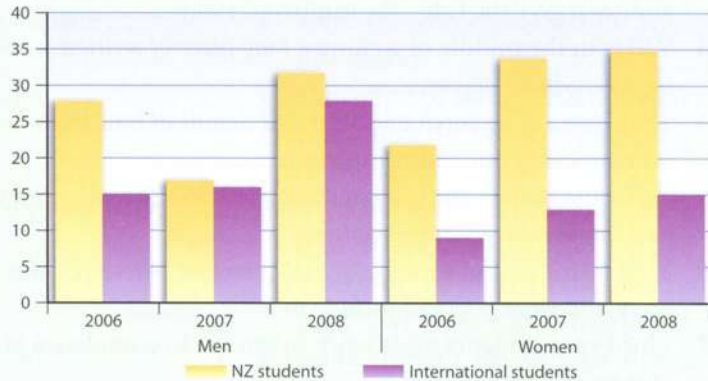


# Graphs, charts, trends

1 Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) that best fits each space.



New Zealand and International students, 2006–8

The bar chart (1) ..... the number of male and female students (2) ..... science subjects at Northland College, New Zealand (3) ..... three years, and also (4) ..... whether they were New Zealanders or international students. (5) ..... to the number of New Zealanders, the number of international students was (6) ..... smaller. Nevertheless, there was clear statistical growth in the (7) ..... group from 2007–2009. Furthermore, the number of female students from New Zealand eventually (8) ..... the number of males from the same country, (9) ..... a high of 35 students in 2009. 2008 (10) ..... the most dramatic developments, (11) ..... the number of male New Zealanders dropping from just (12) ..... 30 students to 17, and the number of female New Zealanders increasing from 23 to 34. There was also (13) ..... growth in the number of male students from overseas, climbing from 15 in 2007 to 27 in 2009. Overall, we can see a(n) (14) ..... trend in the number of students at the college.

- |                |             |                 |               |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 A points     | B draws     | C examines      | D illustrates |
| 2 A study      | B studies   | C studying      | D studied     |
| 3 A during     | B over      | C through       | D since       |
| 4 A indicates  | B tells     | C regards       | D underlines  |
| 5 A Compared   | B Comparing | C Comparison    | D Comparative |
| 6 A slightly   | B really    | C significantly | D marginally  |
| 7 A last       | B least     | C latter        | D later       |
| 8 A outweighed | B overtook  | C extended      | D upturned    |
| 9 A getting    | B aiming    | C finding       | D reaching    |
| 10 A met       | B existed   | C happened      | D saw         |
| 11 A and       | B with      | C for           | D but         |
| 12 A under     | B less      | C minus         | D before      |
| 13 A noticed   | B noticing  | C notable       | D noted       |
| 14 A upward    | B general   | C irregular     | D stable      |

**2 Add synonyms to each verb in 1–7 below.**

go up	dive	be unpredictable	climb	stay constant
drop	plunge	shoot up	hold steady	reach a high point
slump	rise	grow	rocket	fall
				jump

- 1 to increase ..... go up .....
- 2 to decrease .....
- 3 to remain stable .....
- 4 to fluctuate .....
- 5 to soar .....
- 6 to plummet .....
- 7 to reach a peak .....

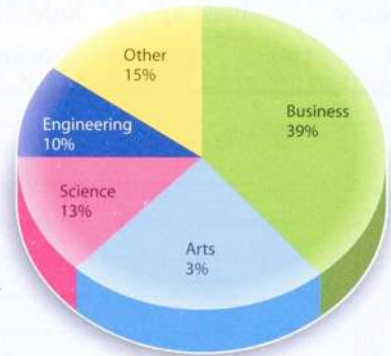
**3 Underline the two adverbs that have a similar meaning.**

- 1 Sales figures dropped sharply/suddenly/gradually in April of 2007.
- 2 The amount of time spent on leisure activities was exactly/approximately/roughly 20%.
- 3 Membership rose steeply/slightly/significantly during the summer months.
- 4 The number of accidents fell rapidly/steadily/progressively during 2009.
- 5 The percentage was relatively/comparatively marginally higher in the following year.
- 6 The figure in 1997 was vastly/somewhat/rather lower compared to the 1996 figure.

**4 Rewrite the first sentence by changing the verb in *italics* into a noun, any adverb in *italics* into an adjective, and making any other necessary changes.**

- 1 The number of people owning mobile phones *rose dramatically* between 1990 and 1995.  
There was a dramatic rise in the number of people owning mobile phones between 1990 and 1995.
- 2 Migration from rural regions to urban centres *has levelled out* over the last ten years.  
Over the last ten years there ..... migration from rural regions to urban centres.
- 3 The amount of time spent on leisure activities *fell slightly* in 2008.  
2008 saw ..... the amount of time spent on leisure activities.
- 4 Newspaper circulation during the 1990s *fluctuated considerably*.  
There ..... newspaper circulation during the 1990s.
- 5 The rate of applications for the nursing profession *plateaued* between 2001 to 2007.  
The rate of applications for the nursing profession ..... between 2001 to 2007.

5 Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) that best fits each space to complete the information about the pie chart.



Percentage of students by subject

The pie chart illustrates the (1) ..... of foundation-year students following different subjects in 2009. We can see that (2) ..... the greatest (3) ..... of students were taking business-related courses. The (4) ..... highest group were students taking Arts subjects, and these (5) ..... 23% of the total. Science-programme students made (6) ..... 13%, and the smallest group, the Engineering students, (7) ..... 10%.

- |   |              |              |                 |                   |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | A proportion | B sector     | C size          | D variety         |
| 2 | A as for     | B by far     | C much more     | D about           |
| 3 | A amount     | B part       | C fraction      | D percentage      |
| 4 | A following  | B less       | C after         | D second          |
| 5 | A added up   | B worked out | C accounted for | D counted towards |
| 6 | A with       | B up         | C by            | D from            |
| 7 | A contained  | B composed   | C comprised     | D consisted       |

6 Underline the two or three linking words in *italics* which make sense.

- 1 *Whereas/Although/While* the number of students taking Business subjects remained approximately the same, the number taking Arts subjects rose from the previous year.
- 2 *Comparing/Compared/In comparison* with the previous year, the number of Engineering students fell slightly, from 10 to 6%.
- 3 The number of female students slowly declined *while/but/whilst* the number of male students went up sharply.
- 4 *Regarding/Concerning/As for* the number of international students, the trend was unpredictable throughout the period 1995-2005.
- 5 *In total/All in all/Overall*, there was a generally downward trend in the number of students enrolling for Social Sciences.



**7** Look at the language for describing a trend in bold in the first sentence. Choose the correct meaning in *italics* in the second sentence.

- 1 In the 1960s, we began to see **a swing away from** the traditional view that women should be homemakers.  
People were *holding on to/beginning to reject* their traditional view.
- 2 There has been **a backlash against** the government response to the flu pandemic. The public are generally *supportive/critical* of the government's response.
- 3 Critics of biometric data collection suggest it **is a move towards** the loss of personal freedom.  
The loss of personal freedom is *becoming more likely/will now occur*.
- 4 Figures continued to rise steadily throughout the 1990s. **An exception to** this trend was a brief dip in the first quarter of 1994.  
The first quarter of 1994 was *a good example of/not included in* this trend.
- 5 Over the last few years, there has been **a resurgence** of interest in Gothic literature. People have *gradually become less /suddenly become more* interested.
- 6 It remains to be seen whether this new approach to weight loss will **catch on**. This approach may *become popular/disappear rapidly*.
- 7 There is **a tendency amongst** men in this age group to neglect their health. The pattern of behaviour of men in this age group is *predictable/unpredictable*.
- 8 The **long-term outlook** for this species is still uncertain. The possible *future/past* situation regarding the species is not known.
- 9 In some countries, long-term partners are choosing not to have children. **What is behind this development?**  
*How can we explain this change?/What will the result be?*
- 10 Since the 1970s, there has been **a gradual drift away from** the practice of the eldest son taking over the family farm.  
It is becoming increasingly *common/rare* for the eldest son to take over the farm.

## Synonyms for academic essays

- 1** Complete the text giving advice by writing a word from the box in each space to replace the word in brackets.

recommended	employ	appropriate	allocated	required
basic	further	paraphrase	intended	heed
reproduce	identical	broad	limited	impacted on
				key
				ensure

In order to do well in the IELTS Academic Writing test Part 2, it is (1) recommended (suggested) that you (2) ..... (follow) the advice below.

- (3) ..... (Make sure) you read the first part of the question carefully. Often the topic is fairly (4) ..... (narrow), so, for example, if the question is about how the environment is (5) ..... (affected) by tourism, do not write about the environment in general.
- Make a (6) ..... (rough) plan before you start writing. Start by making notes about the (7) ..... (main) statements or claims you plan to include. Then each statement/claim needs one or more supporting examples, so add (8) ..... (more) notes for those.
- Do not (9) ..... (copy) the question and (10) ..... (use) it in your opening paragraph because you will not impress the examiner. It's better to find a way to (11) ..... (reformulate) the question.
- Include your opinion. At university, students are often (12) ..... (asked) to do this in the introduction and the conclusion. However, during the IELTS test, you are (13) ..... (given) a time limit. It is probably better to write your opinion only in the conclusion, so you are not repeating the same points and using (14) ..... (the same) language in two stages of your essay.
- Use a (15) ..... (wide) range of grammatical structures and vocabulary which are (16) ..... (suitable) for academic writing. This unit is (17) ..... (designed) to help you learn synonyms that will give you greater flexibility in expressing yourself.

- 2** Read the essay question and the following sentences. Decide whether the statements indicate advantages (A) or disadvantages (D).

*Some educational systems are now focusing on the teaching of practical skills to high school students, rather than on theoretical knowledge.*

*What are the advantages and disadvantages of this development?*

- 1 One benefit of learning practical skills at school is ... A .....
- 2 A further argument in favour of focusing on practical skills is ... ..
- 3 In the long run, there may be certain negative outcomes. ....
- 4 A major downside to this form of education might be that ... ..
- 5 Learning practical skills may also be beneficial because ... ..
- 6 A practical education may also be advantageous because ... ..

## VOCABULARY 15 SYNONYMS FOR ACADEMIC ESSAYS

- 7 A secondary drawback is that ... ..
- 8 Such training may be invaluable later on in life. ....
- 9 This kind of education may be of considerable benefit in the way that ... ..
- 10 One other unfortunate aspect of this trend is that ... ..

**3 Read the essay question and the following sentences. Decide whether the statements indicate cause (C) or measures that need to be taken (M).**

*Many people who live in urban areas are suffering increasingly from stress. What do you think are the causes of this problem and what measures could be taken to reduce it?*

- 1 The first step would be ... **M**...
- 2 One key factor behind urban stress is ... ..
- 3 Inner city stress may also derive from ... ..
- 4 Another potential solution would be ... ..
- 5 There is another approach that could be considered. ....
- 6 Feelings of anxiety may also result from ... ..
- 7 To some extent, urban transport may also contribute to a sense of stress. ....
- 8 Another underlying reason for this form of nervous tension is ... ..
- 9 An alternative strategy could be ... ..
- 10 A further way to tackle this issue could be ... ..
- 11 One possible way to address this problem is ... ..

**4 Underline the two words in *italics* in the second sentence which are similar in meaning to the word or phrase in **bold** in the first sentence from different parts of an essay.**

- 1 Free healthcare is certainly a **matter of debate**. (in the introduction)  
As we have seen, free healthcare is a *divisive/argumentative/controversial* issue. (in the conclusion)
- 2 Censorship of the media is certainly a **complex** issue. (in the introduction)  
As the arguments above illustrate, the subject of media censorship is highly *confusing/complicated/multifaceted*. (first line in the conclusion)
- 3 In this essay, I will **evaluate** the pros and the cons of introducing higher tax on unhealthy foods. (last sentence in the introduction)  
After *measuring/assessing/weighing up* both sides of the argument, it seems clear that a tax would certainly bring about considerably more benefits than problems. (first line of conclusion)
- 4 Over the last few years, there has been a **steady** increase in violent crime. (claim)  
Cases of assault have *constantly/continuously/sharply* been going up and robbery is now more likely to result in injury. (evidence)
- 5 When deciding whether art should be a compulsory subject, we have to **take into account** the personal interests of the students. (first claim)  
We also need to *wonder/consider/bear in mind* how relevant art may be to a student's future working life. (later claim)
- 6 There are **some** situations in which a competitive personality would benefit a person. (claim)  
There are also *varied/certain/particular* situations in which this kind of behaviour may be harmful. (opposing claim)



- 7 There is **little likelihood** of people voluntarily giving up their cars. (claim)  
It is also *improbable/incredible/unlikely* that public transport networks will be able to transfer commuters to the precise locations they require. (later claim)
- 8 If we do not tackle the issue of homelessness now, we will have to face the **consequences** later. (claim)  
Greater levels of ill-health and depression are just two of the likely *repercussions/influences/outcomes* of failing to deal with this problem. (evidence)

**5 Complete the second sentence with an appropriate word from the box with a similar meaning to the words in *italics* in the first sentence.**

depending	information	question	violent	operate	afford
immense	construction	the case	elderly	pleasure	company
selection	countryside	reply	anxious	contentment	impact

- 1 People are no longer *relying* on paper-based *research*. Instead they are *depending* on the Internet for their *information*.
- 2 Consumers are *heavily influenced* by advertising, whether they realize it or not. The ..... of television and billboard commercials on our decision-making in the supermarket is .....
- 3 In some societies, there is growing *concern* about the treatment of the *older generation*. The ..... and their middle-aged children are ..... about who will look after them when they can no longer take care of themselves.
- 4 If we continue to extend our cities and *build* in *rural areas*, the decline of certain animal species is certain. New ..... should be located in waste land within urban areas, rather than the .....
- 5 Is it true that money can *buy happiness*? In my opinion, it cannot by itself lead to real ....., but it means that people can ..... shelter, warmth and food. Without these essentials, it is a challenge to find any ..... in life.
- 6 It is *true* that recent graduates may bring fresh ideas to an *organization* that will improve its *performance*. Nevertheless, it is also ..... that older employees have the kind of knowledge and experience that allows a ..... to ..... successfully in the long term.
- 7 If you *ask* the older generation if books will become obsolete, their *response* is a definite 'no'. But put the same ..... to a group of younger people, and the ..... is a unanimous 'yes'.
- 8 If a child is allowed to *choose* their own video games, they may be exposed to *extreme and disturbing images*. Careful ..... by parents instead should mean that games brought into the house are less .....

## Linking words and phrases for academic essays

**1** Complete the essay by writing a linker from the box in each space.

consequently	yet	as for	so that	provided	such as
in the case of	despite	even though	however	in terms of	

***Genetic engineering is a dangerous trend. It should be limited.***

***To what extent do you agree?***

Over the last few decades, remarkable advances have been made in the field of genetic engineering. (1) Consequently..., scientists now have the ability to manipulate genes for a range of purposes, from making improvements in agriculture to experimentation with human genes. The question, (2) ....., is whether there should be any limitations on this development. In this essay, I shall examine both sides of the argument.

Firstly it is clear that genetic engineering has brought about certain benefits (3) ..... crop production. Now plants, for example, can produce more fruit more quickly. This achievement means that greater harvests are guaranteed, (4) ..... more people can be fed. (5) ..... the impact of genetic engineering on healthcare, advocates claim it could be used to cure a range of health-related problems, (6) ..... cystic fibrosis and Alzheimer's. Children and adults with these diseases endure terrible suffering, (7) ..... with gene therapy, there is a possibility of a better quality of life.

(8) ..... these advantages, there are some aspects of genetic engineering which require ongoing consideration. Critics claim that genetically modified plants have little nutritional value and that they will lead to the eradication of weeds, which many insect species depend on. (9) ..... gene therapy, it is still uncertain how the alteration of one gene, (10) ..... it may be faulty, could affect the functions of the human body in the long term.

In my opinion, the benefits of genetic engineering can outweigh the drawbacks, (11) ..... governments and scientists consider the consequences carefully, and put people before profit.

**2 Structure: use the linkers to complete the sentences.**

even	also	not only	but	in addition to
------	------	----------	-----	----------------

- Poor nutrition can lead to obesity, heart disease, ..... death.
- ..... obesity and heart disease, poor nutrition can lead to death.
- ..... can poor nutrition lead to obesity and heart disease, ..... death too.
- Poor nutrition can lead to obesity, heart disease and ..... death.



3 Meaning: add linkers from the box to the correct category.

in spite of    in addition to    not only/but    concerning    even    while moreover    finally    furthermore    on the other hand    having said that to begin with    nevertheless    regarding    secondly				
Ordering ideas	Introducing an idea	Addition	Contrast	Concession
first of all	in terms of as for in the case of	also	but however yet	despite even though

4 Complete each sentence using a linker from the box. Two answers are possible for each gap.

nevertheless	in spite of	having said this	despite	while	even though
--------------	-------------	------------------	---------	-------	-------------

- 1 As we have seen, there are many advantages of home schooling.  
Nevertheless / ..... , it does not work well for all kinds of learner.
- 2 ..... / ..... the many advantages of home schooling, it does not work well for every kind of learner.
- 3 ..... / ..... there are many advantages of home schooling, it does not work well for every kind of learner.

5 Complete the paragraph using a linker from the box. Two or more answers are possible for each gap.

first of all	as for	in the case of	furthermore
moreover	to begin with	regarding	in terms of

Raising taxes on imports may have both a positive and negative impact on the economy and employment. In this essay, I shall examine both types of effect. (1) First of all ..... , (2) ..... the economy, it may encourage people to buy domestically-produced goods. The profits would then remain within the country. (3) ..... employment, greater demand for domestic products would create more job opportunities for the workforce. (4) ..... , these new employees would then be able to afford to spend more on domestic consumer goods themselves.

**6 Meaning:** add linkers from the box to the correct category.

like	as long as	in order to	for instance	as a result
therefore	hence	so as to	subsequently	so if

Showing condition	Showing result	Showing purpose	Exemplification
<i>provided</i>	<i>consequently</i>	<i>so that</i>	<i>for example such as</i>

**7 Structure:** underline the correct linker in each sentence. Then answer the question.

- 1 a Many adolescents enjoy taking risks, *so/hence/therefore* the greater likelihood of accidents amongst teenagers.
- b Many adolescents enjoy taking risks. *So/Hence/Therefore* teenagers are more likely to have accidents.
- c Many adolescents enjoy taking risks *so/hence/therefore* teenagers are more likely to have accidents.

In which of the examples above can you use *consequently* or *as a result*, followed by a comma?

- 2 a There are many reasons why we need to be careful with Internet research. A frequent lack of accuracy, *such as/for example*, is a common problem with online texts.
- b There are many reasons why we need to be careful with Internet research, *such as/for example*, a frequent lack of accuracy in online texts.
- c There are many reasons why we need to be careful with Internet research. *Such as/For example*, there is often a lack of accuracy in online texts.

In which of the examples above can you use *for instance*?

- 3 a The influence of foreign television will not transform our culture *as long as/in order to* we take steps to protect our own traditions.
- b *So that/In order to* protect our culture, we must limit the influence of foreign television.
- c We must limit the influence of foreign television *so that/as long as* we can protect our culture.

In which of the examples can we use *so as to*? In which can you use *if*?

**8** Complete each sentence 1–3 with a linking expression to explain its use. Then use the expression in the correct sentence 4–6.

on the other hand

on the contrary

whereas

- 1 '.....' is used to compare two situations, activities, groups, etc and to look at the differences.
- 2 '.....' is used to compare advantages and disadvantages, or to introduce the other side of the argument.
- 3 '.....' is used to say that the previous statement or claim is untrue.
- 4 It is a common belief that the world is unable to produce enough food to feed everyone. .... , much of the food we produce is actually wasted and thrown away.
- 5 It is certainly a good idea to grow biofuel plants on this land. .... , the land could also be used to grow crops to feed the poor.
- 6 ..... the land used to be fertile and produce good harvests, it is now barren and dry.

**9** Structure: underline the correct linking expression in *italics* indicating 'reason' in each sentence. More than one answer may be possible.



There are numerous reasons (1) *about/why/for* more people are suffering from allergies. First of all, we can lay the blame partly on pollution. Cases of asthma, for example, have risen dramatically (2) *because/because of/due to* poor air quality. The local environment may also be contaminated with pesticides, and (3) *for this reason/the cause of this/because of this*, certain people may be suffering from skin allergies or breathing difficulties.

Secondly, we can probably attribute the rise in allergies to particular products that are sold on supermarket shelves. Many people clean their kitchens with antiseptics (4) *since/as/because of* they believe they must kill all forms of germ. However, this action may actually increase the risk of allergy (5) *since/owing to/on account of* the fact that young children in these households are never exposed to the bacteria that will later provide them with immunity.