Writing Task 1

Interpreting charts, tables, graphs, and diagrams
Choosing the right words.

A large amount of people enjoy snow sports = wrong

The quantity of men looking after children at home is growing = wrong

What's right then?

number is used with countable nouns. For example: A small **number of cars** are still made by hand.

Amount is used with uncountable nouns: the desert contains **a large amount of sand**.

Quantity is often used for things that can be measured: the world consumes **a large quantity of oil.**

Some uncountable nouns go better with *level* than *amount*: the **level** of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is rising.

A phrase is often formed by putting *level* after the noun: crime levels.

All these words are used with the preposition *of* when they come before the noun.

Figure is sometimes used to replace *numbers* when describing data e.g. though we say *number of people in a country* we refer to *population figures*.

Complete these sentences using one of the words in the box. You may have to form a plural.

Quantity (of) number (of) amount (of) level (of) figure

Example:

The *number of* female managers in companies has increased.

1. There has been a decrease in the _____ fruit consumed by children in the last twenty years.
2. The graph shows the _____ tourist who visited Brazil between 2000 and 2006 and the _____ money they spent.
3. Pollution _____ in industrialised countries increased rapidly during the last century.
4. The population _____ for developing countries are predicted to decrease over the next 50 years.
5. In summer the _____ ultraviolet in sunlight is higher than in winter.
6. Large _____ palm oil are being produced in Brunnei.
7. Solar panels and wind farms can generate a large _____ power.
8. Increasing _____ school children are being educated to the age of 16 and beyond.

Choose words that go well together.

A *big* amount= wrong

The *great* level= wrong

More number of people watch television in the evening than during the day= wrong

Get it right!

Use *huge/great/large/small* with *number, amount and quantity*, e.g: a large amount

Use *high/low* with *level and figures*: a high level; low inflation figures

Be careful with comparatives and superlatives;

A *greater number of people/* more people watch television in the evening than during the day.
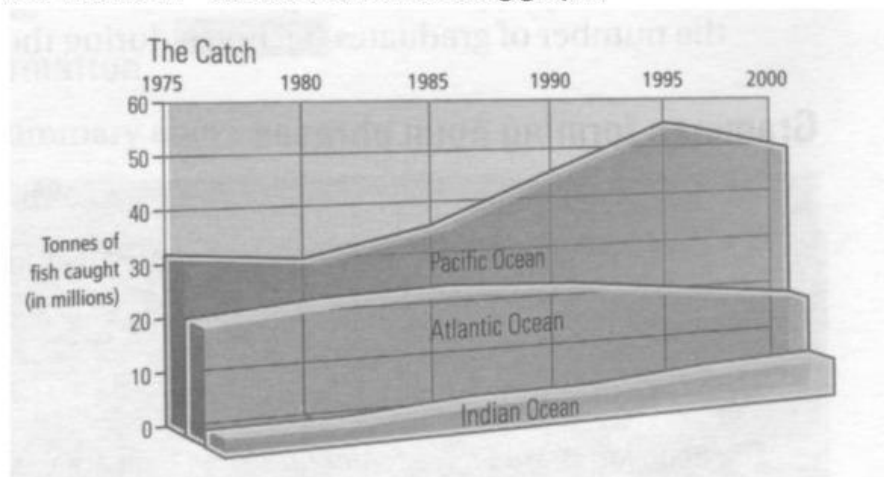
Correct the bold phrases.

Example:

There is a low number of computers in primary schools in Africa.

There is a **small** number of computers in primary schools in Africa.

1. Vegetable soup contains a low quantity of fat.
2. The company has ordered a high number of IT equipment.
3. Some planes carry a very great amount of passengers.
4. Smog levels were large in the middle of the day.
5. The reptile museum receives a little quantity of visitors during the day.
6. A high number of chocolate is made in Belgium.
7. Cholesterol levels are small in Asian countries.
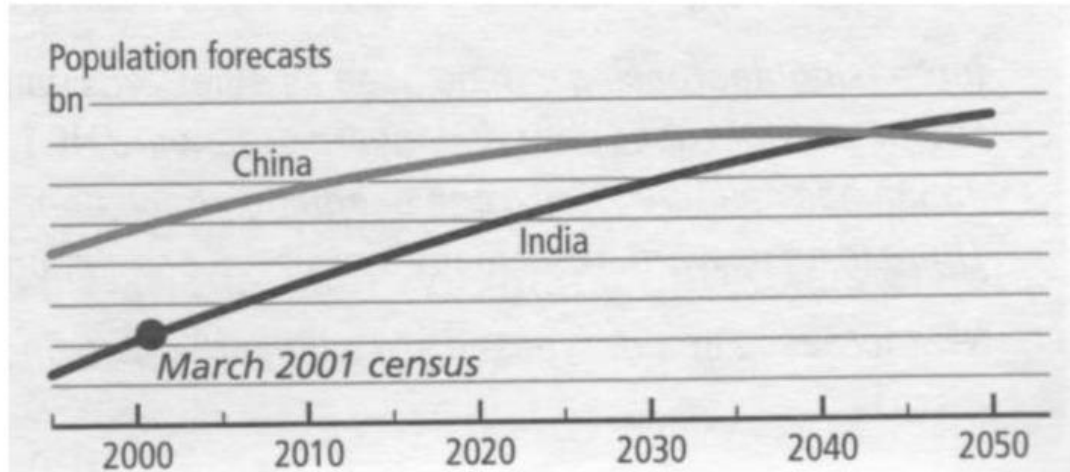8. Planes produce more amount of pollution than cars.

Write a one-sentence introduction to each chart below, then complete the gaps in the sentences.

For number 1 – 3 refer to the following graph.

The Catch

Tonnes of fish caught (in millions)

Pacific Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

Indian Ocean

1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000

1. The _____ fish caught in the pacific ocean is _____ that caught in the other two oceans.
2. The _____ fish is caught in the Indian Ocean.
3. _____ fish is caught in the Atlantic Ocean than the Indian Ocean.

For number 4 and 5 refer to the following line graph.

Population forecasts
bn

China

India

March 2001 census

2000   2010   2020   2030   2040   2050

4. Between 2000 and 2040, the population figures for China are predicted to be _____ than those for India.
5. In 2050, it is predicted that _____ people will be living in India than in China.