

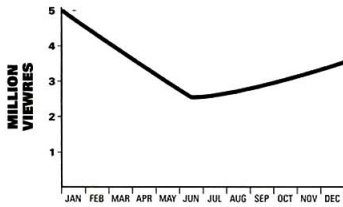
Describing trends

IELTS focus

In this part of the exam, you usually have to write about data in the form of a graph, chart or table.

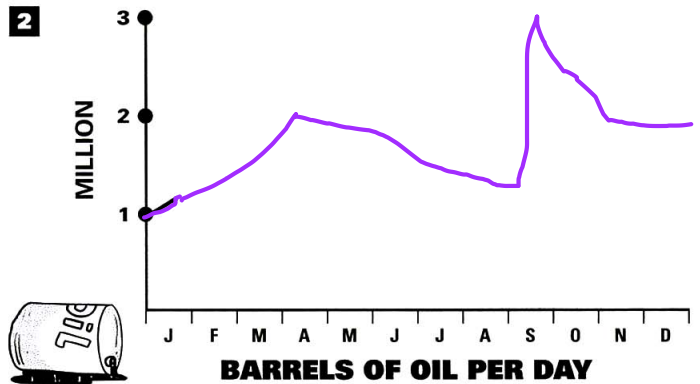
Read the description to your partner. She/he must complete the chart on her/his worksheet. If your partner doesn't understand part of the text, use other words to describe your chart. Then reverse roles.

1

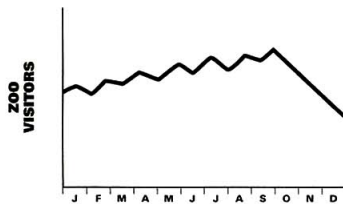


The programme was being watched by 5 million viewers at the beginning of January, but the figure had halved by June. It then rose gradually, ending the year at 3.5 million.

2

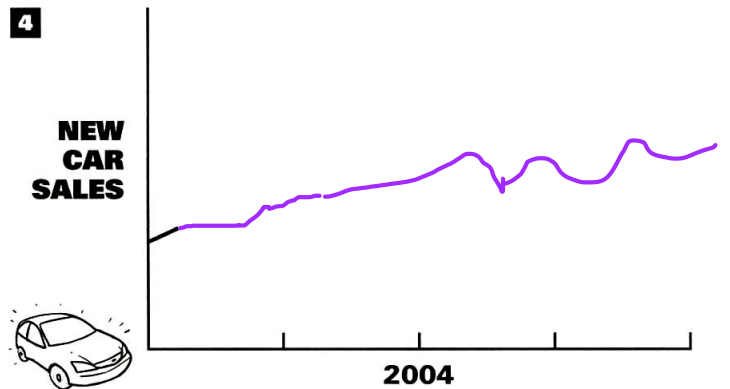


3

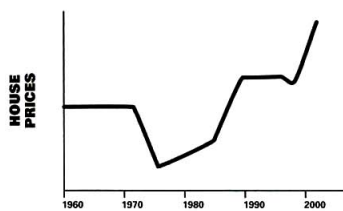


The number of visitors to the zoo fluctuated, but the general trend was upwards until the end of September. Visitor numbers then dropped sharply, ending the year at half their September peak.

4

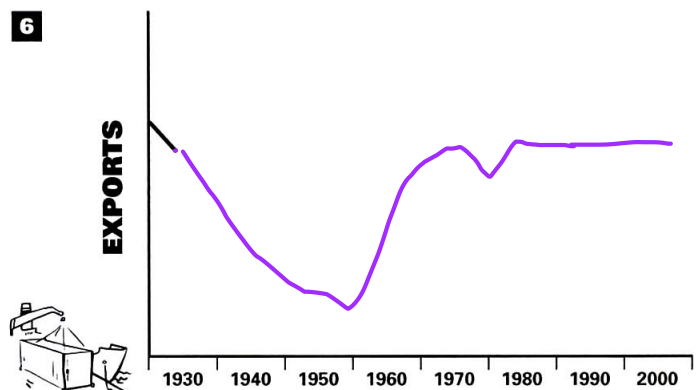


5

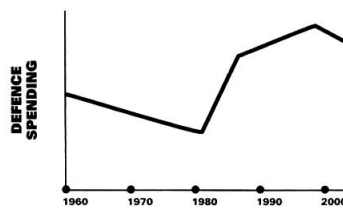


House prices had been level since 1960, but plunged in the early seventies. From the mid-seventies they picked up gradually, then suddenly soared in the mid-eighties. They remained steady for a decade, then dipped slightly before rocketing again in the late nineties.

6

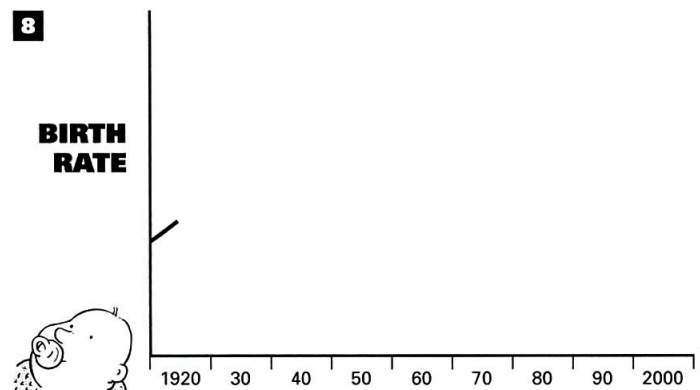


7



Defence spending had been in steady decline throughout the sixties and seventies, but took off in the early eighties, nearly doubling in the space of five years. From then onwards it continued to grow, but at a slower pace, until the late nineties. The trend then reversed, and the figure started to fall gradually.

8

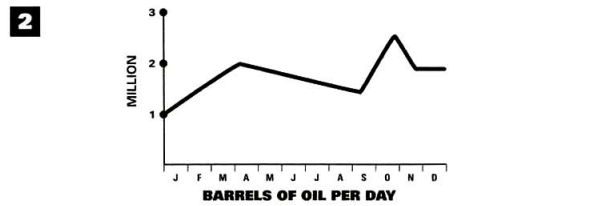
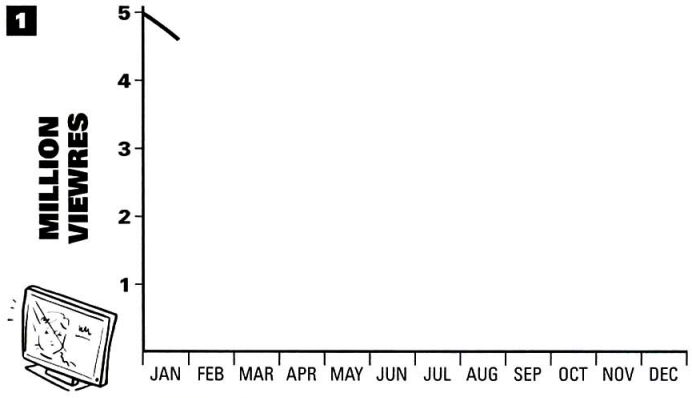


Describing trends

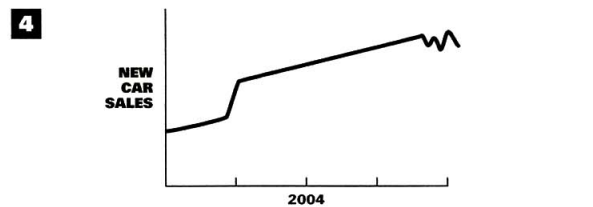
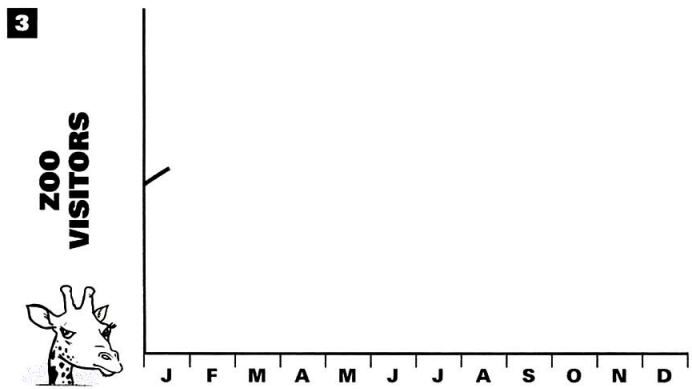
IELTS focus

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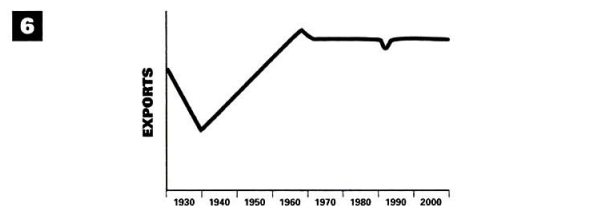
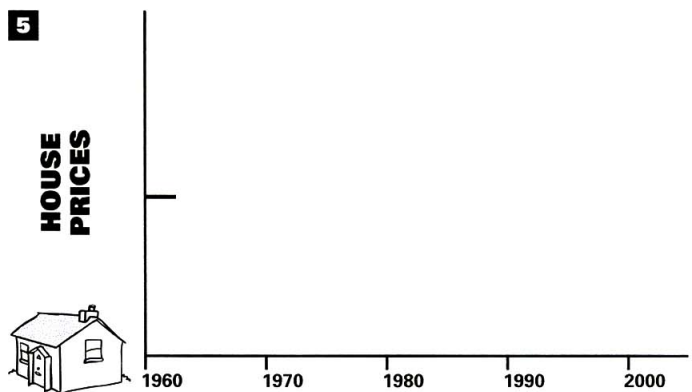
Listen to your partner, and complete the chart on her/his worksheet. Is your graph the same as your partner's? Then reverse roles.



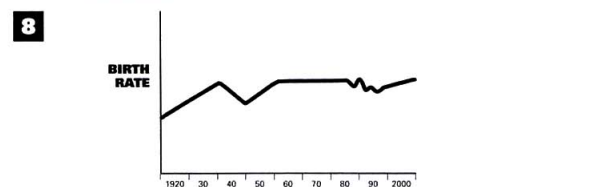
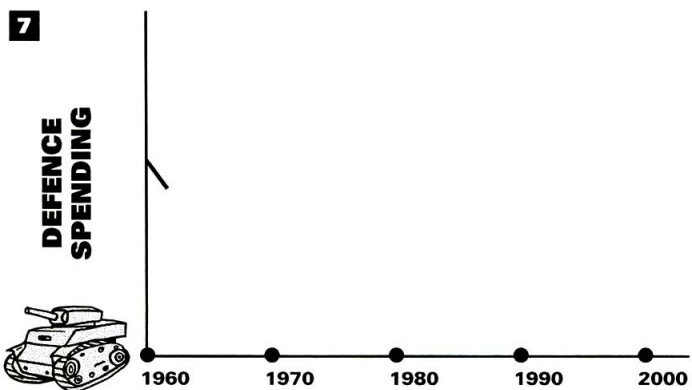
Oil imports rose sharply to peak at 2 million barrels a day in early April. They then steadily fell back to 1.5 million, but suddenly rocketed in September, reaching a new peak of 2.5 million in late October. The figure then fell again, but from November onwards stabilized at just under 2 million.



Sales of new cars began the year low, but rose dramatically at the end of the first quarter. They continued to rise steadily, although there were some fluctuations towards the end of the year.



Exports fell dramatically throughout the thirties, but then increased almost as rapidly as they had fallen, hitting a peak in the late sixties. They then dropped very slightly before stabilizing, although in the early nineties there was slight dip followed by a swift recovery and a further period of stability.



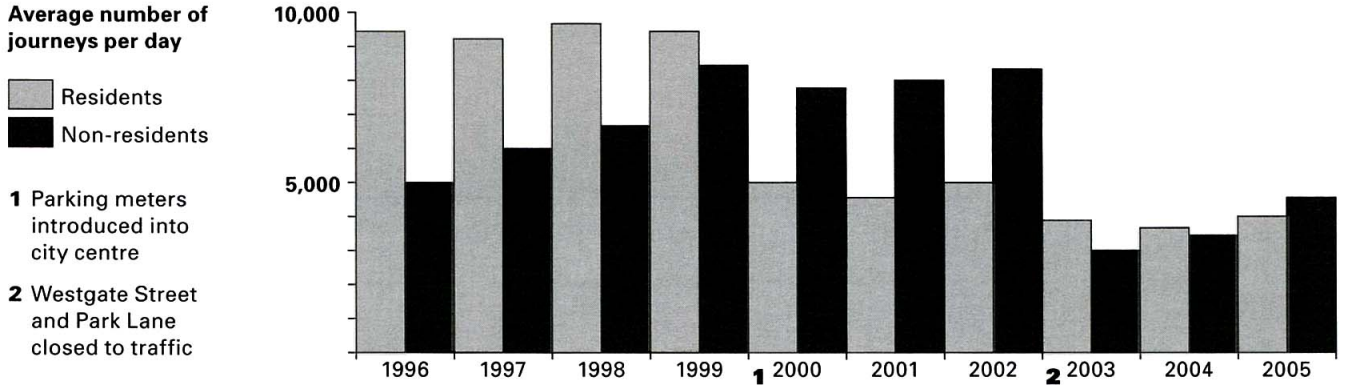
The birth rate increased steadily throughout the nineteen twenties and thirties, but by 1950 had gone back down to mid-twenties levels. It picked up again in the fifties, then remained stable until the mid-eighties. From then onwards it fluctuated, but the general trend was downwards (although since the end of the nineties it has started to show signs of a slight increase.)

Charts and tables

Complete the texts using the words below.

altered	exceeding	meanwhile	period	subsequent
approximately	fluctuated	onwards	stable	trend
average	halving	peak	rocketed	upward
decline	hovering	plummeted	steadily	

CAR JOURNEYS INTO THE CITY CENTRE



The graph shows the number of car journeys into the city centre made by residents and non-residents over a ten year period. In 1996 an **1**..... of just under 10,000 journeys per day were being made by residents, while **2**..... half that number were made by non-residents. Over the **3**..... three years, resident journeys remained reasonably **4**....., while non-resident journeys increased each year, **5**..... 8,000 per day in 1999. In early 2000, parking meters were introduced into the city centre, and this had the effect of virtually **6**..... resident traffic, although non-resident traffic decreased only slightly. By the end of 2002, the number of resident journeys had not **7**..... significantly, but non-resident journeys had risen to their 1999 level. At this point, Westgate Street and Park Lane were pedestrianised. This resulted in a dramatic **8**..... in non-resident traffic, and a slight decrease in resident traffic. From this point **9**....., resident traffic remained more or less at the same level, while non-resident traffic resumed its **10**..... trend, reaching nearly 5,000 journeys per day in 2005.

CHANNEL 7 NEWS VIEWING FIGURES (millions of viewers per day)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1pm	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
6pm	4.8	4.4	3.9	4.6	3.9	4.2	3.7	3.3	4.0	3.5	3.2	3.3
9.30pm	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.1	2.3	1.1	2.4	2.6	2.7	3.0
11pm					0.2	1.7	3.4	4.1	2.8	1.9	1.4	0.9

(The 11pm news was introduced on 1st May)

The table shows the average daily viewing figures for Channel 7 News over a 12-month **1**..... . The figure for the 1pm News remained fairly stable, **2**..... at around 1.3 million throughout the year. The figure for the 6pm News began the year at 4.8 million. It **3**....., but the general **4**..... was downwards, and it ended the year at 3.4 million. The figure for the 9.30 News gradually increased from 3.2 million viewers per day in January to a **5**..... of 3.8 million in May. However, this month saw the introduction of the 11pm News, and the figure for the 9.30 News **6**....., hitting a low-point of 1.1 million in August. In the same period, the figure for the 11pm news **7**..... from 0.2 million to 4.1 million. At this point, the trend reversed. From August onwards, the figure for the 9.30 news grew **8**....., reaching 3 million by the end of the year. **9**....., the figure for the 11pm News declined sharply, and in December fell below the 1 million mark.

Charts and tables

Define the words in your half of the crossword for your partner.
All the words are connected with the worksheet you have just completed.

1 UPWARD

2 MEANWHILE

3 CHART

4 LOWPOINT

5 HALVE

6 PLUMMET

7 PERIOD

8 ONWARDS

9 EXCEED

10 ALTER

11 DECLINE

12 FIGURE

IELTS focus

In this part of the exam, you usually have to write about data in the form of a graph, chart or table.

You have to write a minimum of 150 words, and the style should be appropriate for giving to a tutor or examiner.