In task 1 of the Academic Writing test, you will likely see a graph or chart and be asked to interpret what you see in the form of a summary. This task must be a minimum of 150 words, and you should plan to spend 20 minutes on it.

The graph analysis task should have 4 paragraphs.

- **Carefully look at the graph/chart.** Make sure you clearly understand the title, all the labels, and any details given.
- **Identify the main patterns or trends.** You are often comparing data with each other, so look for similarities or differences, peaks/jumps, lows/drops, or areas of no change.

Once you have interpreted the data by identifying an **OVERVIEW of trends/patterns**—plan on writing 4 paragraphs.

1. **Introduction.** One or two sentences that paraphrase the title of the chart, graph or map.
2. **Overview.** Two to four sentences that clearly identify overall trends or patterns.
3. **Details** for first trend/pattern. Describe the trend using descriptive language and exact details from the graph.
4. **Details** for second trend/pattern. Describe the trend using descriptive language and exact details from the graph.

Here’s a sample question using a bar graph showing the number of travelers using three major airports in New York City between 1995 and 2000.

**Airport visitors, 1995-2000 (millions of passengers per year)**

- **John F. Kennedy**
- **LaGuardia**
- **Newark**
This bar graph gives information about the number of people that visited New York City via three major airports, over a six-year period between 1995 and 2000.

Over this period of time the number of passengers that travelled through John F. Kennedy airport fluctuated steadily, while the other two airports saw an upward trend. Another interesting point is that LaGuardia airport became the most popular by the end of the timeframe.

On closer inspection, in 1995 John F. Kennedy airport started with 26 million passengers, then steadily climbed to reach its highest point at 47 million in 1997. By 1999, the figure had dipped to 31 million, but by 2000 rebounded to 44 million. Likewise, LaGuardia began with 35 million people in 1995, and grew over the following three years to reach 46 million. In 2000, LaGuardia had peaked at 68 million travellers.

Newark airport started with 16 million passengers in the first year and from that point, the volume of people increased significantly to 41m by 1998. However, for the following 3 years it remained stable at 42m travellers. (179 words)

Keep in mind the assessment criteria and make notes of essential vocabulary you want to include.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linking Words (cohesive devices)</th>
<th>Reference Words</th>
<th>Topic Vocabulary</th>
<th>Uncommon Vocabulary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>while another likewise and but however</td>
<td>this the other (two) its the figure it</td>
<td>fluctuated steadily, upward trend, most popular, climbed, highest point, dipped, rebounded, grew, peaked, increase significantly, stable</td>
<td>via six-year period timeframe on closer inspection volume</td>
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</tbody>
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