

TASK 1 Writing overviews
Describing two sets of data
Using complex sentences:
Concession (1)

TASK 2 Expressing advantages and disadvantages
Using advantage and disadvantage vocabulary
Using complex sentences:
Concession (2)



Task 1 Writing overviews

- 1 Give at least three advantages of each cultural activity shown in the pictures.
- 2 Rank the activities in the list below 1–10 according to how important they are in developing understanding between different cultures (1 = most important; 10 = least important).

organizing student exchanges _____

language learning _____

setting up international trade agreements _____

advertising similar climate and landscape _____

creating joint cultural events _____

establishing transport links _____

promoting tourism _____

sharing scientific and technological know-how _____

promoting positive media images _____

highlighting similarities in lifestyle and culture _____

- 3 Think of examples to justify your choices in exercise 2. Are there any activities that might be difficult to develop or promote?
- 4 Which of the activities in exercise 2 can be carried out by individuals? Which can be carried out by governments?
- 5 Statements a–c were used to write overviews of data. Put the words in *italics* in the correct order.
 - a It is clear that *majority/people/overwhelming/of/the/were/of/favour/in* school visits between countries.

 - b Overall, just over half the people surveyed found the climate in the tropics the most difficult thing to adapt to, *a/number/with/smaller/naming/and/lifestyle/food*.

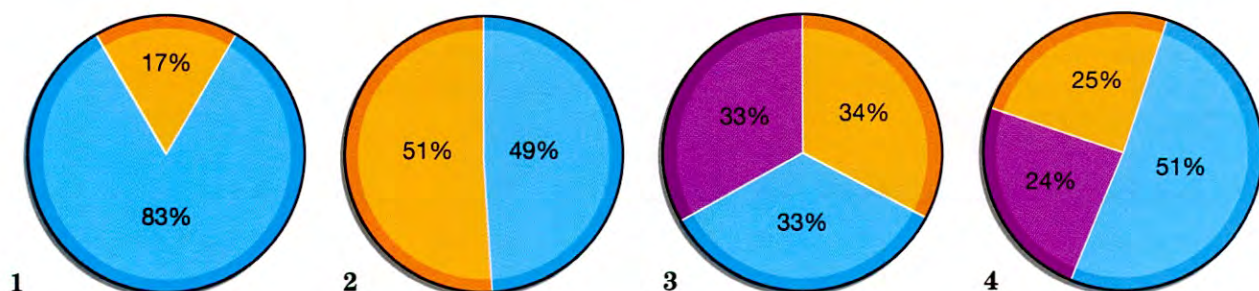
 - c The three languages in question, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese, were named as *important/the/languages/most/after English by about/of/equal/people/numbers*.

Technique

Write an overview for every Task 1 question. This will help you to achieve a good score. You can place the overview just after the introduction, in the first sentence of the second paragraph or as a separate short paragraph at the end like a conclusion.

6 Answer these questions about the sentences in exercise 5 on page 46.

- a Which activity in exercise 2 do they relate to?
 b Which pie chart 1–4 below would be a good illustration of each statement in exercise 5?
 Use the proportions in each sentence to help you.



7 Pie charts are frequently used to summarize data. Match each of the following overviews to one of the pie charts 1–4 above.

- a To conclude, only a small minority of people felt that the language barrier would prevent the development of cultural links.
 b It is evident that opinions are split almost equally between the three options as regards the benefits of joint cultural ventures.
 c It would seem that the vast majority of people think that the development of trade links has the greatest impact on international relations.
 d Just under half the people surveyed are of the opinion that China would be the biggest cultural influence in the world by 2020.
 e About half of the holiday makers visited Italy because they were interested in the art and culture, whereas the food and the climate were named as the most important factors by approximately equal numbers of the remaining tourists in the survey.

Technique

Aim to include several key features in your Task 1 answer:
 a paraphrase of the question, proportion phrases, comparisons, some general and some specific statements/ clauses about the data, along with an overview.

8 Rewrite the sentences below using a suitable phrase from the list.

nearly a third ■ almost equal numbers ■ the vast majority
 a tiny minority ■ just under half ■ nearly two-thirds

Examples

Government subsidies accounted for *63 per cent of all funding*.

Government subsidies accounted for *nearly two-thirds of all funding*.

- a *87 per cent of holiday makers* to China were very satisfied with their experience.
 b It is clear that *about 50 per cent of both sexes* favoured increased cultural contacts.
 c Only *11 per cent of filmgoers* thought films helped promote cultural awareness.
 d In conclusion, the trend is clearly upward, with *47 per cent of companies* establishing new trade and cultural links in 2012.
 e To sum up, *32 per cent of all tourists* were on some form of package holiday.

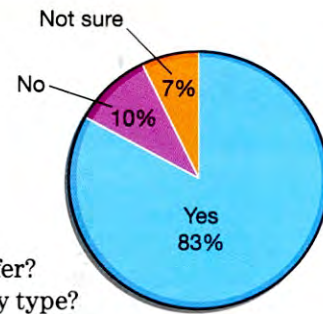
9 Look again at the sentences in exercises 5, 6 and 8. Make a list of phrases which are used to indicate overviews.

Describing two sets of data

1 Study Task 1 below and answer questions a–c.

The table below shows the age profile of tourists on backpacking holidays and guided tours in New Zealand in 2012 and the pie chart gives the satisfaction rating of their stay. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Age profile	Backpacking	Guided tours
18–30	62%	7%
31–40	23%	22%
41–50	10%	57%
Other	5%	14%



- How does the age profile of people on each type of holiday differ?
- Which age group is almost equally represented on each holiday type?
- How would you describe the opinion of the majority of visitors?

2 Complete the text with verbs from the box. The first one has been done for you.

comes ■ accounts for ■ belong ■ provides ■ enjoyed ■ is rated ■ make up ■ include

The table 1 provides a breakdown by selected age group of those on backpacking and guided tours in New Zealand in 2012, with the pie chart indicating whether they 2 _____ their holiday. As can be seen from the table, the age profile of people on the two different types of holiday varies considerably. For example, the majority (62 per cent) of those on backpacking holidays 3 _____ to the 18–30 age range, but the same age group 4 _____ a small proportion (seven per cent) of those on guided tours. However, the pattern is the complete reverse when it 5 _____ to 41–50 year-olds. These people 6 _____ 57 per cent of those on guided tours, despite accounting for only ten per cent of backpackers. By contrast, the profiles for both backpacking and guided tours 7 _____ roughly equal proportions from the 31–40 age group: 23 and 22 per cent respectively. It is clear from the pie chart that New Zealand 8 _____ as a popular holiday destination among the majority of all holiday makers, with a massive 83 per cent from both groups stating they enjoyed their holiday.

3 Which phrases and sentences in the text in exercise 2 indicate:

- a phrase directing attention to the table
- a phrase summarizing the data in the table
- a general sentence about 41–50 year-olds
- an overview about the satisfaction rating

4 Using your own words, write a paraphrase of the phrases and sentences in exercise 3.

Technique

Use a variety of verbs such as *form*, *make up*, *account for* when you describe proportions.

Technique

Show that you can combine ideas in complex sentences.

Using complex sentences: Concession (1)

- 1 Read the example sentences below then answer questions a–c.

Examples

57 per cent of people on guided tours were aged 41–50, although only 10 per cent of backpackers belonged to this age group.

57 per cent of people on guided tours were aged 41–50. Nevertheless, only 10 per cent of backpackers belonged to this age group.

- a Which linking devices are used to introduce a contrast?
 b How are the devices used differently?
 c Find three examples of similar devices in the text in exercise 2 on page 48. Which devices in the example sentences are they like? Which device can only be used before a noun or an *-ing* form?
- 2 Match a–e below with suitable sentences or sentence endings 1–5 to create correct statements about the data in exercise 1 on page 48.
- a *Despite* accounting for nearly equal proportions of each holiday type,
 b *Although* people aged 41–50 were dominant on guided tours,
 c Guided tours were least popular among people in the 18–30 age group,
 d One in ten people said that they didn't enjoy their holiday.
 e Only 14 per cent of people from the four other categories chose guided tours.
- 1 they still accounted for one in ten backpackers.
 2 *Nevertheless*, most clearly expressed satisfaction.
 3 this age group still accounted for under a quarter of each.
 4 *However*, that was still a higher proportion than the 18–30 age group.
 5 *but* they were most popular with the oldest group.
- 3 Join each of the following sentences using the phrase given.
- a The vast majority of visitors to Britain come from Europe. However, they stay for fewer than ten days on average.
 Although _____
- b 45 per cent of people speak a foreign language. Nevertheless, the vast majority are at a low level.
 Although 45 per cent _____
- c It has good weather. However, southern France is visited by only two per cent of Asian tourists.
 Despite _____
- d The cost of student exchanges went up. Nevertheless, the number of exchanges rose.
 The number of student exchanges _____
- e The event was promoted to teenagers. Nevertheless, they accounted for only 32 per cent of the audience.
 Although _____
- 4 Look at the table below which gives information about three cinemas. Write five sentences about the information using the concession words in exercises 2 and 3.

	Number of screens	Number of admissions 2012	Revenue 2012
Plaza	3	510,957	£ 2,759,167
Cinelink	2	523,899	£ 2,758,943
Roxy	5	763,902	£ 2,812,400

Task 2 Expressing advantages and disadvantages

- 1 Look at the photos of popular electronic items. Which ideas in the box explain the popularity of each item in the pictures? What do you think the next electronic craze will be?

size ■ design ■ portability ■ technology
business need ■ entertainment ■ fashion ■ price

- 2 Read the Task 2 question below. Then answer the questions.

Task 2

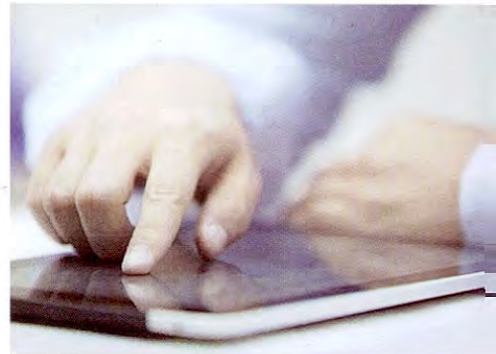
Portable entertainment devices, such as MP3 or DVD players, which allow people to listen to music or watch films on the move, are now commonplace. What do you think are the main advantages and disadvantages of this development?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

- a Which part of the question states the general subject?
 - b Which part of the question contains the general nouns to help you organize your answer?
- 3 Decide whether each idea below is an advantage or a disadvantage. Which entertainment devices would you associate them with?
- a It helps people to relax.
 - b It allows people greater freedom.
 - c It reduces communication.
 - d It makes life more enjoyable.
 - e It makes entertainment more accessible everywhere.
 - f It makes people more isolated.
 - g It is a nuisance for other travellers.
 - h It makes people less sociable.
- 4 Complete each sentence a–f with a word from the box.

help ■ difficult ■ interfere ■ benefits ■ ideal ■ enable

- a These devices bring a number of _____.
- b The main one, in my opinion, is that they _____ people relax, for example, while they are studying or working in cafés or on trains.
- c Some people find it _____ to do so when it is completely quiet outside their homes.
- d So these devices _____ people to relax and create a familiar environment.
- e Sometimes, however, they do _____ with others if the volume is too high, hence the quiet zones in many trains.
- f Nevertheless, laptops, etc are _____ because they allow people to do things where they want to rather than being restricted to working at home.



Technique

Keep an electronic list of positive and negative words that you can use to express advantages and disadvantages. Make your own revision cards.

- 5 Decide whether the words in exercise 4 express advantage or disadvantage.
- 6 The sentences in exercise 4 form a paragraph taken from an answer to the Task 2 question. Answer questions a–c.
- Which sentence in exercise 4 expresses a disadvantage?
 - Which linking devices are used in exercise 4?
 - Which ideas from exercise 3 are used in the paragraph?

- 7 The paragraph below is taken from a similar answer. Complete the paragraph with words from the box.

even if ■ likewise ■ for example ■ though ■ consequently ■ and ■ although

The main drawback is, in my opinion, quite obvious. Take, 1 _____, people of all ages who are travelling on trains nowadays. 2 _____ they are reading, they are plugged into the radio, talking on their mobiles, or listening to music on their MP3 players. 3 _____ others are playing games, watching a film and working simultaneously, even 4 _____ they have friends next to them to talk to. 5 _____ this allows people greater freedom and flexibility 6 _____ takes away the boredom of the journeys, people are becoming more and more isolated in their own worlds. 7 _____ the art of communication is being lost.

- 8 Answer these questions about the paragraph in exercise 7.
- Does this paragraph concentrate on advantages or disadvantages?
 - Which ideas does this paragraph mention from the list in exercise 3 on page 50?
 - Underline the main advantage and disadvantage in the paragraph.

Using advantage and disadvantage vocabulary

- 1 Nouns can be used to express advantage and disadvantage. Complete sentences a–g with words from the box.

benefit ■ problems ■ opportunities ■ chance ■ handicap ■ drawbacks ■ gain

- Not knowing a foreign language has its _____, such as when one tries to make contact with people in other countries.
- Visiting other countries gives people the _____ to experience cultures first hand.
- The financial _____ to any nation exceeds all other benefits.
- If people take time to find out about the country they are travelling to, they will face fewer _____.
- These days, not having access to the Internet to find out what is going on is a serious _____.
- Cultural exchanges offer enormous _____ to the nations that are involved.
- Being culturally aware is of great _____ in business.



2 Adjectives can also be used to emphasize advantage and disadvantage. Does the word *serious* in exercise 1e emphasize advantage or disadvantage?

3 Decide whether each adjective in the box is used to express advantage or disadvantage.

advantageous ■ beneficial ■ useful ■ worthless ■ invaluable
difficult ■ helpful ■ convenient

Advantage: advantageous

Disadvantage: _____

4 Write the opposite of each of the adjectives in exercise 3. Where possible, add or remove a prefix or suffix to create the opposite.

Example

advantageous *disadvantageous*

5 Verbs such as the ones used below can be used to indicate advantages and disadvantages. Complete the following sentences in your own words.

- a International arts festivals *encourage* _____.
- b Lending artworks to other countries *improves* _____.
- c Films and concerts *enhance* _____.
- d To *enable* children to value their heritage, _____.
- e Personal links can *benefit* _____.
- f Ignorance of other people's traditions can *hinder* _____.
- g To *prevent* countries falling out with each other, _____.

Using complex sentences: Concession (2)

1 Read sentences 1 and 2 and answer the questions a and b.

- 1 Although the vast majority of electronic devices are very useful, they are also highly annoying.
- 2 Despite being highly annoying, the vast majority of electronic gadgets are very useful.

- a Which word introduces the concession in each case?
- b Which sentence emphasizes the advantage? Which emphasizes the disadvantage?

2 Complete sentences a–e with words from the box.

nevertheless ■ however ■ despite ■ although ■ but

- a _____ listening to music on an iPod is very pleasant, it is not as good as a live concert.
- b Documentaries are invaluable sources of knowledge. _____, they need to be entertaining as well as informative.
- c _____ the large numbers of tourists, ancient buildings and temples are still inspiring places to visit.
- d Sculptures can make gardens and public spaces attractive. _____, they are expensive to look after.
- e Arts exhibitions show the public artefacts they would not normally see, _____ at a price.

Technique

Use nouns, verbs and adjectives, such as *benefit* and *drawback*, which express advantages and disadvantages as trigger words to help you plan.

Technique

Keep a record of common phrases or collocations that you can use again and again, for example *to give people a chance*, *make contact*, *face problems*.

Practice Test 6

Task 1

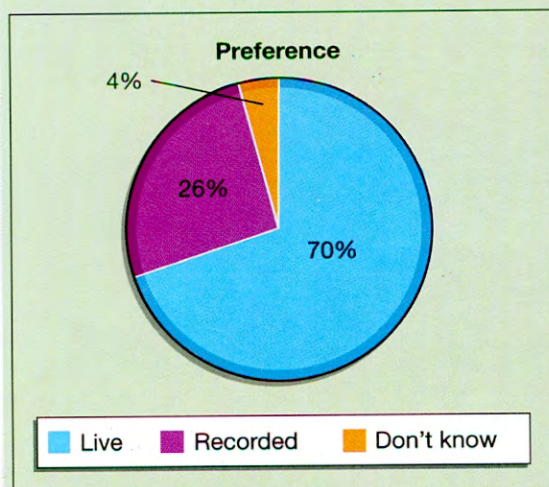
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The table below shows how young people in Tokyo, Japan, listened to music over the previous month. The pie chart shows a record company's international findings about whether people preferred live or recorded music.

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

Write at least 150 words.

	Live music	MP3 players	Internet	CDs
Male	60 %	79 %	55 %	19 %
Female	44 %	40 %	42 %	22 %



Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task. Write about the following topic:

Travellers and business people often come into contact with other cultures briefly. What are the main advantages and disadvantages of doing so?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Task 2 Checklist

- 1 Use trigger words like *benefit* or *disadvantage* to get some ideas.
- 2 Write an introduction of two sentences to develop the topic of the question.
- 3 Choose the two most important ideas and write one or two paragraphs.
- 4 Develop your ideas in each paragraph using other trigger words like *because* or question words like *when*, *how* and *why*.
- 5 Use trigger words like *for example* to provide some examples.
- 6 Do the same for the disadvantages.
- 7 Write a conclusion summarizing the most important advantage(s) and disadvantage(s). You could also say which you think is more important.