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English as an additional language

1a Work in pairs. Which of the ten countries in the box do you think have the highest numbers of people who speak English as an additional language? Put the countries in order from highest to lowest.

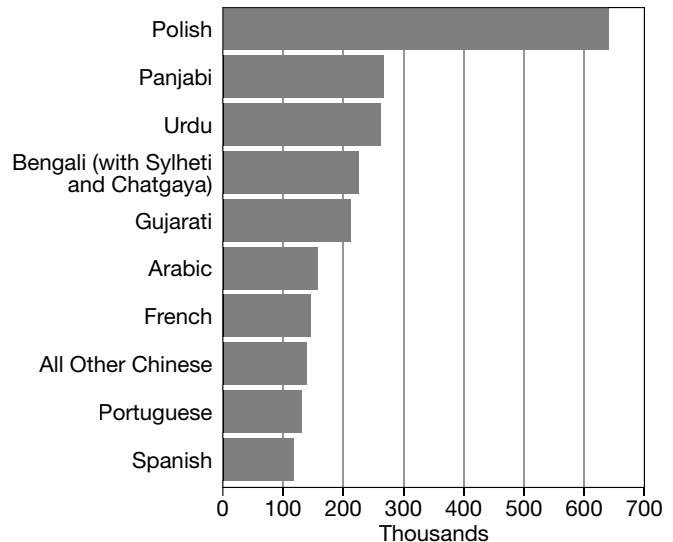
Bangladesh China Egypt France Germany India Nigeria Pakistan Philippines United States

1b Check your guesses from exercise 1 in the answer key. Did anything surprise you? How do you think your country compares to others in terms of numbers of English speakers?

2a Look at the bar graph and answer the questions.

- Can you describe what the bar graph shows in your own words, using the title of the graph to help you?
- Does the graph include data from one specific point in time or data from a period of time?
- Are the quantities in the graph in the form of numbers or percentages?
- What tense should you use in a written description of the graph?
- What important data in the graph would you select to describe?
- How would you group data in the graph into paragraphs in a written description?

Top ten main 'other' languages in England and Wales in 2011



2b Read the description of the bar chart. Has the writer made the same decisions as you in questions 3–5 of exercise 2a?

The bar graph compares the number of people who had a main language other than English who were residents of England and Wales in 2011.

From the graph, we can see that Polish was spoken by the **1** (high) number of people, with around 550,000 people reporting it as their main language. After Polish, the next **2** (common) main languages were from South Asia. Approximately 270,000 people living in England and Wales spoke Panjabi and only **slightly 3** (few) had Urdu as their main language. The numbers of Bengali and Gujarati speakers were **4** (low), at around 220 and 215 thousand respectively. Overall, there were **far 5** (few) speakers of Chinese languages, however — only 140,000 people, **compared to around double the number** of Panjabi speakers.

The language spoken by the **6** (few) people in the UK and Wales was Spanish, with only 120,000 people reporting it as their main language. The number of speakers of other European languages were only **marginally 7** (high), with around 230,000 people speaking Portuguese as their main language and 235,000 speaking French. The number of speakers of Arabic were **comparable to** those of French.

Exam tip

When you are comparing data, it is a good idea to select and group data into paragraphs. Your description should start with the most important or noticeable piece of data in the graph.

2c Complete the description in exercise 2b with the correct comparative or superlative form of the word in brackets.

2d Which word(s) in bold in the description:

- a) describe a small difference? b) describe a big difference?
 c) describes a similarity? d) means the same as 'approximately twice as many'?

3a It is important to avoid repeating words unnecessarily in Writing Task 1. Read the two short paragraphs. Which one avoids repetition? How does the writer use 'respectively'?

A Approximately 270,000 people living in England and Wales spoke Panjabi and only slightly fewer people living in England and Wales had Urdu as their main language. The numbers of Bengali and Gujarati speakers were lower. There were around 220 thousand Bengali speakers and 215 thousand Gujarati speakers.

B Approximately 270,000 people living in England and Wales spoke Panjabi and only slightly fewer had Urdu as their main language. The numbers of Bengali and Gujarati speakers were lower at around 220 and 215 thousand respectively.

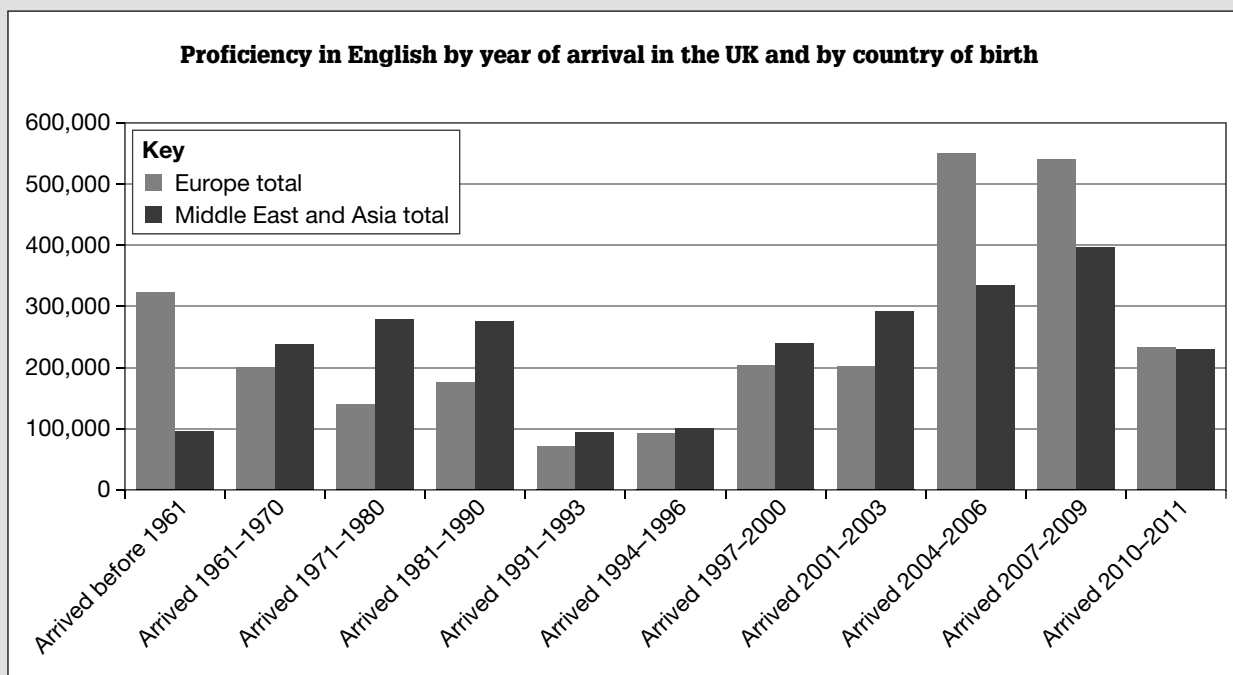
3b Make changes to this extract from a Writing Task 1 answer so that it avoids unnecessary repetition.

Overall, we can see that the highest number of proficient Spanish speakers arrived in the US between 2004 and 2009. We can also see that during this time, there were far higher numbers of advanced Spanish speakers from Spain than there were Spanish speakers from Mexico. Between 2004 and 2006, and between 2007 and 2009, there were 216,000 Spanish speakers from Spain and nearly 150,000 more proficient Spanish speakers from Spain.

EXAM TASK

4a Work in pairs. Look at the graph below. Discuss questions 1–6 in exercise 2a again.

4b The graph shows the number of proficient English speakers from different countries by the year of their arrival in England and Wales. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. Write at least 150 words.



Saving languages

1a Read the text about Tom and endangered languages. What do the numbers in the box refer to?

3,000	6,000	10	50%
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Tom Belt, a native of Oklahoma, USA, is one of few people in the world who speaks Cherokee, a language that is thought to originate from the Great Lakes area of North America around 3,000 years ago. When Tom learned that Cherokee was on the brink of extinction, he decided to do something to save it. He volunteered to teach Cherokee lessons at a local school and now teaches the language at a local university. Cherokee is far from the only endangered language, however. According to linguists, around half of the world's remaining 6000 languages are imperilled and are likely to become extinct by the end of this century. Today, the 'top ten' languages in the world are spoken by 50% of the world's population.

1b Work in pairs. What do you think? In pairs, discuss the questions.

- a) Are we going to become a monolingual species, and if so, is this a good thing?
- b) Should we be doing more to save the world's endangered languages?

1c Read the Writing Task 2 questions below. Match them to the questions in exercise 1b.

A Several languages around the world are in danger of dying out because they are spoken by very few people. Some people say that governments should spend public money on saving these languages, while others believe that would be a waste of money. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

B Due to the development of tourism, English has become the most widely used and best-known language in the world. Some people think that this will result in English becoming the only language to be spoken globally. What are the advantages and disadvantages to having one language in the world?

1d Work in pairs. Discuss which of the tasks asks the writer to ...

- a) discuss benefits and drawbacks.
- b) express their views on both sides of an argument.

2a Planning your essay allows you to organise your ideas and develop your arguments fully. In your pairs, look at the essay plans for question B below. Which way of planning would help you to:

- a) think of lots of different ideas and vocabulary, without worrying about structure?
- b) develop a balanced argument?
- c) think of examples and explanations to support your points?



Advantages	Disadvantages
..... makes tourism easier: everyone can understand one another. leads to a lack of understanding of the arts: great works such as the Iliad were not written down until very recently. Some that are never written down might be lost forever.
..... enables everyone to access and understand diverse cultures: literary works from different cultures translated into a single language. leads to a loss of knowledge about a place: e.g. Amazonian languages tell us about the rainforest.
..... facilitates globalisation: business is easier and cheaper to do with a common language. leads to loss of cultural identity: language defines a particular people and their sense of self.
..... cheaper: translation becomes unnecessary. leads to loss of particular words: some words are particular to a language e.g. oo-kah-huh-sdee (Cherokee) (cute, gorgeous, delight, engendering a desire to squeeze something – the feeling when you see a kitten).

2b Read the sample essay below. Number the ideas in plan B above in the order that they appear in the essay. Which idea is not used?

Many people believe it is inevitable that English will become the exclusive language of communication and, therefore other languages will become extinct. There are both benefits and drawbacks to a single global language. In a number of ways, communicating in a single language is more convenient. Colleagues who have English as a second language can communicate considerably more easily. Since translation is not necessarily, companies can also save a great deal of money.

Outside the world of work, a single language is also useful. It removes difficulties when people travel. For instance, shopping becomes simpler. 'Couch tourists' can also benefit from a single language. If all literary works are translated into English, readers can readily explore different cultures.

However, there is a considerable price to pay for the use of a single language. That is the loss of a people's cultural identity. Language features words and ideas which are unique to a culture. For example, in Cherokee, there is no word for goodbye. Instead they say 'I will see you again.' Extinction of a language also means that particular words die. If Indonesian wasn't spoken any more, no one would learn the world *Jayus* (A joke so poorly told and so unfunny that one cannot help but laugh). As a result, languages become impoverished.

There is also the argument that when a language dies, vital knowledge about an area dies with it. There are many endangered languages spoken by Amazonian people in the rainforest. If these are lost, an understanding of the rainforest environment also disappears forever.

In conclusion, although communication in a single, global language is convenient and economical, I would argue for the preservation of endangered languages in order to avoid loss of cultural identity and important knowledge and to ensure that language remains interesting and diverse.

Exam tip

Use different words to those in the question in the introduction to your essay. It shows that you have a wide vocabulary.

2c Read the introduction to the essay again. Find words in the introduction which have a similar meaning to words in task A in exercise 1c.

2d Which words and phrases does the writer use that are connected to 'convenience' and 'loss'? Complete the table with words from the essay.

 **EXAM TASK**

3 Look at task A in exercise 1c again. Write your essay. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge and experience. Write at least 250 words.

Location is everything

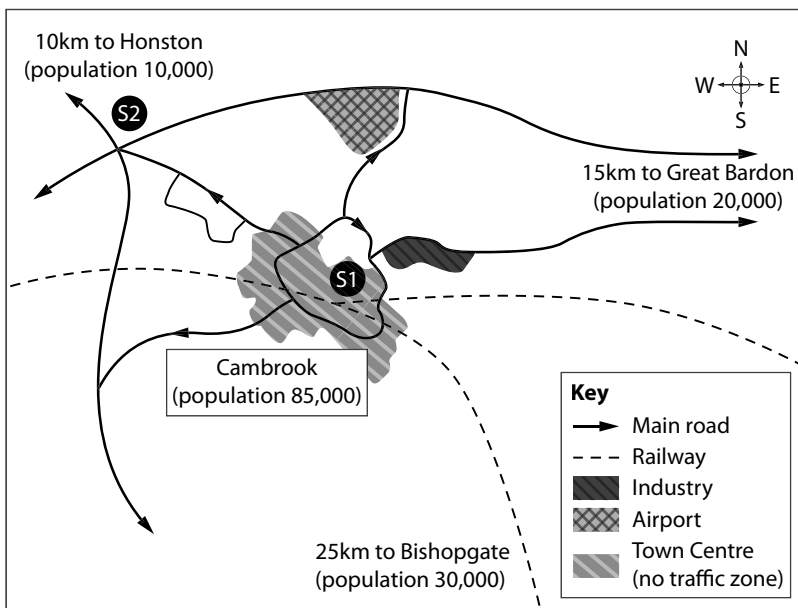
1a Work in pairs. Draw a simple map of your school and the surrounding area. Mark the compass directions (north, south, east and west) on your map.

1b In your pairs, take turns to describe the location of five different places in relation to your school. Your partner should guess the place. Use the phrases in the box to help.

outside the town to the north / east / south / west of the school in the countryside
 a few kilometres away from the school equidistant between ... and ...
 in the north / east / south / west of the city in the suburbs in the town centre close to ...
 nearby opposite on the main road on the railway line

2a Work in pairs. Look at the map of the city of Cambrook and the surrounding area. Describe the two possible locations for the cinema and leisure complex firstly in relation to the city and secondly in relation to transport links. Then decide which is the best location for the new complex. Give reasons for your answer.

The map below is of the city of Cambrook. A new cinema and leisure complex (S) is planned for the town. The map shows two possible sites for the complex.



2b Read the sample map description and insert the correct sentence or phrase (A–D) in the gaps.

- 1 If the leisure complex was situated in S1, it would be easily accessible for the 85,000 Cambrook residents,
- 2 With regard to convenience for residents of the villages outside Cambrook,
- 3 The map illustrates two potential locations for a new cinema and leisure development.
- 4 Although the location of both S1 and S2 have advantages and disadvantages,

- A** One possible site is in the city centre (S1), which is a no traffic zone, and the other is to the north-west of the city centre (S2).
- B** whereas if it was out of town, they would have to travel. On the other hand, Cambrook residents may not appreciate the increased traffic congestion that a leisure complex in town would create.
- C** S2 is well-situated for the 10,000 people living in Honston and in Great Bardon, who could reach the complex by car or bus. Conversely, it is not so easy for these people to get into Cambrook, particularly because the complex at S1 would be located in a pedestrian zone, making parking difficult. However, S2 is not easily accessible for Bishopgate, as there isn't a main road from this town towards it. Because of the proximity of S1 to a railway line and the fact that the line passes through Bishopgate, its residents would probably prefer S1.
- D** I would recommend that the leisure centre is located at S2, due to the fact that it would be accessible to residents of Cambrook, Honston and Great Bardon, without contributing to traffic congestion.

2c Read the model answer above again and underline:

- a) 3 linking words and one phrase that contrasts information that goes before it with information after it
- b) 4 clauses that give reasons why a location is convenient or not
- c) 4 relative clauses and one present participle clause that adds extra information to a sentence

2d Complete the sample answer that describes two possible locations for a supermarket by choosing the correct answer.

If the supermarket was built on the first proposed site, it would necessitate the clearing of an area of land and the cutting down of trees, **(1)** *which would / because* cause some environmental damage. **(2)** *As / Conversely*, it wouldn't cause traffic congestion, **(3)** *because it is situated / whilst it is situated away from an already built-up area*. **(4)** *As / On the other hand*, the second site is likely to suffer from this problem and may lead to the city centre becoming more polluted.

In terms of accessibility, the second site is undoubtedly more convenient for the residents of the majority of the housing zone, apart from those living in the north western area, **(5)** *which / who* would benefit from the first location.

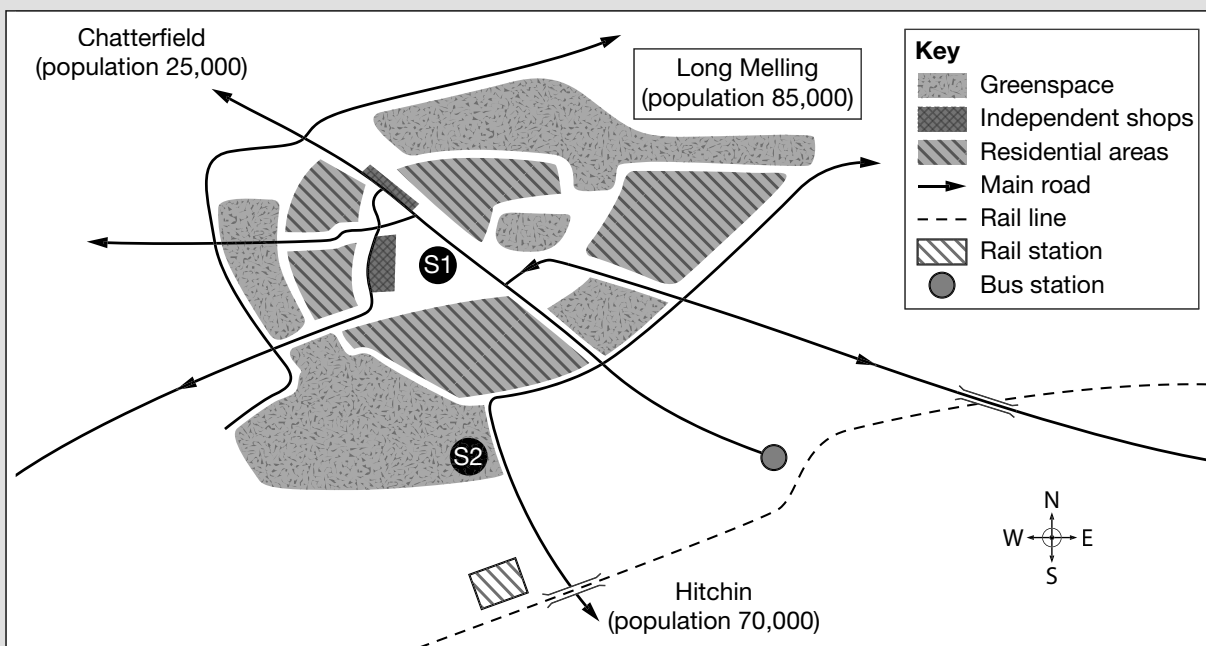
Exam tip

Don't write a separate paragraph about each location: it's much better to compare and contrast the sites. For example, in one paragraph, you could compare the sites in relation to the main city and in the other paragraph, you could compare the sites in relation to transport links and surrounding towns.

EXAM TASK

- 3a** Work in pairs. Look at the exam task below. Discuss how you would organise your description of the two possible locations shown.
- 3b** Think of words that you could use in your map introduction instead of the underlined words in the exam question.

The map below is of the city of Long Melling. A new shopping centre (S) is planned for the town. The map shows two possible sites for the centre. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and making comparisons where relevant.



- 3c** Write your description. Write at least 150 words.

The wrong move?

1a Discuss in pairs. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a city compared to living in the countryside?

1b Choose the words in the box which apply to each picture (A or B).

'concrete jungles' air pollution developed infrastructure good education resources high cost of living homelessness and poverty higher stress levels laid-back, slow pace of life limited career prospects modern transportation links overpopulation peaceful sense of anonymity sparsely populated tightly-knit communities traffic congestion locally cultivated, organic food



2 Read the Writing Task 2 questions. Decide which type of questions they are.

a) problem solution b) opinion c) cause and result

1 More and more people are re-locating to cities, but city life can be very challenging. Describe some of the difficulties of living in a city. How can governments improve urban life for everyone?

2 The growing housing problem in big cities has social consequences. Many people feel that it is the responsibility of the government to solve this problem. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

3a Read the first line of an essay introduction for question 1 in exercise 2. The writer has repeated words from the task question in the introduction. Replace these words with words from the box.

an increasing number of has a number of drawbacks
issues metropolitan living move

Nowadays, more and more people are choosing to re-locate to cities. However, living in cities can be very challenging. There are many difficulties associated with urban life. For example, ...

Exam tip

In essay introductions, show that you have a good range of language by paraphrasing the words that are used in the test question.

3b Work in pairs. Read these three essay introductions for question 2 in exercise 2. Discuss which you think is the most successful. Give reasons for your answer.

a) These days, the increasing number of people choosing to reside in cities has created a number of social issues. For example, a housing and land shortage often means that prices of residences are pushed up, resulting in low earners being unable to afford to buy a home and therefore having to pay exorbitant rents or commute into the city, which, in turn, leads to traffic congestion. Without doubt, it is the duty of the government to address these issues. Only the government has the power to change laws so that more land is made available for housing. Equally, it is the government, in the UK, who decides whether to build more social housing, for those who can't afford to buy. In addition, the government can introduce legislation which bans the rich from purchasing second homes and they can also build more retirement properties, to encourage the elderly to downsize from family-size homes. Admittedly, the government cannot stipulate that developers build more affordable homes, but as I've outlined above, they can take steps to reduce the pressure on current housing provision.

- b)** These days, the increasing number of people choosing to reside in cities has created a number of social issues. For instance, the greater demand for houses and the shortage of land to build more residences has led to a rise in house prices. This means that while high earners can afford to buy in cities, people on lower wages cannot afford to buy a house and therefore have to pay very high rents, or live in sub-standard housing that they can afford. In my view, this is a very regrettable situation. I don't feel it is right that there is such an inequality in the standard of living. This essay will explore the reasons why both high and low earners should be able to afford to buy a house.
- c)** These days, the increasing number of people choosing to reside in cities has created social inequality. For example, the rising price of houses created by a lack of housing and land has resulted in only high earners being able to buy in the city. In my opinion, the onus of solving this disparity in living standards is on the government. This essay will explore reasons why the government should address the social issues caused by a lack of housing.

3c Match the teacher's comments to each of the essay introductions in exercise 3b.

- 1** Good effort. You've paraphrased the words in the questions, you've given examples of a social issue and you've made your opinion clear. The reader will also have a good idea of what to expect from the rest of your essay.
- 2** This is very detailed. Perhaps too detailed! You've answered the whole question in your introduction. I'm worried you're not going to have enough to say in the rest of your essay. Try just to introduce the topic and indicate your opinion.
- 3** This starts well, but I think you've gone off-topic a little. You seem to be expressing your opinion on the gravity of the social issues brought about by the housing crisis, rather than on whether you agree that solving the housing shortage is the government's responsibility. Make sure you answer the question.

4a Read the advice below. Look back at the essay introductions in exercise 3b. How does each writer express their opinion?

- 1** an example that explains the issue outlined in the question in more detail
- 2** an indication of your opinion in response to the question asked. This doesn't have to be one-sided. It's acceptable to say that you have mixed views.
- 3** the reader an idea of what to expect in the rest of the essay.

4b Find synonyms for each of these words in the essay introductions.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a) reside (verb) | b) residences (noun) | c) a rise (verb) | d) people on low wages |
| e) a duty | f) pass laws | g) affordable | h) a supply |
| i) inequality | j) to tackle | k) a crisis | l) a shortage |



EXAM TASK

5a Work in pairs. Read the IELTS test question below. Plan the points that you will include in your introduction.

Traffic and housing problems in large cities could be addressed by moving large companies and factories and their employees to the countryside.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words.

5b Write an introduction in response to the essay question.