

Exercise 3

When describing charts and tables, we need to think about what information to include and which paragraph to put the information in.

Choose the correct paragraph (A, B or C), for the statements (1–5).

A

The bar chart shows the number of foreign students studying in four English-speaking countries in the years 2004 and 2012, while the table shows foreign students as a percentage of total student numbers in the countries. We can see that the overall trend is an increase in the number and percentage of international students in most countries.

B

Starting with the number of students, the USA had the most foreign students, rising from approximately 179,000 in 2004 to around 245,000 in 2012. The figures for Australia and the UK were similar, increasing from around 120,000 to almost 200,000. Canada had a significantly lower number of overseas students than the other countries, with about 41,000 in 2004 and approximately 61,000 in 2012.

C

Next, if we look at foreign students as a percentage of total student numbers, we can see that percentages increased for all countries, with the exception of the USA. The percentage of foreign students was highest in Australia at 24% of total student numbers in 2012. In contrast, in the USA, the percentage of foreign students remained stable at 2%, which was the lowest percentage of all four countries.

This paragraph ...

1. gives a summary of the most important information. _____
2. tells us about the important data (percentage) changes shown in the table. _____
3. describes what the bar chart and table are about and what information they show.

4. includes the important data (numbers) from the bar chart. _____
5. tells us what type of chart is being described. _____

