

Which graph? – Writing Task 1

Teacher's notes

Aim: Better able to meet *Task Achievement* Assessment Criteria (Academic) by selecting appropriate information from a diagram in order to present an overview which highlights main trends / key features.

Instructions

1. Hand out graphs 1 – 5 to groups of students (it's fine if they all have different graphs).

Ask Ss what the graph shows (= **percentage of the population of 4 different countries who travelled abroad from 2002 to 2012**). Also elicit that the **numbers are in percentages** rather than 15 people or 15 million people).

2. Ss stick their graphs around the walls. Tell Ss there are 5 different graphs and they should match candidates' notes about the **general trends** of the graphs to the actual graphs.

Hand out the worksheet. Ss in pairs go around the room matching the notes to the graphs (exercise 1). Feed back.

3. Tell Ss they will read an 'overview' based on one set of notes. Elicit / explain what an overview* is in relation to IELTS Writing Task 1.
Ss read the overview and match to the notes (exercise 2). Feed back.
4. Pairs answer questions about the overview (exercise 3). This will help Ss understand what kind of information should be included in an overview. Feed back.
5. Ask Ss to turn over their worksheets so they can't see the notes at exercise 1 and give them one of the graphs (except graph 1). They should:
 - Identify key trends from their graph
 - Write an overview based on what they've learnt / read
6. When Ss have finished, they can refer back to the notes (exercise 1) to see if they identified the same main trends (others are acceptable, but make sure it is a main trend and not a detail e.g. *only 12% of French people took the least holidays abroad in 2006*) and check that they followed the advice in exercise 3.
7. To round up, pairs could swap graphs and overviews and give each other feedback about how successful they think the overview is.

Alternative suggestion

*At stage 2, if there's no space to move around the classroom, you could hand one graph to each group and after 30 - 60 seconds each group passes their graph clockwise to the next group.

For further practice identifying main trends, give Ss a range of IELTS Writing Task 1 papers and ask them to note down the main trends. Feed back as a group to see if everyone identified similar trends.

*An overview is a summary of the main points / general trends of a diagram. Ss should always include an overview at the beginning or end of an Academic Writing Task 1 answer.

ANSWER KEY - Worksheet – Which graph?

Exercise 1

A = graph 5
B = graph 1
C = graph 2
D = graph 4
E = graph 3

Exercise 2

The overview matches graph 1 (notes B)

Exercise 3

1. Which words / phrases show that these are general trends (instead of details)?

Overall, generally

2. Can you think of any other words / phrases like this?

In general, From an overall perspective

3. Does the candidate give any specific percentages in the overview?

No. The information in the overview should be general. They will write other paragraphs with more specific details. Numbers or other data should be mentioned in these.

4. Which words / phrases does the candidate use to refer to '(percentage of the population) who travelled abroad'?

Foreign travellers, travel(led) abroad, trips abroad. Explain to Ss that they should try not to repeat phrases from the rubric over and over again in their answer.

Exercise 4

Suggested overviews

Graph 2 - Overall, the number of foreign holidays remained fairly stable, except for in Germany where there was a significant increase over the years. Germans also took far more trips abroad than any of the other Europeans.

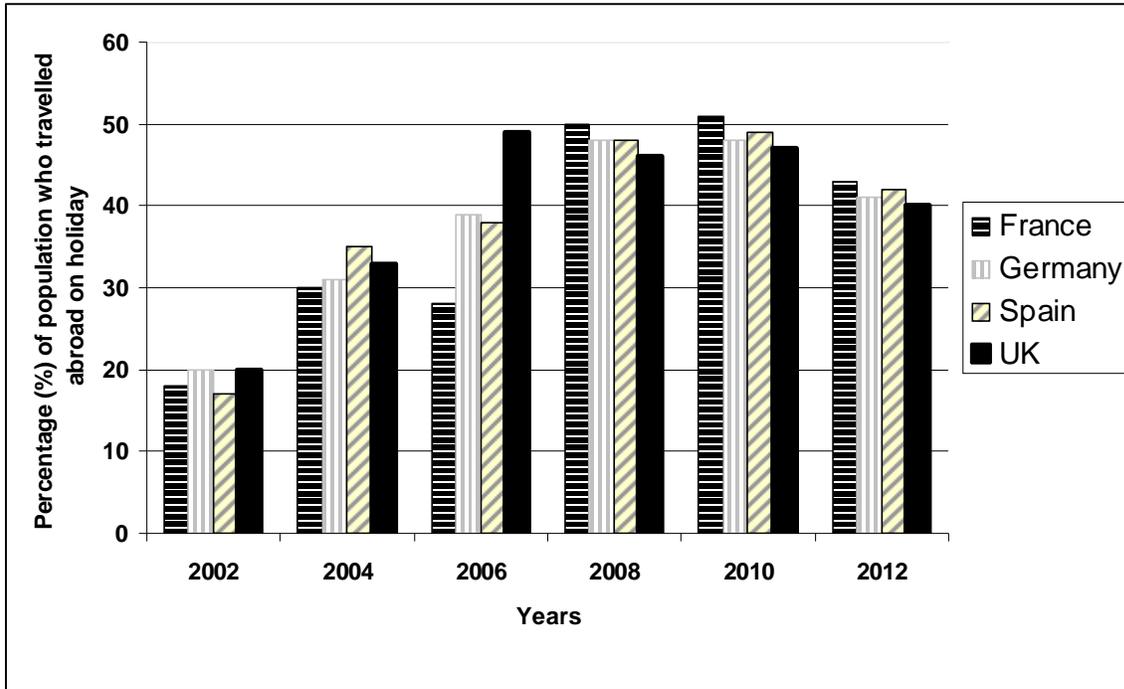
Graph 3 - There was an overall increase in the number of foreign travellers from 2002 to 2012. Foreign holidays were most popular with citizens of Spain and the UK. French people took the fewest vacations to other countries over the years.

Graph 4 - From an overall perspective, overseas holidays became less popular from 2002 to 2012, except for in the UK where there was an increase in foreign holidays. Holidays in other countries were far less popular with Spanish people than any of the other European countries.

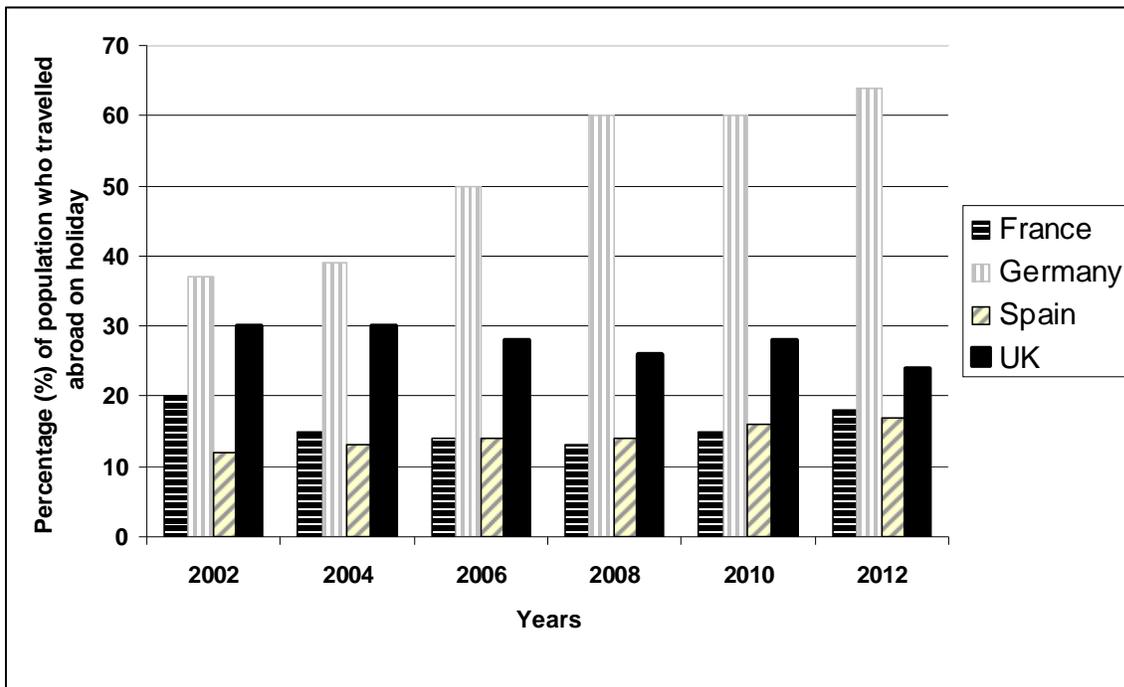
Graph 5 - In general, the number of people who went abroad on holiday increased over the period, except for in 2006 when all countries took the lowest number of vacations in other countries. The highest percentage of foreign holidays was taken by Germans.

Which graph? – Writing Task Part 1

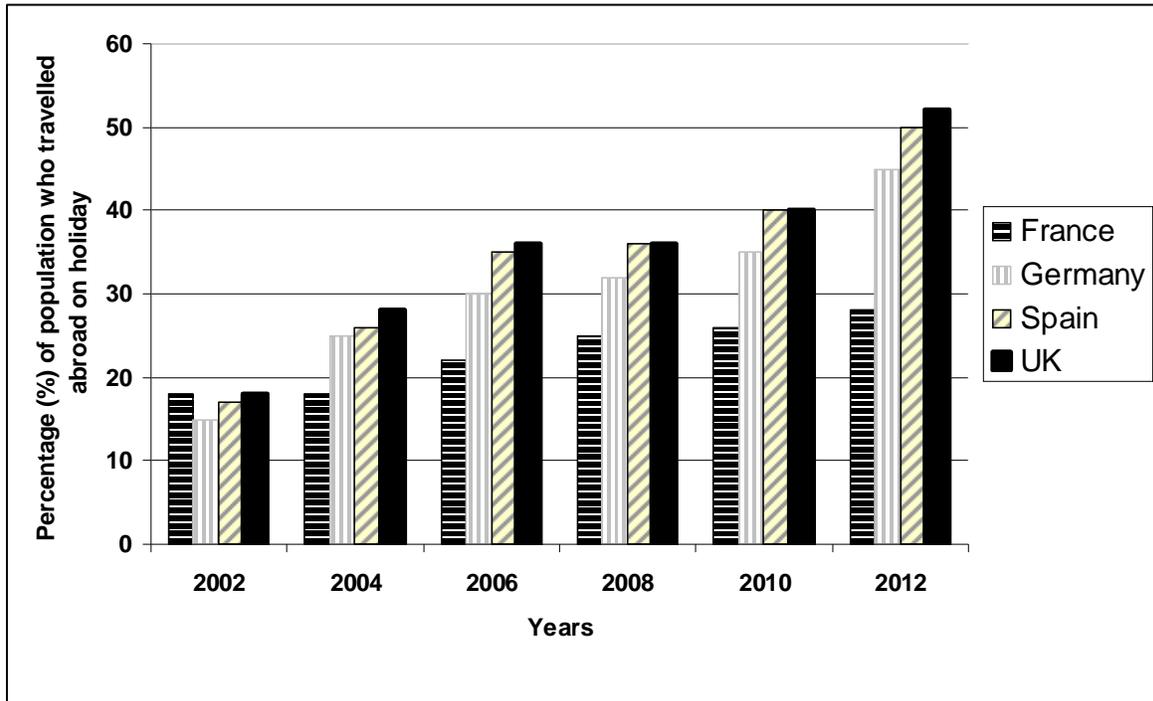
Graph 1



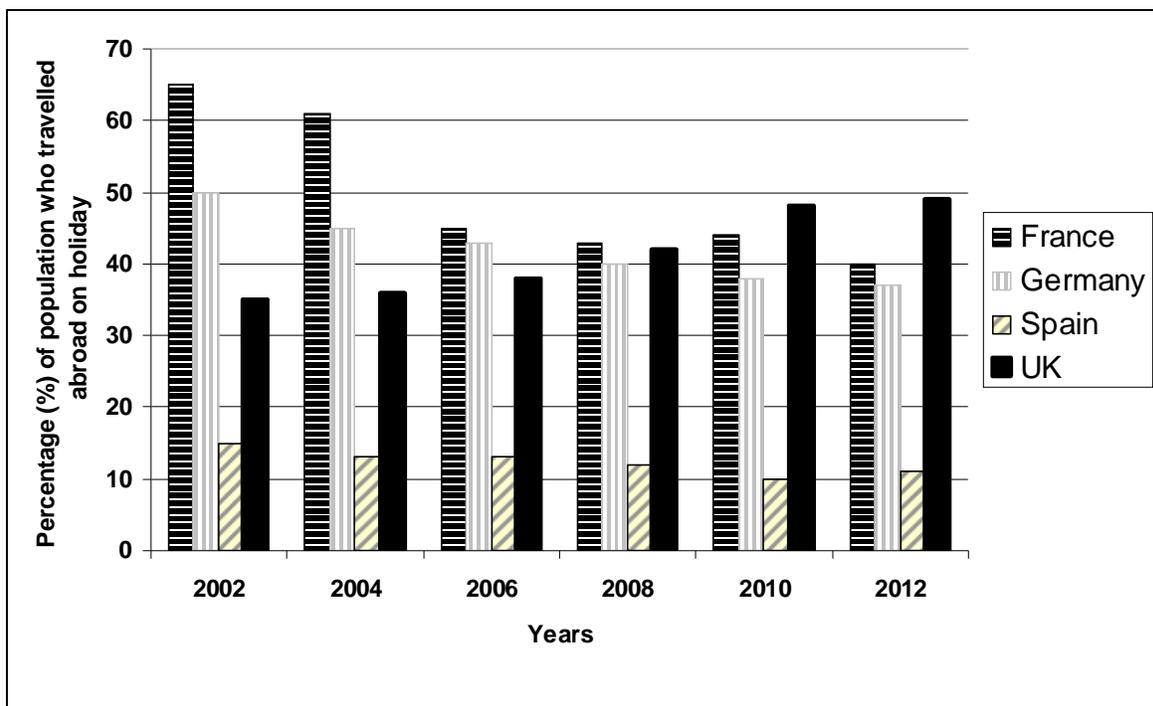
Graph 2



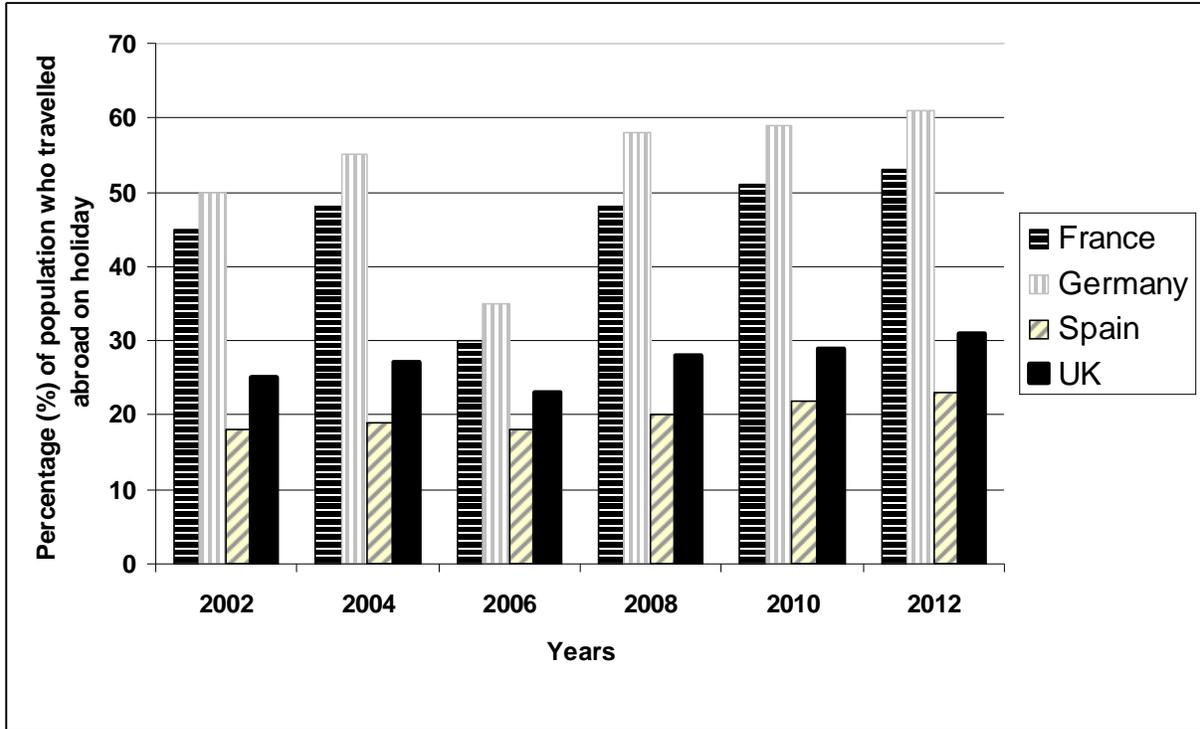
Graph 3



Graph 4



Graph 5



Worksheet – Which graph? – Writing Task Part 1

1 Below are notes which candidates made about the **general trends** in graphs 1 – 5. **Match the notes with the graphs.**

A general increase
2006 lowest number in all countries
Germany = highest % **Graph _____**

B overall increase from 2002
slight decrease after 2010
similar % from each country in each year (e.g. 2002 all between 18 and 20%), 2006 biggest differences **Graph _____**

C generally stable
except Germany = big increase
Germans – foreign travel most popular **Graph _____**

D general decrease 2002 – 2012
except UK = increase
Spain = small number of hols abroad **Graph _____**

E overall increase 2002 – 2012
Spain and UK = hols abroad popular
France least popular **Graph _____**

2 A candidate has expanded their notes into an ‘overview’ below. **Match the overview to one of the sets of notes (A – E above).**

There was an overall increase in the number of foreign vacations from 2002. However, trips abroad decreased slightly after 2010. Generally, in each year, a similar percentage of people from each country took overseas holidays, except for in 2006 when there was a big difference between France and the UK.

3 **Answer the questions about the overview.**

1. Which words / phrases show that these are general trends (instead of details)?
.....
2. Can you think of any other words / phrases like this?
.....
3. Does the candidate give any specific percentages in the overview?
.....
4. Which words / phrases does the candidate use to refer to ‘(percentage of the population) who travelled abroad’?
.....

4 **Now turn over this paper and write an overview for a different graph.**