Today will learn how to write an introduction in Ielts writing task 1.

You should start your task 1 answer by introducing the graph from your question. Just write 1-2 sentences to say **what your graph shows and for what period of time** (if there is one).

To do this, you need to paraphrase text from your task 1 question.

Example of good introduction:

Question:
The graphs below give information about computer ownership as a percentage of the population between 2002 and 2010, and by level of education for the years 2002 and 2010

what your graph shows

Social Media Impact

for what period of time
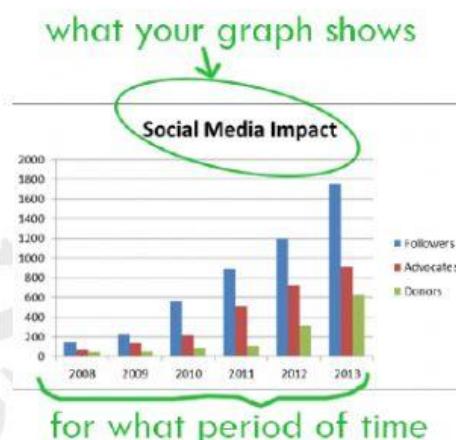
.**Introduction**:
The bar charts show data about computer ownership, with a further classification by level of education, from 2002 to 2010.

To write a good introduction, follow these techniques:

1.   Change introductory expressions

the graph/chart/table/diagram

- *gives information about/on*
- *provides information about/on*
- *shows*
- *illustrates*
- *represents*
- *depicts*
- *gives reason why* (only if graph provides reasons for smth)

- *explains why* (only if graph provides explanation for smth)
- *compares* (only if several items are compared)

Attention with word *compare*! You can say:

- *compares smth in terms of smth*
  the charts compare two cities in terms of the number of employed people.
- *compares smth in year1 and year2*
  the graph compares the population in 2000 and 2013.

Examples:

- "The pie charts provide information on the proportion of males and females working in agricultural sector." OR "The pie charts show the proportion of males and females working in agricultural sector."
- "The table compares five companies in terms of the number of employees." OR "The table illustrates the number of employees in five companies."

2.   Paraphrasing

You can rewrite a phrase by using the word *how*:

- shows the number of people ... = shows how many people ...
- depicts changes in spending on ... = depicts how much changed spending on ...

You can rewrite a phrase by using synonyms:

- *number of = quantity of* (not interchangeable with *amount of*)
- *spending = expenditure*
- *rate = percentage*
- *ratio = proportion*
- *information = data*
- *change* can be sometimes replaced by *increase*, *decrease* or *variation*
- *share = portion*
- *place = site*

3.   Time periods
- from 1985 to 1995 = between 1985 and 1995
- in 1985 = in the year 1985
- in 1985 and 1995 = in 1985 and 1995 respectively = in the years 1985 and 1995

I/Matching:
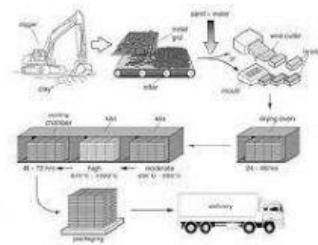
Bar chart
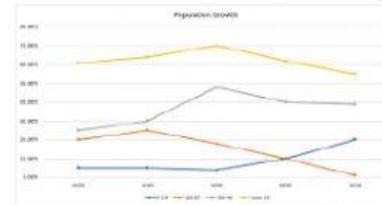
Line graph


Table

Pie chart

Percentage of government spending on road and transport
(1990 - 2005)

Diagram or process
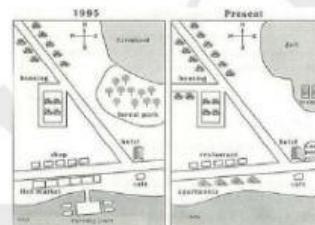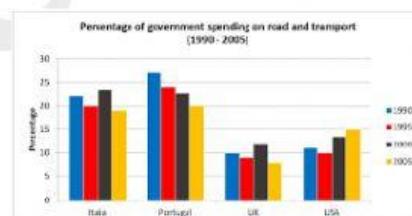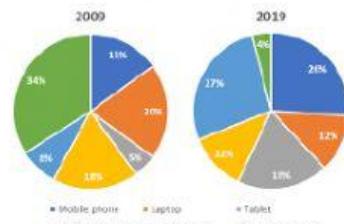
Percentages of mobile phone owners using various mobile phone features

|	2006	2008	2010
Make calls	100	100	99
Take photos	66	71	76
Send & receive text messages	73	75	79
Play games	17	42	41
Search the Internet	no data	41	73
Play music	12	18	26
Record video	no data	9	35

Map

II/Pharaphasing:

1.The chart below shows annual sales by value of different types of books at one chain of booksellers from 2000 to 2004.


Sales of books from 2000 to 2004
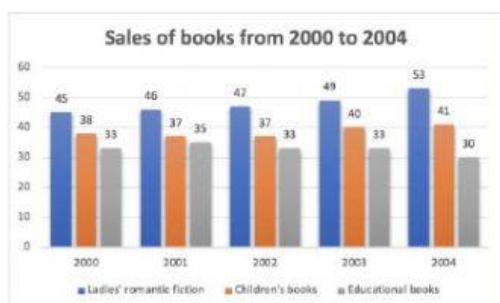
The bar chart gives _____about yearly sales of three kinds of books at a chain of bookstores _____2000 and 2004.

2.The two pie charts below show the online shopping sales for retail sectors in Canada in 2007 and 2009

Online sales for retail sectors in Canada
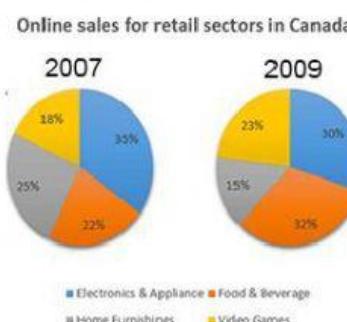
The two pie charts _____the percentages of online shopping sales in the USA for different retail sectors _____the years 2007 and 2009.

4. The line graph below shows the consumption of fish and different kinds of meat in a European country between 1979 and 2004.
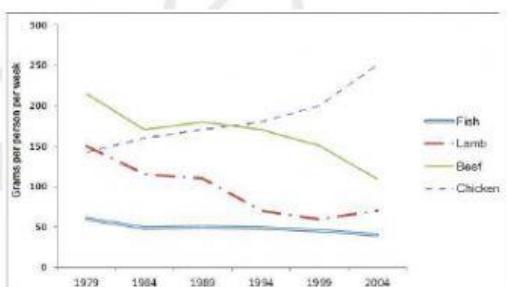
The line graph illustrates_____ the consumption of fish and different kinds of meat in a European country _____between 1979 and 2004.

III/ Choose the correct answer:

1. The table shows the amount of students who study abroad in 2001 and 2011.

   The table shows the number of students who study abroad in 2001 and 2011.

2. The graph illustrate China's annual growth rate of exports of goods.

   The graph illustrates China's annual growth rate of exports of goods.

3. The line graph shows how many Finnish people went to the cinema between June and October 2014.

   The line graph shows how much Finnish people went to the cinema between June and October 2014

4. The pie charts compare the world population of 1900 with 2000.

   The pie charts compare the world population in 1900 and 2000.

5. The bar chart gives information about average household expenditure in Japan.

   The bar chart shows information about average household expenditure in Japan.