Understanding data

1 Look at the graph below and the Task 1 question.

What was the income in dollars for:

a The Tea Room in January? _____

b Internet Express in July? _____

c Wi-fi Café in November? _____

d Café Cool in December? _____

e The Tea Room in February? _____

In which month did:

f Café Cool earn the most money? _____

g Wi-fi Café earn the least money? _____

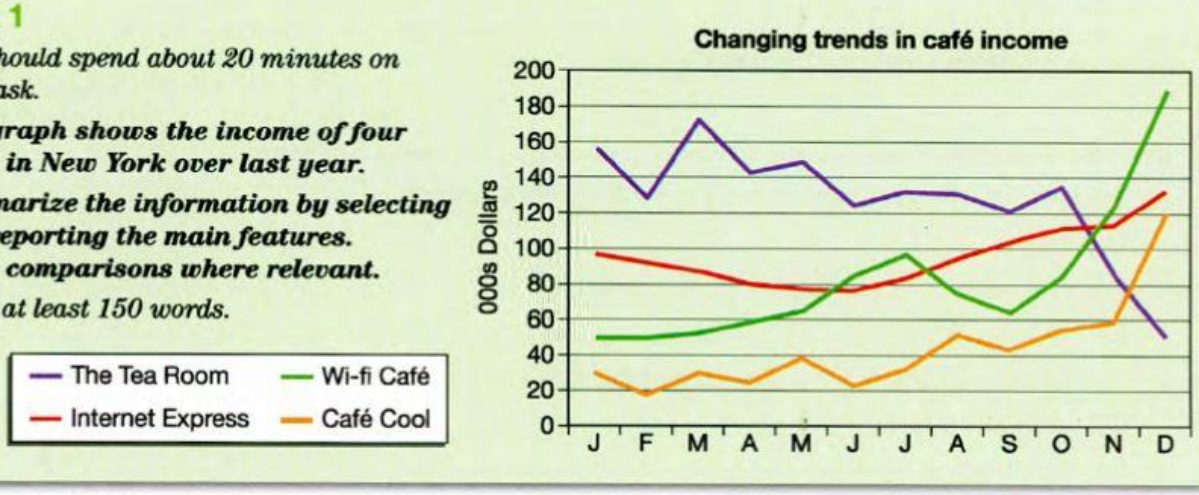
Task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The graph shows the income of four cafés in New York over last year.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features. Make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



2 Answer these questions about the graph.

a What do the letters J, F, M, etc, along the bottom of the graph mean?

b What does 000s mean?

c What patterns can you see?

d What comparisons can you make?

Technique

Write the names of the cafés at the end of each line to help you read the graph.

3 Read the text below and decide whether each of the seven missing phrases is a verb, a noun or an adverb.

Example

1 adverb

The graph provides information about the income trends of four cafés over the last year.

Overall, although the income for all four cafés showed some fluctuation from month to month, we can identify some general upward and downward trends. As regards the earnings for The Tea Room, they were down over the year, falling **1** si gni cant l y from almost $160,000 earnings a month to around $50,000 in December.

By contrast, the income for the other three cafés went up by varying degrees. There was **2** a ri se in Café Cool's sales over the first ten months, followed by a sudden increase to $120,000. Furthermore, the income for both Internet Express and the Wi-fi Café **3** al so went up in December. The former experienced **4** a st eady f al l to June but, after that, income rose **5** st eadi l y , ending the year at approximately $130,000. Likewise, the trend for Wi-fi Café was upward. Between January and July, earnings **6** doubl ed from $50,000 to nearly $100,000 and **7** t hen r ocket ed to around $190,000.

It is noticeable that the income for The Tea Room is lower in the winter months than for the other three cafés.

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4 Match options a–g with gaps 1–7 in the text. Use the graph to help you.

a steadily
b then rocketed
c doubled
d significantly
e also went up
f a steady fall
g a rise

5 Find the following in the text in exercise 3.

a A phrase to introduce a new item on the graph.
b A phrase to show you are going to talk about a different trend from the one in the previous sentence.
c Two phrases to show you are going to talk about a similar trend to the one in the previous sentence.

TASK 2 Understanding questions

Technique
Learn to analyse Task 2 questions. They contain a general subject and often include a general noun or nouns to help you organize your essay, e.g. *The world is changing rapidly* (general subject). *What are the causes* (general noun to help you organize your answer) *of this*?

1 In each group a–d below, which general noun has a different meaning from the other two?

a advantages drawbacks benefits
b measures steps reasons
c causes effects consequences
d disadvantages drawbacks solutions

2 Complete each Task 2 question below with the general nouns and verbs from the box. You may use each item more than once.

agree or disagree ■ advantages ■ disadvantages ■ causes
solutions ■ measures ■ views ■ benefits

a What are the *benefits* of learning skills in the modern world?

b Any attempts to preserve the natural world will always hinder economic development. However the benefits of helping the environment will always far outweigh the disadvantages... . Do you agree or disagree ?

c Some young people take a year off between school and university. What are the advantages/ benefits and disadvantages of taking such time off?

d Students should be trained on how to cope with changes in the modern world. How far do you agree or disagree ?

e Volunteer work with disadvantaged groups like underprivileged children is the best way for young people to learn about the real world. To what extent do you agree or disagree ? What other measures/ solutions could be effective?

f Every day, animals are becoming extinct throughout the world. What do you think the causes of this are? What measures/ solutions can you suggest to deal with this?

g Some people think overcrowding in large cities can be reduced by building skyscrapers, while others think the problem can be solved by encouraging people to move to the countryside. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Technique
Number the parts of the task and tick them as you do them.

3 How many parts are there in each question in exercise 2? For example, (a) has one part. If there are two or three parts, how are they related?

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