

Single Time (Static): IELTS Academic Task 1

Task Instructions

The IELTS static task is designed to test your ability to compare and contrast information shown in a **line graph, bar graph, pie chart, table, process diagram, or map** (the last two tasks will be covered in a separate section). You must present the information in your own words as complete sentences within paragraphs. You are required to write over 150 words, and the task should be completed in 20 minutes (both part 1 and 2 must be finished in 1 hour).

Questions:

1. How many words should you write?
2. How long should you take to write your essay?
3. Are there different time periods in this task?

Requires

1. Past or present tense
2. Comparison vocabulary to describe differences and similarities of data.
3. Articles (a, an, the) for nouns

How to Improve

1. Do exercises to improve comparatives and superlatives for comparing data
2. Do exercises to use the correct language with numbers and percentages
3. Read sample questions and answers
4. Learn how to correctly structure a static task
5. Practice writing static tasks
6. Receive feedback on practice tests
7. Use the feedback to improve your answers

Adjectives: Comparing and contrasting

One syllable	comparative	superlative
cheap	cheaper	cheapest
large	larger	largest

Two syllables "y"	comparative	superlative
happy	happier	happiest
lucky	luckier	luckiest

Two syllables	comparative	superlative
common	more common	most common
modern	more modern	most modern

Exceptions:

good
bad

better
worse

best
worst

Exercise 1: Comparatives and Superlatives

	comparative	superlative
Accurate	More accurate	Most accurate
Certain		
Pretty		
Convenient		
Correct		
Dangerous		
Happy		
Modern		
Funny		
New		
Possible		
probable		
up-to-date		

Language with numbers and percentages

When writing your report you must carefully identify whether the information that is given involves countable data (trees), uncountable data (water), or percentages (15%). This is because the language used with the three types is different. If you use the incorrect language the examiner will easily identify it and your vocabulary score will be lowered.

Countable numbers

The number of trees was 100.

The quantity of trees was 100.

Uncountable numbers

The amount of water used was 100 litres.

Percentages

The rate of water usage was 15 per cent.

The water usage was 15%

The water usage was fifteen per cent.

The water usage increased by 15 percent.

The water usage (15%) and power usage (16%) were about the same.

The water usage and power usage were 15% and 16%, respectively.

Exercise 2: Language with numbers and percentages

Steps to complete a task 1 static:

1. Read and underline key vocabulary in the question and write words with the same or related meaning
2. Brainstorm key points for the answer
 - Striking numbers/percentages (highest and lowest)
 - Comparisons (higher and lower data)
 - Similarities (the same)
 - Data that can be combined (similarities)
3. Decide if this is a static (same time period) or change over time task
 - If it is static then all verbs can be written in the present or past tense, but keep the tense consistent.
 - If it involves different time period all verbs will be in the past tense, except the first sentence "the pie charts reveal..."
4. Be clear about whether the data is about percentages or numbers.
 - For percentages you use: proportion, %, per cent, rate, one-third, two-thirds
 - For percentages you use: amount for uncountable nouns, number for countable nouns
5. Plan the structure for the answer

Paragraph 1: One sentence rephrasing the original question + information from the axes.

Overall summary

Comparisons (er, more)/ Connection between Charts

Paragraph 2: Chart 1 (lowest and highest proportions)

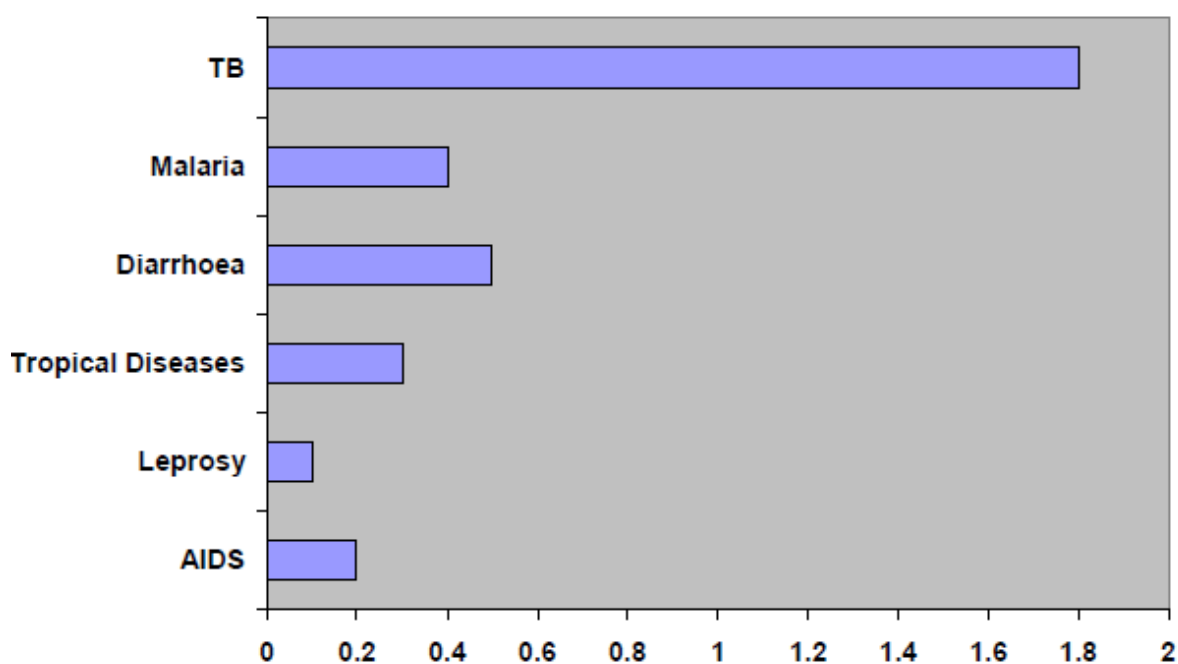
Paragraph 3: Chart 2 (lowest and highest proportions)

6. The tense can be present simple or past tense – even though the data

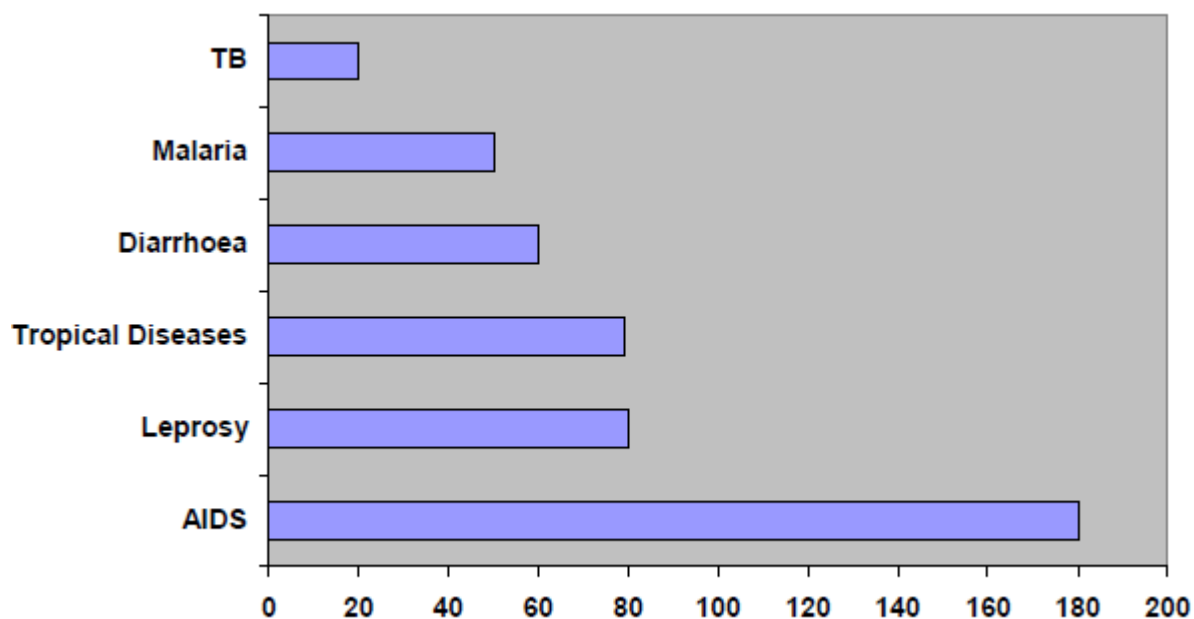
may be from the past

The tables below give information about the number of deaths and the amount of medical research funding in England.

Deaths In England in 1990 (millions)



Medical research funding In England in 1990 (millions)



Sample answer one

The graphs compare the number of deaths caused by six diseases in the UK in 1990 with the amount of research funding allocated to each of those diseases. It can be clearly seen that the amount of research funding in many cases did not match with the seriousness of the disease in terms of numbers of deaths.

In 1990 there were around 0.2 million deaths from AIDS, 0.1 million deaths from leprosy, 0.3 million deaths from tropical diseases, 0.5 million deaths from diarrhea, 0.4 million deaths from malaria and 1.8 million deaths from TB.

These figures can be contrasted with the amount of funding allocated for each disease. In 1990 AIDS received 180 million dollars in research funding, leprosy 80 million dollars in research funding, tropical diseases 79 million dollars in research funding, diarrhea 60 million dollars in research funding, malaria 50 million dollars and TB 20 million dollars in research funding.

What is wrong with this answer?

Sample answer Two

The graphs compare the number of deaths caused by six diseases in the UK in 1990 with the amount of research funding allocated to each of those diseases.

The most deaths are clearly caused by tuberculosis, which accounts for about 1.8 million deaths. Diarrhea and malaria are the next highest and are responsible for about .5 million and .4 million, respectively. Tropical diseases, leprosy and AIDS cause the least deaths.

These figures can be contrasted with the amount of funding allocated for each disease. The highest amount of funding is awarded to AIDS research (\$1.8 million). Second equal are tropical diseases and leprosy at .8 million dollars each. Diarrhea, malaria, and TB receive less than .6 million dollars each.

From comparing the deaths caused by various diseases with the research funding they receive it is clear that funding allocation for disease research in Britain is not wholly determined by the number of deaths for which each disease is responsible in a given year. For instance AIDS received the highest level of funding but it was the second least disease. Similarly, TB received the least funding, but it accounted for the highest number of deaths.

Describing one section of the chart

Starting sentences with the superlative (adjective)

The highest	number of	deaths	is from TB
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Starting with the subject

TB	causes	the most	deaths.
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Write the following sentences both ways

1. Leprosy receives 80 million dollars in research funding
Eighty million dollars is for leprosy.
2. TB receives the least funding
3. Twenty percent of people die from car accidents.

Comparing two section of the chart

Starting sentences with the adjective

Substantially more	deaths	are caused by aids	than leprosy
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Starting with the subject

Aids	causes	more deaths	than leprosy
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Write the following sentences both ways

1. research funding Leprosy receives more than aids.
2. than leprosy TB receives less research funding.
3. than car accidents A higher proportion of people die from motorcycle accidents.

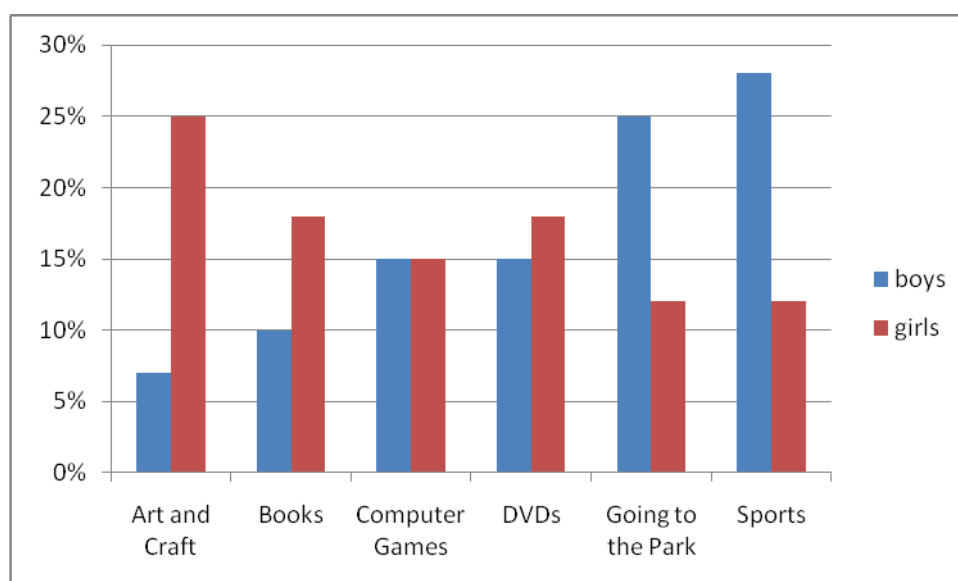
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

The graph below shows information about the activities that New Zealand children enjoy doing the most in 2007.

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

Write at least 150 words

What Children aged 5-9 enjoy doing



Model answer:

The graph shows the preferred recreational pursuits of Australian children aged from 5 to 9. Overall, girls enjoyed drawing and making things the most, whereas boys enjoyed playing sports the most. In addition boys were more likely to do outdoor activities, whereas girls were more involved in indoor activities.

For boys, the most popular activity was doing sporting activities, which accounted for approximately 28%. Next, a quarter of boys enjoyed visiting parks. Third equal were video games and watching movies, which both attracted 15% of boys. The least popular activities for boys were reading, and art and craft, which accounted for about 10% and 7 %, respectively.

Turning to girls, the highest proportion enjoyed doing art and craft at 25%. This was followed by reading novels and watching movies, which each accounted for roughly 18%. The proportion who played video games was only 15%. The least popular were trips to the park and playing sports at 12%.

[157 words]

Homework: Static

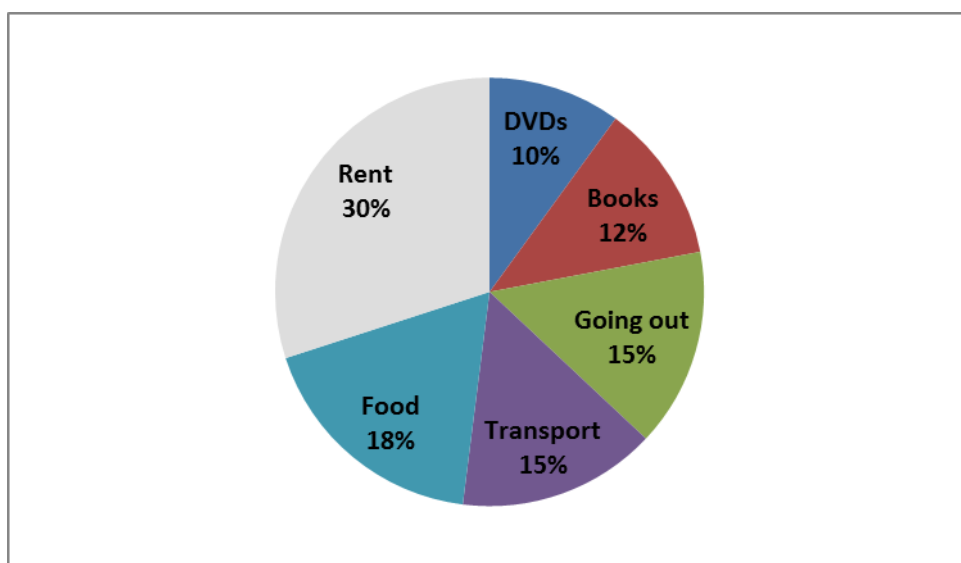
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

The graph shows the percentage of weekly expenditure on the six most common categories in Britain and America.

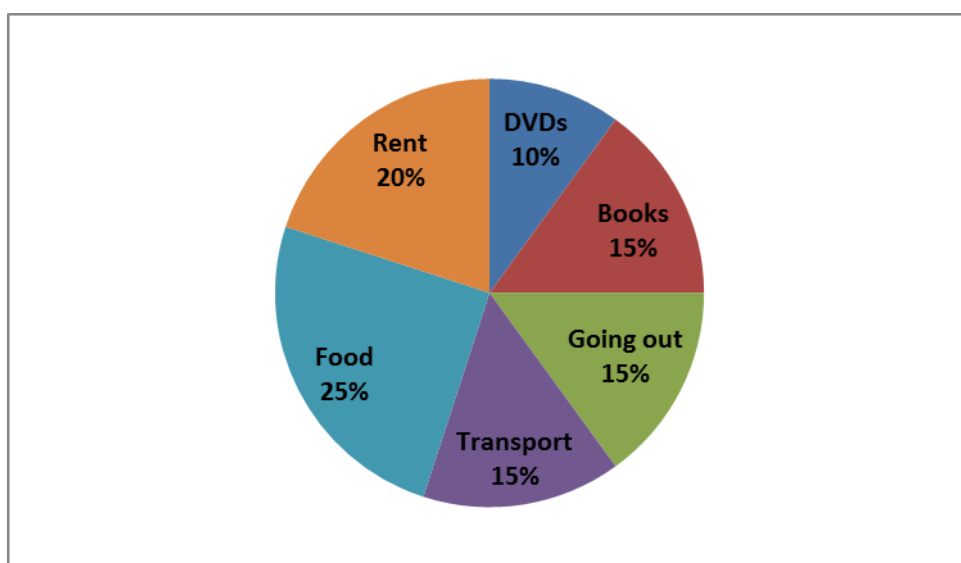
Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

The chart below shows the percentage of weekly expenditure on the six most common categories in Britain.



The chart below shows the percentage of weekly expenditure on the six most common categories in America.



Common errors with the task

Note: Its about spending and not which one people prefer or do more often.

1. 10 % of people like DVDs
2. The pie charts illustrates
3. Going out is the most popular activity in USA
4. The cost of DVDs is 10%.
5. The spending of DVDs is 10%.
6. The proportion of expense on DVDs is 10%.
7. The most favorite is going out.
8. ..for both British and American.

Other points:

1. Try to compare the two charts:

UK > US % spent on going out

US > UK % spent on DVDs

US = UK % spent on books
2. Overall, for both countries % spent on going out is the highest
3. The per week isn't an important point (more important for numbers)

