

Planning your answer

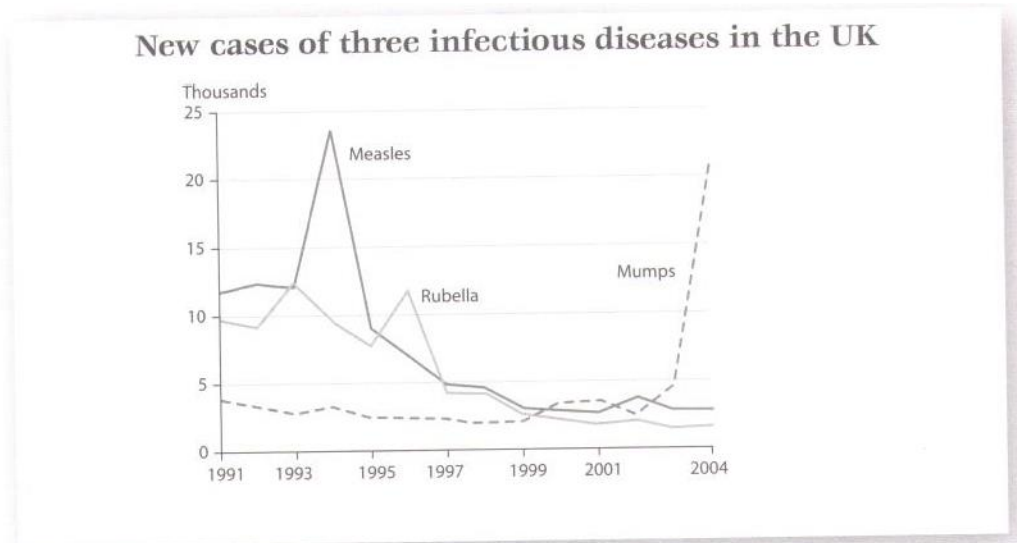
1 Step 1: Analyse the data. Remember to make notes on the chart itself, using circles, arrows, etc.

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the numbers of new cases of three infectious diseases in the UK between 1991 and 2004.

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

Write at least 150 words.



Source: UK National Statistics.

2 Step 2: Organize your material

1 Look at the following three approaches. Which do you think is best?

Approach 1: Say what happened in each year from 1991 to 2004.

Approach 2: Talk about each disease separately.

Approach 3: Talk about the main features you identified.

2 Think about paragraphing. First, think about the following points.

Introduction

Say what the data is about.

Give a strong, effective overview.

Plan for paragraphs

Decide logical order of paragraphs.

Give each paragraph a clear point or set of points.

3 Writing up your answer

You are now ready to write up your answer, although in this case one has been prepared for you.

Read the following sample answer.

- 1 Mark it, following the checklist above.
- 2 In particular look at the way the writer uses language to link paragraphs and sentences, to make clear the relationships between ideas and information. Underline any language of this kind.

The graph gives approximate figures for UK measles, mumps and rubella infections between 1991 and 2004. Despite large variations, it shows a general fall until a sudden increase in mumps in the last two years.

Cases of measles and rubella tended to fall, although there were sudden rises in both, causing peaks of 23 000 for measles in 1994 and 12 000 for rubella two years later. Both then showed remarkable falls and followed very similar trends from 1997 to 2004, with the rate of measles infections being generally a little higher.

In contrast, mumps cases fluctuated between 2 000 and 4 000 until 1999 and, although they began to rise a little, all three diseases had very low rates (below 4 000) until 2002.

At this point the figures for mumps began to rise, first rapidly and then more so, to reach

21 000 in 2004, with no indication of a slowdown – compared with a level of 4 000 in 1991. The corresponding figures for measles were a fall from 12 000 cases in 1991 to 3 000 in 2004, and for rubella, from 10 000 to 2 000. (179 words)

BUILDING COMPLEX SENTENCES

A complex sentence is basically a number of simple sentences linked together using appropriate words and structures.

Useful vocabulary (linking words, 'signpost' words, sequence markers...)

Use sparingly	Use moderately	Use as desired
first, second, etc.	while/meanwhile	such
moreover	whereas	this/these
furthermore	although	those
in addition	in spite of / despite	and
nevertheless/nonetheless	even though	but
on the one/other hand	as a result	also
besides	however	yet
consequently	since	even
likewise	similarly	or
conversely	thus	so
in contrast/comparison	in turn	for

1. Read the following sets of sentences and see if you can link each set together into one complex sentence.

The graph is about student numbers in the UK.
The number of students in higher education has risen.
The rise has taken place over the last five years.

Students were asked how much they expect to earn when they start work.
40 per cent of them expect to earn about £21,000.
2 per cent expect to earn £40,000 or more.

A typical police force in Britain has 2500 officers.
A typical town has a population of 180,000.
At any one time, there are only 10 officers patrolling the streets of a typical town.

Drink-driving laws vary from country to country.
In Poland it is illegal to drive with more than 20 mg of alcohol in your blood.
In Italy it is illegal to drive with more than 80 mg of alcohol in your blood.
The percentage of one-person households in France has risen over the past 10 years.
In 1989, 27 per cent of households in France belonged to single people.
In 1999, 30 per cent of households in France belonged to single people.

The enrolment of students in first-degree courses has changed since last year.
The biggest change has taken place in the Biological Sciences.
9 per cent more students have enrolled in the Biological Sciences this year.
55,000 students enrolled in the Biological Sciences this year.

2. Link the ideas below into a coherent paragraph

Why is relaxation important? There are several arguments.

a) Life is much faster than it used to be e.g. modes of travel, technology.
The body can't keep up.

b) (possibly more important) Enthusiasm for work is renewed after a break.
Mistakes/accidents are less likely. We have new ideas/approaches. Everyone benefits.
Do some people need more relaxation than others? The more we have, the more we want? I think so. Age/health/stress/finances etc. play a part but individuals differ.
So must keep a balance. Take holidays and breaks but not too many.

COMPLEX TASKS

I. Look at the table below. It shows attendance at various categories of cultural events in Britain from 1986-7 to 2001-2.

Attendance at Cultural Events in Britain from 1986-7 to 2001-2

	Percentages					
	1986/87	1991/92	1996/97	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Cinema	31	44	54	56	55	57
Plays	23	23	24	23	23	24
Art galleries/exhibitions	21	21	22	22	21	22
Classical music	12	12	12	12	12	12
Ballet	6	6	7	6	6	6
Opera	5	6	7	6	6	6
Contemporary dance	4	3	4	4	4	5

Note: Figures show percentages of people who said they attend at least once a month.

1. Complete the sentences about the table.

- 1 More people went to the cinema in 2001–2 in 1986–7.
- 2 Cinema was as popular in 2001–2 as in 1986–7.
- 3 Cinema was popular as theatre from 1996–7 onwards.
- 4 the people sampled went to the cinema in 2001–2.
- 5 Cinema was over popular as contemporary dance in 2001–2.
- 6 a quarter of the people sampled went to the theatre in 2001–2.
- 7 Cinema was popular type of event.
- 8 Theatre was popular type of event.
- 9 Contemporary dance was popular type of event.

2. Summarize the information from the table by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant. Write at least 150 words. You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

Checklist for a good answer**Introduction**Does it say what the data is about? Does it avoid repeating the words used in the question? Does it give a strong, effective overview? **Plan**Is there a logical order of paragraphs? **Paragraphs**Does each paragraph have a clear point or set of points? Is the subject of the paragraph clear to the reader? Do sentences follow on logically from each other? Does the writer use language well to link sentences together? **Length**Is it long enough? **Remember**

- Select the main features. Make sure you do not simply write a list of all the information. Make sure the main points stand out.
- This probably means not reporting all the figures (although in this case there are very few so you probably will report most or all).
- Remember what you have learned about writing an introduction.

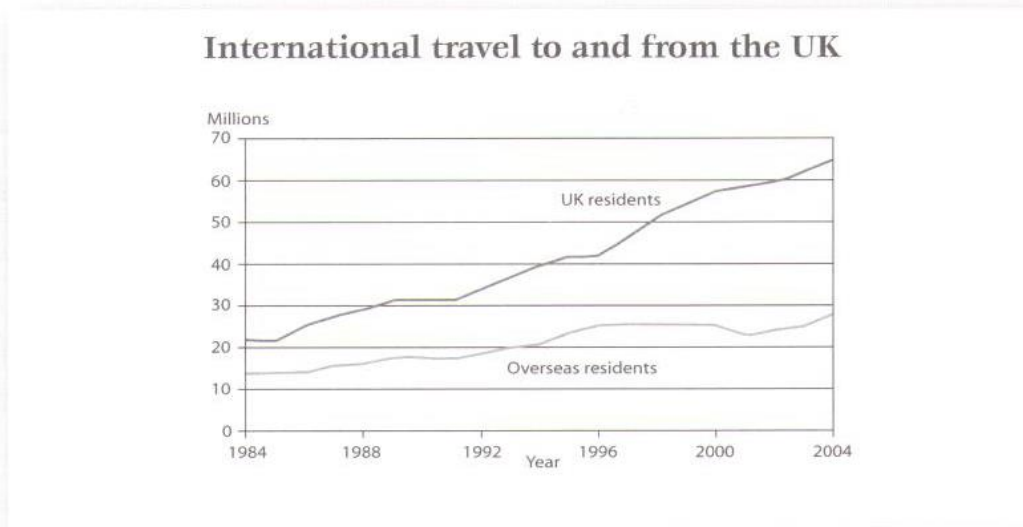
3. Read the sample answer below. Use the checklist above to help you decide if it is a good answer.

The table illustrates the percentages of British people who went at least once a month to seven types of cultural event in six 12-month periods, beginning in 1986–7 and ending in 2001–2. Over those 15 years, cinema's position as the most popular type of event strengthened enormously, while there was little or no change in any other category.

Looking first at cinema attendance, this grew by 13% from 1986–7 to 1991–2 and another 10% in the following five years. It continued to rise between 1996–7 and 2000–2, although more slowly and with fluctuations, to finish at 51% in 2001–2. Overall, then, British people's cinema attendance rose by 26% over the 15 years.

This makes a strange comparison with the figures for the other types of event, none of which varied by more than 1–2% over the whole period. The categories were: plays (24% in 2001–2), art galleries/exhibitions (22%), classical music (12%), ballet (6%), opera (6%) and contemporary dance (5%). Classical music was the only category showing no change at all in the years for which data is shown.

II. Look at the following graph. It illustrates the number of visit made to and from the UK between 1984 and 2004. Summarize the information by selectin and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. Write about 150 words. You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.



Source: UK National Statistics.

1. Look at the numbers of UK residents making trips abroad and overseas residents visiting the UK. Compare the figures for 1984 with those for 2004. Which one doubled? Which one tripled?
2. Use the two-step approach to planning to study the diagram and make a plan. Remember to work through the *Checklist for a good answer*.
3. People really do write texts like the ones you are practicing. This is what the UK government says about the subject of the chart. The text is twice the length, but it uses some good language. It also has more information than you can see in the chart. Underline, or use a highlighter to mark, the information which is not shown in the chart.

In 2004 overseas residents made a record 27.8 million visits to the UK and spent a record £13 billion. Taking inflation into account spending by overseas residents increased by 13 per cent between 1984 and 2004, and 7 per cent between 2003 and 2004.

The number of visits to the UK doubled between 1984 and 2004, with levels exceeding the previous high in 1998. Between 2003 and 2004 there was a 16 per cent increase in the number of holiday visits to the UK by overseas residents. This followed a decline of 18 per cent between 2000 and 2001, and only small recoveries in each of the following two years.

Residents of the USA made the largest number of visits to the UK – 3.6 million in 2004. French residents made 3.3 million visits, followed by residents of Germany (3.0 million visits), Ireland (2.6 million) and the Netherlands (1.6 million).

The number of visits abroad made by UK residents has almost tripled since 1984, to a record 64.2 million visits in 2004. Two-thirds of these visits abroad were holidays, just under half of which were package holidays. Although the number of holidays overall has continued to increase year-on-year, there has been little change in the number of package holidays in the last five years.

Europe remained the most popular destination for UK residents, accounting for over 80 per cent of visits abroad. Spain continued to be the most popular country to visit, with 13.8 million visits in 2004. France was second in popularity, with 11.6 million visits. The number of visits by UK residents to the USA increased by 15 per cent in 2004 to 4.2 million, although this was still 4 per cent lower than the number in 2000.

Spending on visits abroad by UK residents increased to a record £30.3 billion, a fourfold increase between 1984 and 2004 in real terms, and a 10 per cent increase between 2003 and 2004.