

IETLS
ESSAYS COLLECTION
(HOWTODOIELTS)

Some people believe that the experiences children have before they go to school will have the greatest effect on their future life. Others argue that experiences gained when they are teenagers have a bigger influence.

Discuss both views and give your own opinions.

Many would argue that experiences with the greatest impact occur before one becomes a teenager. In my opinion, the most pivotal stages of development in fact take place during one's teenage years.

The argument for the primacy of childhood experiences is supported by years of psychological research. In the early 20th century, researchers such as Jean Piaget began to analyze and perform experiments on young children in order to verify theories about how the human mind develops. Over the last century, these studies have evolved and it is now commonly accepted in the field of psychology that very early experiences definitively shape one's later personality and identity. This is particularly the case when a child undergoes trauma such as abuse or neglect at home. These children are then more likely to have mental health disorders later in life and suffer generally from low self-esteem.

However, decisions made as a teenager are more directly impactful on the future. The arguments made above are compelling but also difficult to verify beyond the purely theoretical. The choices a teenager makes have tangible effects. Most teenagers begin to settle into distinct social groups that will help inform their future identity, take up potentially lasting hobbies, choose the sports they will play later in life, and may even decide on a future career. The experiences a teenager gains through these activities will in turn allow them to shift their focus in life, such as by pursuing a scientific rather than artistic field in higher education.

In conclusion, despite the research showing the impact of childhood development, there are more important practical life choices made as a late adolescent. Therefore, it is key that teenagers are supported fully by both parents and teachers.

The shortage of housing in big cities can cause severe consequences. Only government action can solve this problem.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some today argue that only governments are capable of countering problems in cities resulting from housing shortages. In my opinion, although governments should be the primary actors, individuals can also offer aid.

On the one hand, only governments have the authority to enact truly large-scale change. Governments by design make decisions for the benefit of the entire citizenry. An example of how this could relate to housing issues would be the urban planning in New York City over the last century. The authorities there had to contend with an unprecedented population surge in a limited urban area. They responded by building skyscrapers that could house many residents, expanding public transport, and constructing various highways to allow commuters to live nearby the city. These solutions could only have been successfully undertaken at the behest of the government.

However, though the role of individuals is less prominent, it still exists. In the previous example, voters in New York City were able to make their voices heard by voting for mayors and governors that best served them. In the event that the government is not addressing housing problems sufficiently, then citizens can write to their representatives, organize protests, or take more drastic action such as relocating to a new city. In the era of social media, it is now more possible than ever before for the average person to openly discuss these issues. Individuals will always find methods to pressure governments, including in areas related to housing.

In conclusion, I disagree with those who contend only government action can improve housing issues in major metropolitan areas as individuals can collectively always engender some degree of reform. Governments will ideally enact laws based on the needs of the general populace.

More and more people today are moving away from where their friends and family live.

Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?

Some feel the growing tendency for individuals to move away from where their friends and family live is a decidedly negative phenomenon. In my opinion, the perceived downsides related to social disintegration are overstated and do not supersede the benefits for individuals.

On the one hand, living apart from friends and family weakens social bonds. An individual living together with their family or a close group of friends will naturally spend time with them talking, preparing meals, doing housework, and generally being together. Strong bonds develop and the inverse is true as time apart typically leads to more tenuous emotional connections. For instance, a person who moves to a new country after university is likely to make new friends and may stay in touch with former connections as a formality. Over time, this person might feel lonely and struggle to maintain long-term relationships.

On the other hand, moving is often a catalyst for individual growth. Someone who moves to a new country for work or study is likely to encounter people from different backgrounds with a greater number of viewpoints and experiences than their former friends and family. Interacting with new people can lead to a broader range of interests and a keener understanding of other cultures. Moreover, many individuals leave their hometowns in order to escape toxic situations. Families can be controlling and limiting, either intentionally or unintentionally, and moving to a new location allows a person to choose their friends, break old patterns of behavior, and achieve better mental health.

In conclusion, despite the threat of weakened familial and friendship bonds, there are significant benefits for the individual that make this trend positive. A balance is needed but this change is not inherently objectionable.

Some people say patriotism causes problems and is negative overall. Others feel that it is beneficial for society at large.

Do the advantages of patriotism outweigh its disadvantages?

Many feel that patriotism has a beneficial impact overall. In my opinion, although there are legitimate reasons to be proud of one's country, patriotic feelings do generally produce more negatives than positives.

Proponents of patriotism argue it is a natural impulse with tangible benefits. Firstly, a strong sense of patriotism can be motivating. Individuals who have pride in their country are more likely to work hard for the common good. This applies to a variety of positions in society and may include soldiers serving in the military, healthcare workers during times of national emergencies, and even common workers contributing to a flourishing national economy. Secondly, individuals can use investment in their country's successes to support their own self-esteem. Most people support their country similar to how sports fans root for a team. Success elevates their mood and connects them to a wider community.

However, patriotism is often taken to extremes. This occurs most frequently with vulnerable segments of society. For instance, it is common for military recruiters to target less affluent individuals. If they serve in a war abroad, then there is a strong likelihood they will later suffer from a mental or physical handicap. More generally, most people employ patriotism as a proxy for their own personal achievements. This can be evidenced during the furor surrounding the Olympics every four years. This quintessentially patriotic event costs taxpayers tremendously, inflames tensions between rival countries, and distracts from investing time in personal development. At best, patriotism is a marginal net negative and at worst it can foster an unhealthy dependency.

In conclusion, though patriotism is beneficial economically and in terms of one's self-esteem at times, the drawbacks related to disassociation are more significant. Mental health should not be dependent on the fortunes of one's compatriots.

The best curriculum is not one based on a static body of knowledge, but one which teaches students to cope with change.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many would argue that schools today should focus more on adaptability rather than traditional, discrete subjects. In my opinion, although there is a strong argument for this contention given the disruptive nature of modern industries, it is nonetheless important to preserve the traditional role of subjects in a curriculum.

Those who support this reform contend that the skills needed for modern workforces are changing rapidly. Past generations could rely on subjects learned in high school and university, such as those related to accounting, finance, and so on, providing lasting job security. This guarantee is less stable now due to advances in automation specifically and technology generally. At many companies, human workers are being phased out of specific roles and entire jobs and replaced by cheap software. Therefore, schools should teach adaptable methods for handling change that will help them cope with an uncertain future job market.

However, traditional subjects provide an invaluable base of knowledge for the average student. By learning about core subjects a person becomes more well-rounded intellectually. In high school and university this likely includes math, literature, the sciences, history, physical education, economics, philosophy, art, and so on. Naturally, most of these subjects will not yield practical skills that are used on a daily basis throughout life and that is the source of many later complaints about school curricula. However, it is impossible to know the final utility of a given skill or piece of information. A good example of this would be the classes that Steve Jobs took about calligraphy in university which later informed the lasting design of computer interfaces and word processors.

In conclusion, despite pragmatic employment concerns, it is essential for students to possess foundational knowledge about multiple disciplines. Moreover, a binary distinction between subject knowledge and flexible skills is not always necessary.

Weddings are getting bigger and more expensive.

What is the reason for this?

Is it a positive or negative development?

Weddings around the world have become more expensive and larger in recent decades. In my opinion, this is a natural progression and is positive in the vast majority of contexts.

One explanation for more lavish weddings is increasingly higher expectations coupled with a burgeoning global middle class. It is a natural desire for humans to strive to surpass previous standards. Any person who has attended weddings in the past will naturally attempt to exceed what they have experienced both in terms of size and expense. This propensity to exceed past achievements is combined with increased disposable income. Economies around the world, particularly in developing nations, have risen dramatically recently, enabling individuals to spend on a variety of luxuries including memorable wedding parties.

I believe this development is positive overall due to the impact it has on the average person. Admittedly, excessive spending in any area can be a negative if it greatly exceeds one's earnings. Assuming a person is planning a wedding that will not hinder them financially in the future, then it is a massive positive for the bride, groom, and all attendees. Most people, even beyond those getting married and their family, consider weddings to be meaningful and enduring memories. The small and large bursts of happiness produced by such an event in the aggregate are worth more than a wide range of other expenses that individuals often prioritize.

In conclusion, weddings are larger and costlier today because of raised expectations and this is largely positive given the impact on individuals. It is nonetheless essential that weddings are not taken to extreme excesses beyond one's means.

Some people claim that too much focus and resources have been spent to protect wild animals and birds.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many today would argue that there is undue emphasis on the safeguarding of various species of wild animals and birds. In my opinion, though there are legitimate practical objections, it is a positive overall given the potential impact of abandoning such efforts.

Opponents of current conservation initiatives argue they are an unnecessary waste of valuable resources. The natural development of ecosystems involves animals going extinct and fighting for survival. Human intervention can therefore be seen as unnatural to a certain degree as animals that adapt will flourish and others will become obsolete. Added to this is the economic burden. The majority of endangered animals are in developing nations in Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America. National governments in these countries have a variety of other concerns related to healthcare, education, employment, and so on that take precedence over animal populations.

However, humans should protect animals as their disappearance is irreversible. The issue of responsibility is not, to my mind, a compelling enough argument as blame can be assigned in a number of directions and is too self-righteous to be persuasive. Instead, it can be argued that permanent damage to the Earth will impact future generations. The Earth depends on biodiversity not only for the development of new medicines and the functioning of a healthy food chain but also in order to showcase its varied expressions of life. As the only known home to life in the universe, it would be short-sighted to eliminate species of animals and damage this reputation.

In conclusion, despite the financial cost, it is essential to protect wild animals which may go extinct. Governments must sometimes prioritize the future over short-term considerations.

In some places, old age is valued, while in other cultures youth is considered more important.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

In certain nations, the interests of elderly people are prioritized over younger generations. In my opinion, although young people are important for economic reasons, valuing an older population is a revealing commitment to human dignity.

Those who value the youth in a nation argue they form a country's economic base. There is little doubt that the majority of all workforces globally are comprised of young adults and middle-aged citizens. The average working age in nearly all industries is around 30. Young people have the energy, passion, and motivation to work hard and achieve not only for the good of society but also to establish a higher standard of living for themselves and their families. It is therefore logical that governments should ensure younger generations have ample access to education and the resources needed to become contributing members of society. They will contribute the most in all likelihood.

However, human progress is about more than simply utilitarian benefits. In the past, it might have been necessary for human civilization to cruelly neglect older populations when they were fighting wars and resources were scarce. That is no longer the situation. Most countries, even developing ones, can now afford to provide healthcare for all citizens and some degree of retirement support. By undertaking these kindnesses, humans distinguish themselves clearly from their basest and most animalistic instincts. This can be understood as the surest sign that humanity is an evolved species culturally, socially, and emotionally and trumps any materialistic concerns related to growing already mature economies.

In conclusion, though there are utilitarian reasons to support youth movements, it is more important and principled to value older people. This is already done in some cultures but should be more widespread.

A rise in the standard of living in a country often only seems to benefit cities rather than rural areas.

What problems can this cause?

How might these problems be reduced?

When standards of living increase, it is primarily urban residents, not those in the countryside, who benefit. In my opinion, this can lead to opposite problems related to population density and is best mitigated by governmental action.

Inequality in terms of standard of living engenders population problems for cities and rural regions. Cities have become over-populated in the last century as they offer a wider range of educational, occupational, and recreational options. Elevated population density means that although residents can enjoy a higher standard of living generally, they must also overcome concomitant effects from overcrowding such as more traffic, less sanitary conditions, and higher crime rates. The inverse problem exists outside cities as residents leave and locals struggle to earn a living in sparsely populated towns and villages.

These related problems can best be countered by the authorities. There are various initiatives that could be implemented. One real-world example of this would be in Japan where the government in recent years has addressed dwindling population numbers in the countryside by auctioning off country homes cheaply. Prospective home-owners are often able to buy houses nearly for free if they agree to live and work in a town with few residents. Another possible measure would be for governments to invest more in urban infrastructure. Since migrations to cities are likely inevitable, this is a more pragmatic tactic.

In conclusion, the inverse issues created for rural and urban areas by rising standards of living can be effectively controlled if governments intervene. This issue will only become more pressing as the global middle class continues to grow.

Some people think that the government should strictly control the supply of fresh water, as it is a limited resource, while others it should not be regulated.

Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Many believe that it is crucial for governments to oversee public supplies of fresh water. In my opinion, this is an advisable strategy though there are natural risks that must be taken into consideration.

The most significant drawbacks to this proposal are the possibilities of government malfeasance and incompetence. Governments are notoriously bureaucratic organizations that often waste time and money while not greatly furthering the interests of the general public. A pertinent example of this would be the lengthy litigation battles concerning the cleanup of polluted reservoirs in many democratic nations. By the time any progress is made, the harm for some residents may already be irreversible. There is the chance that the government is corrupt. It is common for both elected and unelected officials to be vulnerable to bribery that results in prioritizing corporate and private interests above average citizens.

Nonetheless, government control of fresh water supplies is the best guarantee of public safety. Today, in many arid nations, such as those near Sub-Saharan Africa, finding fresh water is a massive challenge. Conflicts over limited water resources often contribute to political instability. In an ideal world, a just government could ensure water is equally and fairly distributed. Moreover, there are potential safety concerns. Water can easily be contaminated by industrial factors including rainwater pollution, landfill seepage, and new procedures like fracking. If governments regulate water with disinterested autonomy, they will be able to protect the general public from the excesses of corporate recklessness.

In conclusion, despite the potential that governments will poorly manage water supplies, they are still the best protectors of public health and safety. This is why the supervision of water authorities is also key.

Some people believe that engaging in an active pastime does more to develop children's life skills than time spent reading.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many today would argue that the best way to aid in a child's life skills development is to take part in active pursuits, rather than more passive ones such as reading. I am generally in agreement though reading has become increasingly important in contemporary society.

Those who argue against this contention point to the primacy of reading. In the past, large proportions of the world's population were illiterate. Today, children must be able to read in order to interact with the world online. It could be argued that reading, and writing by extension, are the two most important life skills children can learn. Without them, children will feel alienated from mainstream culture and not be able to stay in touch with friends and family, apply online for jobs, and do research on the internet.

However, reading skills develop organically for children and there are more critical skills that are often neglected in a technological society. Most people would relate to the experience of watching their grandparents display a wide range of life skills including automotive maintenance, cooking, and sewing. These life skills have diverse applicability. A person who is adept with their hands will be able to handle a variety of household tasks, repairs, and renovations. Moreover, there are less concrete benefits. These activities are likely to make an individual more creative, and physically and mentally healthier. Research has shown that more time spent being active, and less time on devices, improves mood, develops lateral thinking ability, and lessens the risk of chronic anxiety disorders.

In conclusion, despite the centrality of reading due to advances in technology, truly valuable life skills require more active participation. Unfortunately, shifts in society related to technology are likely irreversible.

In some countries, there has been an increase in the number of advertisements which try to persuade children to buy snacks, toys, and other goods. Parents often claim that these ads are unfair.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some are of the opinion that it is unethical to advertise to children. In my opinion, although at certain ages these advertisements should be permitted, in general children are too vulnerable a segment of the population.

Those who argue in favor of advertising to children point out it is not necessarily unfair. There are situations when even these proponents would concede advertising is exploitive, such as when there are commercials for cereals with high sugar content during cartoon shows. However, this is only a single instance. Many children, especially as they get older, are capable of thinking rationally, controlling their need for instant gratification, and would therefore like to be informed about new products they are interested in. If a child who is 10 years old sees an advertisement for a water park or sporting event, they might convince their parents to enjoy a fun, outdoors activity.

Nonetheless, most children are negatively impacted by advertisements as they lack self-control. Adults are more capable of inhibiting their desires while children are not experienced enough and their cognitive development does not allow for higher-order reasoning. For instance, if a young child sees an advertisement for alcohol or a violent videogame, there is a strong likelihood they will want to try it. Even if they do not actually get an opportunity to use an age-inappropriate product, the appeal of these products has already been deeply implanted. Recent research supports the contention that habits and impressions formed in early childhood are harder to leave behind later in life.

In conclusion, despite the feasibility of certain advertisements for older children, most marketing directed at impressionable children should be banned. This will be a difficult process to manage but many countries have undertaken it already.

Some experts say for road safety cyclists should pass a test before being allowed on public roads.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

There have been recent calls for mandatory tests for cyclists before they are permitted on public motorways. In my opinion, though this proposal must be managed properly it is advisable.

Detractors argue this reform is essentially a complex method of fixing a problem that does not exist. Riding a bike is a fairly simple skill that most people learn as children. It is unclear at what age such a test and license should be logistically required. The extra paperwork and bureaucracy would make it a negative for both cyclists and those charged with enforcing this law. If passed, there is also the strong likelihood that it would be tokenistic. Cyclists might be able to pass a basic written test and demonstrate the ability to ride a bike but that would not ensure they will actually be safe riders.

However, in my opinion, there exists a need since most cyclists are not particularly cognizant of the hierarchy of vehicles. In most cities, cyclists are considered a menace or an annoyance and increase the odds of accidents. Many cyclists feel they are essentially the same as cars and weave into traffic where cars and motorbikes traveling at faster speeds rightly belong. If there was better education and a law that required cyclists to learn unwritten rules of etiquette, this would greatly enhance road conditions for motorists and pedestrians. For instance, in certain European nations, cyclists must apply for licenses and this has created a culture where bicycles fit into the flow of traffic more seamlessly.

In conclusion, although there are significant practical hurdles, I believe requiring cyclists to apply for licenses addresses a key public road issue. Governments should therefore enact this or a similar regulation.

Many supermarkets are selling more and more products that are imported from other countries instead of selling food that is locally sourced.

What are the reasons for this?

Is this a positive or negative development?

Some feel that supermarkets today sell too many imported products compared to the number of locally produced ones. In my opinion, this is a result of changes in consumer tastes and it is a negative overall.

The main cause behind this phenomenon is an exponential shift among consumers. Over the last century advances in sea and air transport have allowed supermarkets to import products from all over the world. As a result, an individual living in New England can try exotic fruits like mangos and pomegranates that cannot normally be grown in a four season climate. Once a person tries a new food and enjoys it, they are more likely to sample other new fruits and vegetables. They then recommend those foods to others and shifts in taste quickly become mainstream and irreversible.

This change is negative as it hurts local farmers and the environment. Local producers must now compete with large companies that source products such as bananas at lower prices and undercut farmers. Consumers naturally buy the cheaper products and the result is that local farmers often cannot survive without government subsidies or must close their operations. Moreover, this development leads to greater consumption of fossil fuels. Imported products allow consumers to shop out of season, for example eating asparagus year round, but this requires shipping products globally and increasing the burning of fossil fuels involved in transportation.

In conclusion, though supermarkets now enable shoppers to have more varied palates, this poses tremendous risks for local producers and the environment. Therefore, tariffs on imports should be high.

Today, many young people spend too much of their free time at shopping malls. This can be considered negative for young people and society generally.

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

In certain countries, it has becoming increasingly common for young people to spend their free time at malls and this is often viewed as a negative. In my opinion, though there are more productive activities, it should be considered a positive overall given the most likely alternatives.

Proponents of this statement point out that malls are typically not a productive use of one's time. A person who goes to a mall is likely shopping, watching a movie, hanging out idly with friends, eating from a fast food establishment, or engaging in another similarly passive activity. A better use of time could involve playing sports, reading a book, creating art, or working. The rise of malls globally beginning in the 1980s signaled a period when younger individuals strayed from healthy activities and took part in more socially and personally subversive pastimes.

However, the fears detailed above are overblown compared to other free time activities. These days, most young people who are free spend an outsized proportion of their time doing truly unhealthy, passive activities. These largely center around technology and include wasting time on social media, taking pictures, playing online games, chatting online, streaming movies and videos, and using the internet. The mall is now actually a better use of one's time since it likely will involve in-person socializing, precisely the domain that is most at risk for younger generations and society today.

In conclusion, though time spent at malls is not the ideal activity for a younger person, it is preferable to a more passive lifestyle and should therefore not be condemned. It is likely, however, that malls will continue to decline in popularity in the future so this concern will become less relevant.

Today, TV channels broadcast men's sports shows more than women's sport shows.

Why is this the case?

Should TV channels give equal showtime for each?

It is common practice for most TV networks to focus more on men's athletics rather than women's. In my opinion, this is a natural byproduct of the history of sports and there should be more equal emphasis depending on the sport in question.

Men's sports are more popular because they have developed further. In the past, athletics was always the primary domain of men and women were relegated to more domestic roles. Modern society understands this was discriminatory but the result, higher quality of play among male sports, cannot be argued. A good example of this would be professional basketball where the male leagues, such as the NBA, feature some of the greatest athletes in the world, executing complex coaching schemes, and consistently showcasing high skill levels. Women's basketball, while it has developed considerably in the last two decades, is not the same level of entertainment though this may change in the coming years.

As this situation may require time to remedy, only the ratings can justify equal programming time. There are sports where this is already the case essentially, such as tennis, where women receive equal prize money and the ratings are comparable. In the United States, this also applies for international football tournaments, where the female team regularly advances far beyond their male counterparts. In these examples, it is warranted to give female athletics at least, if not more, broadcast time. However, mandating this policy for all sports before they are ready and the audience exists is likely to produce a strong backlash and in fact hinder the progress of women's sports.

In conclusion, there are institutional reasons for the disparity in the time television channels dedicate to men's and women's sports and this should be corrected on a case by case basis. Viewers will decide themselves which sports deserve the most attention, regardless of gender.

Some people think the main purpose of school is to turn children into good citizens and workers, rather than to benefit them as individuals.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many are of the opinion that the primary role of schools is to create good citizens, instead of simply working towards individual betterment. In my opinion, schools should aim to elevate the individual, not impose conformity.

Those in favor of this statement argue the value of a well-functioning society. As the world develops and there are advances in medicine, safety, working conditions, and so on it is easy to forget that this level of comfort requires sacrifices for the common good. Individuals must work at companies to stimulate the economy and the public must have a basic sense of community in order to live peaceably with one's neighbors. School is where this education can begin. Teachers can explicitly and implicitly guide students to socially beneficial behaviors and educate them well enough to establish a viable future career.

However, I would argue that focusing on the individual will accomplish the goals detailed above but also be mentally healthier. Students who are taught to share, work well in teams, and develop their talents will contribute to society as a byproduct of pursuing their own seemingly selfish interests. Moreover, there may be times when the focus on society will come at the cost of the mental health of individuals. For instance, students who are taught to withhold their personal viewpoints in school, as is common in many authoritarian nations, may harbor resentment and not feel they can fully express themselves in a free environment. Psychological research has shown that the key to healthy growth is feeling safe to express oneself without fear of reprisals and repercussions.

In conclusion, although there is a valid argument in favor of social stability, schools should aim to produce healthy, industrious individuals. Naturally, these goals are not mutually exclusive and the overlap should be emphasized.

In many countries, children are becoming overweight and unhealthy. Some people think that the government has the responsibility to solve this problem.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some feel that the current global obesity epidemic should be primarily handled by governments. In my opinion, though the state has a key role to play, this is mainly the duty of parents.

Those who argue in favor of this contention point to the power of governmental regulation. Governments hold this responsibility not just because their job is to safeguard public welfare but also because they are endowed with the authority to enact real reforms. In some countries, there are strict laws about the products that can be advertised during children's programming and their maximum sugar and fat content. Countries that do not have strong regulatory bodies to create and enforce these laws naturally have considerably higher rates of obesity. In an ideal world, governments would be more responsible for public health in this crucial area.

However, since governments often fail to protect the public interest, parents should take responsibility themselves. Parents can best achieve this by leading by example. If children are not given sugary soft drinks, candy, and eat a diet constituted of mainly vegetables and fruits, they are likely to develop lifelong, positive eating habits. For instance, in nations such as France where food and nutrition are taken very seriously, the majority of children do not grow up addicted to unhealthy American fast food and obesity rates are lower. Admittedly, this can be difficult for parents from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who may struggle with finding the time, energy, and finances to provide nutritious meals for their children.

In conclusion, government can regulate certain industries but parents must themselves instill healthy habits in their children for there to be a meaningful impact. This issue may have reached a high point and must now be addressed.

Some believe that younger family members should be legally responsible for supporting older family members when they become physically, mentally and financially unable to look after themselves.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

There have been recent proposals for laws that would require younger generations to look after older family members when they are no longer capable of doing so themselves. In my opinion, these laws are ethically responsible yet should not be enacted considering the many circumstances they fail to take into account.

Supporters argue elderly care is a basic responsibility. As parents age, there is a near absolute chance they will have some combination of physical, mental, or financial difficulties. Since most older people are unable to work full-time jobs, the duty of care naturally falls to either the state or their families. The government has other concerns and their care is impersonal, as in the case of a state-funded nursing home. Children, who have an obligation to their original care-givers, are in much better positions to provide loving support. This could include living with them, supplying money, or helping them with medical bills.

However, this discounts the many contexts in which this care may not be appropriate. Many parents do not want to be a burden to their children and would rather look after themselves later in life. Others may not have been there for their children, or even been abusive. Moreover, the help that children offer will likely hinder their own progress in life. If they are wealthy, this is not a major concern as they can hire someone to look after their parents and the financial support will not be a burden. However, most working class families will struggle to advance socially when slowed by a duty of care for elderly parents, especially if this includes expensive medical bills.

In conclusion, despite the moral justifications, there are simply too many situations where these laws would result in injustices and inconveniences. Individuals should be given the opportunity to look after themselves.

Many people argue that in order to improve educational quality, high school students should be encouraged to question and offer criticisms on their teachers. Others think this will lead to a loss of respect and discipline in the classroom.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some today contend that high school students should have greater latitude to critique and question their teachers, despite the risks this presents for classroom management. I am strongly in agreement as this enables the ideal classroom environment.

Critics of this shift in mentality point out that the teacher position requires respect. A teacher who is consistently being interrupted by students will not be able to lecture and assign and mark homework well. Many students might exploit a rule that encourages questions in order to intentionally derail lessons and undermine the teacher. There is also the possibility that the negative attitude of some students will create general unrest that is not conducive to learning. However, I would argue that the appearance of respect, when in reality most students question their teachers in private, holds little actual value beyond preserving unwarranted pride.

Moreover, the free discussion of ideas is essential to the best learning. Students who are sitting quietly and feigning interest in class are likely to become less motivated. On the other hand, if a class is studying a work of literature or an event in history, students will engage more fully in lessons given the opportunity to ask questions. By asking questions, even if these queries are loosely defined as criticisms of what is being taught, they will suddenly have a reason to learn and the lesson will become more memorable for all students. The questions might also lead the class to novel insights as long as the teacher is confident enough to embark on collaborative explorations.

In conclusion, although certain educational institutions fear that questions may undermine teachers, they in fact are the foundation of a positive learning environment. Schools should embrace academic rigor in all its forms.

The governments should give each citizen a basic income so that they have enough money to live on, even if they are unemployed.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some today are calling for the institution of a universal basic income for all citizens. In my opinion, while this addresses legitimate fears concerning automation, it would be ill-advised overall as work is central to the human condition.

Those who advocate this legislation point out unemployment risks. Wealth is today accumulated amongst a very small percentage of billionaires. In the future, this situation will be exacerbated by rising corporate investment into advanced robotics and artificial intelligence. For instance, 50 years ago there were thousands of jobs for those working in factories assembling cars and other products. Today, the vast majority of that work is done by machines and humans must locate more creative avenues of employment. The fear that someday most workers will no longer have a viable role in society does justify discussion of a universal wage.

However, these future possibilities are not assured and work is still an essential part of being human. Each person has duty in their personal lives, typically as part of a family, as well as in public through their work. Only by fulfilling each responsibility fully will a person feel connected to the history and present of human progress. A universal wage would allow individuals to focus exclusively on their family and their hobbies but it is nearly impossible to predict possible deeper ramifications. Individuals may lose the motivation to innovate and the world would, in that case, be run by unimaginative technocrats and machines.

In conclusion, though it seems that capitalism will someday necessitate a reform such as a basic income for all, I believe there is enough value in work that alternatives should be pursued instead. Idealistic dreams of a world without work are naive and short-sighted.

Many doctors recommend that older people exercise regularly, but most patients do not follow an exercise routine.

Why do you think this happens?

How can people be encouraged to exercise regularly?

A large proportion of healthcare professionals find that their advice to elderly people concerning exercise is not heeded. In my opinion, this is due to practical concerns and the best encouragement would be through government initiatives.

The reasons senior citizens have difficulty staying fit are physical and economic. Firstly, older people naturally suffer from a range of minor or major and debilitating conditions such as poor cardiovascular health, arthritis, and dementia. Each presents unique challenges to a regular exercise regular routine. Moreover, older people are often unable to afford the costs associated with learning a new sport or joining a gym. In the United States most older people survive on a fixed income and must set aside money for medical bills. Sports equipment is simply not a priority.

There is little that can be done to deter the natural ageing process but the financial impediments can be effectively tackled by building more public parks and facilities. An older person living in an urban area may lack easy access to a park or the transportation to travel to one far away. However, if there was one within walking distance they would be encouraged to exercise habitually. This habit could also be reinforced by social interactions. Many older people are lonely and seek companions from their generation. By making friends and regularly meeting to walk to exercise in the park, as is common in many East Asian nations, they can create lasting bonds that will also encourage them to stay fit.

In conclusion, many older people are physically or economically unable to exercise regularly and the this can be partly remedied with greater investment in public spaces. The benefits of such a reform would impact other segments of the population as well.

Some people think that enjoying the present is more important than planning for the future for both countries and individuals.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many feel that being fully present in the moment is more valuable than thinking of the future in terms of both nations and their residents. In my opinion, this claim is untrue and shortsighted.

Firstly, countries must look to the future to ensure the safe flourishing of all citizens. A country that simply looks to maximize current moments might make unwise decisions that could quickly have catastrophic repercussions. A well-known example of this would be the actions not taken by the United States government in the build-up to The Great Recession of 2007 – 2009. Authorities and governing bodies ignored the over-leveraging of assets and the potential for foreclosures on real estate properties. When the worst scenario occurred, the result was that millions lost their homes and the entire world plunged into a period of stagnation. This same principle applies generally beyond economics and includes the military, medicine, social welfare, and so on.

Secondly, the average person can best attain quality living standards through careful preparation. Admittedly, this can lead to anxiety and a feeling of dissociation with reality. These potential byproducts nonetheless pale in comparison to the risk of not providing for one's future. For instance, a person who does not study hard in school or apply themselves fully to their career is likely to always face financial pressure. This pressure will itself engender anxiety. In extreme situations, such a person may fail to integrate productively with society. In contrast, someone who thinks about the future, invests wisely, and makes logical decisions is more likely to achieve a sense of happiness and fulfillment.

In conclusion, looking to the future guarantees a higher standard of living and the preservation of various national benefits. Countries in particular must always prioritize consideration of future threats.

Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Others, however, think that change is always good.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

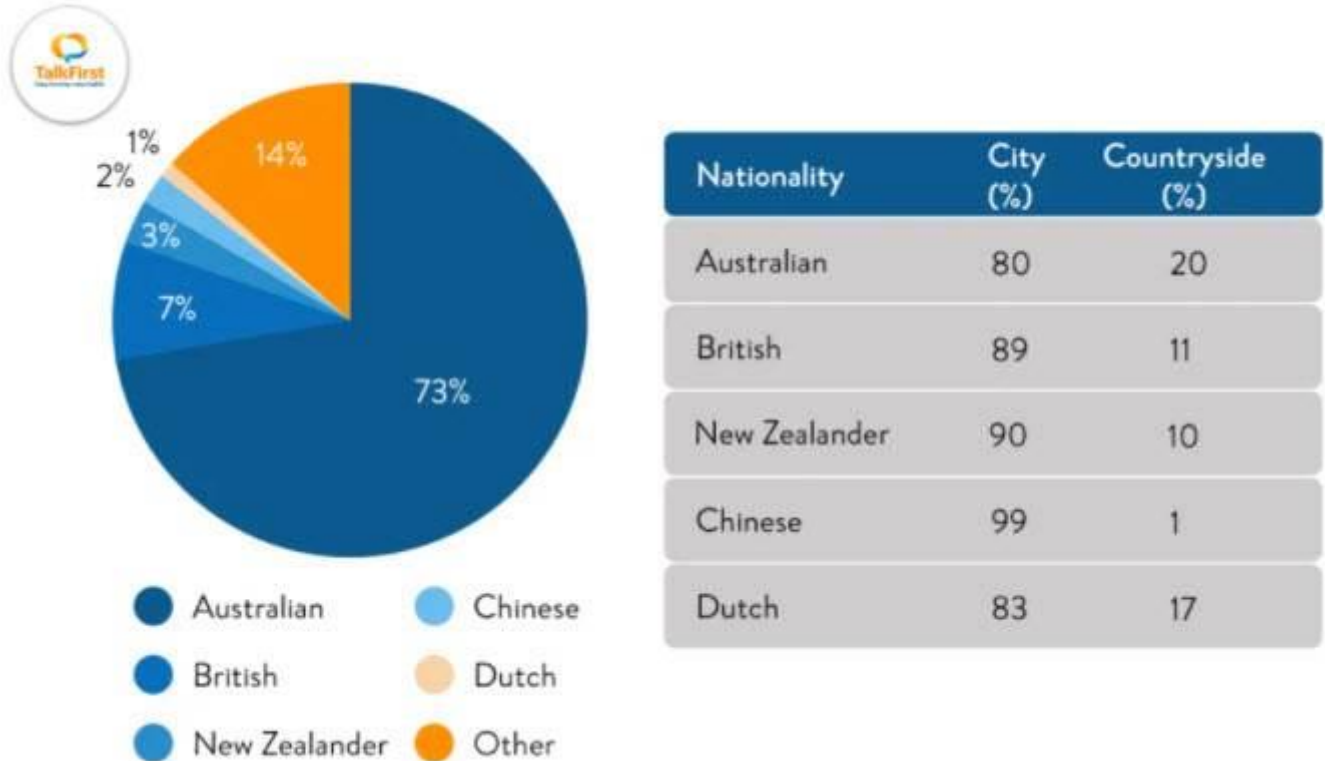
Many people feel that change should be embraced without qualification while others believe it is better to avoid new situations. In my opinion, though change can be positive in certain contexts, it should not be pursued as valuable in itself.

Those in favor of change argue it is nearly always positive. Examples of good changes might include moving to a new city, starting a new job, finding a new life companion, or even something as simple as getting a pet. Each of these decisions is a means of addressing a desire or feeling of dissatisfaction. One change that has become prevalent in recent decades relates to nutrition and exercise. Such lifestyle changes are based on research that has definitively shown the importance of a healthy diet and identified foods low in certain kinds of fats and carbohydrates. Combined with weekly exercise, the results are superior fitness and improved longevity.

However, change is, more often than not, a means of disregarding one's responsibilities. Many individuals change jobs or leave relationships simply because they feel they have lost their passion. This effort to re-energize is typically unsuccessful because outward changes do little to alleviate internal problems. Therefore, in the majority of cases, change is either an excuse to justify selfish behavior or a temporary and superficial solution. The best-known example of this would be the classic 'mid-life crisis' that particularly affects men as they age and decide their life is not fulfilling their most basic desires. Ultimately, most people would be better served by focusing on improving their current situation rather than seeking transitory and exaggerated new experiences.

In conclusion, change should not be sought as a means of escaping one's primary duties. Change should be an organic process and it is therefore advisable individuals do not pursue it as a goal generally.

The table and pie chart illustrate populations in Australia according to different nationalities and areas.

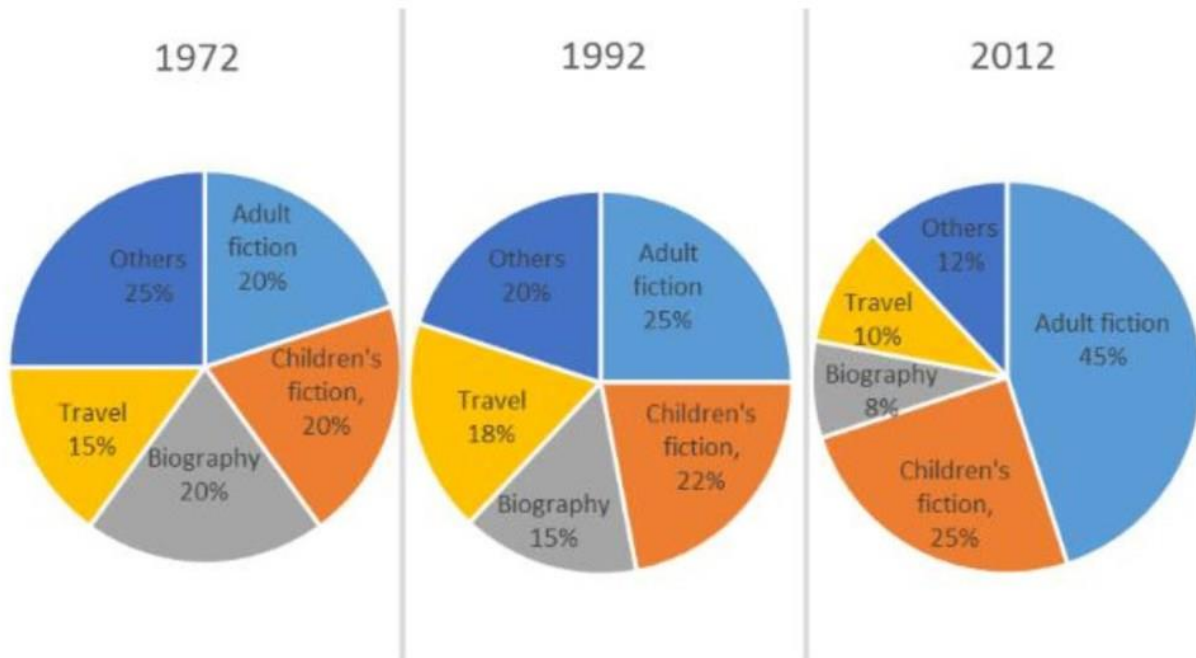


The pie chart and table **detail** population **figures** in Australia and if residents tended to live in **rural** or **urban** areas. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent **that the** vast majority of the population is Australian, **followed by sizeable** numbers for other and British nationals, and more marginal figures for New Zealanders, Chinese, and the Dutch. All demographics live **overwhelmingly** in cities, especially individuals from China.

The pie chart indicates that 73% of the Australian population is **made up** of Australians themselves. This figure is followed **distantly** by other at 14%, residents from Great Britain at 7%, New Zealanders at 3%, Chinese at 2%, and people from the Netherlands at just 1%.

In terms of livings areas, Australians are most likely to live outside cities, though 80% still live in urban environments. Similarly, 83% of the Dutch live in cities and 17% in the countryside. British and New Zealand residents display **nearly identical** proportions with around 90% in cities. Finally, the Chinese live **predominately** in the cities (99%).

The pie charts below show the percentage of five kinds of books sold by a bookseller between 1972 and 2012.

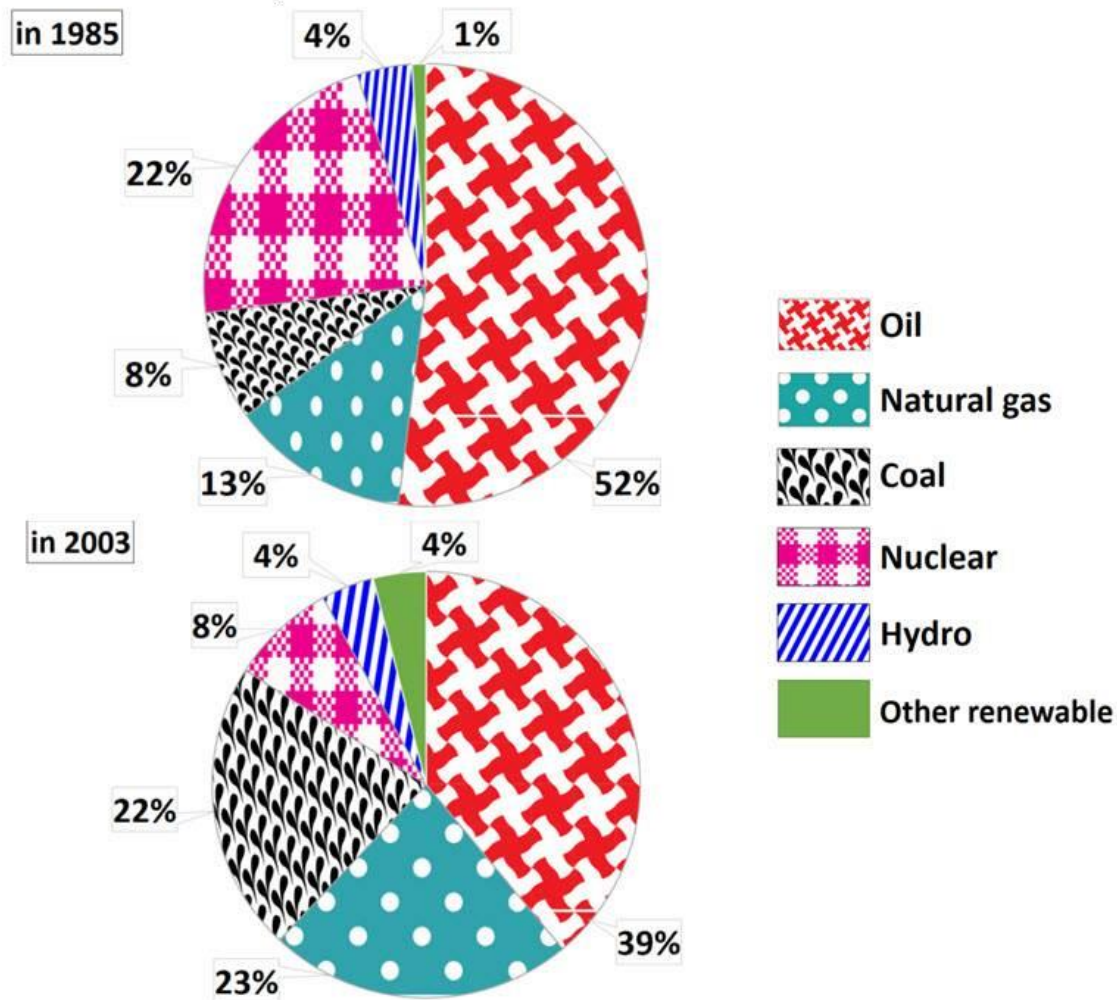


The pie charts **detail** sales by a bookseller between 1972 and 2012 according to genre. **Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that** adult fiction became **by far** the most popular type **at the expense of** the genres which declined in popularity (others, biography, and travel). Interest in children's fiction also increased.

In 1972, this particular bookseller sold **relatively equal proportions** of each type with others leading **ing** at 25%, **followed by** adult fiction, children's fiction, and biography all at 20%, and travel lowest at 15%. By 1992, adult fiction had risen by 5%, while others and biography declined by the same number. Travel and children's fiction grew by 3% and 2%, **respectively**.

In the final year **surveyed**, adult fiction **surged** to 45% and children's fiction **ticked up** slightly to 25%. The rise of adult fiction was **compensated for** by dramatic drops for the remaining genres with others finishing at 12%, travel at 10%, and biography 8%.

The charts below show changes in the proportion of energy produced from different resources in a country in 1985 and 2003.

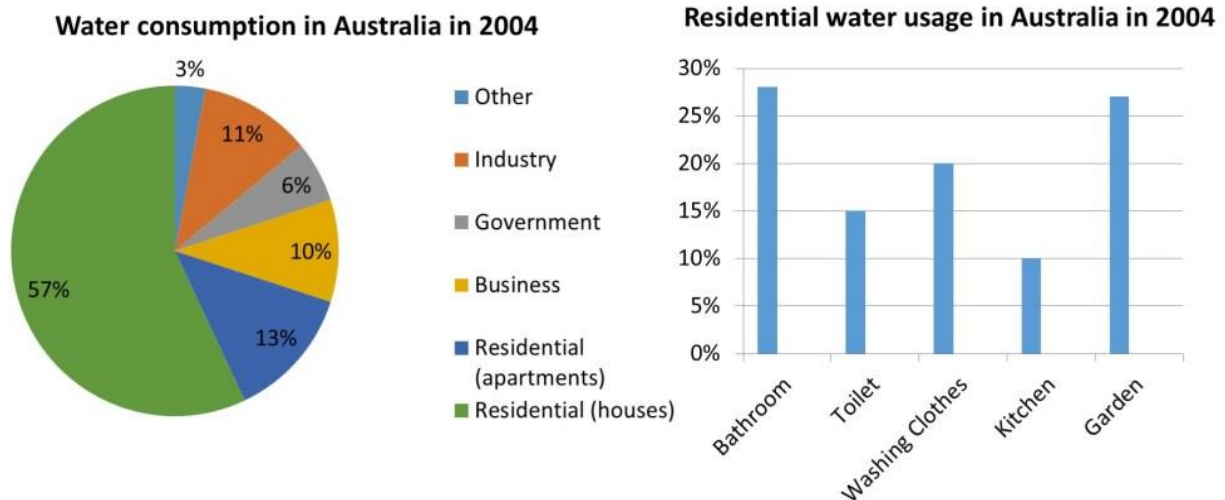


The pie charts **display** the sources of energy production in 1985 and 2003. Looking from an overall perspective, it is clear that in 1985 the majority of energy came from **primarily** oil followed by nuclear power, natural gas, and coal with **cleaner energy** sources rarer. By 2003, **renewables** became slightly more common or remained level, the use of oil decreased but was still the most used, while both coal and natural gas underwent the largest increases.

In 1985, oil **represented** 52% of all energy sourced, though this **figure** had declined to 39% by 2003. Nuclear power, which was the second most **pervasive** energy source in 1985 at 22%, had the **steepest** fall to just 8% in 2003. In contrast, natural gas rose from 13% to 23% and coal nearly **tripled** to 22%.

In terms of the cleaner energy sources, hydro power represented 4% of total usage in both years while other renewables **quadrupled** from 1% in 1985 to 4% in 2003.

The charts show water consumption and usage in Australia in 2004.

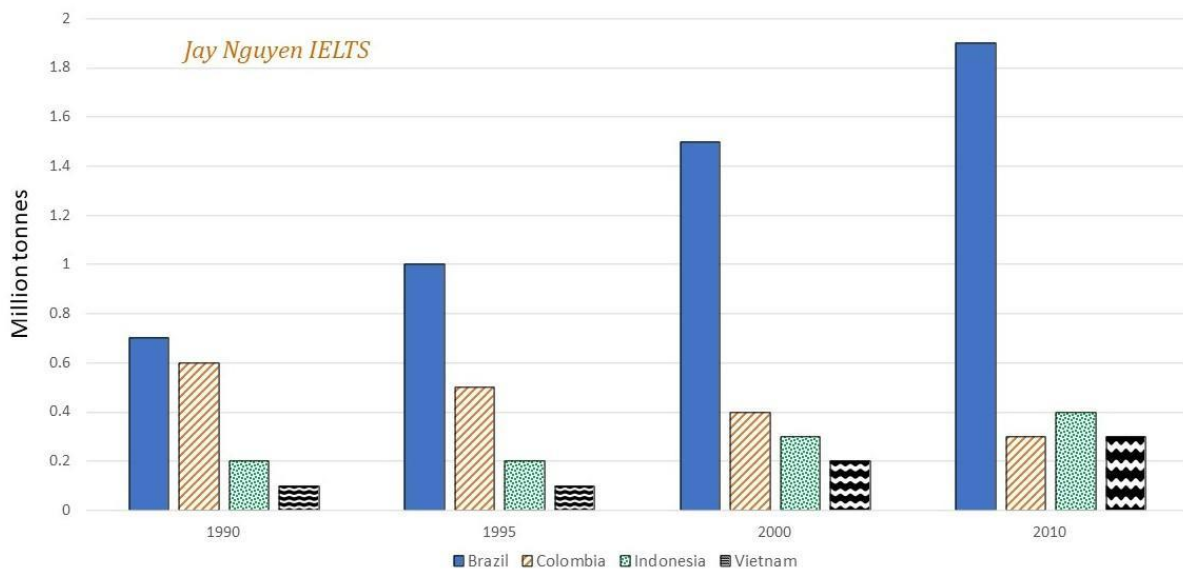


The charts show the **total usage proportions** for water in Australia and a **breakdown** of its residential purposes. **Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that** the vast majority of water is dedicated to houses, followed by apartments, industry, businesses and finally other. In terms of the residential use, it is mainly for bathrooms and gardens, with lower numbers for washing clothes, toilets and kitchens.

Looking first of all at the pie chart, houses represent 57% of total water usage, far **surpassing** apartments at 13%, industry at 11%, business 10%, government 6%, and lastly other (3%).

The bar chart **delineates** the uses of residential water, including both homes and apartments. Nearly 30% of all water was used for bathrooms, the highest figure, while gardens was slightly lower at 26%. Washing clothes translates to 20% of usage, followed by toilets at 15%, and kitchen use totaling just 10%.

The bar chart illustrates coffee production in 3 countries from 1990 to 2010



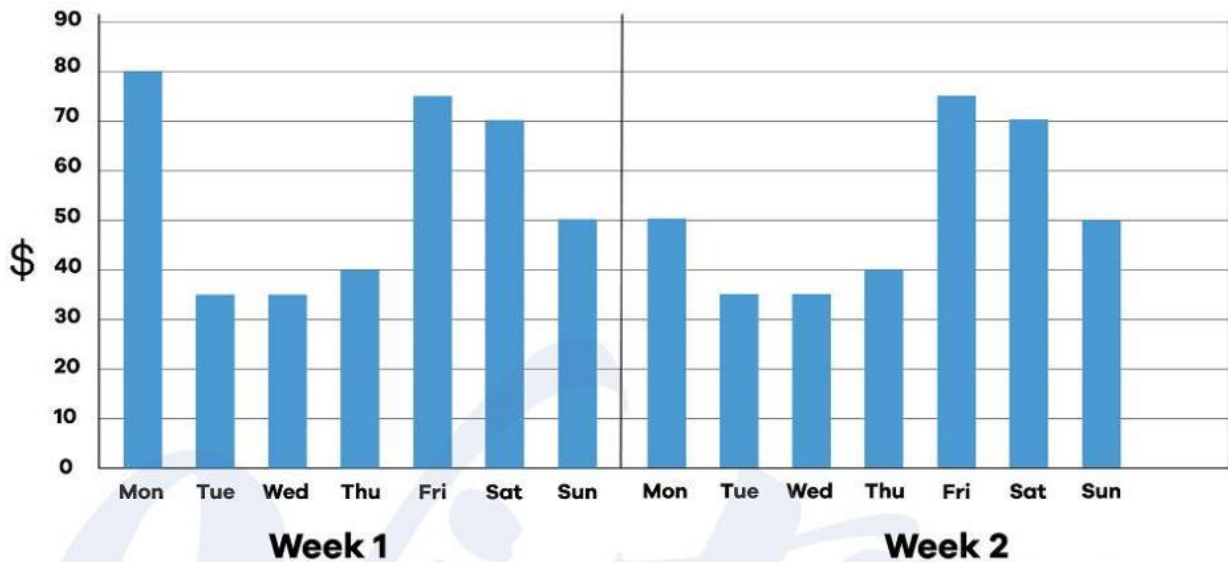
The bar chart details coffee production in four countries from 1990 to 2010. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that production rose in all countries except for Colombia. Brazil produced **by far** the most coffee throughout the period with the other three countries finishing with comparable totals.

In 1990, Brazil narrowly produced the most coffee at .9 million tonnes. This figure increased steadily and reached 1.9 million tons by 2010, **more than four times higher** than the next largest producer. In contrast, production in Colombia began the period at .6 million tonnes and fell consistently throughout the period **to be even** with Vietnam for the lowest total of just over .3 million tonnes by 2010.

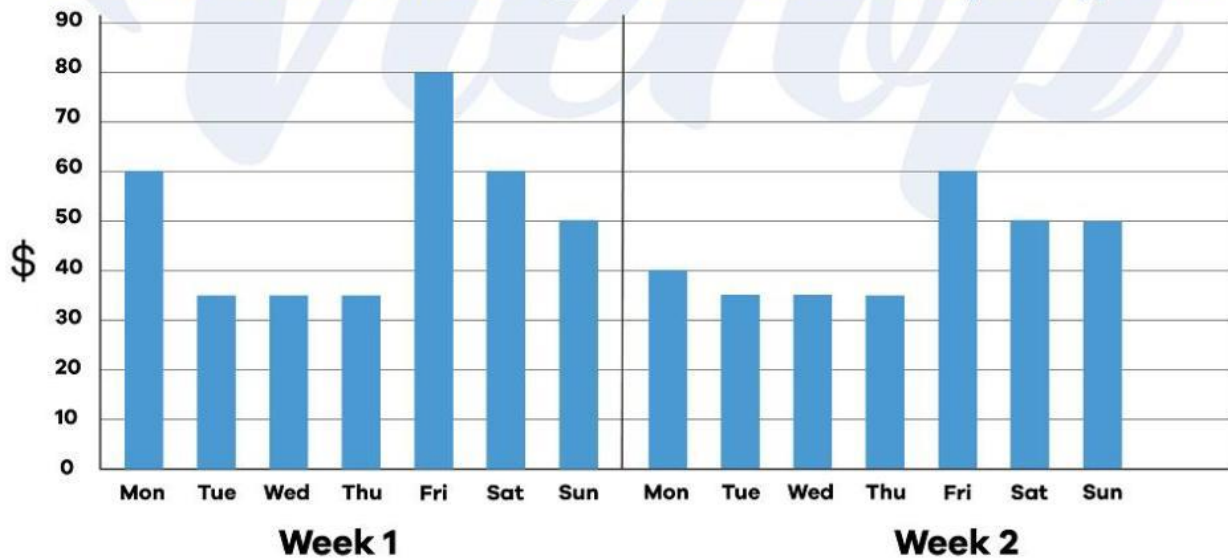
Vietnam increased from the smallest exporter at .1 million tonnes in 1990 and 1995 to equal Colombia 20 years later. The final nation, Indonesia, **underwent a steady climb** from .2 million tonnes to double this figure (.4 million) to end the time surveyed.

The charts below give information about the price of tickets on one airline between Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, over a two-week period in 2013.

Price of airline ticket (\$): Sydney to Melbourne, 2013



Price of airline ticket (\$): Melbourne to Sydney, 2013

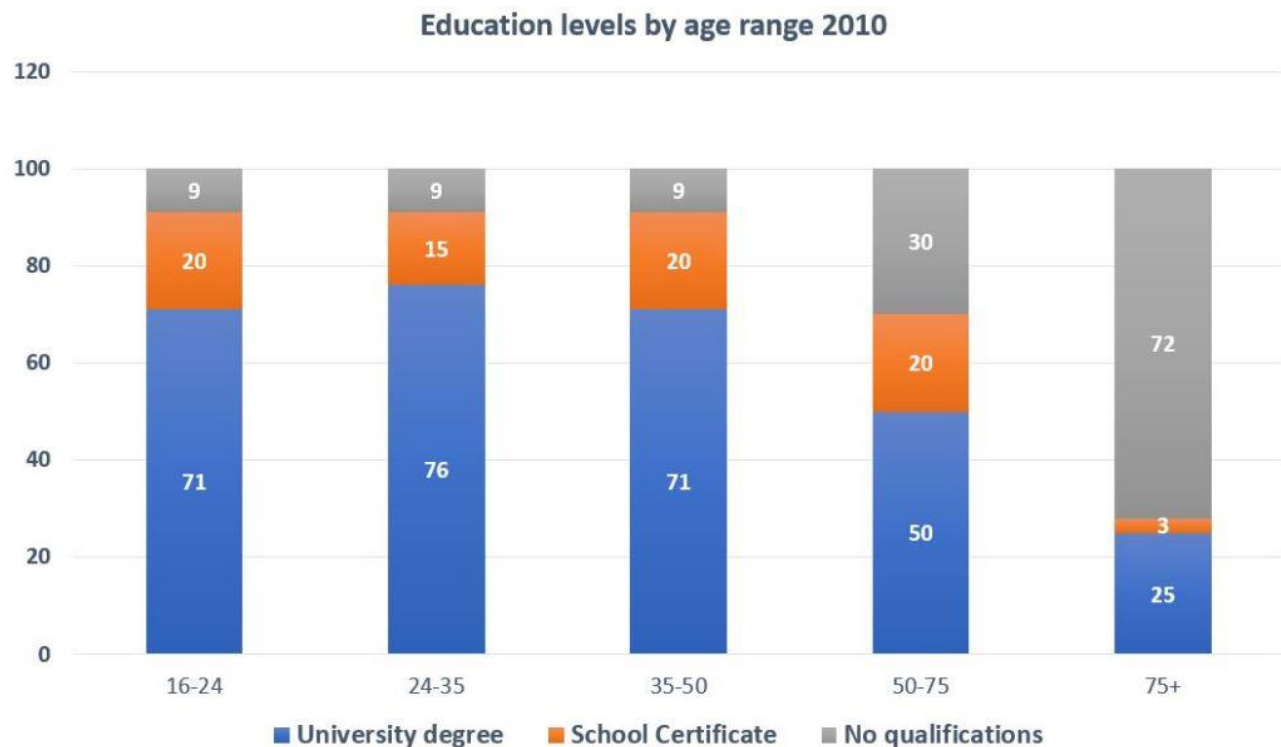


The bar charts display information for the price of airline tickets from Sydney to Melbourne and the **reverse flight** over a two week period in 2013. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that flights in both directions displayed **broadly similar patterns** with higher prices Friday through Monday. Compared to week 1, week 2 prices were either greatly **deflated** or identical for nearly all flights.

In week 1, flights from Sydney to Melbourne started at 80\$ on Monday, were all under \$40 over the next 3 days before a spike to \$75, \$70, and \$50 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, respectively. During the second week, the prices were unchanged with the notable exception of a decline on Monday to \$50 fares.

In terms of flights from Melbourne to Sydney, the trend was comparable with flights on Monday of week 1 elevated to \$60, sub-\$40 flights on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and the most expensive flight on Friday at \$80. Flights on Saturday and Sunday were also relatively **costly** at \$60 and \$50 each day. In week 2, Monday prices displayed a dramatic decline to \$40 and there was more **variance** later in the week. Friday fell to \$50 and Saturday to \$50. All other tickets remained the same in week 2.

The chart below gives information about levels of education by age range in the UK in 2010.

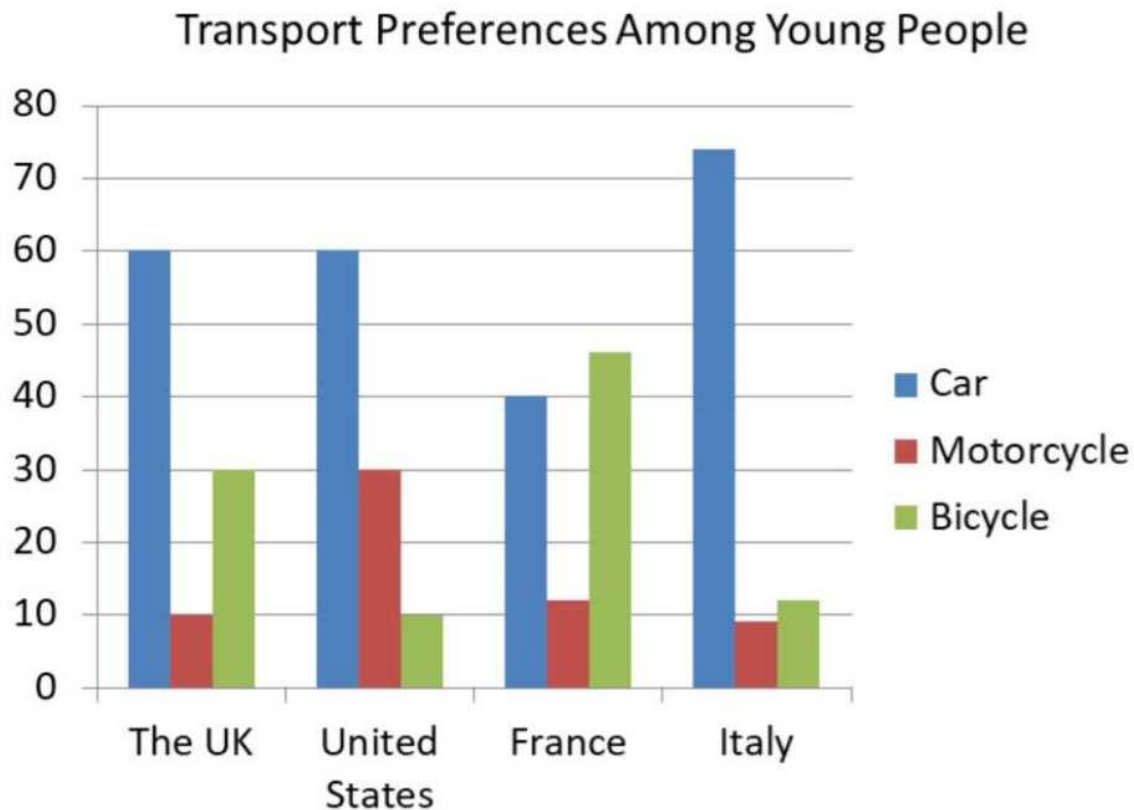


The chart details age demographics as they relate to levels of education in the UK in 2010. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that older people, particularly in the oldest age bracket, tended to have no or fewer qualifications.

Looking first of all at younger people, precisely 27% of individuals from ages 16-50 had no qualifications. Breaking that down further, 20% of the 16-24 and 35-50 groups had school certification and 71% had university degrees. For ages 24-35, the numbers are slightly different with 76% having graduated university and 15% with a school certification.

Turning to the older demographics, for those aged 50-75, 50% had a university degree, 20% a school certificate and 30% no qualification. This figure expanded to 72% for people over 75, with just 3% having earned a school certificate and 25% a university degree.

The bar chart below shows transport preferences among young people in four countries in a single year.

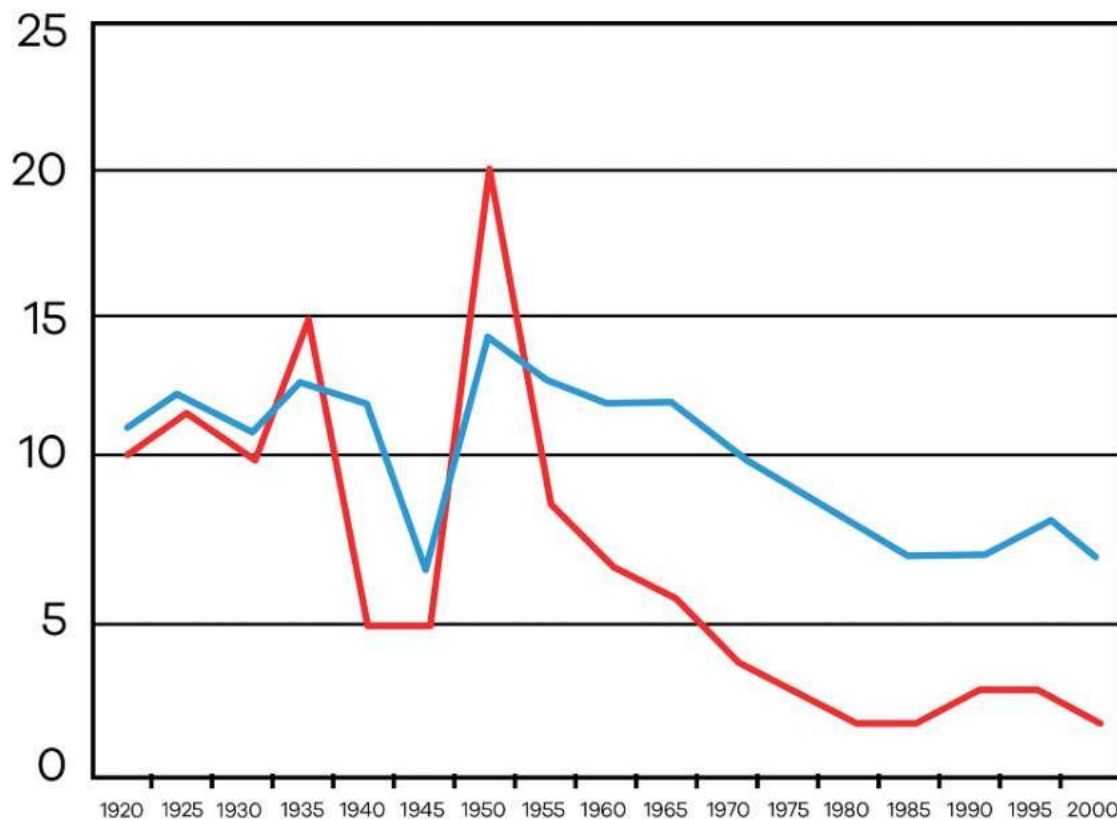


The bar chart details transport preferences for young people in terms of cars, motorcycles, and bicycles in the United Kingdom, the United States, France and Italy. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that cars are more popular in the UK, the US and especially Italy while the French prefer to ride bicycles. In all countries except the United States, motorcycles are the least common option.

Considering the statistics for cars first of all, the United States and the United Kingdom have identical figures at 60% each. Italy is noticeably higher at 75% while just 40% of younger individuals in France drive cars. In most nations, bicycles are also pervasive, with the highest number in France at 47%, followed by 30% in the UK, slightly over 10% in Italy, and precisely 10% in the US.

Motorcycles are only a significant choice for younger people in the United States (30% ride motorcycles there), and in contrast the figures for France, the UK, and Italy merely reach 11%, 10%, and 9%, respectively.

The graph below compares changes in the birth rates of China and the USA between 1920 – 2000.



The line chart details birth rates for the United States and China from 1920 to 2000. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that while birth rates in both nations followed **similar trajectories** and fell over the period, China's decline was the most dramatic. The birth rate in the USA was higher for the majority of the period, with two brief exceptions in the first half of the century.

In 1920, the birth rate in the US stood at around 11%, 1% higher than that of China. The pattern for both nations was similar and **erratic** until around 1930 when there was a **surge** in China's birth rate to 15% and a smaller rise in the US to 12%. Birth rates then dropped for the next 15 years, with China reaching a notable low of 5% and the USA **dipping** to 6%.

The birth rate in China **quadrupled** over the next few years **to a high of** 20%, which **preceded** a **steady downturn** with minor fluctuations and a data point at around 2% to end the period surveyed. Similarly, birth rates in the US rose, less significantly to approximately 14%, and thereafter experienced a more gradual **slump** to finish at 7% in 2000.

The line chart shows average attendance at the cinema among various age groups in the US from 2000 to 2011.

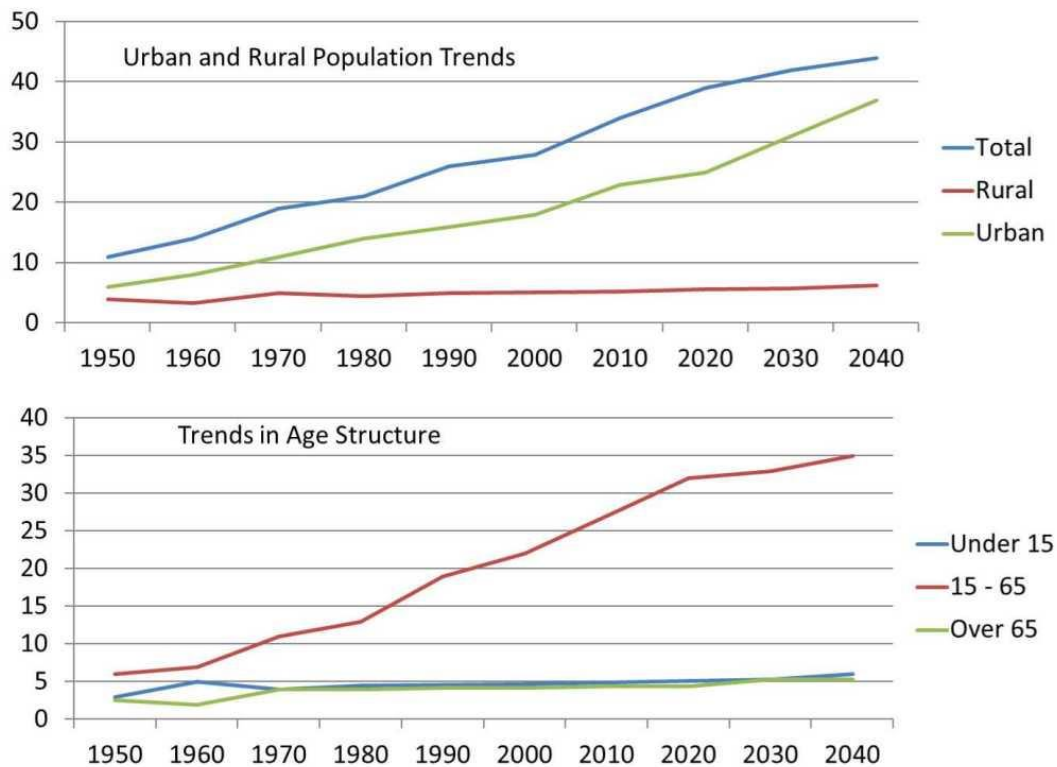


The line chart details figures for cinema attendance across various **age demographics** in the United States between 2000 and 2011. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that **attendance increased for all groups**, with younger people, especially teenagers and young adults, watching movies the most often. As people got older, they tended to go to the cinema **less frequently**.

Those aged 15 – 24 began the period with 15% going to the cinema, a **narrow lead** over the other demographics. This figure then rose steadily to over 30% by 2004, fluctuated between 35% and 50% for the next several years before finishing at 52%. In contrast, theater attendance from the age of 35 and up was marginal yet increased consistently beginning at 1% and ending the period at a high point of 13%.

The trends for 7-14 and 25-35-year-old **cinema-goers** were similar throughout as the former began twice as high at 10%. Attendance was then **erratic** but only slightly up overall until 2005 when there was a **surge** to 30%, followed by a high of 38% in 2010 and a final figure of 30% in 2011. The latter group displayed an **unstable trend** with comparable percentages, **intersected** with the aforementioned age bracket twice, and concluded the period with a partial **recovery** to an identical 30% figure.

The bar chart illustrates population trends globally by percentage from 1950 to 2040.

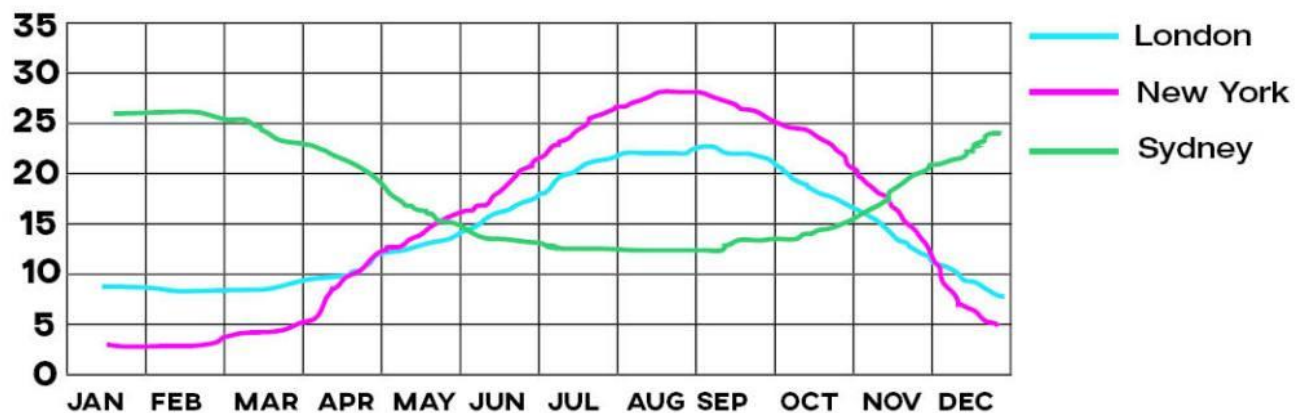


The line charts detail population trends relating to location and age globally from 1950 until 2040. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that **urban populations** have and will continue to **constitute** the majority of growth. In terms of age demographics, those 15-65 have become by far the largest group and this is predicted to remain the same in the future.

Turning first to urban residency in 1950, this figure began the period at 6%, just 1% above the statistic for the rural population. Over the **ensuing** years, urban numbers **soared**, rising by approximately 5% each decade until the present day. This trend is anticipated to continue and urban occupants should represent just under 40% by 2040. In contrast, rural populations were largely **steady**, increasing under a percentage point every 10 years and anticipated to reach 6% in 2040. The growth in total figures roughly **mirror** urban percentages but are 5-10% higher throughout.

The age distribution indicates clearly that those 15-65 (beginning at 6% in 1950) will become most common, rising close to 5% each decade with a likely high point of 35% by the end of the period surveyed. Those under 15 and over 65 display a **broadly similar pattern** at around 5% for the majority of the time described.

The charts below give information about the typical temperatures in London, New York, and Sydney as well as total hours of sunshine for each city.



Total hours of sunshine for
London, New York, and Sydney:

London	1,180
New York	2,535
Sydney	2,473

The line chart and table detail both average annual temperatures and total hours of sunshine in a given year in London, New York, and Sydney. Overall, London and New York display broadly similar four-season climates, though the extremes are more pronounced in New York while Sydney has a reverse weather pattern with milder overall temperatures. In terms of overall sunshine, New York leads, followed closely by Sydney and distantly by London.

Looking first of all at London and New York, both undergo serious drops in temperature beginning in November as the former falls to just over 10 degrees Celsius, intersecting the latter at the same point. From there, temperatures in New York plummet throughout the winter with a low of under 5°C in January and February, while London bottoms out at around 9 degrees. Both rise steadily in the spring and peak in summer at around 23°C for London and nearly 30°C for New York. In contrast, Sydney is warmest from December to February (plateauing at over 25 degrees) and cools steadily to under 15 degrees from June to October.

Overall sunshine shows a different pattern with New York (2,535 hours) and Sydney (2,473) proximate and London much lower at 1,180.

The table shows independent film releases by genre in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2012.

Independent films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland by genre 2012			
Genre	Number of releases	% of all releases	% of Income from ticket sales
Comedy	26	17.6	45.4
Horror	14	9.5	20.2
Biopic	1	0.7	9.1
Drama	35	23.6	8.3
Crime	7	4.7	4.7
Action	4	2.7	4.1
Documentary	35	23.6	2.9
Thriller	13	8.8	1.3
Romance	5	3.4	0.8
Other	8	5.4	3.2
Total	148	100	100

The table gives information about films released independently according to genre in the UK and the Republic of Ireland in a single year, 2012. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that the vast majority of money was generated by comedy followed closely by horror, then more distantly biopic, and drama, while other genres earned far less. This contrasts with the total number of films in some areas as dramas, documentaries and comedies were most common.

Looking at the genres with the greatest disparity first of all, there were 23.6 documentaries and dramas released though their box office numbers accounted for just 2.9% and 8.3% of sales, respectively. A divergent trend can be seen for comedies and horror in particular with the former constituting 17.6% of all releases and 45.4% of sales and the latter at 9.5% and 20.2%

Differences in the remaining genres were more marginal as biopics were .7% of all releases and 9.1% of revenue. The totals for crime were proportionate at 4.7% each, action made up 2.7% of all releases and a slightly higher 4.1% of sales. Finally, thrillers were 8.8% of releases and just 1.3% of sales, romance stood at 3.4% and .8%, with other representing 5.4% of films and 3.2% of tickets sales tabulated.

The table below shows the changes in exports in HK billions between 2009 and 2010.

\$HK billions	2009	2010	Changes
Equipment	10.3	11.6	13%
Telecommunications	7.9	12.7	61%
Clothing	6	5	-17%
Manufacturing	5.5	4	-27%
Metals	2.3	5.1	122%
Overall	32	38.4	20%

The table details the rise and fall of exports in billions of Hong Kong dollars from 2009 to 2010. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that exports displayed an upward trajectory in all categories except clothing and manufacturing. Telecommunications and metals rose the most, with the former and equipment constituting the most substantial export quantities overall.

In 2009, equipment and telecommunications were the largest exports at 10.3 and 7.9 \$HK billions, respectively. By 2010, Telecommunications had overtaken equipment with a 61% surge to 12.7, while equipment grew marginally by 13% to 11.6.

In terms of less robust exports, both clothing and manufacturing declined slightly (from 6 to 5 and 5.5 to 4, in turn), while this trend was reversed for metals, which more than doubled to 5.1 \$HK billions. General growth was reflected in an increase for exports in the aggregate of 20% and a total figure of 38.4 \$HK billions.

The table details the international tourist arrivals in millions in 8 countries in 2009 and 2010 and the changes (in percentages).

	in 2009	in 2010	% Change
France	76	76	0
USA	66	67	1,5
Spain	55	56	1,8
UK	55	57	3,6
Italy	44	45	2,3
Turkey	32	46	33
China	22	34	55
Germany	10	24	109
Hong Kong	10	9	-11

The table compares the number of tourists arriving in 8 countries in 2009 and 2010. In general, tourism rose slightly in the United States, Spain, the UK, and Italy and increased dramatically in Turkey, China, and Germany. Figures fell in Hong Kong and were stable in France, which had the most tourists overall.

Looking first of all at France, numbers were unchanged at 76 million tourists in both years. The United States increased by 1.5% from 66 to 67 million and Spain followed a similar trajectory (55 to 56 million tourists). Tourists to the UK increased by double that rate (3.6%) and overtook Spain in 2010 by 1 million visitors. In Italy, the rate of growth was slower at 2.3%, translating to an increase to 45 million. Turkey surged past Italy, rising 33% to 46 million.

There were also significant increases in China, which went from 22 to 34 million (a 55% growth), and Germany (a 109% expansion to 24 million). The lowest numbers were in Hong Kong as tourism fell by 11% to end at 9 million.

The table below shows the number of visitors in the UK and their average spending from 2003 to 2008.

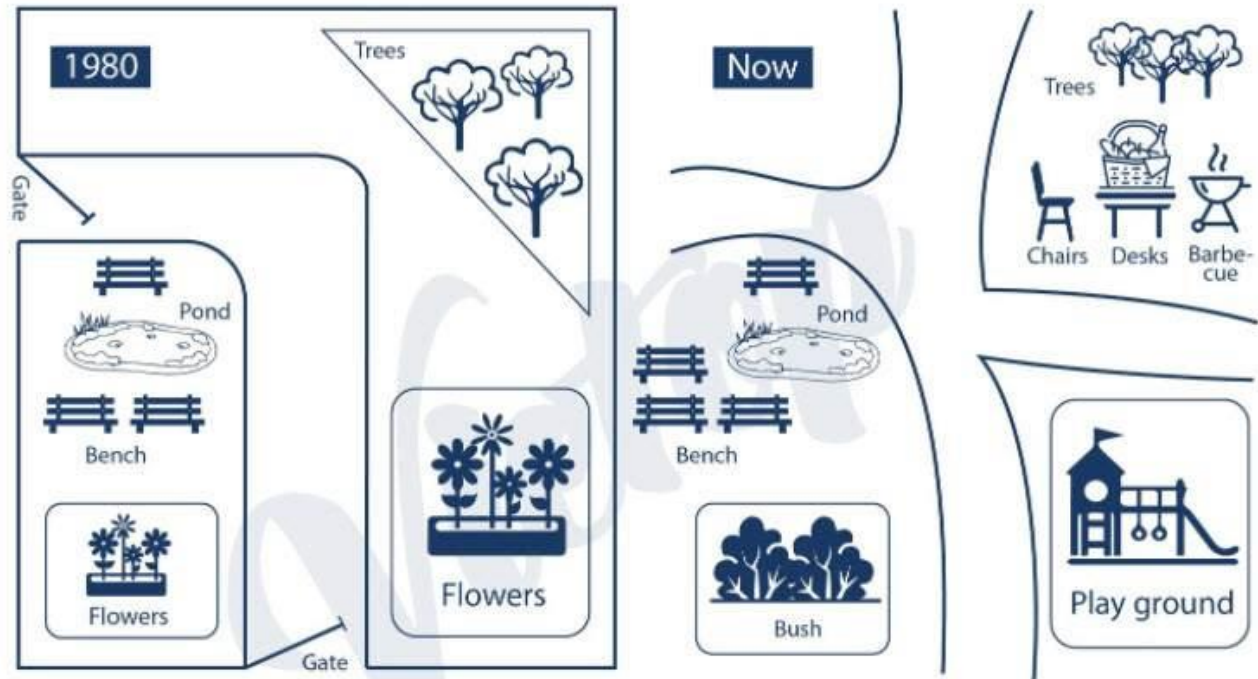
Year	Number of visits (millions)	Spend (pound billions)	Average Spend per Visits	Average Nights per Visits
2003	24.715	11.855	475	8.2
2004	27.755	13.047	466	8.2
2005	29.971	14.248	471	8.3
2006	32.713	16.002	486	8.4
2007	32.778	15.960	487	7.7
2008	31.88	16.323	511	7.7

The table displays information regarding visitors, spending and the length of their trip to the UK from 2003 to 2008. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that overall visits, total spending, and average spending rose considerably with only average nights per visit falling towards the end of the period. The largest growth proportionally was for total spending.

Looking first of all at quantity of visits, there were 24,715,000 million travellers to the UK in 2003 and this figure climbed steadily by around 2 to 3 million each year until 2006 when it plateaued at about 32 million before receding slightly to 31.8 million to finish the time surveyed. Similarly, average spending in billions of pounds rose sharply from 11.855 to a 16.002 in 2006, then leveled off and, in contrast, rebounded marginally to finish the period at 16.323.

In terms of average spending, this figure began at 475 pounds in 2003, declined moderately to 266 the next year and then rose consistently to conclude with a final surge to 511 in 2008. The only data to decline was average nights per visit which began at 8.2 in 2003, remained level for a year and then rose by .1 each year until 2006, before a sudden drop to 7.7 nights in 2007 and 2008.

The map below describes changes to a park in 1980 and now.

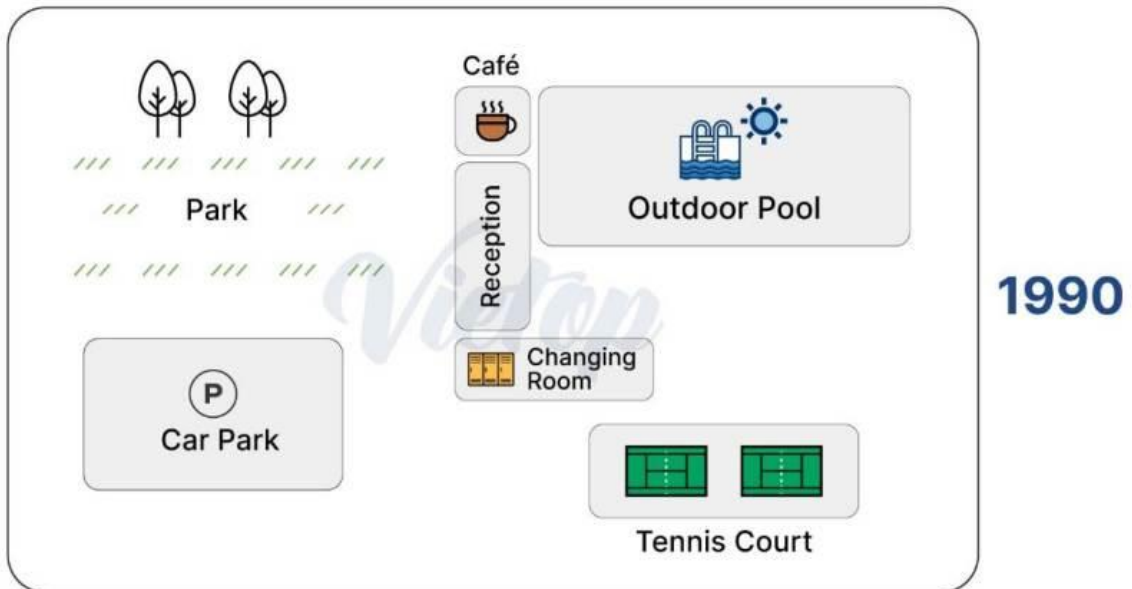


The map details alterations to a park in 1980 and the present day. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that the park has become more developed for visitors with additional recreational space for outdoor eating, seating, and playing. The only subtraction relates to the flowers.

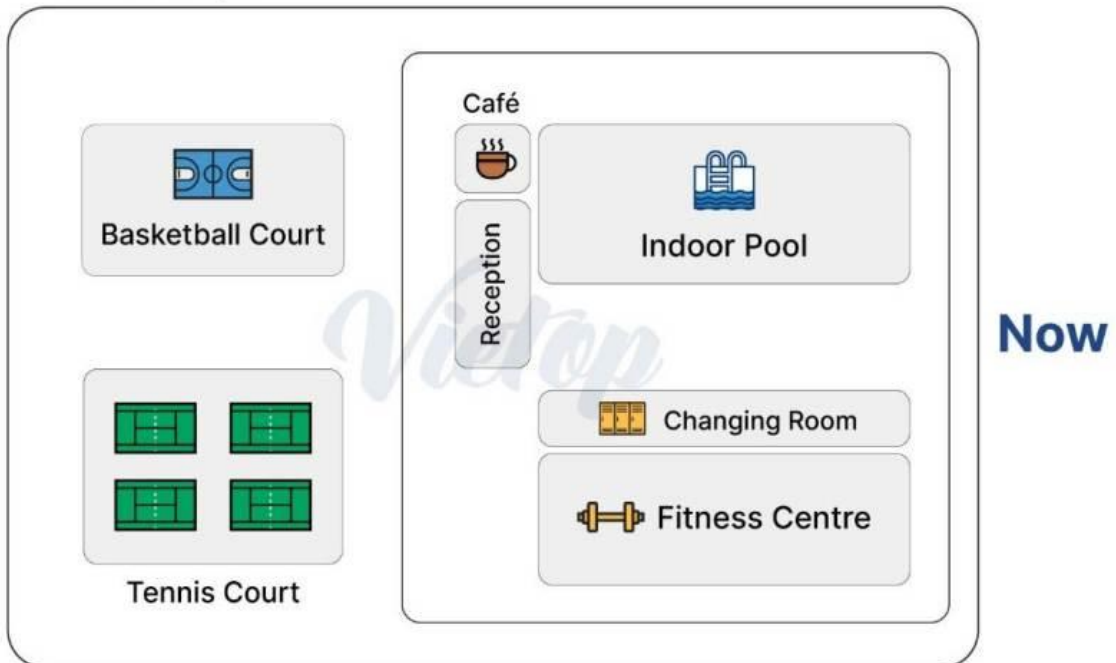
In 1980, there was a single entrance on the left side above a pond surrounded by 3 benches. Now, the gate has disappeared, the road is less straight and the pond has more benches around it. There are also two additional roads coming from the top and right of the diagram, sectioning off an area with trees, chairs, desks, and barbecue options (previously only containing trees).

In the bottom right corner of the map, a flowerbed has been replaced by a playground. A second space for flowers in the bottom left below the pond has also been removed in favor of wild bush.

The maps below shows university sports courts in 1990 and now.



www.ieltsvietop.vn



The map describes how a university sports courts area has changed from 1990 to the present day. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that the number of total courts for tennis and basketball has increased at the expense of parking and a park, while a formal building with a gym now houses various exercise facilities. These changes allow for more varied activity.

In 1990, on the left side of the map was a park with trees and grass as well as a car park. Today, the park has been replaced by a large basketball court and the car park by 4 tennis courts.

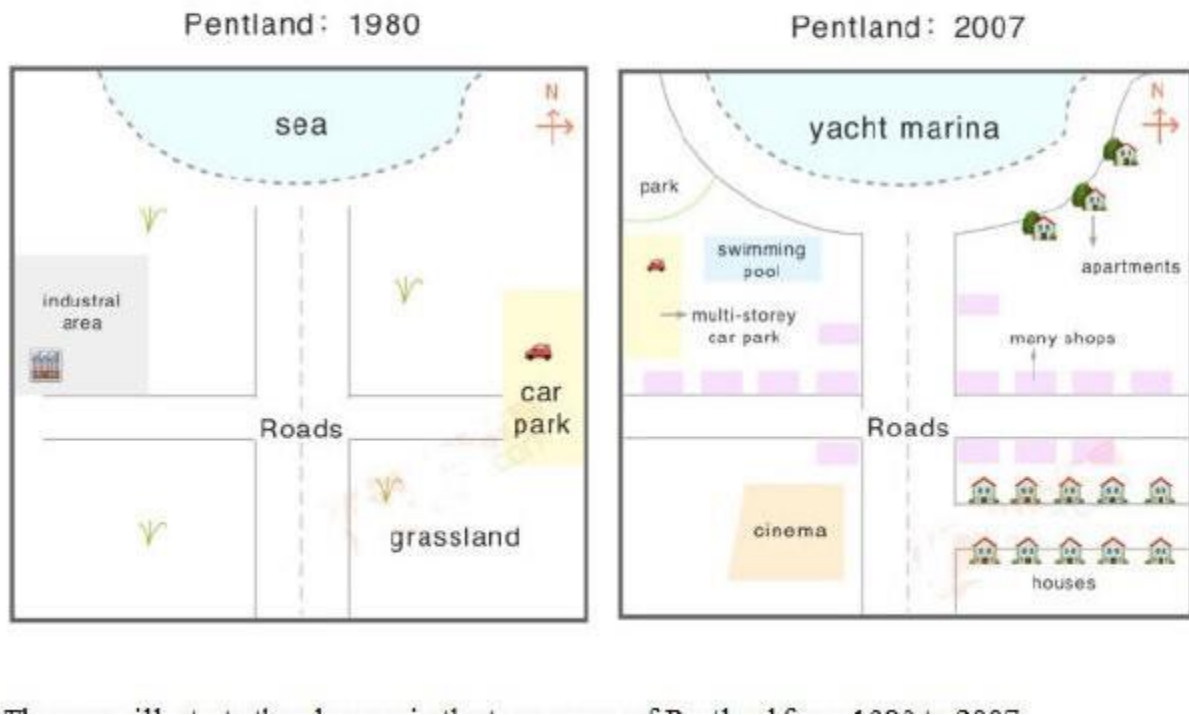
On the right side of the map, a structure to contain the various athletic facilities has been erected with only the indoor pool and reception area in the same position in the new building. The changing room beneath the reception area and pool has been lengthened and moved slightly to the right so as to line up directly above a new, large fitness centre. The fitness centre has replaced two tennis courts, now outside the main building.

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The maps show the change of Pentland from 1980 to 2007.

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

Write at least 150 words.

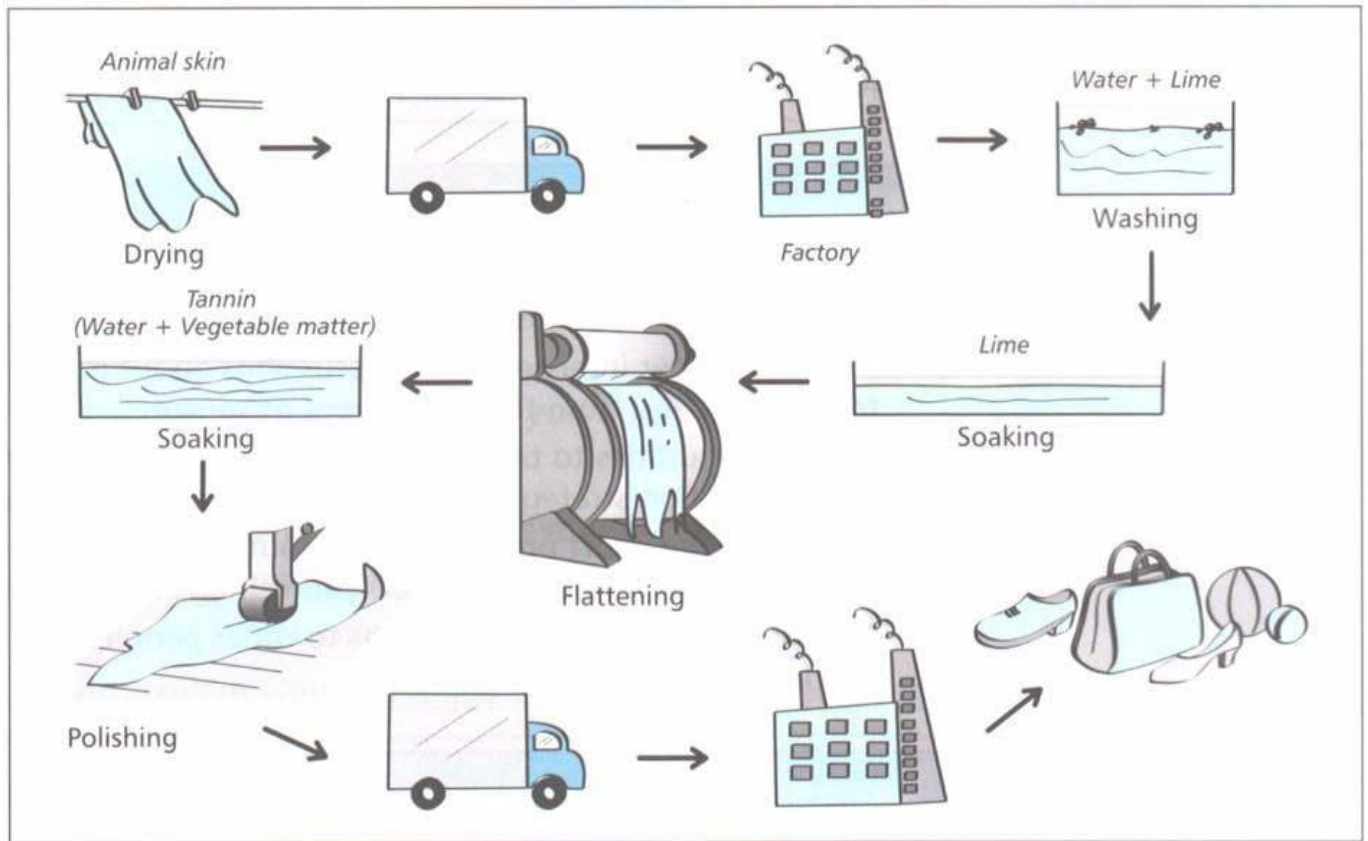


The map details alterations to the town of Pentland from 1980 to 2007. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that there was a lot a of residential and commercial development over the years including construction of a marina for yachts, shops, houses and entertainment facilities.

In 1980, Pentland consisted mainly of grasslands to the south, two main intersecting roads, an eastern car park, an industrial area in the west and the sea to the north. By 2007, every area had changed or been relocated. An additional road was built by the coast (now a yacht marina) with a park bordering it in the northwest and seaside apartments on the opposite side.

The roads are now lined with shops and the car park added floors and moved from the eastern to western end of town, adjacent to a new swimming pool. In the south, grasslands made way for a cinema to the west and rows of houses along a new eastward avenue.

The diagram details the process of making leather products.

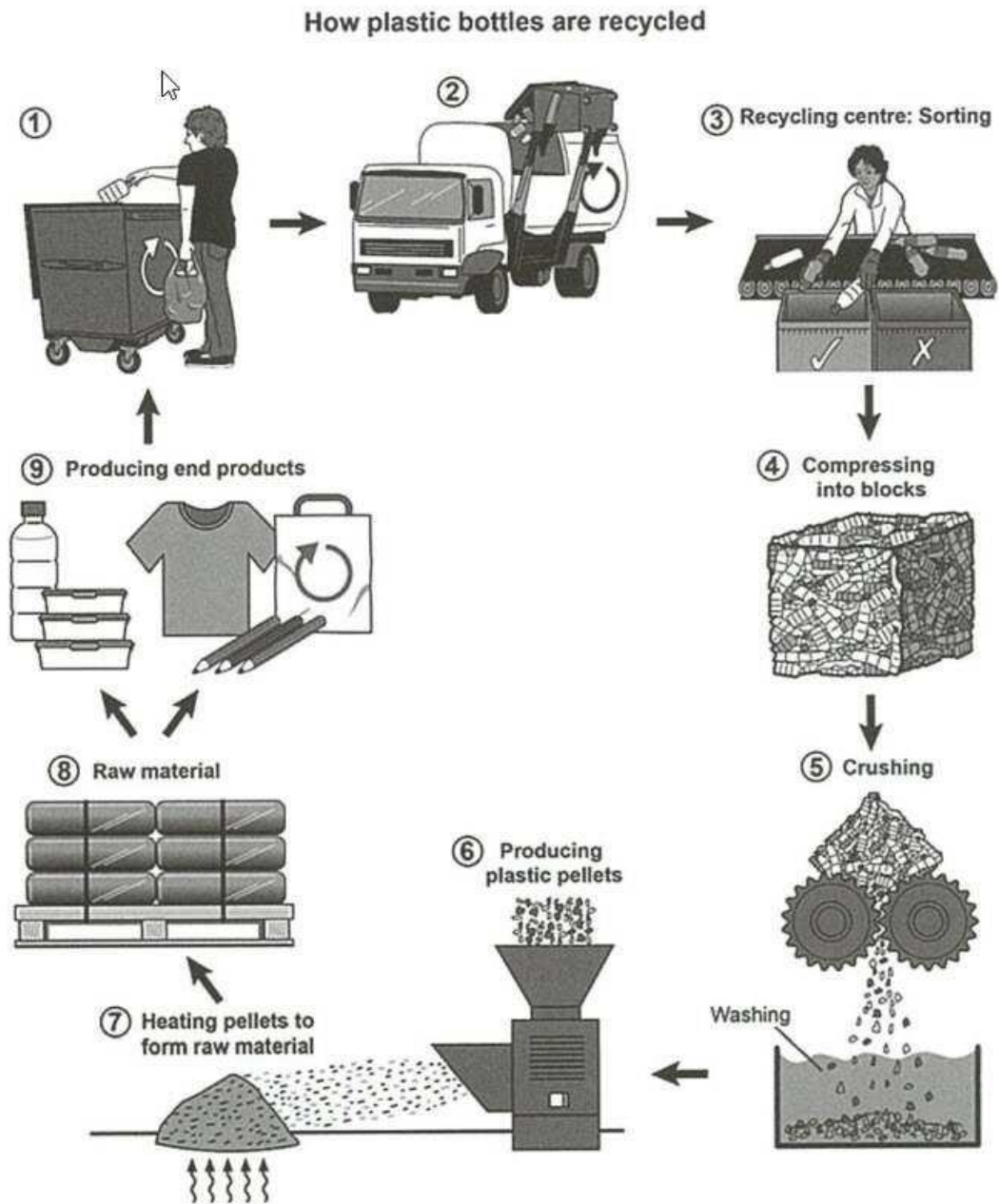


The diagram details the process by which leather products are made for retail. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that there are 3 main steps to this entirely man-made process beginning with initial transportation of the raw material to the factory, followed by preparation and processing of the material, and finally the production of consumer products.

Firstly, the leather skins from various animals are dried. Subsequent to this, they are taken to a factory by truck where they are washed in water and lime. The skins are then soaked in more lime for a period of time before being run through a machine with large rollers that flattens them out.

Next, the flattened skins are soaked in tannin, which is composed of water and vegetable matter. They are then polished by another rolling device and taken to another factory by trucks. In this factory, the final products are crafted and available to consumer shops.

The diagram below shows the process for recycling plastic bottles.



The diagram detailed above delineates how plastic bottles are recycled. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that this circular process is comprised of 3 main stages including initial collection and sorting, followed by processing and cleaning, and finally reconstitution into a novel material for further usage.

Recycling commences when an individual places their rubbish in a designated recycling bin, prior to being loaded into specialized garbage trucks. After transportation to the recycling center, the plastic bottles are sorted by hand, compressed tightly to form blocks and then crushed into small pieces and washed.

The next stages involve transformation into a reusable material. The pieces of plastic are first poured into a machine that turns them into pellets. These pellets are then heated in order to create a raw material that can be used in the manufacture of products ranging from clothes and bottles to containers and pencils. These items are themselves recyclable and the process begins again.

The process diagram details the steps by which liquid chocolate is produced from cocoa beans.



The process illustrated above details how cocoa beans are harvested in order to produce liquid chocolate. Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that this combination of a man-made and natural process involves 3 main stages beginning with the collection and initial treatment of the beans followed by transportation and final processing in a factory.

The cacao tree is grown in South America, Africa and Indonesia and the pods are ripe for harvest when they turn red. The pods are then split open and the white cocoa beans are fermented under leaves before being left in the sun to dry. Subsequently, they are placed in large sacks and sent by either train or truck to factories for further preparations.

In the factory, the beans are roasted at 350 °C prior to being crushed in a grinder so that the outer shell can be separated out. The final step involves taking the inner part of the bean from the last step and pressing it into liquid chocolate.

The diagram below shows how orange juice is produced.

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



How to do IELTS

The diagram illustrates the linear process of producing fresh and concentrated orange juice for the purposes of selling in supermarkets. There are total of 17 steps which can be organised into three main stages. These include producing and delivering fresh orange juice to supermarkets, processing the fresh juice to create concentrated juice for storage, and finally producing reconstituted orange juice which is then sold to the general public.

The process commences with fresh oranges being delivered to a factory, where the raw product is washed and juice is extracted with excess solid waste being used as animal feed. At this point in the process the fresh juice is either delivered in refrigerated trucks for evaporation or packaged and transported to supermarkets for selling to customers. Evaporation is carried out at a separate facility, removing water and resulting in the production of concentrated orange juice, which is subsequently canned and stored in a warehouse. As required, the orange concentrate is then processed in a third and final plant, where it is mixed with water in order to produce reconstituted orange juice, which is then packaged and ultimately delivered to supermarkets.