

April 4th

WRITING

Task 1: 20 minutes: description of a table, chart, graph or diagram (150 words minimum)
Task 2: 40 minutes: an essay in response to an argument or problem (250 words minimum)
11–14 minutes

Writing and Speaking are marked according to performance descriptors.
Writing: examiners award a band score for each of four areas with equal weighting:

- Task achievement (Task 1)
- Task response (Task 2)
- Coherence and cohesion
- Lexical resource and grammatical range and accuracy

1 Gender roles

Aims: Understanding the task | Understanding visual prompts
Overview of the writing task and process | Analysing the question

Part 1: Vocabulary

- 1 Many people believe that men and women are different in fundamental ways. Decide which words are commonly associated with men and which words with women.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| a aggressive | e gentle |
| b authoritative | f strong |
| c competitive | g vulnerable |
| d compliant | |



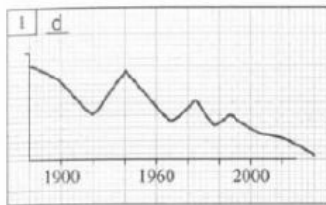
- 2 A knowledge of abstract nouns is essential for academic writing. Complete the sentences 1–6 with the noun form (singular or plural) of the adjectives in brackets.

Example: *Aggression is commonly considered a masculine trait. (aggressive)*

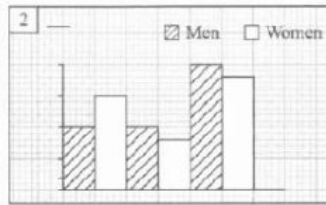
- 1 I believe that men and women have different _____. (strong)
- 2 _____ is not an exclusively feminine characteristic. (gentle)
- 3 Many men have difficulty showing _____. (vulnerable)
- 4 Some people have difficulty working with female _____ figures. (authoritative)
- 5 Women are often praised for _____, whereas men are praised for leadership. (compliant)
- 6 There is some evidence that girls are better at cooperation, while boys are happier when they are in _____ with one another. (competitive)

- 3 In IELTS Writing Task 1, you have to summarise information which is usually presented in a visual form. Match the figures 1–6 with the headings a–f. Then complete the descriptions with the words i–ix. The first one has been done for you.

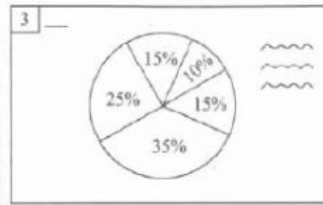
- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| a bar chart | c flow chart | e pie chart |
| b diagram | d line graph | f table |
| i comparisons | iv trends | vii segment |
| ii axis | v percentage | viii features |
| iii columns | vi vertical | ix stage |



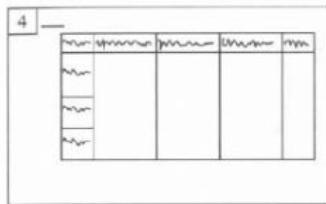
This type of figure can be used to show [7] iv. The horizontal [8] axis often indicates time, and the [9] vertical axis often shows what changes over time.



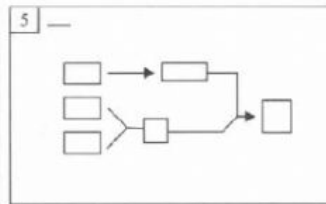
These figures are useful for illustrating [10] comparisons between items or categories of items. This one compares men and women.



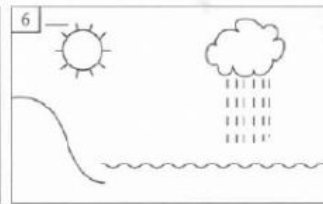
You can use a figure like this to show how a whole is composed of parts. Here, each [11] slice indicates a [12] percentage of the whole.



You should present data like this if you need to give precise numbers. This example contains four rows and five [13] columns.



This type of figure is useful for representing a process. Each box represents one [14] stage in the process.



Figures like this are also used to represent a process. They can also illustrate the [15] effect of an object.

4 In IELTS Writing Task 2, you have to write an essay discussing opinions and the reasons for holding these opinions. Complete the Task 2 essay questions 1–5 with the words a–e.

a agree **b** consider **c** feel **d** see **e** view

- 1** Many people think that boys and girls learn better when they are educated separately. How do you about this view?
- 2** In your , what should be done to promote equality of opportunity for men and women?
- 3** Do you boys to be naturally more aggressive than girls?
- 4** Many people argue that governments should intervene in the labour market to ensure that more women are promoted to positions of power. To what extent do you with this practice?
- 5** What do you as the main reasons for gender inequality in the workplace?

Part 2: Practice exercises: Task 1



Exam information:

In IELTS Writing Task 1, you have to summarise information which is usually presented in the form of a table, a pie chart, a line graph, a bar chart, a diagram, or a flow diagram.

1

Read the Task 1 instructions below and answer the questions 1–4.

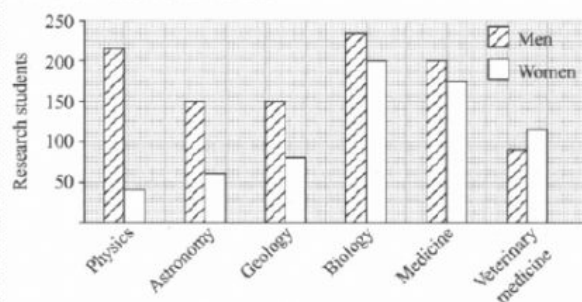
WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the numbers of male and female research students studying six science-related subjects at a UK university in 2009.

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

Write at least 150 words.



- 1 How long should you spend on this task?
- 2 How many words do you need to write?
- 3 Will you score higher marks if you include all the information in the chart?
- 4 Are you expected to give your opinion about the information?

2

Your answer to Task 1 should include a brief introductory paragraph, 1–3 body paragraphs and, if you wish, a brief concluding paragraph. Read the sample answer on page 11 and answer the questions 1–6 below.

- 1 What information does the introduction contain?
- 2 What is the main focus of the first body paragraph?
- 3 What is the main focus of the second body paragraph?
- 4 What is the purpose of the first sentence in each of the body paragraphs?
- 5 What is the purpose of the second and third sentences in each body paragraph?
- 6 What is the purpose of the conclusion?

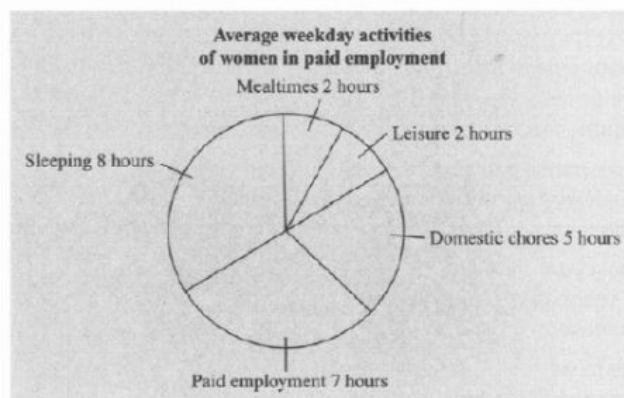
The bar chart shows the gender distribution of students doing scientific research across a range of disciplines at a UK university in 2009.

In five of the six disciplines, males outnumbered females. Male students made up a particularly large proportion of the student group in subjects related to the study of inanimate objects and materials: physics, astronomy, and geology. The gender gap was particularly large in the field of physics, where there were five times as many male students as female students.

Men and women were more equally represented in subjects related to the study of living things: biology, medicine, and veterinary medicine. In biology, there were nearly as many women (approximately 200) as men (approximately 240). This was also true of medicine. Veterinary medicine was the only discipline in which women outnumbered men (roughly 110 women vs. 90 men).

Overall, the chart shows that at this university, science-related subjects continue to be male-dominated; however, women have a significant presence in fields related to medicine and the life sciences.

- 3 Study the pie chart and read the sample answer below. Underline and correct the mistakes the writer has made.



The pie chart shows the numbers of hours devoted to various activities in the average working woman's day. Women spend the largest proportion of their waking day working in paid employment (seven hours) and doing domestic chores (five hours). Women have on average relatively little time for themselves; only two per cent of their day is devoted to leisure activities and two per cent to mealtimes. Overall, the chart shows that working women are busy every day of the week.

Exam tip: Always look carefully at what figures represent. If they represent percentages, you must use expressions such as *a large/small/higher/lower percentage of men* ... If the figures give numbers, you can write *many/more/most/few/fewer men* ...