

IELTS Writing task 1

Key Information

1) You are required to write 150 words or more.

If you write less than 150 words, you are unlikely to get more than a Band 5 for 'task achievement' as you won't have fulfilled the marking criteria.

2) You have around 20 minutes to plan and write your essay.

3) You should use a formal style of writing.

4) Task 1 contributes half as many marks to your score as Task 2. So, Task 1 is worth 33% of the total mark in the Writing test.

Task Overview

- You will be presented with one of the following graphics:
 - **Bar Chart**
 - **Line Graph**
 - **Table Chart**
 - **Pie Chart**
 - **Process Diagram**
 - **Map**
 - **Multiple Graphs**

You are required to write a short report about the main features. For example, you may be asked to:

- **summarise data**
- **describe the stages of a process**
- **explain how something works**
- **describe an object or event**

The format of the question will always be the same. It will include:

- **Sentence 1** – A brief description of the graphic
- **Sentence 2** – The instructions
- **The graphic** – diagram, chart, graph, table, etc

- Sentence 2 (The instructions) tells you what you have to do.
You must do 3 things:

- **1. Select the main features.**
- **2. Write about the main features.**
- **3. Compare the main features.**

All three tasks refer to the 'main features' of the graphic. You do not have to write about everything. Just pick out 2 or 3 key features and you'll have plenty to write about.

Assessment & Marking Criteria

- As with all parts of the IELTS exam, Task 1 is marked according to four criteria.
 - **Task Achievement** – appropriate response to the task
 - **Cohesion & Coherence** – the ability to present a well-structured essay
 - **Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)** – the ability to use a range of appropriate vocabulary and to use it correctly
 - **Grammatical Range & Accuracy** – the ability to use grammar correctly and to use a range of grammar forms
Each carries 25% of the marks.