



SAMPLE

Academic literacy resources for History and Geography in the OIB

Handbook



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Writing about movement and growth (for line graphs)

Sample paragraph:

The price soared during 2010. It then plummeted over the next two years. Finally, at the end of 2013 it steadied. Then the price began to climb steadily until the end of 2016, when it slipped back slightly.

Down		Up	
Verb	Noun	Verb	Noun
fall	a fall	grow	growth
decline	a decline	rise	a rise
decrease	a decrease	Increase	an increase
drop	a drop	climb	a climb
reduce	a reduction	surge	a surge
dip	a dip	leap	a leap
sink		shoot up	
plummet		soar	
slip back		rocket	

No movement		A high or low	
Verb	Adjective	Noun	
steadies	steady	zenith	
remains constant	constant	nadir	
stabilises	stable	trough	
stays the same		peak	
plateaus		plateau	

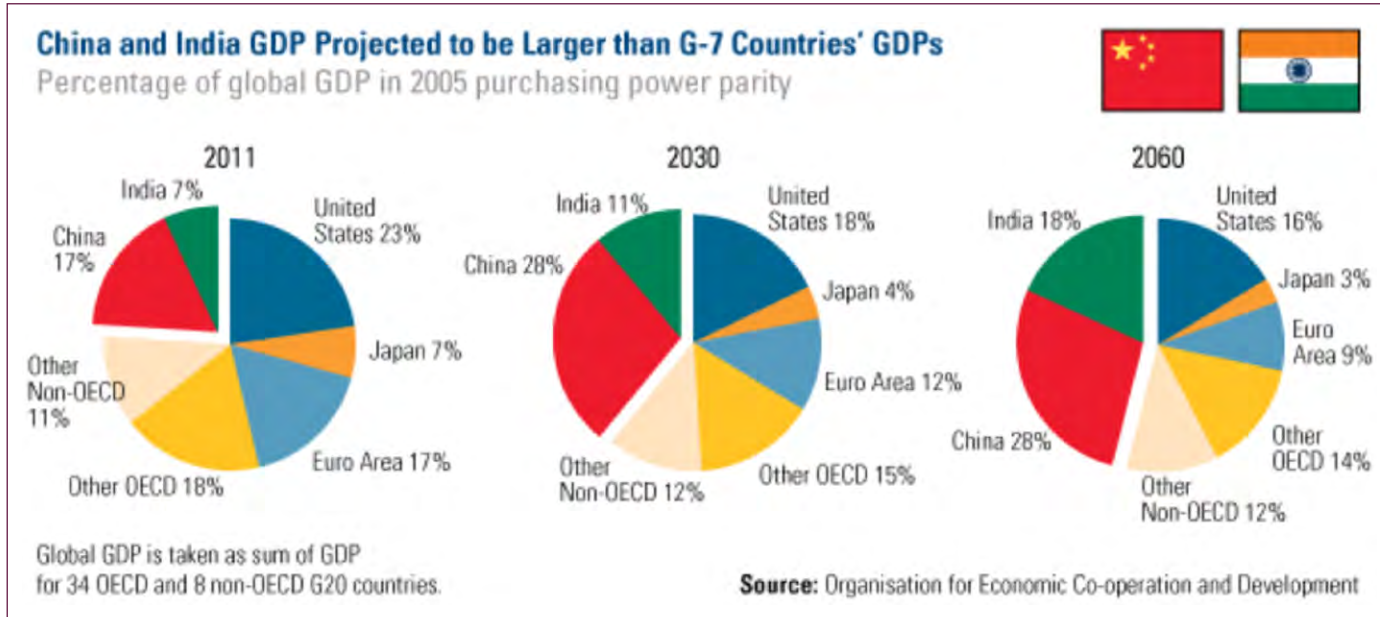
Adjectives (to describe movement): slight, gradual, sudden, steep, gentle, steady, sharp, spectacular, dramatic, significant (rise/fall/increase etc)

Example: *There has been a gradual increase in output since 2017.*

Adverbs (to describe movement): slightly, gradually, suddenly, steeply, gently, steadily, sharply, spectacularly, dramatically, significantly

Example: *During the last three years, exports have been increasing gradually.*

Comparing pie charts using proportional language



Complete the paragraph comparing changes and projected changes in the GDPs of China, India and the USA. Use proportional language and refer directly to the pie charts.

In 2011, The USA's GDP was nearly a quarter of the global GDP, whereas China and India's joint GDP was a smaller proportion than this at 17 and 7 percent respectively. By 2030 the GDP proportions are expected to change significantly _____

Complete the passage by selecting the verbs or verb phrases below.

Analysis of population graphs for Iran 1990-2020 (projected)

Between 1990 and 2000 there is a sudden fall in the birth rate, leading to a marked reduction in the proportion of people in the 0-4 and 5-9 cohorts. At the same time there (1) _____ a fall in the death rate (2) _____ to an increase in cohorts over 40, but this is not as marked as the fall in the lower age cohorts.

These two trends (3) _____ to 2010 and (4) _____ to 2020, although as the bulge in women born before 1990 reaches child bearing age, there is a small increase in the lower age cohorts.

The age group with the largest number of people (5) _____ 0-4 in 1990 to 10-14 in 2000, 20-24 in 2010 and 30-34 in 2020, (6) _____ a growth in the middle-aged population, although the proportion of people over 70 (7) _____ only slowly.

Between 1990 and 2020 the gender balance of the over 70s (8) _____ a greater proportion of females. By 2020 it (9) _____ that the number of females over 70 (10) _____ than the number of males, suggesting marked difference in life expectancy.

Conversely, the gender breakdown in the younger age groups (11) _____ a greater proportion of males between 1990 and 2010 but (12) _____ less noticeable by 2020.

These trends (13) _____ that there has been a dramatic fall in the dependency ratio as the increase in older people (14) _____ the fall in younger people. Life expectancy (15) _____ slowly as the death rates decline.

Verb/verb phrases to use:

continue	will be greater	is expected
leading to	increase/s	appears to have been
shifts to	suggesting	becoming
rises from	has not matched	are predicted to continue
is likely to rise	show/s	indicate/s

Writing strong paragraphs

Discuss the extent to which a youthful population impacts upon the development of a country (12 marks)

The writing structure we will be following is PEEAL

P = Point	The main point that you want to make in the paragraph, expressed in the Topic Sentence
E = Evidence	Facts and statistics to support the point
E = Explain	Give contextual information about your evidence and develop it further
A = Analysis or E = Evaluation	Break down the information, point out any particularly important features or weakness
L = Link	Link to the overall theme of your essay; or to the point being developed in your next paragraph.

We will start by looking at a good example:

<p>In countries where the population is growing very quickly it is difficult for the country to keep pace and provide a suitable education system. In Uganda, the growth rate is 3%, meaning that the population doubles every 25 years. A long civil war, during which formal education virtually ceased to exist, has exacerbated the situation. There are very few teachers in Uganda and the student-teacher ratio is 1:54. This type of situation makes it very difficult for a country to ensure that the population is properly educated in order to carry out the jobs that need to be done. This in turn means that it is hard for the country to be economically productive in a competitive global economy. In addition to this, the education provided is not always adapted to the job market. For example, a university degree is prestigious in Uganda, but vocational training is more relevant to the job market. Uganda's unemployment rate is 30%, with young people making up the majority of the unemployed.</p> <p>This shows that the education system has failed to keep up with both population growth and the country's development needs.</p>	This is a clear and to-the-point topic sentence.
	This section gives evidence (an example country) to back up the point.
	Further development of the point, explaining why it is a problem.
	Analysis of what this means for the development of the country.
	Some additional evidence.
	Links back to the overall question.