

MASTER IELTS REPORTS

Sessions 2-4: Understanding the Band Descriptors

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CELTA, CertTESOL, IELTS Ac. 9



- **Understanding Task Achievement**
- **Understanding Coherence and Cohesion**
- **Understanding Lexical Resource**
- **Understanding Grammatical Range & Accuracy**

Academic:

How effectively the candidate has identified, illustrated and reported the key features of the information in the task

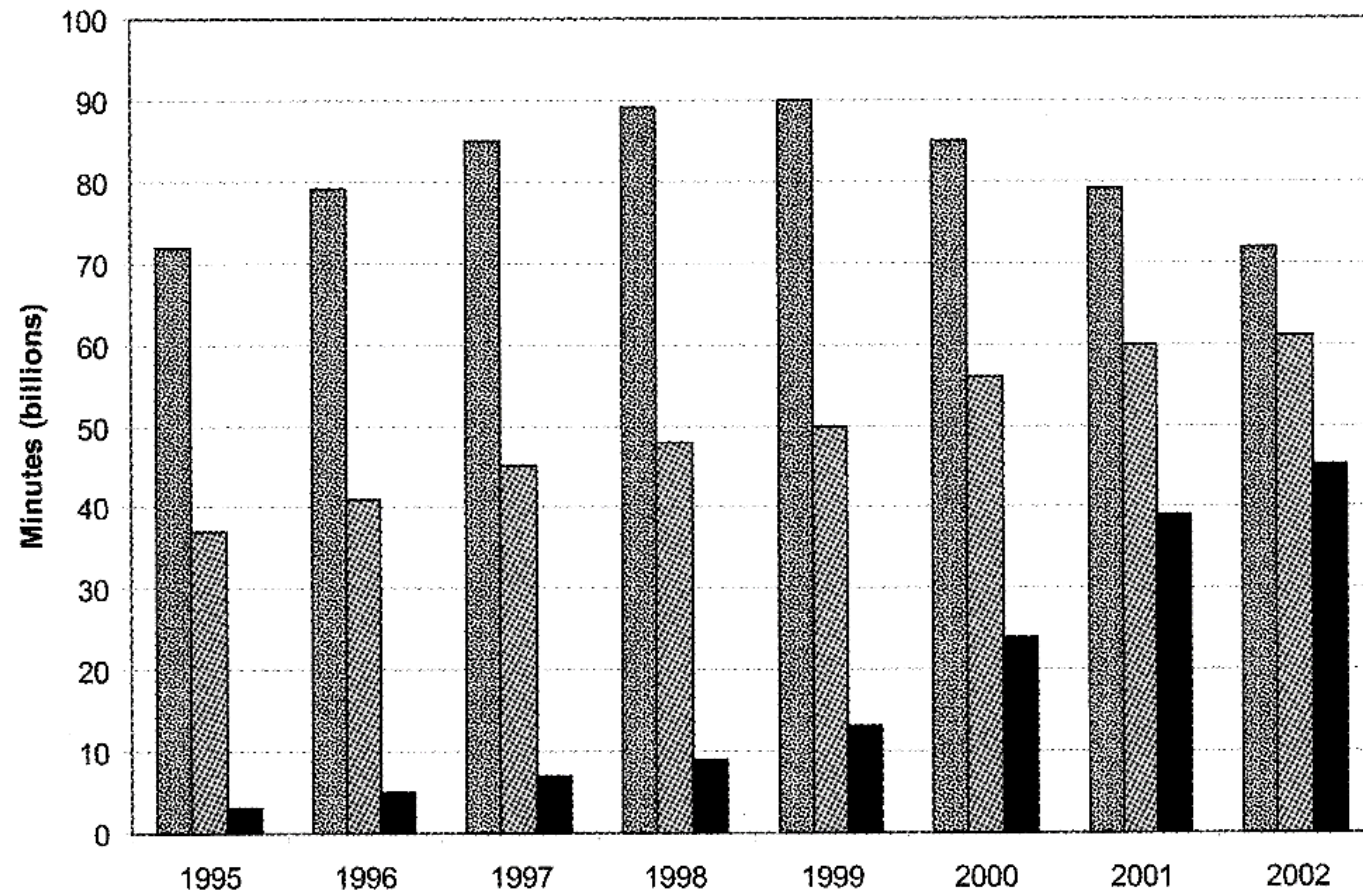
Task Achievement

Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8
• The response generally addresses the requirements of the task. The format may be inappropriate in places. • (Academic) Key features which are selected are not adequately covered. The recounting of detail is mainly mechanical. There may be no data to support the description. • There may be a tendency to focus on details (without referring to the bigger picture). • The inclusion of irrelevant, inappropriate or inaccurate material in key areas detracts from the task achievement. • There is limited detail when extending and illustrating the main points.	• The response focuses on the requirements of the task and an appropriate format is used. • (Academic) Key features which are selected are covered and adequately highlighted. A relevant overview is attempted. Information is appropriately selected and supported using figures/data. • Some irrelevant, inappropriate or inaccurate information may occur in areas of detail or when illustrating or extending the main points. • Some details may be missing (or excessive) and further extension or illustration may be needed.	• The response covers the requirements of the task. • The content is relevant and accurate – there may be a few omissions or lapses. The format is appropriate. • (Academic) Key features which are selected are covered and clearly highlighted but could be more fully or more appropriately illustrated or extended. • (Academic) It presents a clear overview, the data are appropriately categorised, and main trends or differences are identified.	• The response covers all the requirements of the task appropriately, relevantly and sufficiently. • (Academic) Key features are skilfully selected, and clearly presented, highlighted and illustrated. • There may be occasional omissions or lapses in content.

UK telephone calls, by category, 1995–2002

Call type:

- Local – fixed line
- National and international – fixed line
- Mobiles (all calls)



Source: Cambridge IELTS 9

Focus on TA: Band 9

The chart shows the time spent by UK residents on different types of telephone calls between 1995 and 2002.

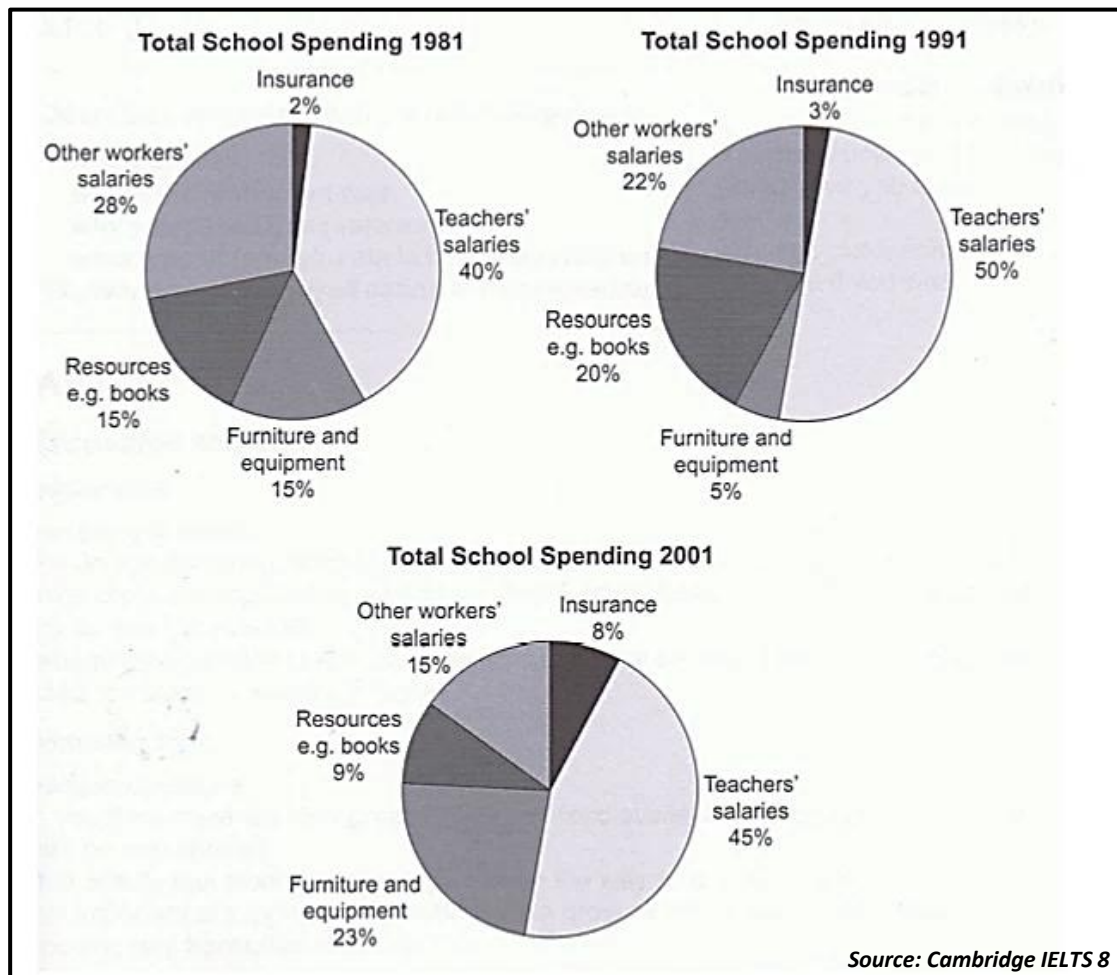
Local fixed line calls were the highest throughout the period, rising from 72 billion minutes in 1995 to just under 90 billion in 1998. After peaking at 90 billion the following year, these calls had fallen back to the 1995 figure by 2002.

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To sum up, although local fixed line calls were still the most popular in 2002, the gap between the three categories had narrowed considerably over the second half of the period in question.

Trend Overviews



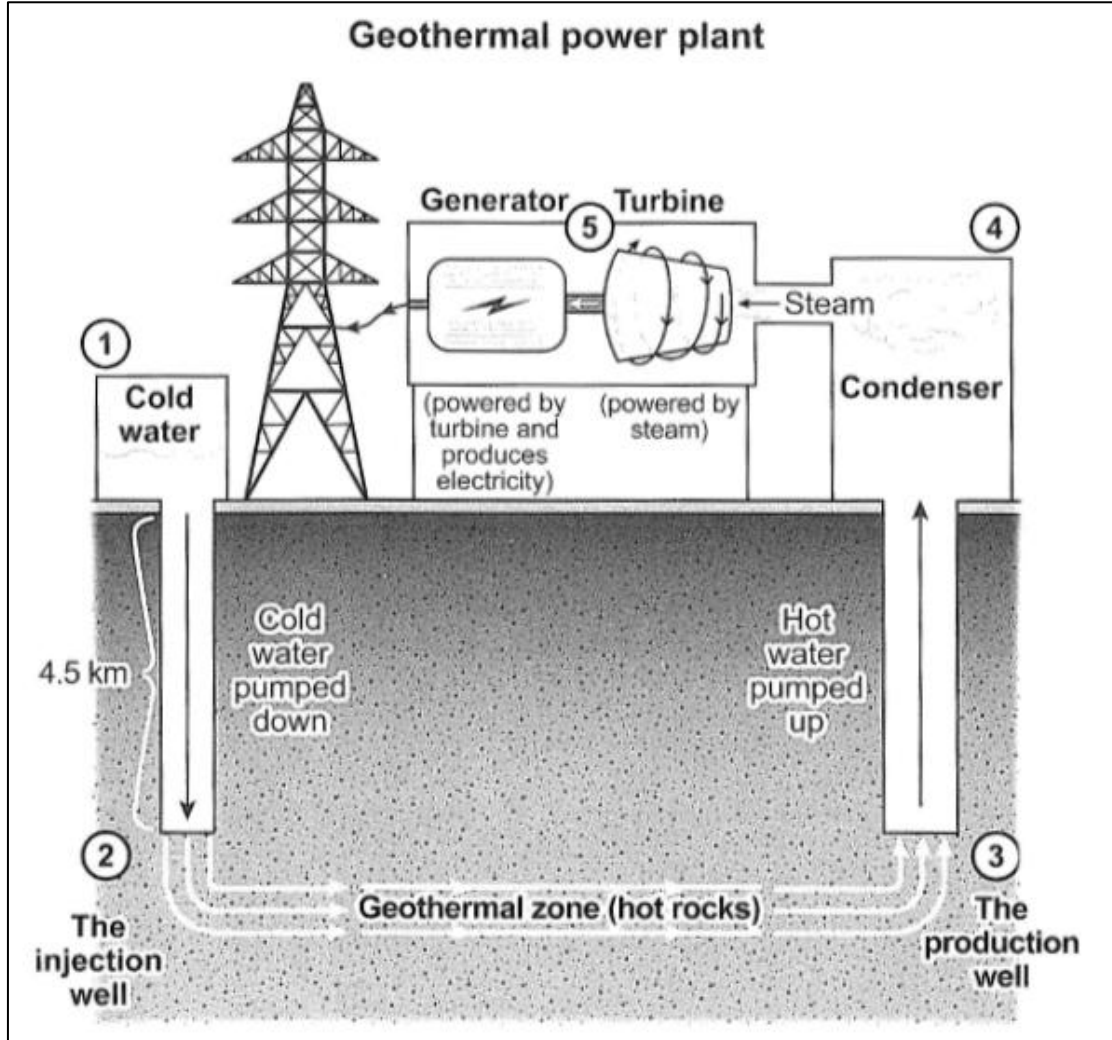
Overall, teachers' salaries ranked first, whereas insurance stood last, and while the shares of these two items and equipment rose significantly, there were drops in those of resources and other workers' salaries.

Comparison Overviews

Country	Food/Drinks/ Tobacco	Clothing/ Footwear	Leisure/ Education
Ireland	28.91%	6.43%	2.21%
Italy	16.36%	9.00%	3.20%
Spain	18.80%	6.51%	1.98%
Sweden	15.77%	5.40%	3.22%
Turkey	32.14%	6.63%	4.35%

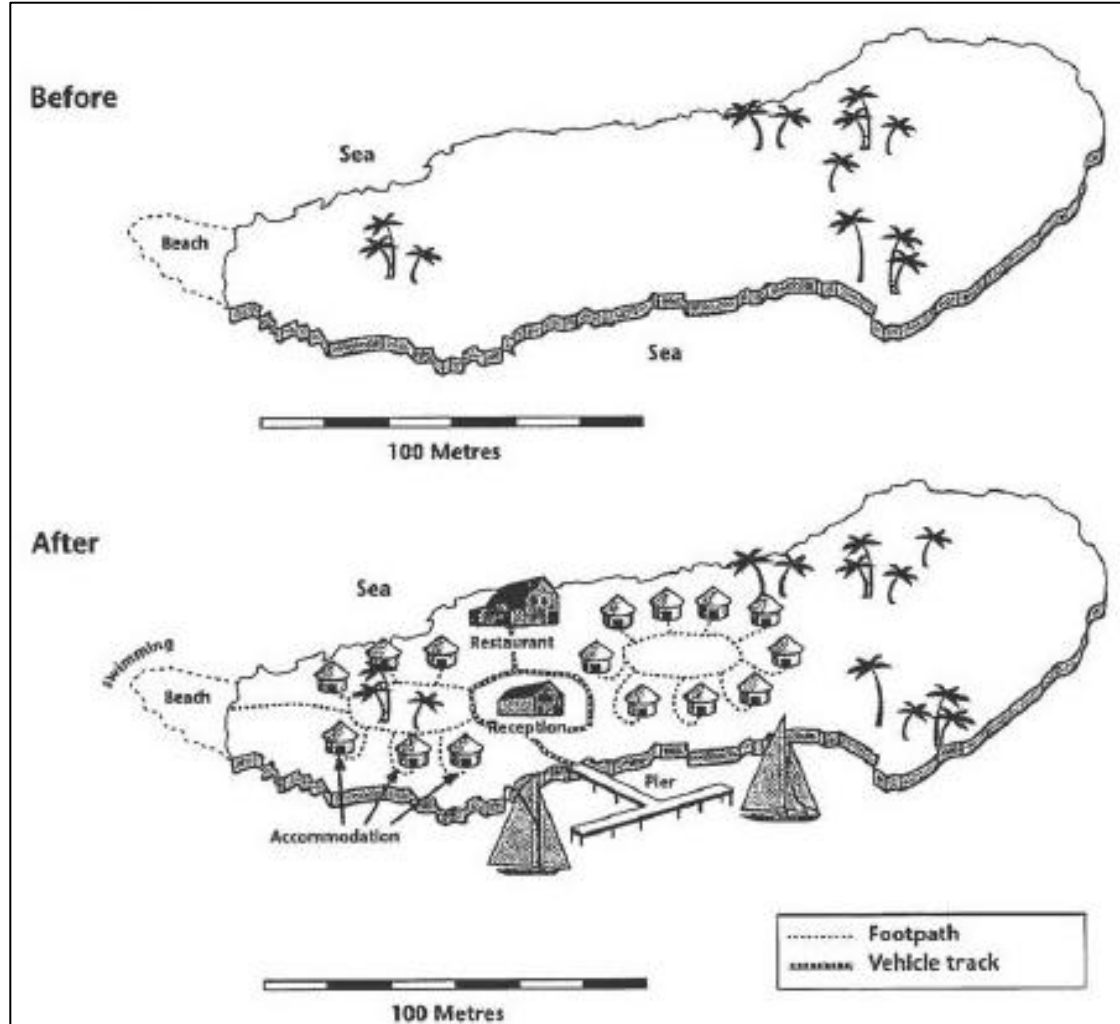
Overall, the highest figures were spent on food, drinks and tobacco, whereas leisure and education stood last. Turkey ranked first in these categories, while Italy had the highest figure in clothing and footwear.

Process Overviews



Overall, there are five main stages in the production of electricity in a geothermal power plant, namely pumping down cold water, passing it through a geothermal zone, pumping it up again, condensing it and using it to power a generator.

Map Overviews



Overall, a lot of accommodation and some transportation, recreational and other tourist facilities were constructed without damaging the trees in the island.

Source: Cambridge IELTS 9

Stones Used as Cutting Tools



1.4 million years ago



80,000 years ago

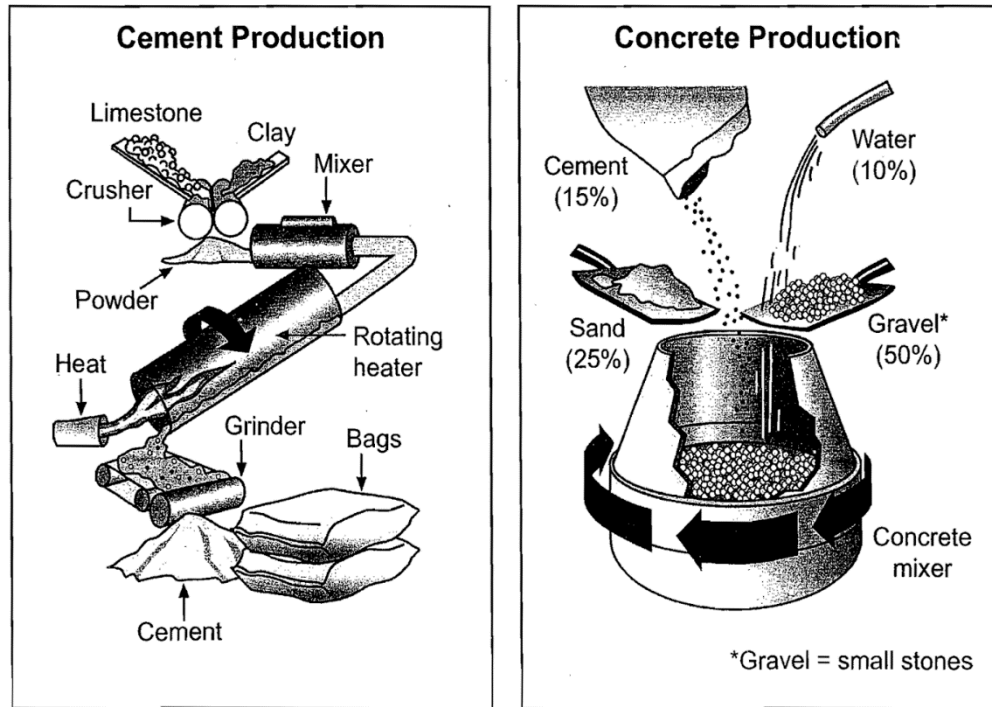
Overall, the tool became sharper, pointier and more pear-shaped during this period.

Reporting vs. Interpreting

The diagrams below show the stages and equipment used in the cement-making process, and how cement is used to produce concrete for building purposes.

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

Write at least 150 words.



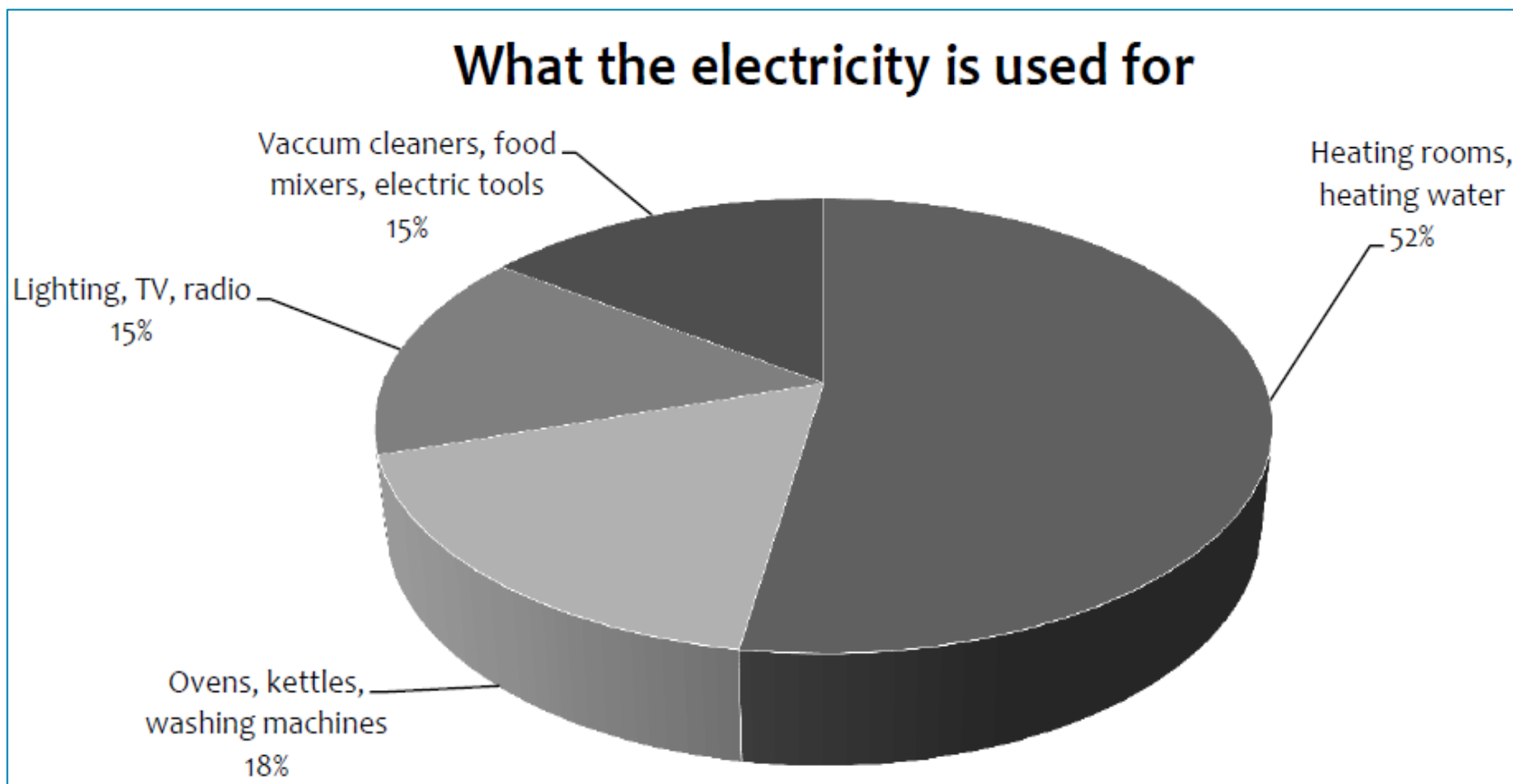
Proportion or Amount?

The table below gives information on consumer spending on different items in five different countries in 2002.

Country	Food/Drinks/ Tobacco	Clothing/ Footwear	Leisure/ Education
Ireland	28.91%	6.43%	2.21%
Italy	16.36%	9.00%	3.20%
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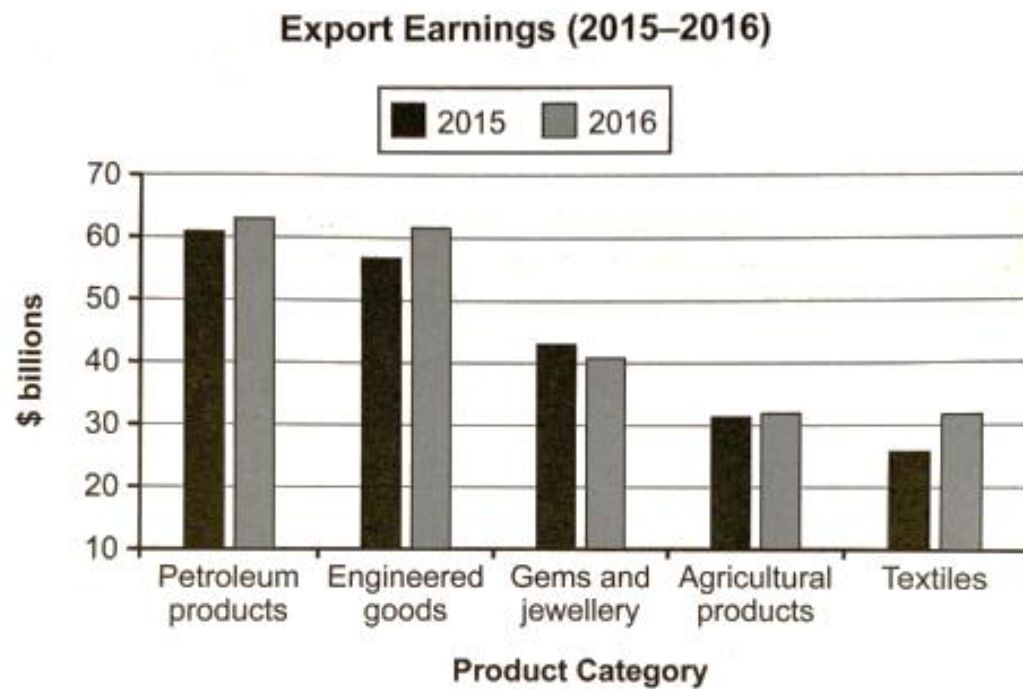
Source: Cambridge IELTS 7

Proportion or Amount?



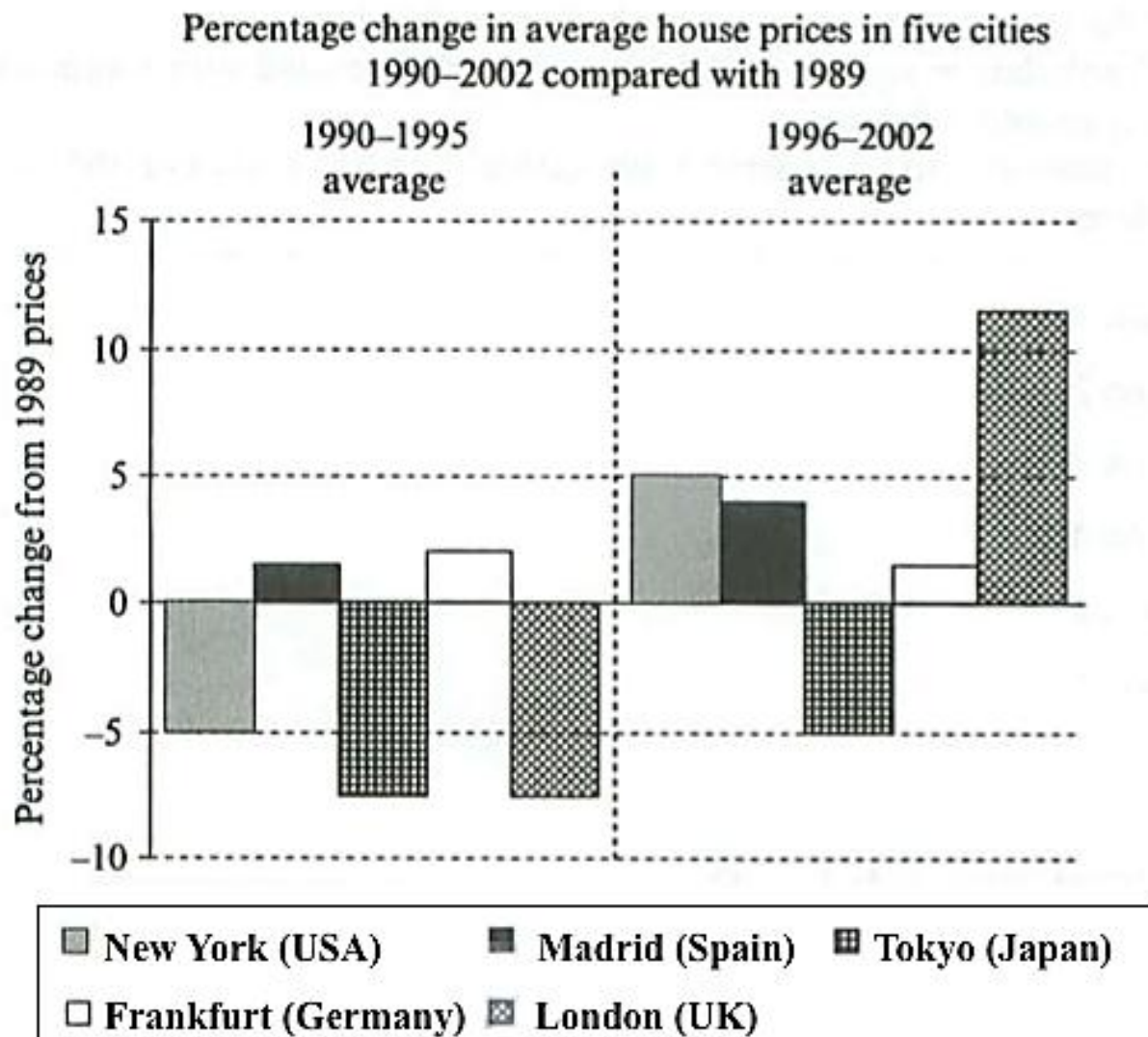
Source: Cambridge IELTS 4

Percentage Change



Percentage change in values (2015–2016)	
Petroleum products	↑ 3%
Engineered goods	↑ 8.5%
Gems and jewellery	↓ 5.18%
Agricultural products	↑ 0.81%
Textiles	↑ 15.24%

Percentage Change



How well the information and ideas are organised, presented and linked

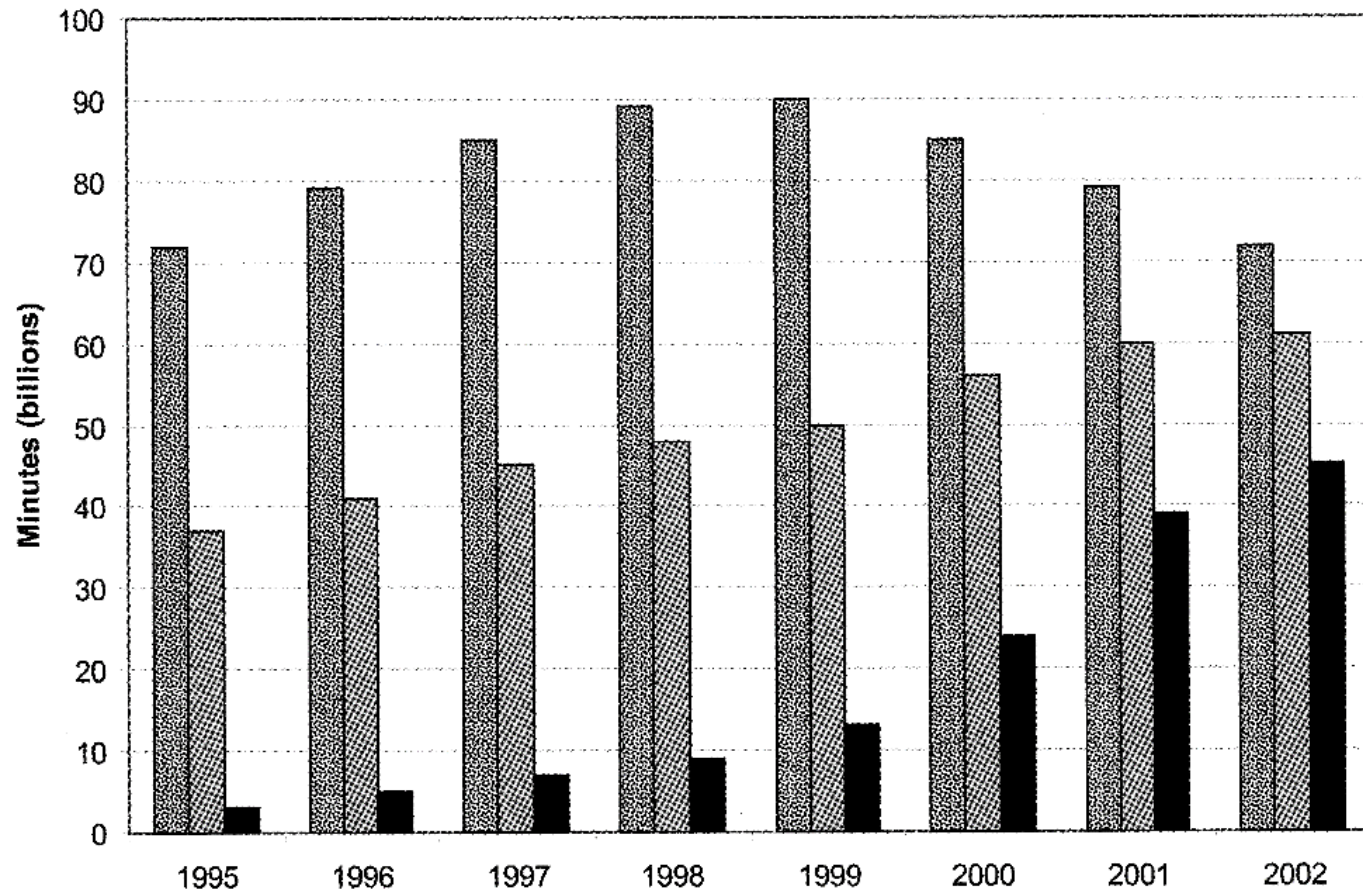
Coherence and Cohesion

Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8
• Organisation is evident but is not wholly logical and there may be a lack of overall progression. Nevertheless, there is a sense of underlying coherence to the response. • The relationship of ideas can be followed but the sentences are not fluently lined to each other. • There may be limited/overuse of cohesive devices with some inaccuracy. • The writing may be repetitive due to inadequate and/or inaccurate use of reference and substitution.	• Information and ideas are generally arranged coherently and there is a clear overall progression • Cohesive devices are used to some good effect but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical due to misuse, overuse or omission. • The use of reference and substitution may lack flexibility or clarity and result in some repetition or error.	• Information and ideas are logically organised and there is a clear progression throughout the response. (A few lapses may occur, but these are minor.) • A range of cohesive devices including reference and substitution is used flexibly but with some inaccuracies or some over/under use.	• The message can be followed with ease. • Information and ideas are logically sequenced, and cohesion is well managed. • Occasional lapses in coherence and cohesion may occur. • Paragraphing is used sufficiently and appropriately.

UK telephone calls, by category, 1995–2002

Call type:

- Local – fixed line
- National and international – fixed line
- Mobiles (all calls)



Focus on CC: Band 9

The chart shows the time spent by UK residents on different types of telephone calls between 1995 and 2002.

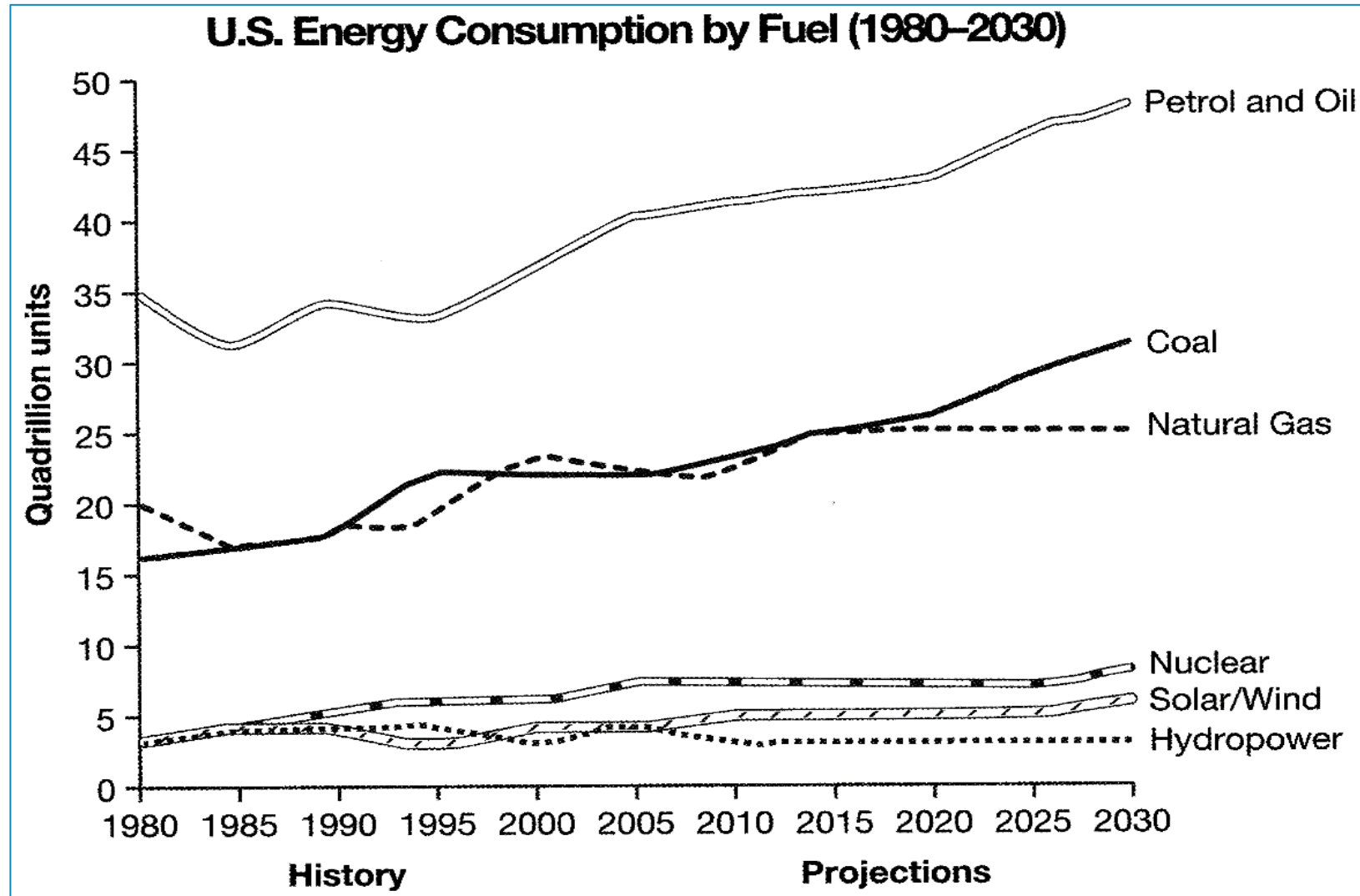
Local fixed line calls were the highest throughout the period, rising from 72 billion minutes in 1995 to just under 90 billion in 1998. After peaking at 90 billion the following year, these calls had fallen back to the 1995 figure by 2002.

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To sum up, although local fixed line calls were still the most popular in 2002, the gap between the three categories had narrowed considerably over the second half of the period in question.

Progression



Focus on CC: Band 9

The graph shows energy consumption in the US from 1980 to 2012, and projected consumption to 2030.

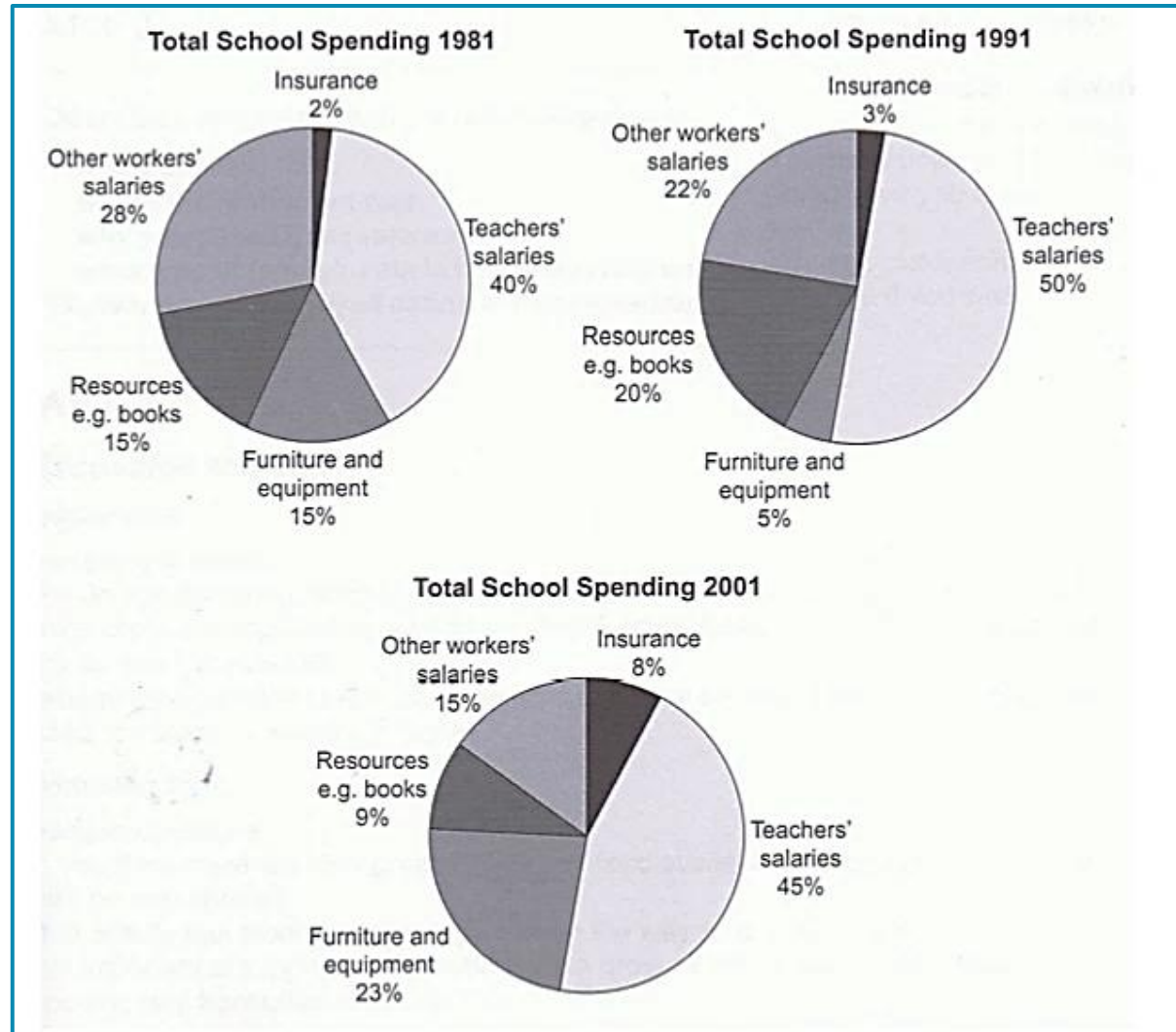
Petrol and oil are the dominant fuel sources throughout this period, with 35 quadrillion (35q) units used in 1980, rising to 42q in 2012. Despite some initial fluctuation, from 1995 there was a steady increase. This is expected to continue, reaching 47q in 2030.

Consumption of energy derived from natural gas and coal is similar over the period. From 20q and 15q respectively in 1980, gas showed an initial fall and coal a gradual increase, with the two fuels equal between 1985 and 1990. Consumption has fluctuated since 1990 but both now provide 24q. Coal is predicted to increase steadily to 31q in 2030, whereas after 2014, gas will remain stable at 25q.

In 1980, energy from nuclear, hydro- and solar/wind power was equal at only 4q. Nuclear has risen by 3q, and solar/wind by 2. After slight increases, hydropower has fallen back to the 1980 figure. It is expected to maintain this level until 2030, while the others should rise slightly after 2025.

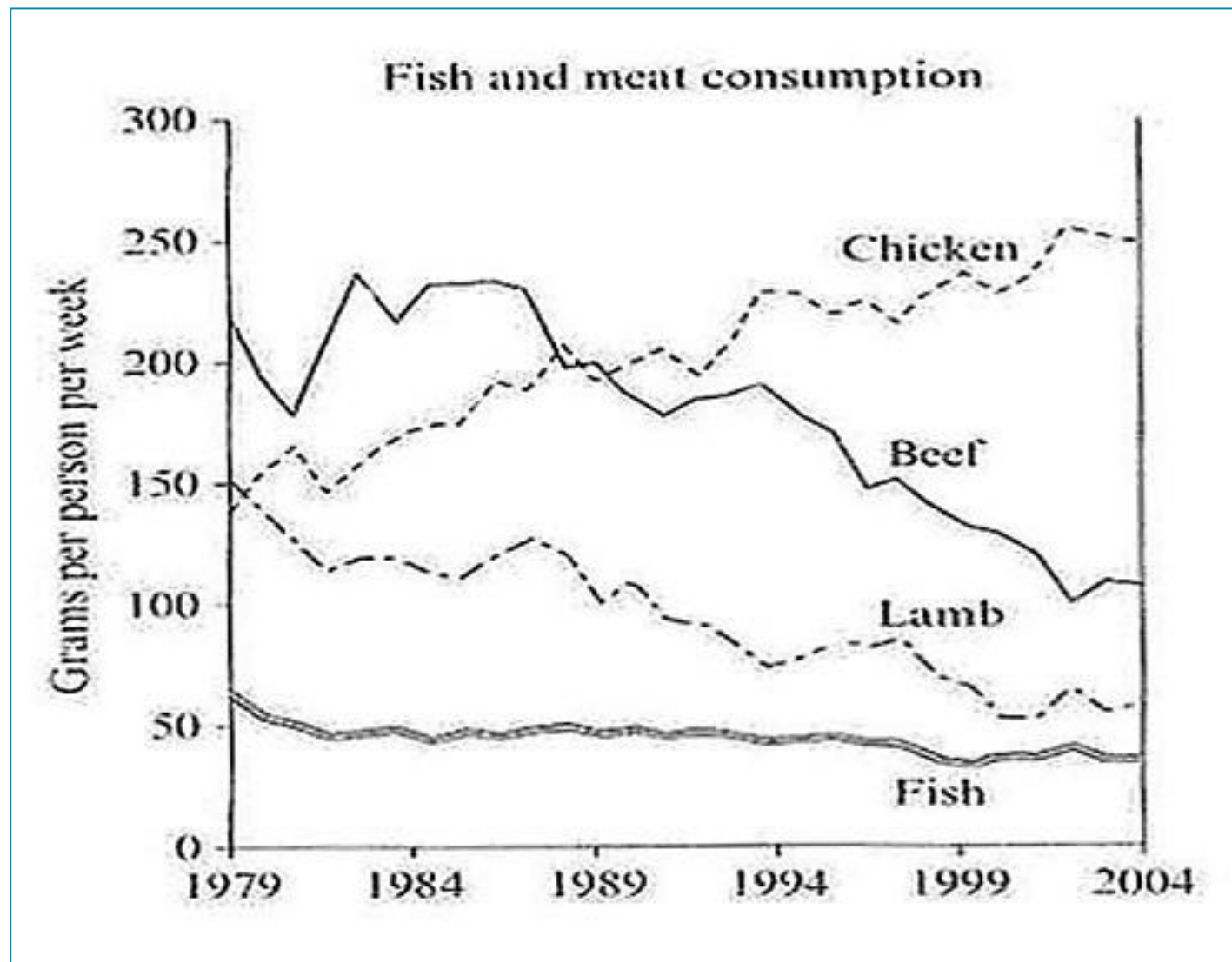
Overall, the US will continue to rely on fossil fuels, with sustainable and nuclear energy sources remaining relatively insignificant.

Progression



Source: Cambridge IELTS 8

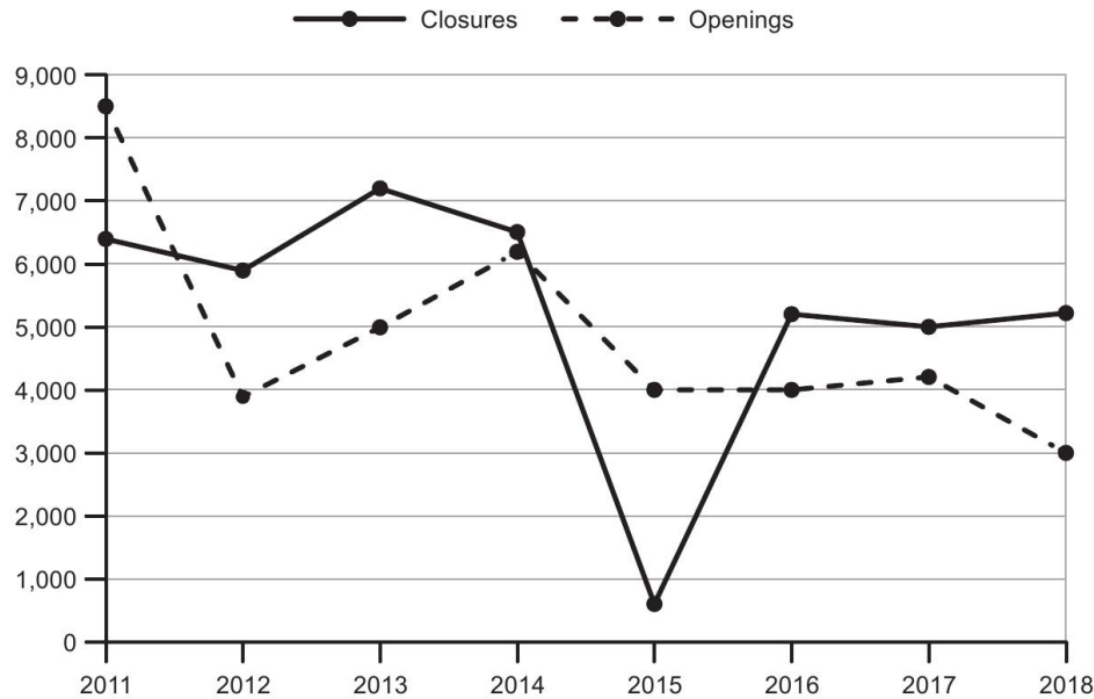
Progression



Source: Cambridge IELTS 7

Progression

Number of shop closures and openings 2011–2018



This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 7.5** score.

The line graph shows trends in shop closures and openings of new shops in a particular country between the years 2011 and 2018.

In 2011 approximately 6,400 shops closed. The number of closures fluctuated over the next four years until 2015, when there was a dramatic fall in closures to roughly 700 shops. The following year the number of shops closing their doors rose sharply, reaching over 5,000. The figures remained steady for the next two years, with just over 5,000 closures in 2018.

The number of new shops opening decreased dramatically between 2011 (approximately 8,500) and 2012 (just under 4,000) but rebounded by roughly 50% by 2014. In 2015, the number of openings then fell to the 2012 level, but remained stable for the next two years. The last recorded year, 2018, saw a further fall to 3,000 new openings, the lowest point in this seven year period.

Overall, the number of shop closures has remained within the 5,000 to 7,000 range (with the exception of 2015). In contrast, new shop openings have shown a wider range of figures, but generally indicate a downward trend over the same period.

Here is the examiner's comment:

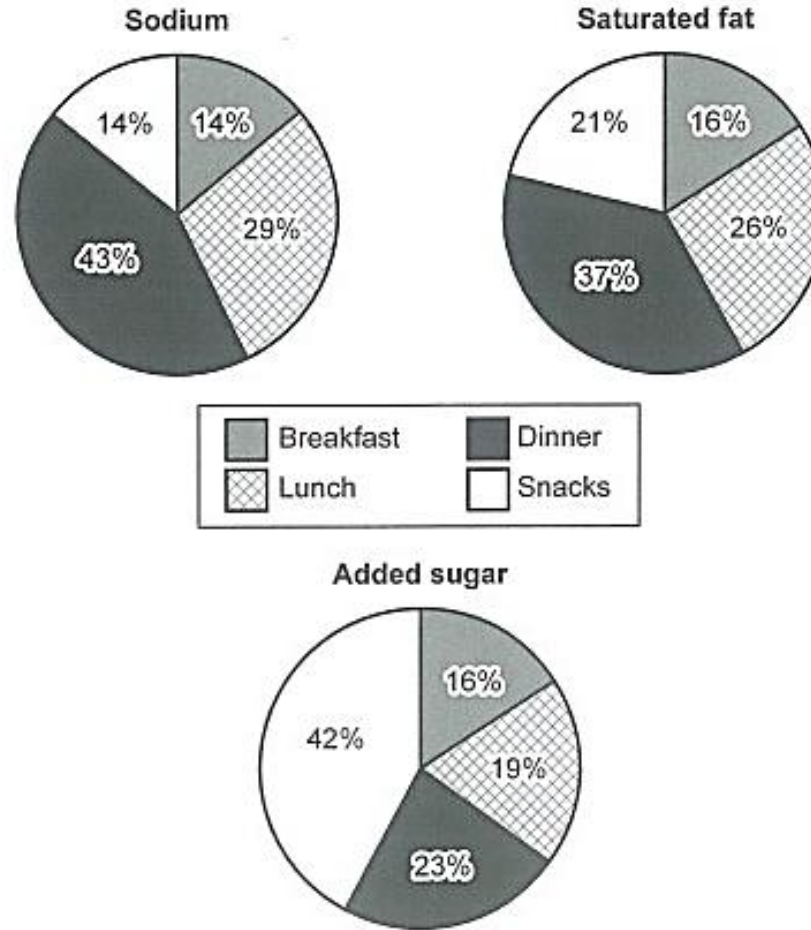
This is a strong response which provides a clear overview in the final paragraph. Data is presented and key features are highlighted appropriately. Closures are dealt with first, and the details are clearly presented, including the [dramatic fall] key feature. Shop openings are dealt with separately, in similar detail. Key peaks and low points are appropriately flagged.

For the highest task score, there could be more detail provided during the periods of [fluctuation] between 2011 to 2014 and 2016 to 2018.

Ideas are logically organised, taking each line on the graph in turn, and paragraphing is used appropriately, apart from the single sentence first paragraph. Cohesion is well managed.

Progression

Average percentages of sodium, saturated fats and added sugars in typical meals consumed in the USA

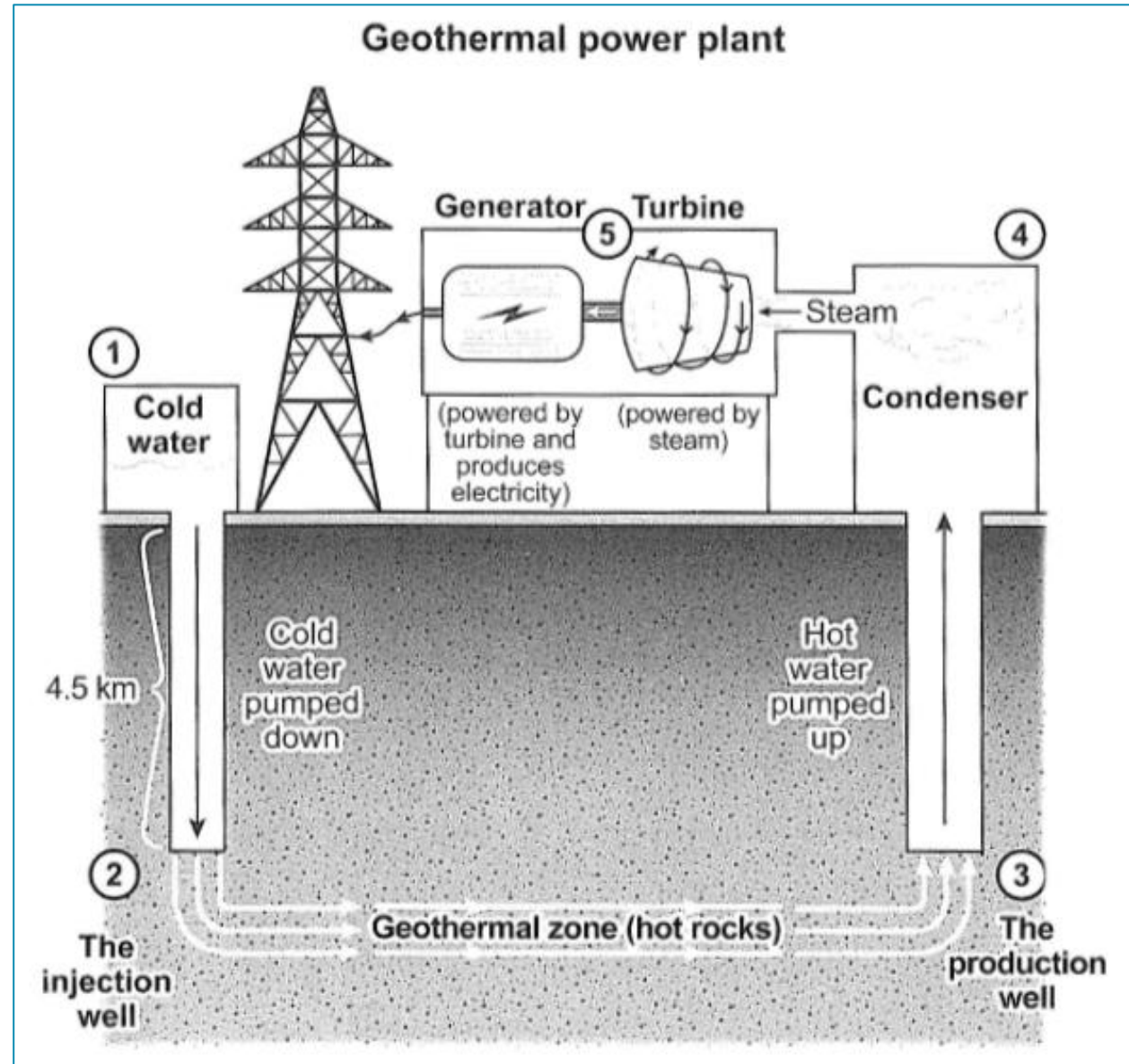


Progression

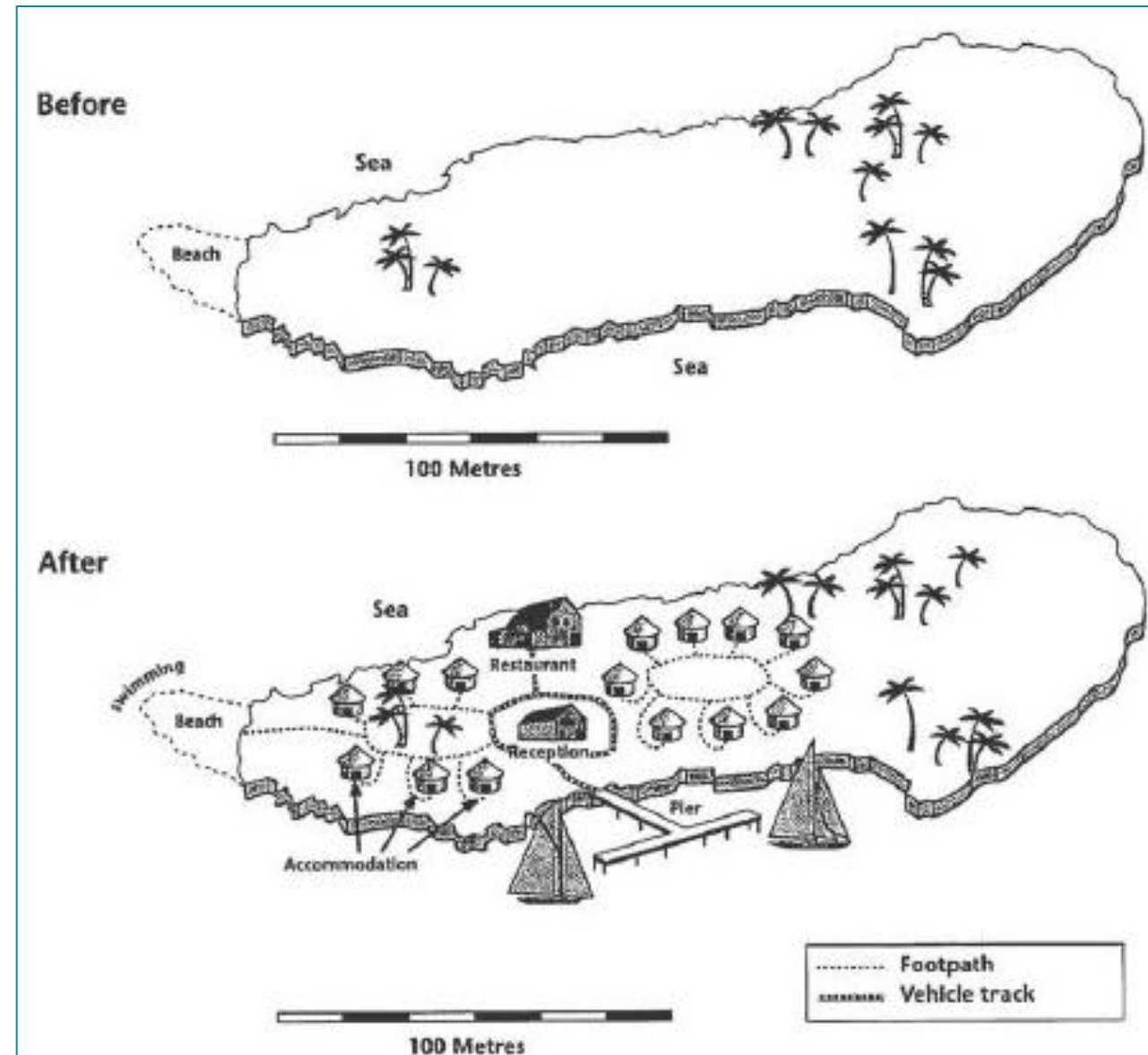
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Progression



Progression

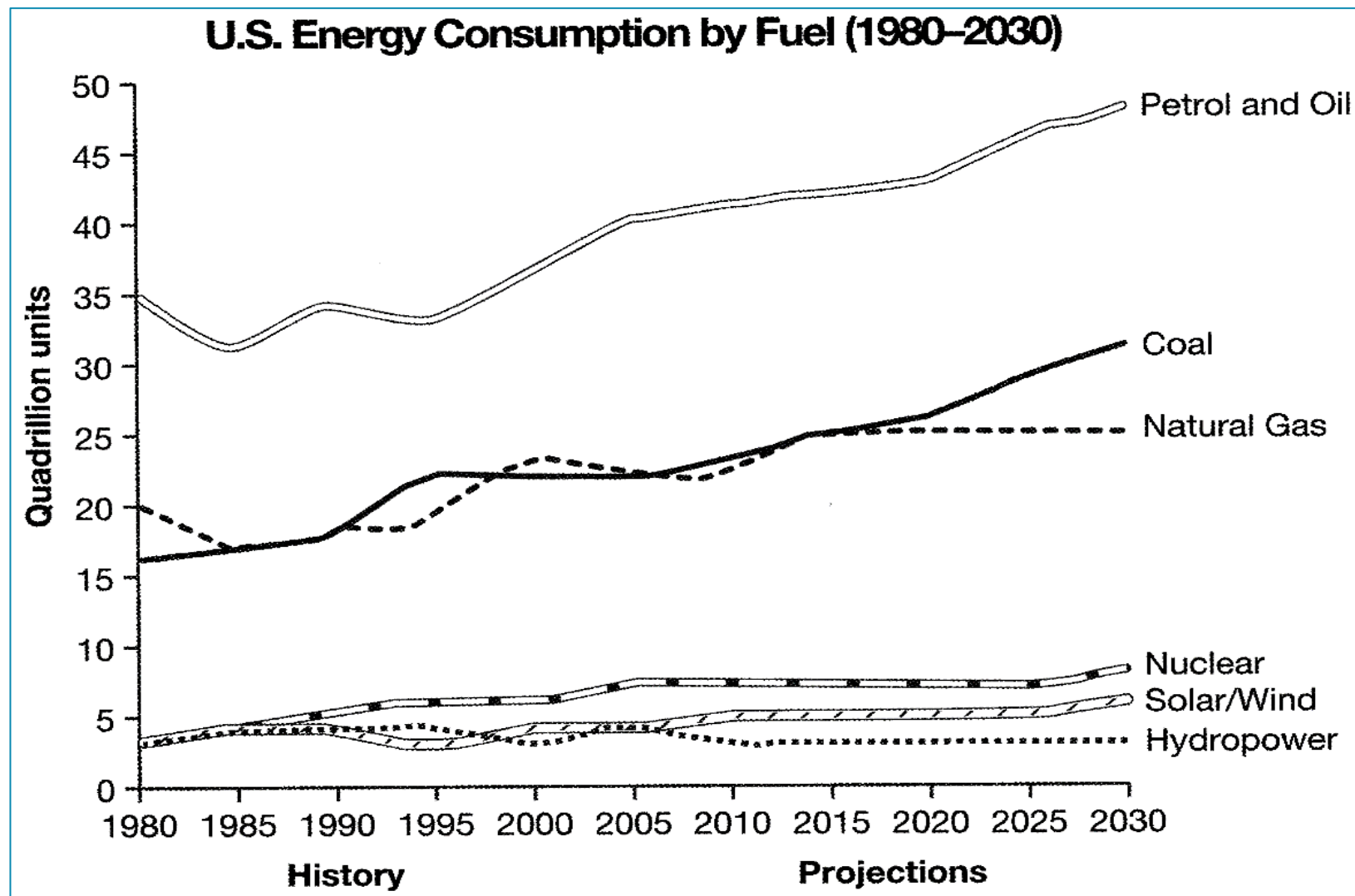


The range of vocabulary used, how accurately it is used and how appropriate it is for the task

Lexical Resource

Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8
• The resource is limited but minimally adequate for the task. • Some vocabulary may be used accurately but the range does not permit much variation in expression. • There may be frequent lapses in the appropriacy of word choice and a lack of flexibility is apparent in frequent simplifications and or repetitions. • Errors in spelling and/or word formation may be noticeable and may cause some difficulty for the reader	• The resource is generally adequate and appropriate for the task. • The meaning is generally clear in spite of a rather restricted range or a lack of precision in word choice. • If the writer is a risk-taker, there will be a wider range of vocabulary used but higher degrees of inaccuracies or inappropriacy. • There are some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but these do not impede communication.	• The resource is sufficient to allow some flexibility and precision. • There is some ability to use less common and/or idiomatic items. • An awareness of style and collocation is evident, though in accuracies occur. • There are only a few errors in spelling and/or word formation and they do not detract from overall clarity.	• A wide resource is fluently and flexibly used to convey precise meanings. • There is skillful use of uncommon and/or idiomatic items when appropriate, despite occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation. • Occasional errors in spelling and/or word formation may occur, but have minimal impact on communication.

Focus on LR: Band 9



Source: Cambridge IELTS 9

Focus on LR: Band 9

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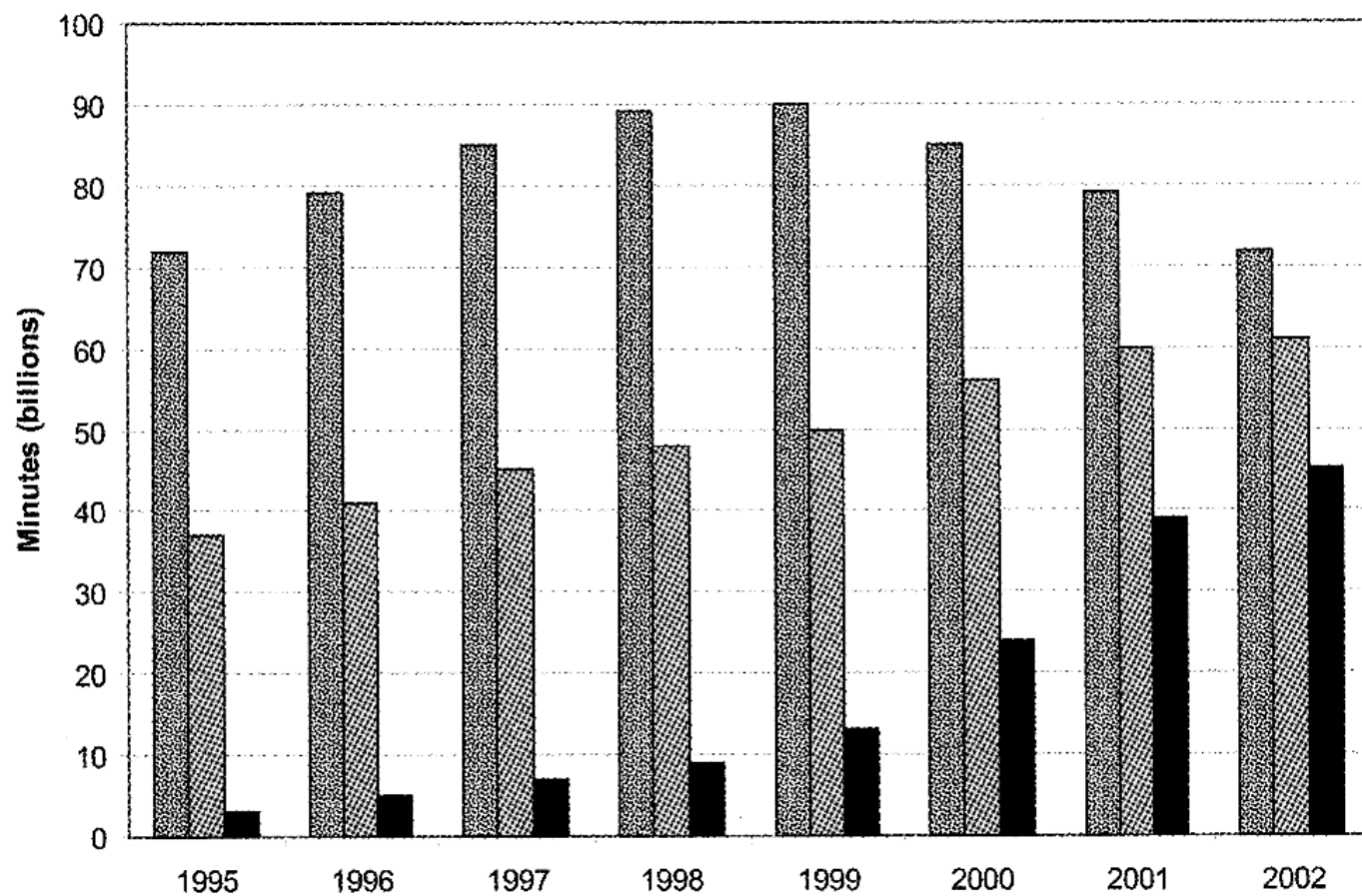
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Focus on LR: Band 9

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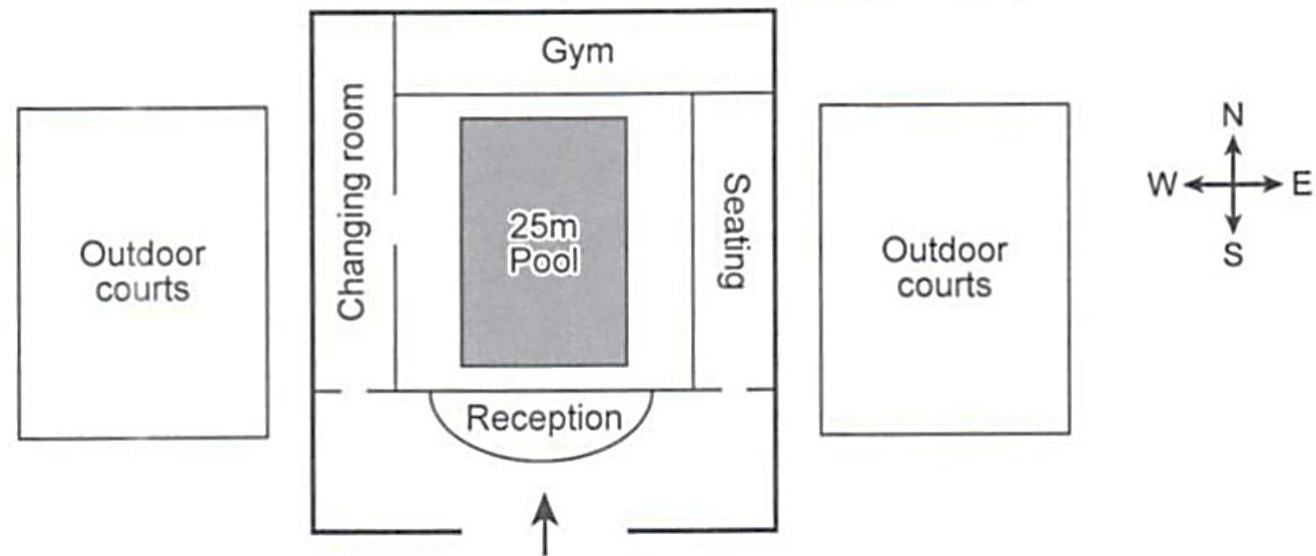
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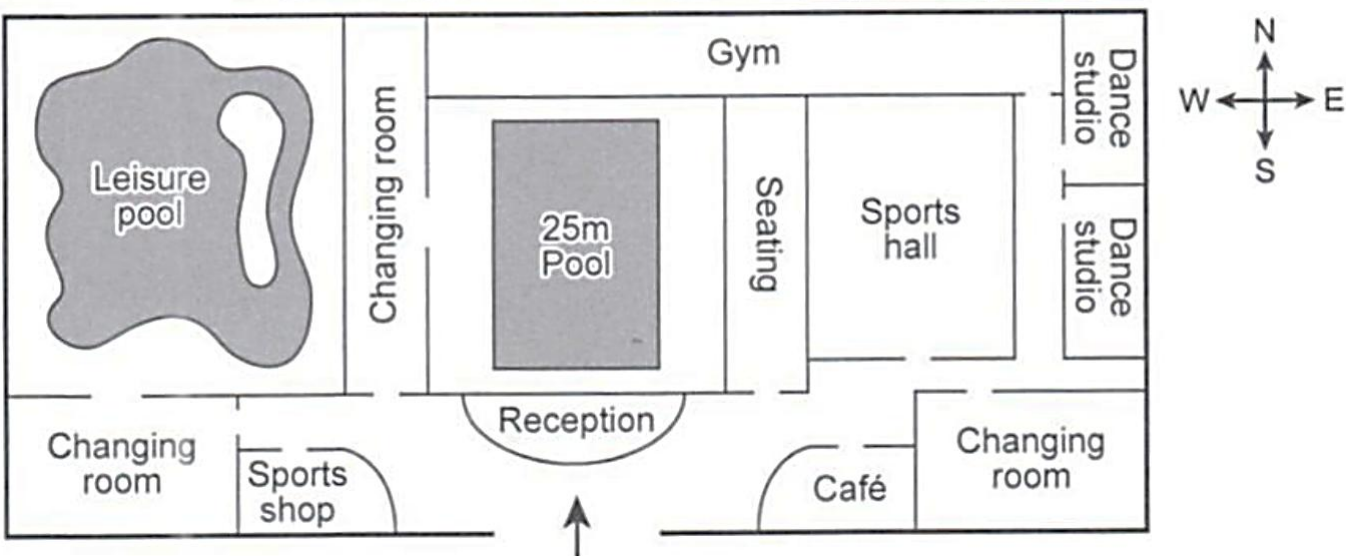
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UNIVERSITY SPORTS CENTRE (present)



UNIVERSITY SPORTS CENTRE (future plans)



Focus on LR: Band 7 Range, Flexibility & Precision



The following plans **illustrate** the layout of the university's sports centre at the present moment and the way it will look after a **reconstruction**.

According to the **new layout**, the **redeveloped** sports centre is going to become bigger. First, the gym is going to be larger and an **additional** changing room is going to appear. Besides, there is going to be a sports shop and a cafe in the reception zone. Apart from that, 2 dance studios are going to work opposite the gym. Finally, the sports centre is going to get a new leisure pool. It is going to be located in the place where the outdoor courts used to be. As can be seen from the new layout, both outdoor courts are going to **be replaced by other facilities** in the **renovated** sports centre. Furthermore, a sports hall is going to appear in the university sports centre. It is also clear from the second layout that the redeveloped sports centre is going to be a fully indoor one.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

The range of structures used, how accurately they are used and how appropriate they are for the task

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8
• The range of structures is limited and rather repetitive. • Although some complex sentences are attempted, they tend to be faulty, and the greatest accuracy is achieved on simple sentences. • Grammatical errors may be frequent and cause some difficulty for the reader. • Punctuation may be faulty.	• A mix of simple and complex sentence forms is used but flexibility is limited. • Examples of more complex structures are not marked by the same level of accuracy as in simple structures.. • Errors in grammar and punctuation occur, but rarely impede communication.	• A variety of complex structures is used with some flexibility and accuracy. • Grammar and punctuation are generally well controlled, and error-free sentences are frequent. • A few errors in grammar may persist, but these do not impede communication.	• A wide range of structures is flexibly and accurately used. • The majority of sentences are error-free, and punctuation is well managed. • Occasional, non-systematic errors and inappropriacies occur, but have minimal impact on communication.

Focus on GRA: Band 7 Tense Control



The following plans **illustrate** the layout of the university's sports centre at the present moment and the way it **will look** after a reconstruction.

According to the new layout, the redeveloped sports centre **is going to become** bigger. First, the gym **is going to be** larger and an additional changing room **is going to appear**. Besides, there **is going to be** a sports shop and a cafe in the reception zone. Apart from that, 2 dance studios **are going to work** opposite the gym. Finally, the sports centre **is going to get** a new leisure pool. It **is going to be located** in the place where the outdoor courts **used to be**. As **can be seen** from the new layout, both outdoor courts **are going to be** replaced by other facilities in the renovated sports centre. Furthermore, a sports hall **is going to appear** in the university sports centre. It **is** also clear from the second layout that the redeveloped sports centre **is going to be** a fully indoor one.

Focus on GRA: Proper Use of the Passive Voice



The following plans illustrate the layout of the university's sports centre at the present moment and the way it will look after a reconstruction.

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Focus on GRA: Band 7 Variety of complex structures



The following plans illustrate the layout of the university's sports centre at the present moment and the way **it will look** after a reconstruction.

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Focus on GRA: Band 9



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