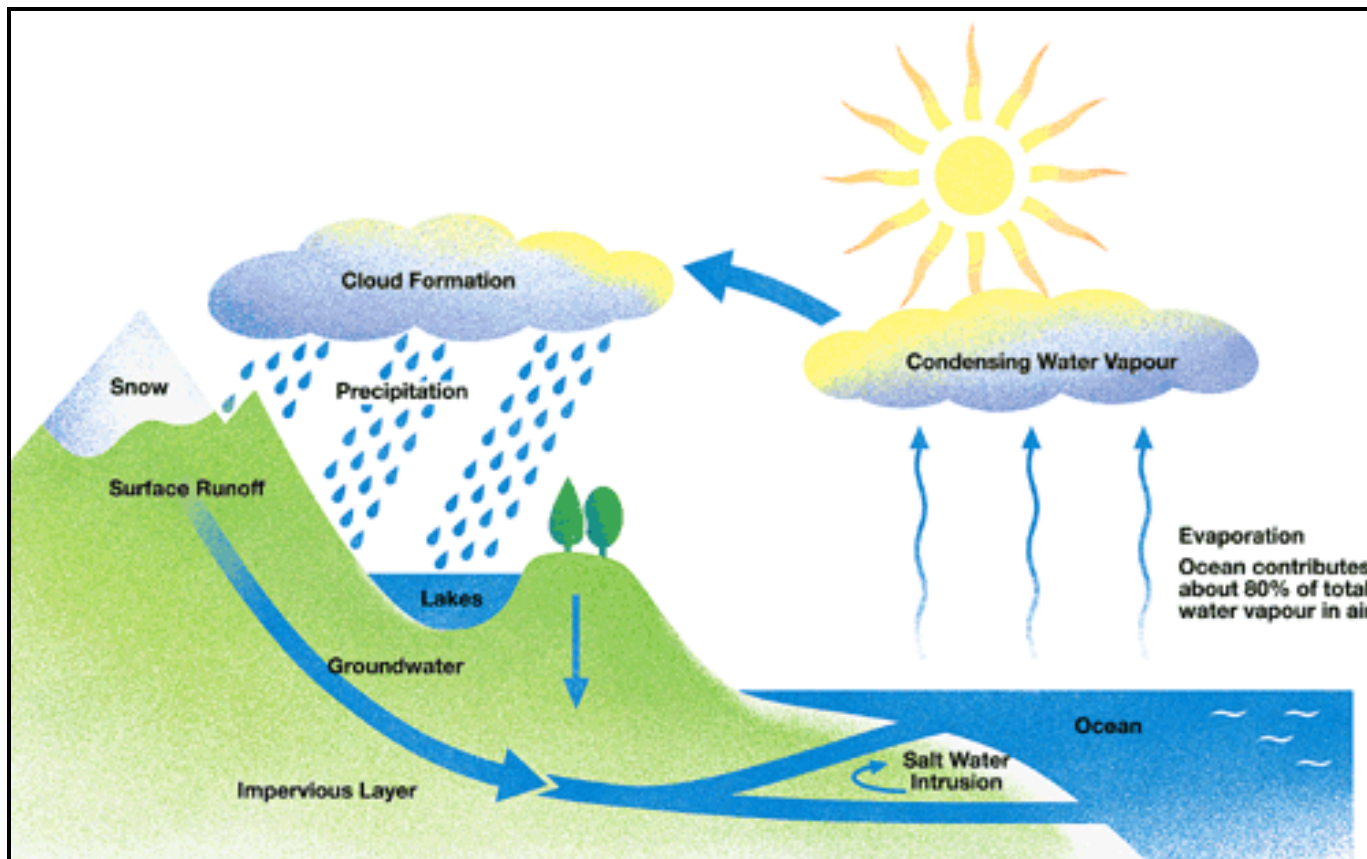
○ Table

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

ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

◎ Process Diagram

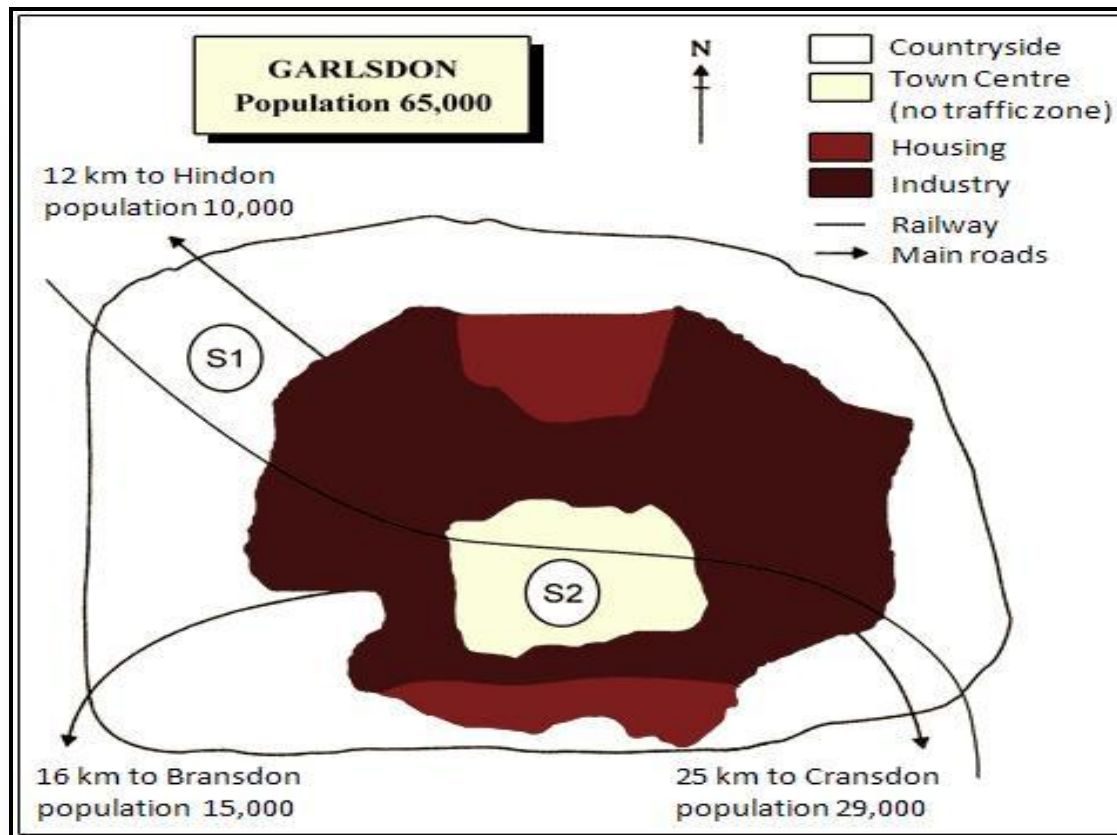


ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

○ Map

■ Comparison maps

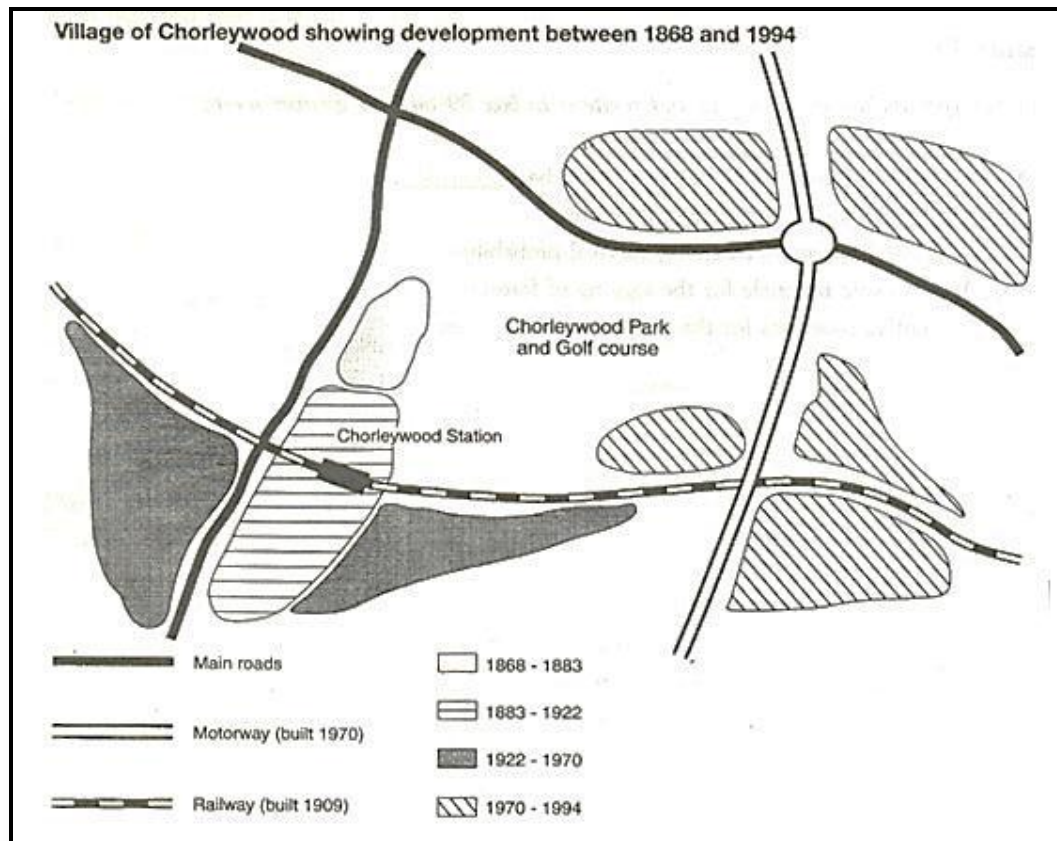


ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

○ Map

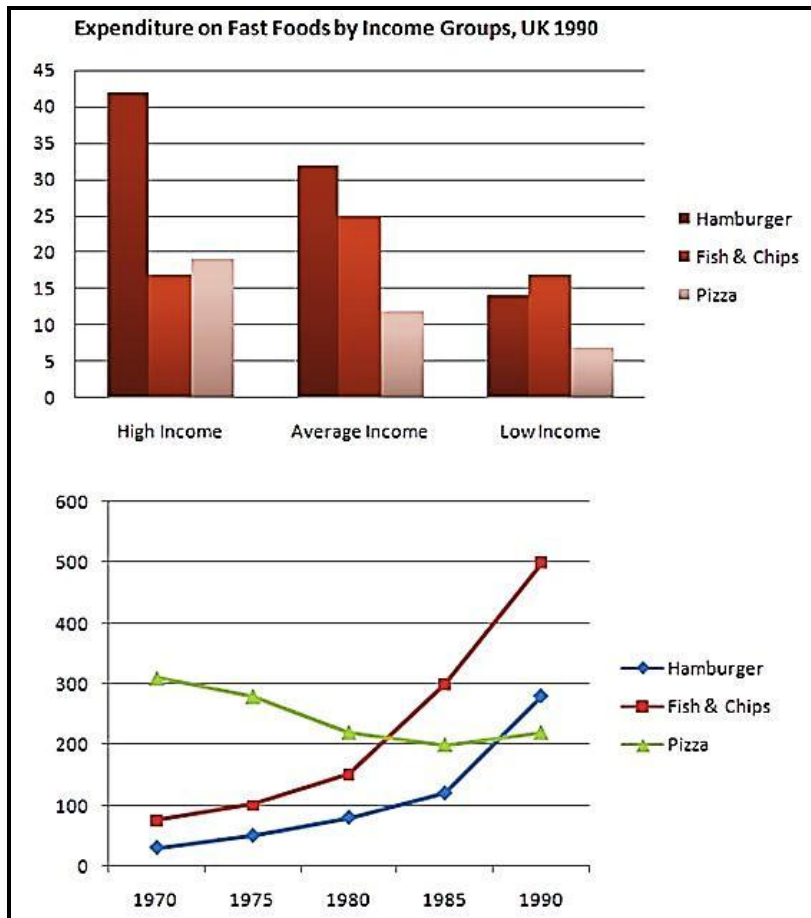
■ Development map



ACADEMIC TASK 1

TASK TYPES

⊙ Mixed or Combined Tasks



GENERAL TRAINING TASK 1

SAMPLE LETTER TASK

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You have heard about plans to build new apartments in a public park near your home. You want to give your opinion about this.

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. In your letter

- *explain how you learnt about these plans*
- *say what you think of the park*
- *give your opinion on the plans*

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear Sir or Madam,

GENERAL TRAINING TASK 1

TASK SPECIFICATIONS

- ◉ Tone/register
 - Formal
 - Informal
- ◉ Given information
 - Setting
 - Recipient(s)
 - Salutation type
 - Bullet points: tasks

GENERAL TRAINING TASK 1

BULLET POINTS: TASK TYPES

- ◉ Introduce yourself
- ◉ Offer information/opinion/explanation
- ◉ Request information
- ◉ Request action
- ◉ Make suggestions
- ◉ Express gratitude
- ◉ Apologise

ACADEMIC & GENERAL TRAINING TASK 2

TASK TYPES

◎ Opinion-Led Essay

- Give your own opinion on a given subject and support it

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

It is important to ensure that children with a wide range of abilities and from a variety of social backgrounds mix with each other at school.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.

ACADEMIC & GENERAL TRAINING TASK 2

TASK TYPES

◉ Argument-led Essay

- Discuss the two sides of an argument and then give your own opinion on the subject

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think that strict punishments for driving offences are the key to reducing traffic accidents. Others, however, believe that other measures would be more effective in improving road safety.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

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

Write at least 250 words.

ACADEMIC & GENERAL TRAINING TASK 2

TASK TYPES

◉ Mixed-Opinion Essay

- Answer two questions requesting your opinions on two aspects of a subject

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Universities should provide students with the skills they will require in order to succeed at their future jobs.

How far do you agree or disagree with the above opinion?

What are some of the job skills that employers look for in new employees?

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

Write at least 250 words.

ACADEMIC & GENERAL TRAINING TASK 2

TASK TYPES

⦿ Problem or Issue Essay

- Answer two questions requesting your opinions on two aspects of a subject

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many countries today insufficient respect is shown to older people.

What do you think may be the reasons for this?

What problems might this cause in society?

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

Write at least 250 words.

WRITING TASK 1

BAND SCORE COMPONENTS

- ◎ Four criteria: equally weighted
 - Task Achievement
 - Coherence and Cohesion
 - Lexical Resource
 - Grammatical Range & Accuracy

TASK ACHIEVEMENT

GLOBAL POINTS

- ◉ Covering the requirements of the task:
 - Appropriately
 - Accurately
 - Relevantly
- ◉ Observing the minimum word count
- ◉ Avoiding plagiarised responses

TASK ACHIEVEMENT

MODULE-SPECIFIC POINTS: ACADEMIC

- This is an information transfer task
- Observing the requirements of the task:
 - Summarise by selecting and reporting the main features
 - Make comparisons where relevant
- presenting a clear overview
 - main trends
 - Differences
 - stages
- Using factual information
- Avoiding speculation

TASK ACHIEVEMENT

MODULE-SPECIFIC POINTS: GENERAL TRAINING

- This task has a defined response
- Observe the requirements of the task:
 - The context
 - The purpose
 - The functions
- Observe letter writing conventions
 - Format
 - Register

COHERENCE & COHESION

◉ Coherence

- Organisation
- Sequencing and progression
- Paragraphing (bands 8 and 9)

COHERENCE & COHESION

○ Cohesions

- Varied and appropriate use of cohesive devices
 - Logical connectors
 - Pronouns
 - Conjunction

LEXICAL RESOURCE

◉ Range

- Level
- Flexibility
- Appropriacy and precision

◉ Style

◉ Collocation

◉ Errors

- Word choice
- Spelling
- Word formation

GRAMMATICAL RANGE & ACCURACY

◉ Range

- Variety
- Complexity

◉ Errors

- Grammar as well as punctuation
- Types: systematic or slips
- Frequency
- Effect on intelligibility

WRITING TASK 2

BAND SCORE COMPONENTS

- ◎ Four criteria: equally weighted
 - Task Response
 - Coherence and Cohesion
 - Lexical Resource
 - Grammatical Range & Accuracy

TASK RESPONSE

- ◎ Covering the requirements of the task
 - Answer the question(s)
 - Give reasons
 - Give examples
 - From your knowledge
 - From your experience
- ◎ Position
 - Relevance
 - Clarity
 - Focus

TASK RESPONSE

◎ Main ideas

- Focused
- Developed
 - Present
 - Extend
 - Support
- Avoiding over-generalisation

COHERENCE & COHESION

◉ Coherence

- Organisation
- Sequencing and progression
- Paragraphing

◉ Cohesions

- Varied and appropriate use of cohesive devices
 - Logical connectors
 - Pronouns
 - Conjunction