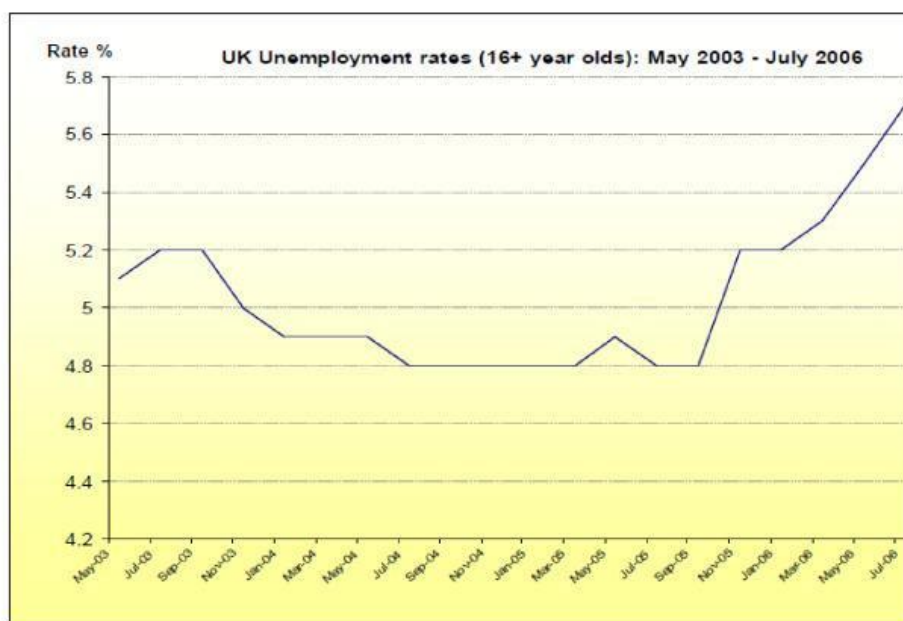


## Academic Writing Task 1

### Worksheet 1

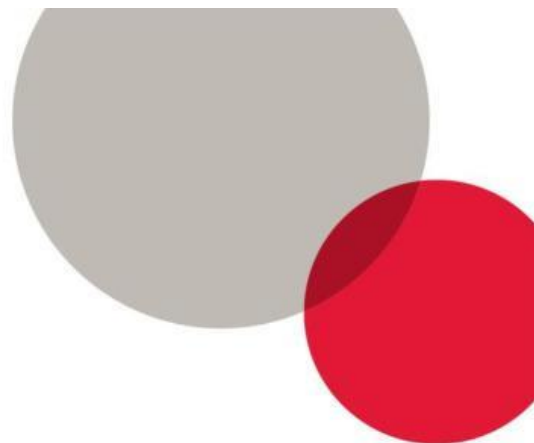
#### Describing increases and decreases (1)

Look at the line graph below and read the description.



#### Body paragraph

At the beginning of the period, unemployment stood at nearly 5.1 per cent. A few months later, the figure **had risen slightly** to 5.2 per cent. Unemployment then **remained stable** until September 2003. From this point on, **there was a steady downward trend** and by January 2004, the rate **had fallen** to around 4.9 per cent. It **stayed at this level** until May the same year, but from May to July **there was another small drop** of 1 per cent. There were no further changes in the level of unemployment until March the following year. From March to May 2005, **there was a small increase** of 1 per cent, but this did not last long, and the figure had fallen back to 4.8 per cent by July. From September 2005 onwards, however, **there was a marked upward trend** in the rate of unemployment in the UK. From September 2005 to November the same year, **the figure shot up** from 4.8 to 5.2 per cent. The rate remained stable for a few months, but then **rose sharply** again, and had **reached a peak** of approximately 5.7 per cent by July 2006.



1 Read the description again and find phrases in **bold** which mean...

went up and down frequently  
 did not change (2 phrases)  
 went up a little (2 phrases)  
 went up very quickly (2 phrases)  
 arrived at its highest point  
 went up noticeably over a period  
 went down (2 phrases)  
 went down gradually over a period

In the last activity, there were some useful phrases for describing increases and decreases. Here are two sentence structures for doing this:

1 noun phrase + verb + adverb

For example:

| noun phrase +         | verb + | adverb       |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------|
| The unemployment rate | rose   | rapidly      |
| The cost of living    | fell   | dramatically |

2 There is/are + noun phrase

For example:

| There is/are + | + noun phrase                     |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| There was      | a rise in unemployment            |
| There has been | an increase in the cost of living |

2 Finish each sentence below so that it means the same as the one given.

1 The price of oil rose sharply.

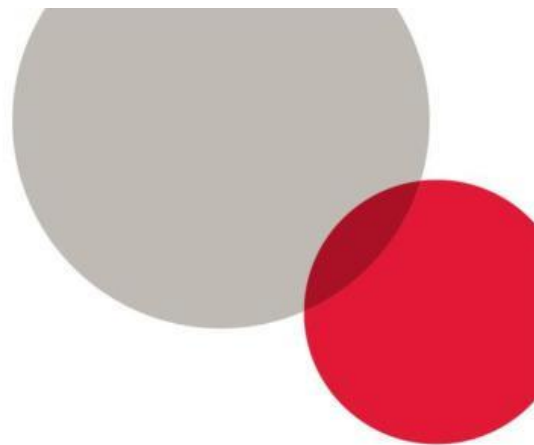
There.....

2 There is a noticeable increase in temperature from May onwards.

Temperature.....

3 The number of people attending the theatre has fallen dramatically.

There.....



- 4 There had been a steady rise in DVD sales during the first six months of the year.  
DVD sales.....
- 5 There has been a rapid growth in the use of alternative energy sources.  
The use of alternative energy sources.....
- 6 The popularity of self-catering holidays decreased significantly during the 1990s.  
There.....

## Academic Writing Task 1

### Worksheet 2

#### Making approximations

*It can be difficult to use exact numbers when describing charts. A useful strategy for dealing with this is making approximations.*

*For example, if sales figures for oranges rose from 4000 kilos to 7850 kilos, you can say 'orange sales **almost doubled**'.*

- 1 *Here are some useful words and phrases for making approximations. Match phrases with the same meaning.*

1 just over

a around

2 approximately

b nearly

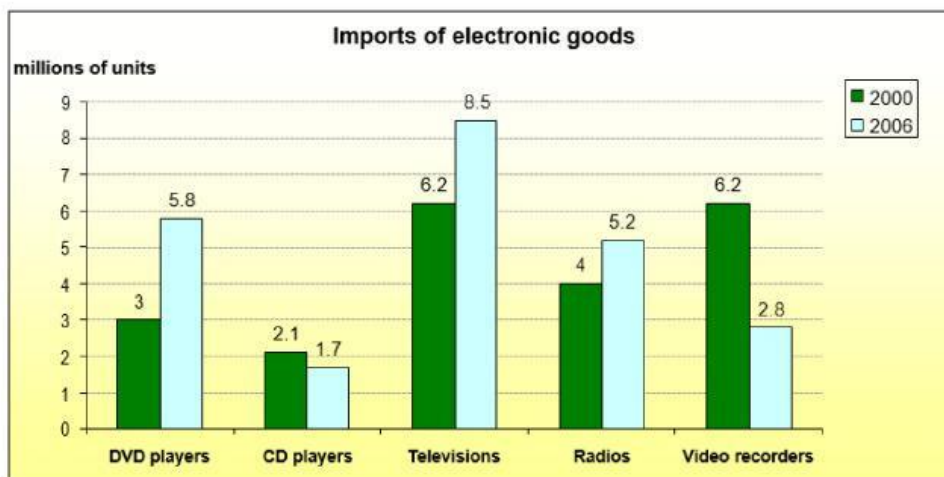
3 just under

c slightly more than

- 2 *Now write sentences about the following bar chart, which shows changes in the quantities of imports of certain electronic goods. Use the words in the boxes.*

just over  
approximately  
just under    around  
nearly    slightly  
more than

halved    doubled    tripled  
fell by    rose by  
a quarter    a third



1 (DVD players)

.....

.....

2 (CD players)

.....

.....

3 (Televisions)

.....

.....

4 (Radios)

.....

.....

5 (Video recorders)

.....

.....