

(Academic) IELTS PREPARATION WORKSHOP

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Workshop Format

- Overview
- Reading
- Writing
 - Structure
 - Advice
- Q & A (all)

**About the
Test:**

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Paper or Computer

Test format

Sample test questions

How IELTS is scored

Who accepts IELTS scores?

How we develop the test

Ensuring quality and fairness

Test security



The Test

- **Reading** **60 mins**
- **Writing** **60 mins**



Reading

3 semi-academic reading passages:

Label a Diagram / Table completion

Match headings to paragraphs

Multiple choice

Complete a Summary

Preparation

Practise these skills:



Reading Test Strategies

- **During test**
- First read questions carefully
- **Then** read whole text
- Skip over difficult words / phrases
- Answer easy questions first



**Practise the
Test:**

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Writing

- **Time: 60 minutes** 2 tasks
- Task 1 (20mins): descriptive report of a table or diagram, 150 words
- Task 2 (40 mins): 250 word essay in response to an opinion or a problem.
- Discuss issues, **build an argument** and use the appropriate tone and register



Task 1 Writing Strategies



- **Preparation**
 - Study descriptions of any data – (e.g. in news, articles, books etc).
- **During Test**
 - Specify figures (do not only generalize)
 - Specify beginning, middle and end points plus peaks and troughs
 - If possible, describe a whole section of data and then the other (do not interchange)

Task 1

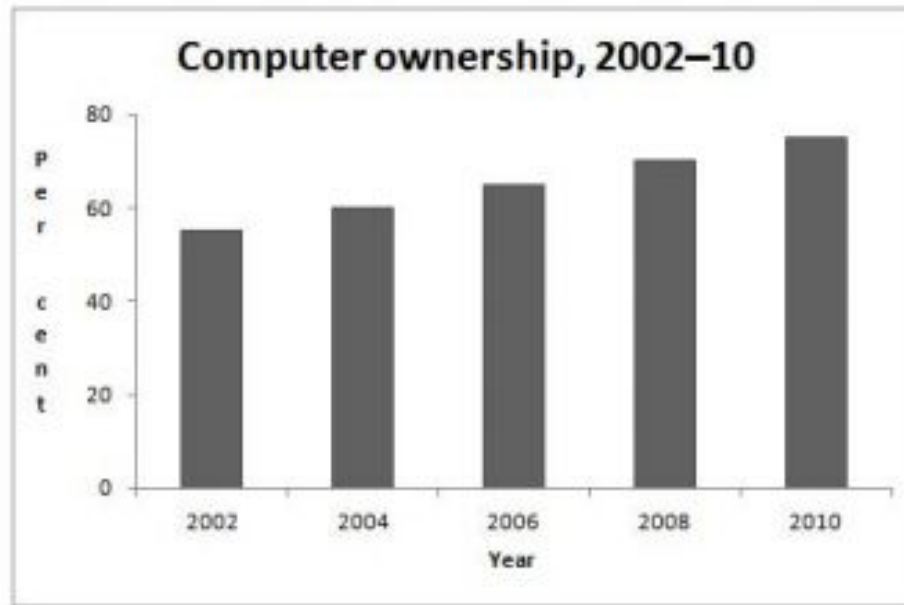
- Introduction
- Overview of data
- Data description
- Summary

- **Introduction**

- (chart /graph etc shows)

- **Overview**

- **Steady and Even** Rise over Period (2002-2010)



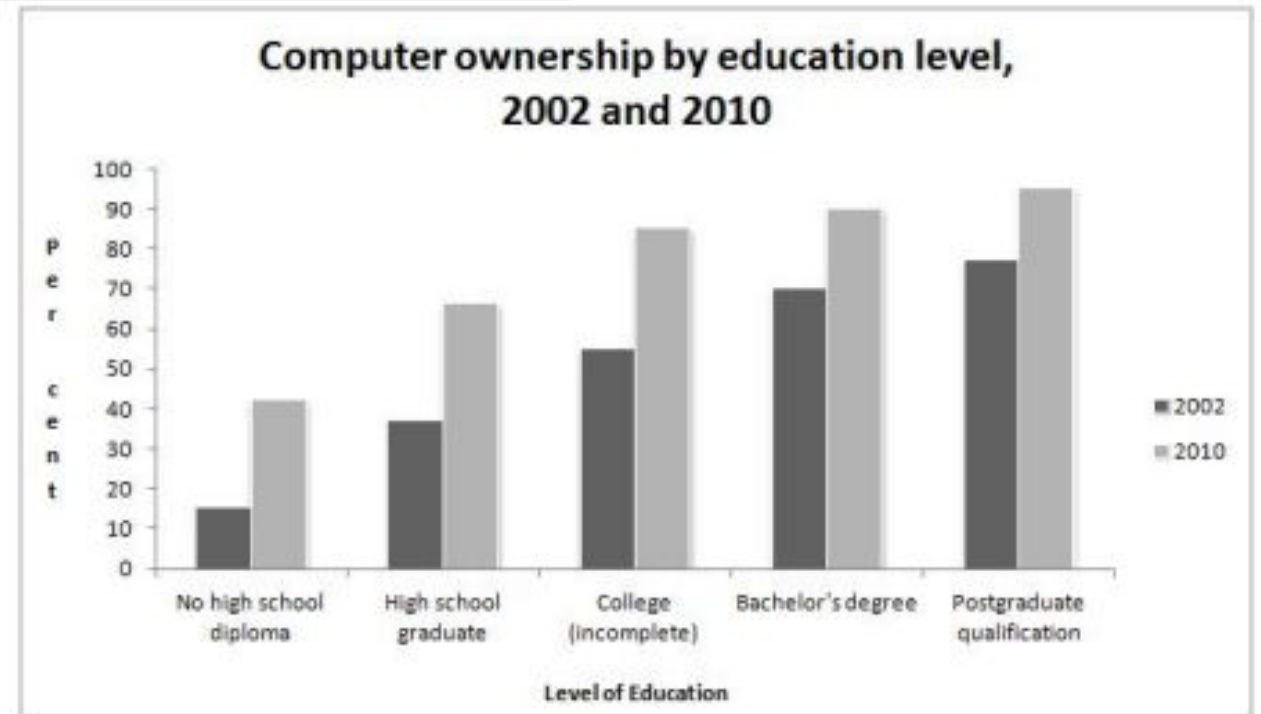
Turning / moving to the graph on ownership by education.....

Body

Percentage of the population.

Just over half...whereas by.....

Higher levels of education....correspond to higher computer ownership

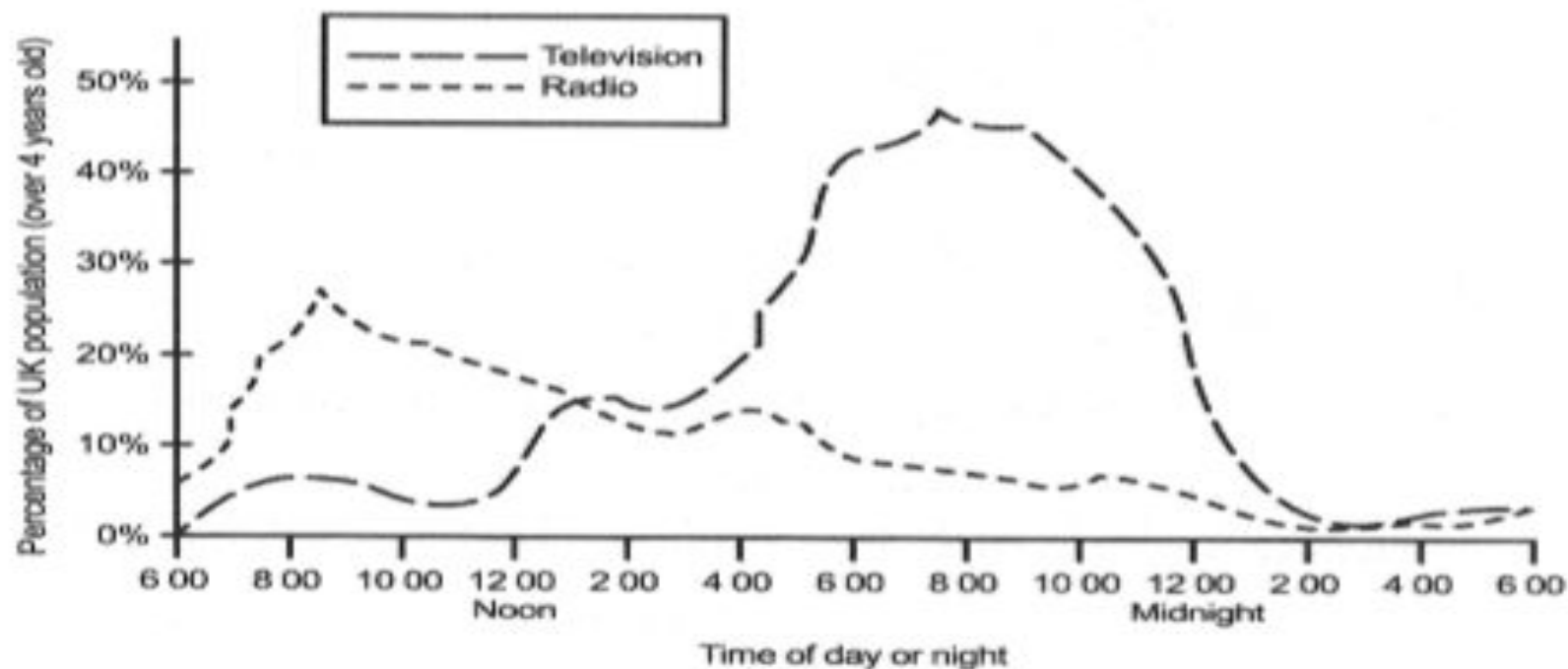


The graph below shows radio and television audiences throughout the day in 1992.

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

Write at least 150 words.

Radio and television audiences in UK, October – December 1992



General Guidelines II

- **Use the simplest organisation**
- **Go from general to specific - from biggest to smallest or from smallest to largest**
- **Group data in large chunks, then compare with another chunk**
- **Details can be omitted**



Generally, In general	For the most part
Overall	On the whole
Nowadays...Currently	Essentially, Basically
Everyone	It is obvious

Generalizing

Stating statistics directly

- Fromto.....
- (from 20 – 30%)
- (£30,000)
- Rose by 30% (from 30)
- Rose to 40 (an increase of 30%)
- Rose from 30 to 40 – a 30% rise overall.

Adjective

Significant

A significant change

Dramatic

A dramatic rise

Sudden

A sudden rise

Substantial

A substantial gain

Sharp

A sharp decrease

Adverb

Significantly

Changed significantly

Dramatically

Rose dramatically

Suddenly

Suddenly rose

Substantially

Gained substantially

Sharply

Decreased sharply

Describing Figures in directly

Similar to / Similarly	As...as
in common	also
Compared / in comparison with	Neither...nor
Just as	resemble

Comparing

However,

But

In contrast to

On the other hand,

Differ /s from

While / Whilst

Very /Quite different from

/ Contrasting

Task 2 Writing Strategies

- **Preparation**

- Practise arguing a position based on a debate / proposition

- **During Test**

- Read the question carefully
- Directly address ALL points of rubric
- Avoid formulaic, cliché or prepared language / copying the rubric

Write about the following topic:

A person's worth nowadays seems to be judged according to social status and material possessions. Old-fashioned values, such as honour, kindness and trust, no longer seem important.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Expression of Opinion / Support

- **In my opinion, ...**
- My view / opinion / belief / impression / conviction is that
- I would say that
- My impression is that ...

- **Support**
- Due to the fact that / because/ as a result of/ based on/ as clearly showed in/ by etc

Expressing Certainty

It is obvious, obviously	Undoubtedly
Doubtless	No doubt
Definitely,	Of course,

Describing Cause

Due to	Because (of)
As a result of	Owing to

Describing Effect

Therefore,	As a result,
Consequently,	For this reason,
Thus,	So,
The reason why	Caused / Was the cause of

If	Whether
In case	Unless
Provided that	So that

Expressing condition

To summarize

In conclusion

Finally

To conclude

In short

Concluding

Expressing Level of Agreement

Totally / fully dis / agree	Agree to some extent,
Agree up to a point,	Partially agree / In partial agreement with
Somewhat agree	In complete agreement

ACADEMIC WRITING SAMPLE TASK 2B

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy.

The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.



Useful websites

- **IELTS homepage**
<http://www.ielts.org>



Questions?
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