The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS

Writing

IELTS WRITING

How long is the Writing paper?

The Writing paper lasts one hour. Within that time, you must complete two writing tasks. Writing Task 2 carries more marks than Writing Task 1.

What will I need to write about?

Task		Timing	What do I have to do?
Academic Writing	1	20 minutes	Describe visual information (e.g. a diagram, chart, graph or table).
	2	40 minutes	Write an essay. You may be asked to: • provide a solution • evaluate a problem • compare and contrast different ideas or opinions • challenge an argument or idea.

How is the Writing paper assessed?

Task	Criteria	What do these criteria mean?
Writing Task 1	Task Achievement	Did you answer the question fully and write 150 words?
Writing Task 2	Task Response	• Did your answer address all of the points in the question? • Did you provide a balanced argument and support your ideas with evidence and examples? • Were all of your ideas relevant to the question? • Did you write 250 words?

How is the Writing paper assessed?

Task	Criteria	What do these criteria mean?
Both tasks	Coherence and Cohesion	• Is your writing easy to understand? • Are your ideas well organised and clearly linked?
	Lexical Resource	Did you use a wide range of vocabulary accurately and effectively?
	Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Did you use a wide range of grammatical structures accurately and effectively?

How can I improve my Writing paper score?

You can improve your score by making sure you answer each question fully and remembering the test tips in this unit. This unit will also tell you the writing skills you need to practise in order to achieve your best score. Before the test, practise writing quickly and neatly and make sure you do not use bullet points, notes or abbreviations or prepared answers. Studying all aspects of English, including vocabulary and grammar, will also help improve your score.

학습목표

- Understanding Academic Writing Task 1
- Understanding charts, tables and graphs
- Identifying relevant information
- Improving your Task Achievement score

Academic Writing Task 1

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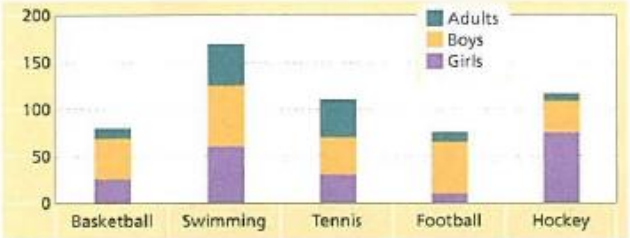
Describing a chart, table or graph

1 Understanding graphs, tables and charts

1.1 Label examples of visual information 1-6 with words A-F.

A diagram	D table
B maps	E bar chart
C pie chart	F graph

1



2

WINNING TEAMS	GOLD	SILVER
USA	929	729
Soviet Union	395	319
UK	207	255
France	191	212
Germany	163	163
Italy	190	157
Sweden	142	160

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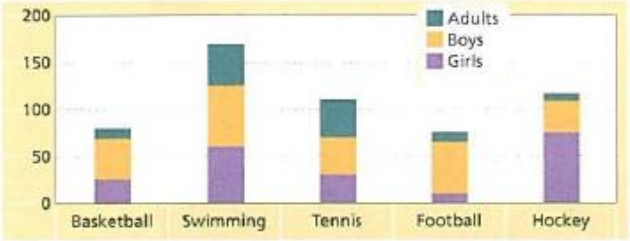

E bar chart

2

WINNING TEAMS	GOLD	SILVER
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Soviet Union	395	319
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France	191	212
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Italy	190	157
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D table

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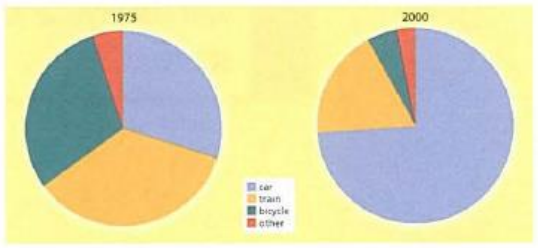
3



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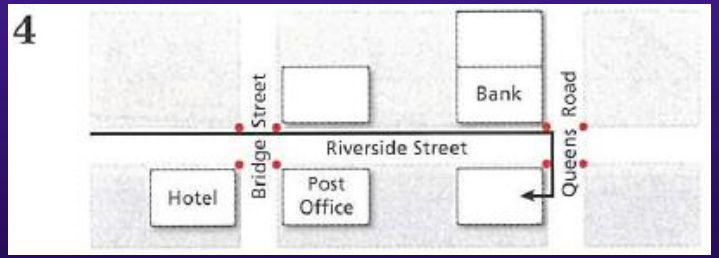

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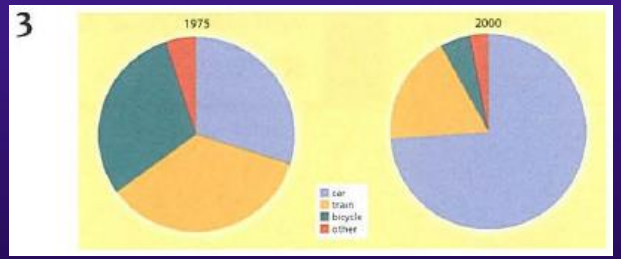
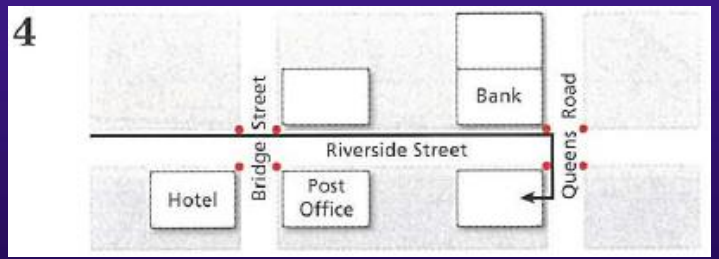


C pie chart



B maps

1 Understanding graphs, tables and charts

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A diagram	D table
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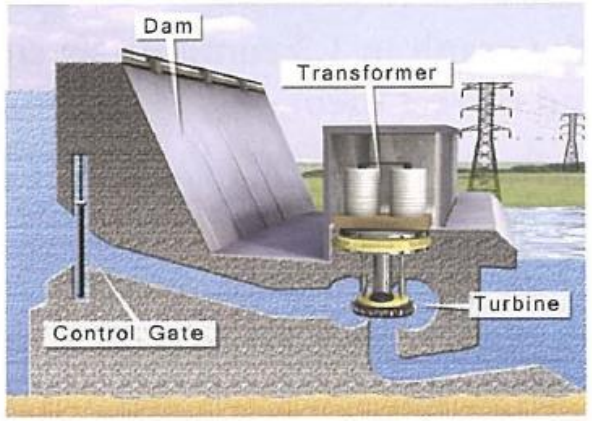
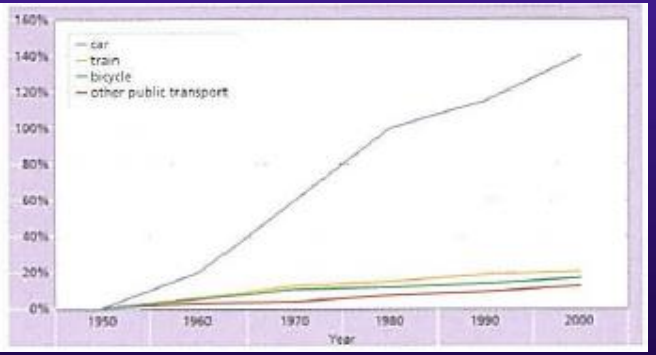
C pie chart	F graph

5



6



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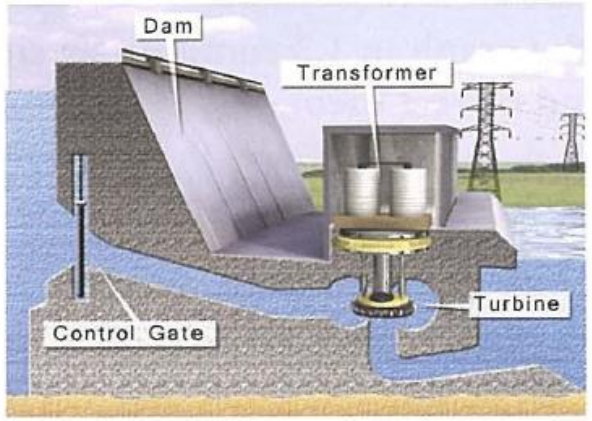
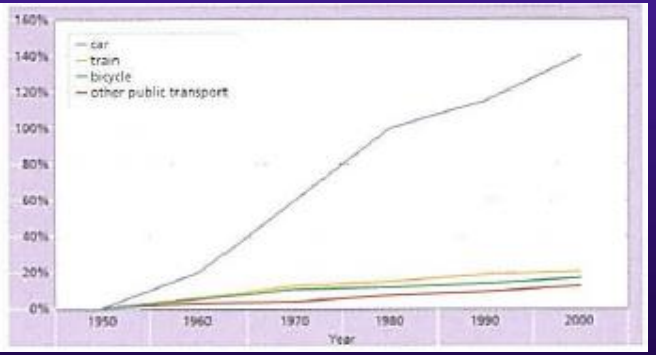


A diagram

6



F graph

1.3 Answer these questions.

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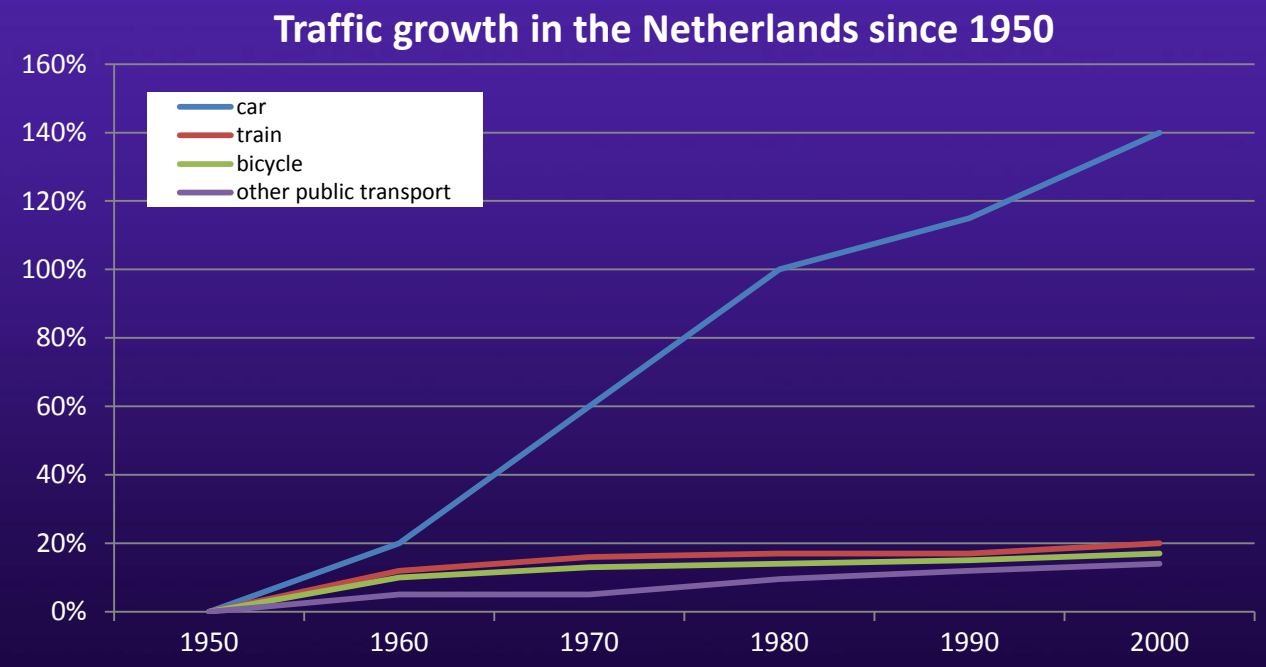
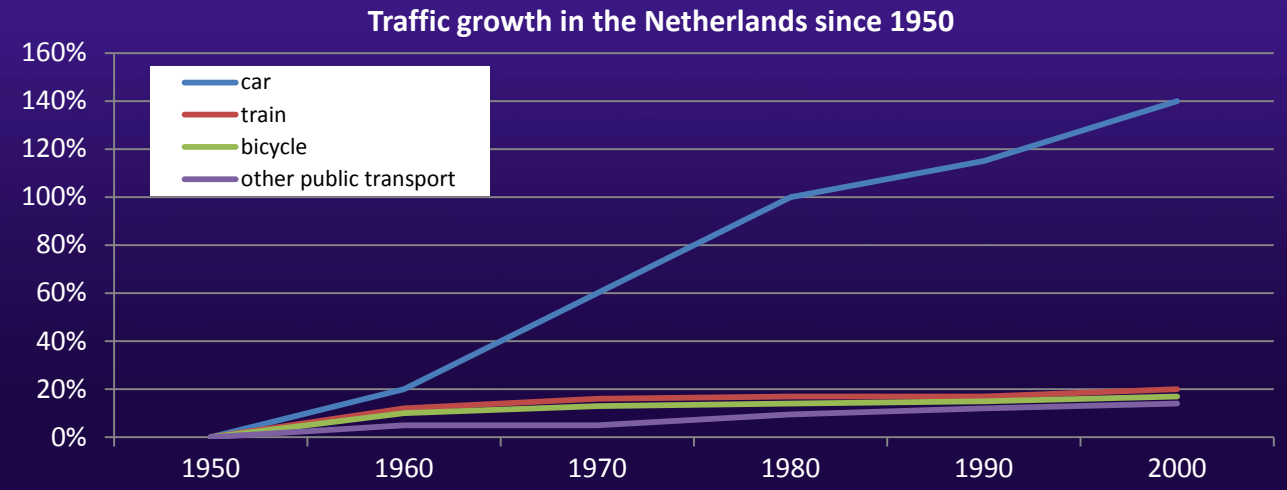


1.3 Answer these questions.

1 What is being measured and how? (e.g. is the information in millions or as a percentage?)
2 Is there a time element to the information? (If yes, what is the gap between each year shown?)
3 Are two or more things being compared? (What are they?)

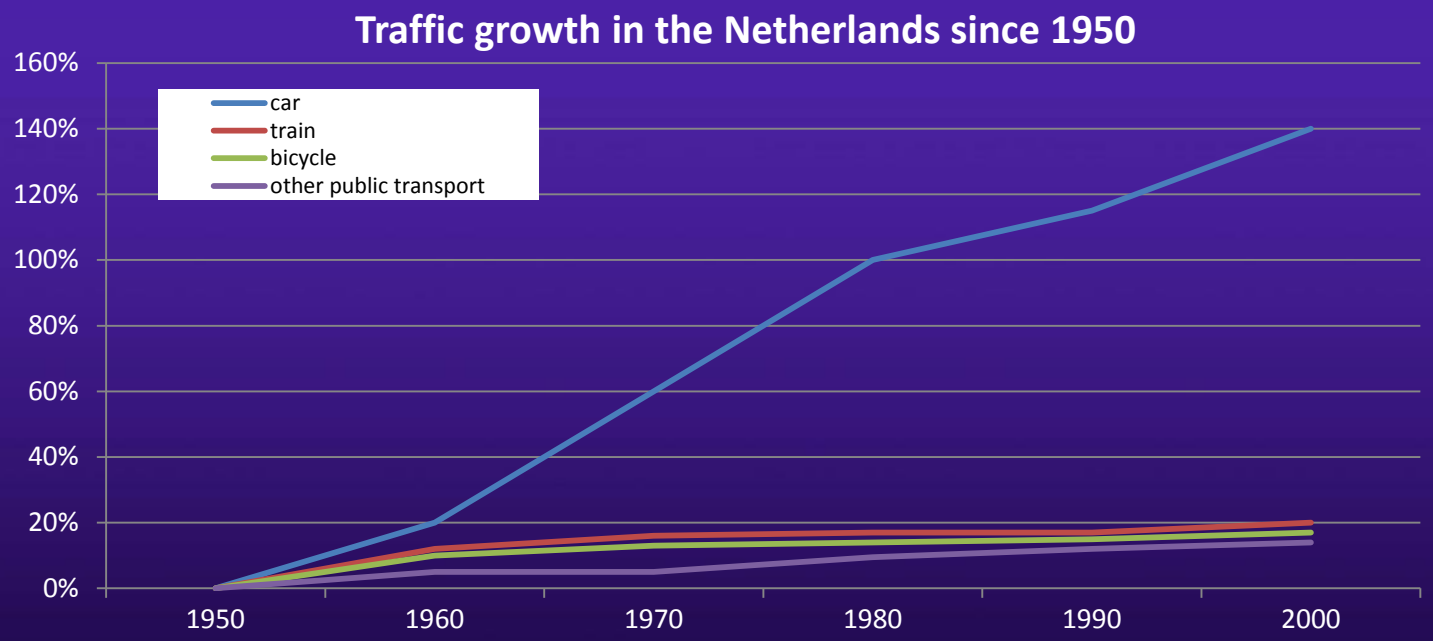


1.3 Answer these questions.

1 What is being measured and how?
Traffic growth in the Netherlands measured / shown as a percentage
2 Is there a time element to the information?
Yes, ten-year gaps from 1950 to 2000
3 Are two or more things being compared?
Yes, four types of transport are compared :cars, trains, bicycles, and other types of public transport

1.4 This description of the graph in 1.3 contains seven mistakes. Find the mistakes and correct them.

The graph shows the increase in traffic in England from 1960 to 2010. During this time, car traffic increased by just over 150% , while train traffic increased by 40 percent, bicycle traffic increased by approximately 20% , and other public transport traffic actually decreased by about 20%.


Traffic growth in the Netherlands since 1950
160%
140%
120%
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
car
train
bicycle
other public transport
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000

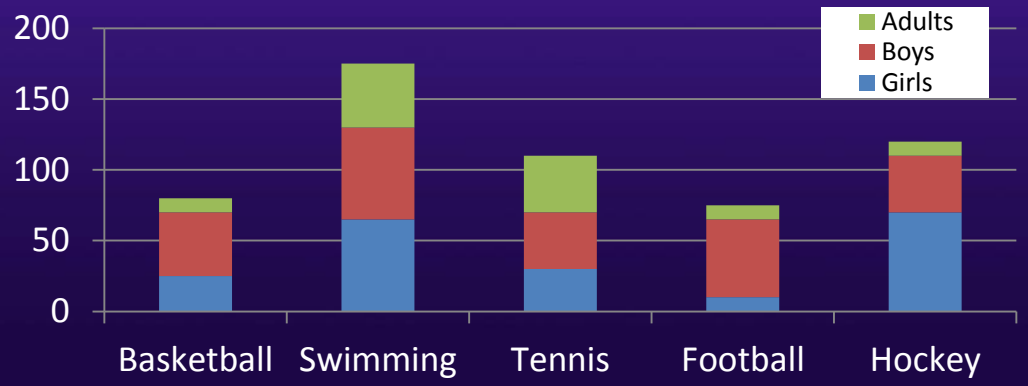
1.4 This description of the graph in 1.3 contains seven mistakes. Find the mistakes and correct them.

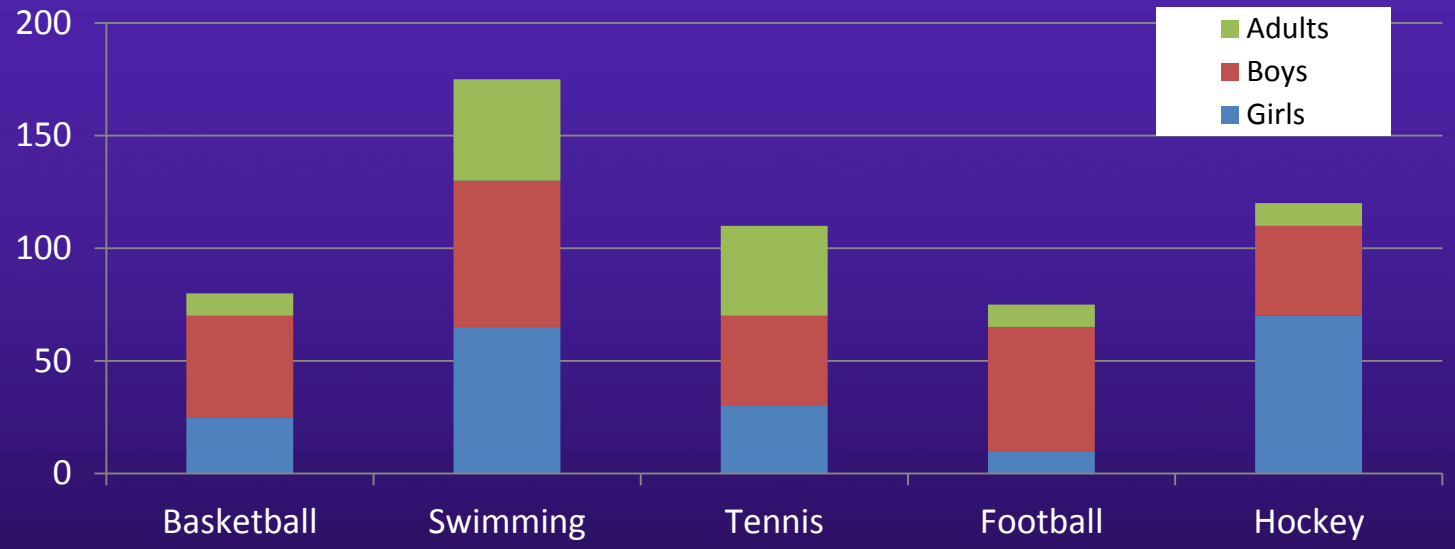
The graph shows the increase in traffic in ~~England~~ the Netherlands from ~~1960~~ 1950 to ~~2010~~ 2000. During this time, car traffic increased by just over ~~150%~~ 140%, while train traffic increased by ~~40 %~~ 20%, bicycle traffic increased by approximately ~~20%~~ 15%, and other public transport traffic actually ~~decreased~~ increased by about ~~20%~~ 10% .

2 More complex charts

2.1 Study the bar chart below. Notice that you have to estimate some of the numbers. Answer the questions by choosing the best answer, A, B or C.

One hundred adults, boys and girls in Manchester, England were asked to name the sports they participated in. The results were recorded in the following stacked bar chart.




200
150
100
50
0
Adults
Boys
Girls
Basketball
Swimming
Tennis
Football
Hockey

P.96

2.1

P.96

1 Approximately how many adults play basketball?
A 80 B 25 C 10

2 How many boys enjoy swimming?
A about 40 B about 60 C about 170

3 Which sport is enjoyed by the same number of adults as girls?
A basketball B tennis C football

4 Which group seems to participate in the most sport overall?
A adults B boys C girls

2.1

P.96

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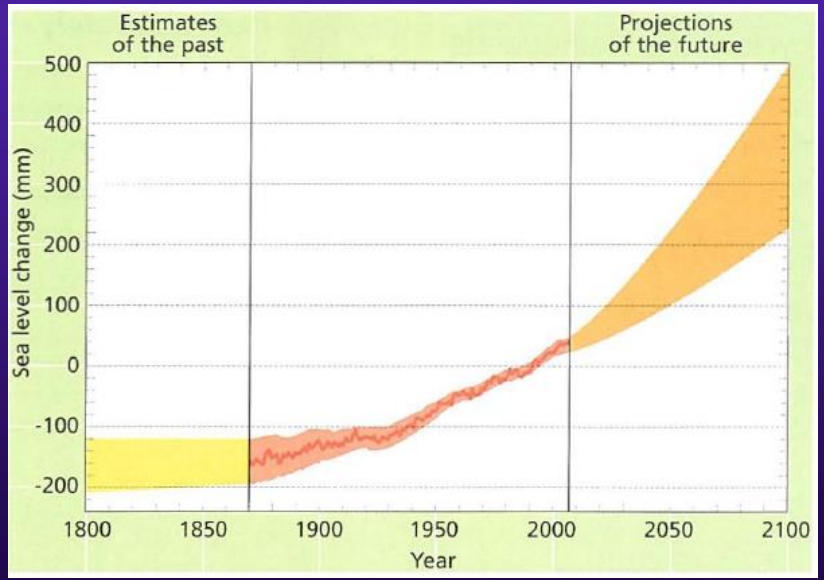
P.96

2.2 Some charts are used to show predictions of the future. Study the graph below and decide what the information is telling you.



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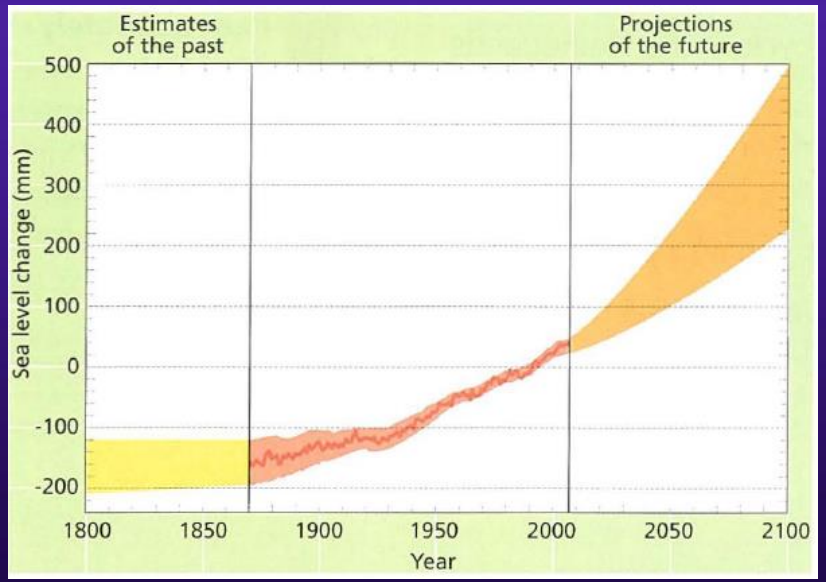

records of sea levels
-> changes from 1870 to 2008
past and future estimates

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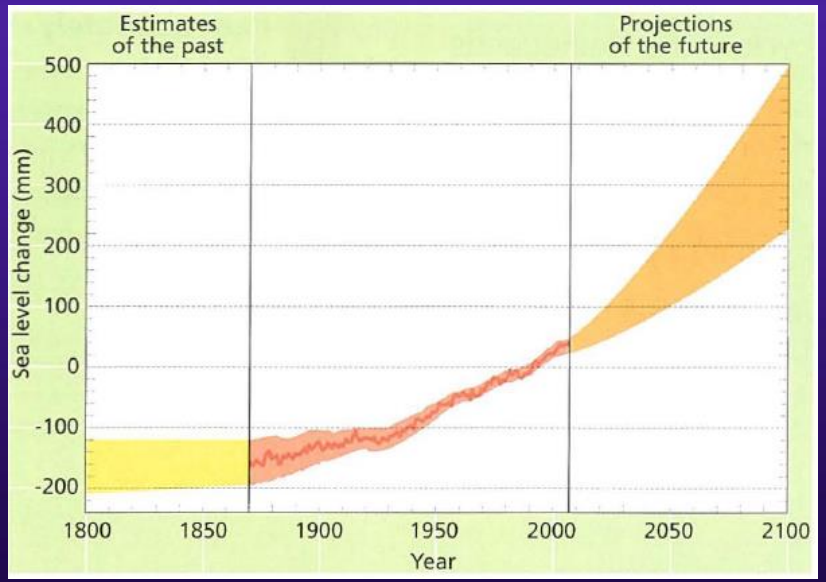

records of sea levels
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It is telling us the actual records of _____ changes from _____ to _____, as well as _____ and _____ estimates.

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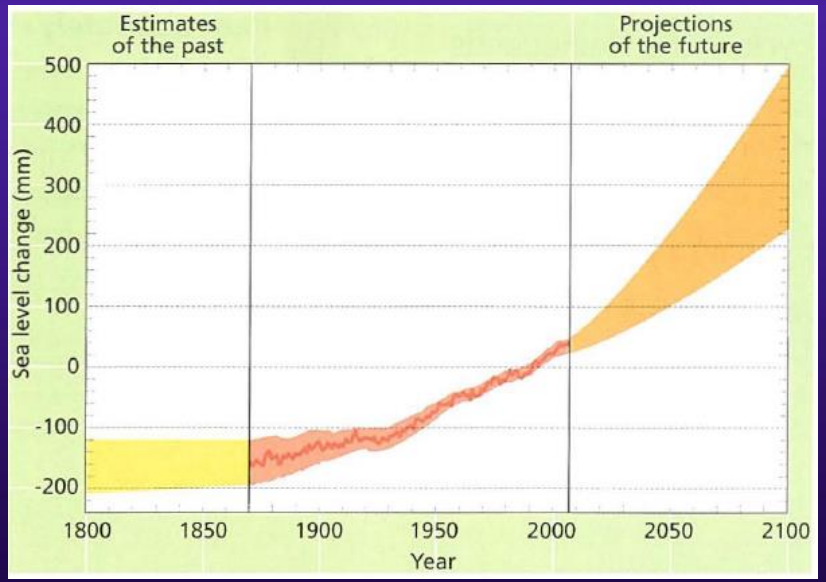
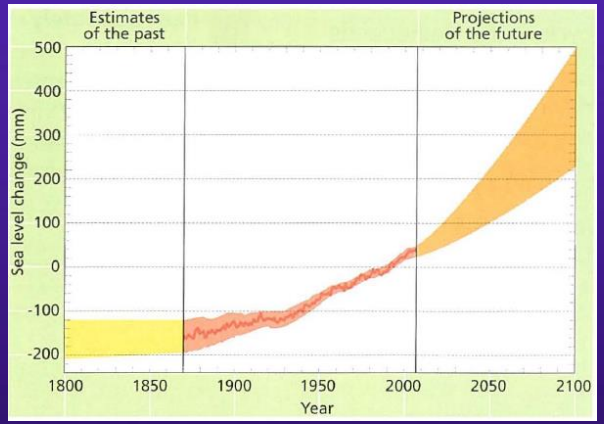


records of sea levels
-> changes from 1870 to 2008
past and future estimates

It is telling us the actual records of sea levels changes from 1870 to 2008, as well as past and future estimates.

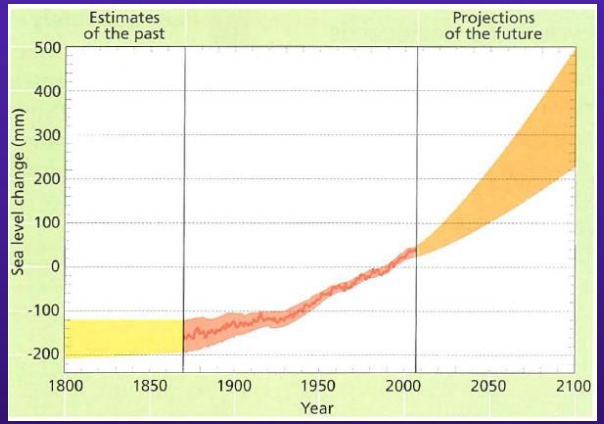
2.3 Rewrite these sentences, describing the graph in 2.2.

P.97



1. I predict that sea levels will continue to rise.
   It is predicted that _____.
2. I estimate that sea levels will have increased by 200mm by the year 2050.
   It _____.

2.3 Rewrite these sentences, describing the graph in 2.2.



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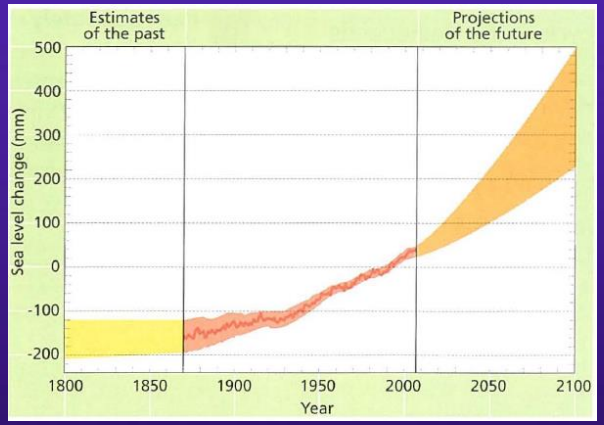
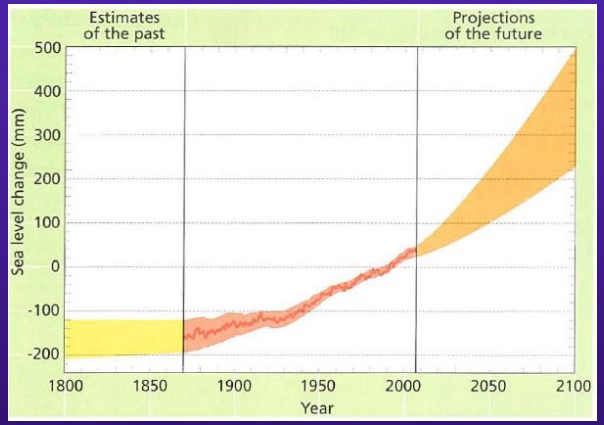
P.97



3. I forecast that sea levels will rise more rapidly between 2050 and 2100.
   Sea levels _____.
4. I estimate that by 2100, sea levels will be 500 mm higher than they are at present.
   By 2100, sea levels _____.

2.3 Rewrite these sentences, describing the graph in 2.2.

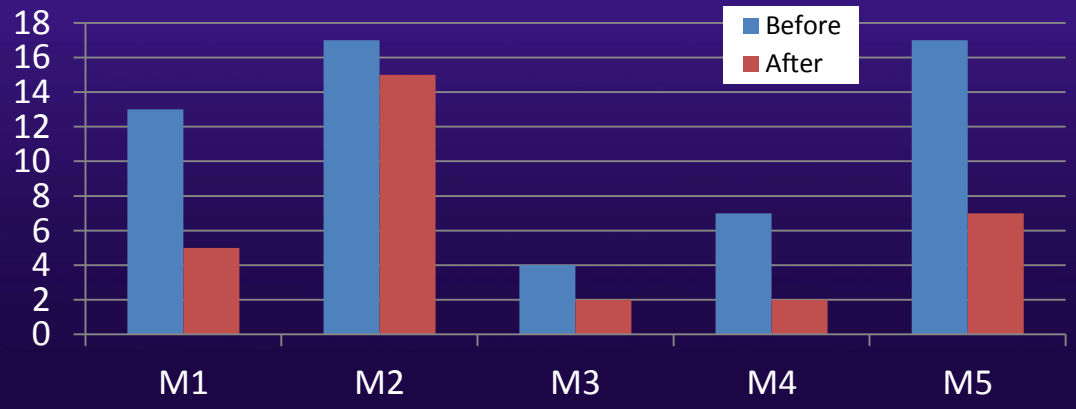


3. I forecast that sea levels will rise more rapidly between 2050 and 2100.
   Sea levels are forecasted to rise more rapidly between 2050 and 2100.
4. I estimate that by 2100, sea levels will be 500 mm higher than they are at present.
   By 2100, sea levels are estimated to be 500 mm higher than they are at present.

3 Improving your Task Achievement score

3.1 The bar chart below shows the reduction in traffic accidents in Bridgewater following the introduction of extra lanes on busy roads. Look at the chart and try to identify the main trend(s).

Accident reductions per kilometre in Bridgewater following the introduction of extra lanes on busy motorways



3.2 Which of the following sentences is an accurate overview sentence of the bar chart?

(You must summarise the main trend(s).)

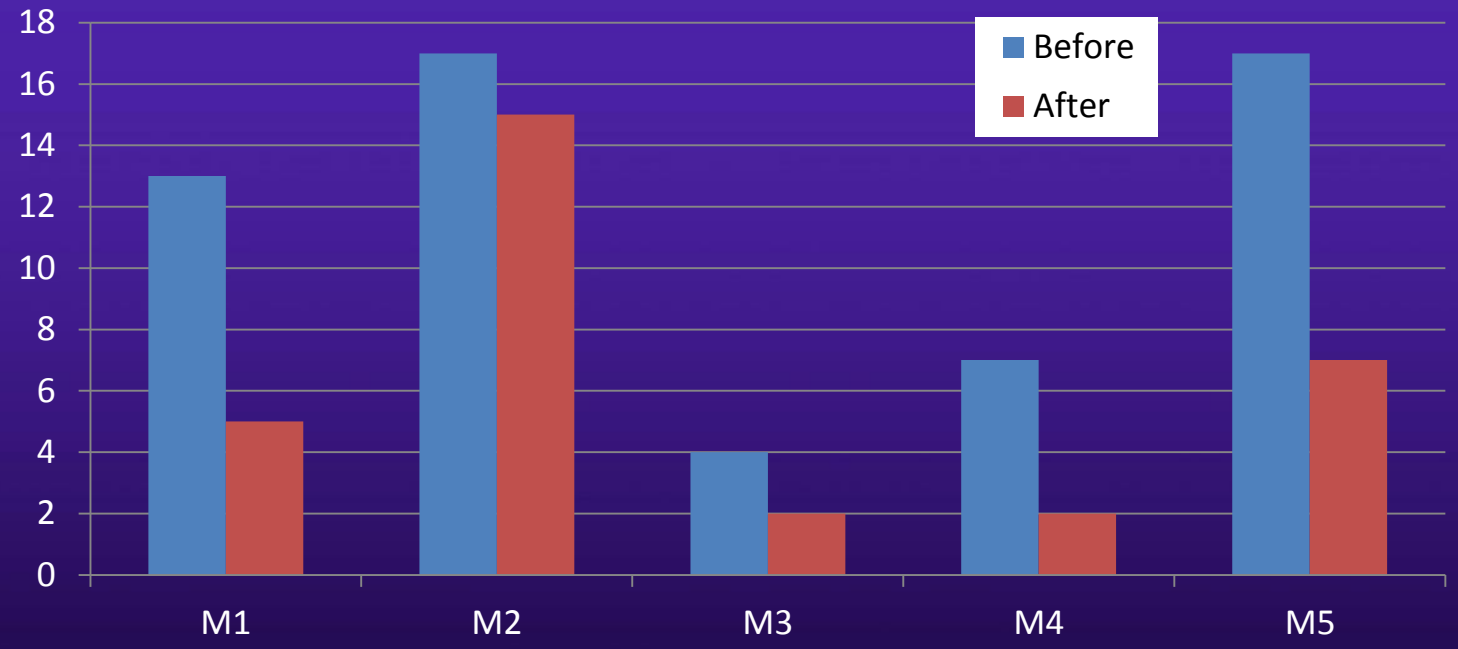
A There were mixed results following the introduction of the new traffic system in Bridgewater.

B On some roads the extra lanes were more popular than on others.

C The roads with the largest amount of traffic are the M1 and M5.

D In every case, adding an extra lane on main roads had a positive effect on traffic incidents.

E All cities should incorporate this system on their main roads.



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3.2 Which of the following sentences is an accurate overview sentence of the bar chart?

(You must summarise the main trend(s).)

A There were mixed results following the introduction of the new traffic system in Bridgewater. => the results were not mixed

B On some roads the extra lanes were more popular than on others.

C The roads with the largest amount of traffic are the M1 and M5.

D In every case, adding an extra lane on main roads had a positive effect on traffic incidents.

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3.2 Which of the following sentences is an accurate overview sentence of the bar chart?

(You must summarise the main trend(s).)

A There were mixed results following the introduction of the new traffic system in Bridgewater. => the results were not mixed

B On some roads the extra lanes were more popular than on others. => we are given no information about how many people used the extra lanes

C The roads with the largest amount of traffic are the M1 and M5.

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C The roads with the largest amount of traffic are the M1 and M5. => we do not know traffic figures, and it is also an isolated fact about two roads only and not a main trend)

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C The roads with the largest amount of traffic are the M1 and M5. => we do not know traffic figures, and it is also an isolated fact about two roads only and not a main trend)

D In every case, adding an extra lane on main roads had a positive effect on traffic incidents.

E All cities should incorporate this system on their main roads. => an opinion rather than a main trend)

3.3 Look at sentences 1-6 and decide if the information is

A a main feature (it should be included)

B a minor detail (it can be left out)

1 The M2 and the M3 showed the smallest reduction in accidents.

2 Approximately four accidents per kilometre occurred on the M3 prior to the peak lane being introduced.

3 About 17 accidents per kilometre occurred each year on the M2 following the introduction of extra lanes on busy roads.

3.3 Look at sentences 1-6 and decide if the information is

A a main feature (it should be included)
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1 The M2 and the M3 showed the smallest reduction in accidents. A
2 Approximately four accidents per kilometre occurred on the M3 prior to the peak lane being introduced. B
3 About 17 accidents per kilometre occurred each year on the M2 following the introduction of extra lanes on busy roads. B

3.3 Look at sentences 1-6 and decide if the information is

A a main feature (it should be included)

B a minor detail (it can be left out)

4 The greatest reduction in accident numbers occurred on the Ml, the M4 and the M5.

5 The introduction of the new system cut the number of accidents occurring on the Ml and the M5 by half.

6 Each year, the greatest number of accidents occur on the M1, the M2 and the M5.

3.3 Look at sentences 1-6 and decide if the information is

A a main feature (it should be included)

B a minor detail (it can be left out)

4 The greatest reduction in accident numbers occurred on the Ml, the M4 and the M5. A

5 The introduction of the new system cut the number of accidents occurring on the Ml and the M5 by half. A

6 Each year, the greatest number of accidents occur on the M1, the M2 and the M5. A

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