

UNIT 6- AGEING



READING I – The Social and Economic Impact of Ageing

PREVIEW THE READING

A- Quick Discussion



Discuss these questions with your classmates.

1. Are elderly people generally respected in your culture? Why? Why not?
2. How is respect or disrespect shown to elderly people in your culture?
3. How do the people who get retired spend their time in your country?

B- Preview Try to predict the answers to the questions.

1. To what extent has healthcare improved over the last 50 years?
2. What kinds of problems might old people face in today's society?
3. What kinds of problems might a society face if it had more elderly people?
4. What kinds of benefits can an older population bring to society?

C- Vocabulary Read the sentences and write the words in bold next to the definitions.

1. Social scientists use **demographic** information to understand more about the populations of cities.
2. It is sometimes more difficult for older people to **adapt** to fast-changing technology than it is for younger people.
3. You should ask someone else for help because I don't have time to **undertake** a new project right now.
4. In her **capacity** as head of the hospital, she makes many decisions about the budget and the staff.
5. At my school, some activities are required for all students, but others are **voluntary**.
6. In my **leisure** time, I enjoy working in my garden.

- a. _____ (n) a particular position or job; a role
- b. _____ (adj) relating to human populations and the information collected about them such as their size, growth, ages and education
- c. _____ (n) the time when you are not working or doing other duties
- d. _____ (adj) done without being forced or paid to do it
- e. _____ (v) to adjust to different conditions or uses
- f. _____ (v) to take responsibility for and begin doing something



THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGEING

IN THE NEXT INSTALMENT OF OUR SERIES ON **DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES**, WE INTERVIEW PROFESSOR ROBERT HUFFENHEIMER, AN EXPERT ON THE PHENOMENON OF AGEING.

1 WHAT EXACTLY DOES AGEING MEAN?

It means the population in many countries is, on average, getting older. According to a recent United Nations report, in 2050, there will

be more people over the age of 60 than children under 16 for the first time in history.

2 WHAT IMPACT IS THIS AGEING PROCESS LIKELY TO HAVE GLOBALLY?

Well, obviously it is a good thing that people are living longer, but as a result of this, there are a number of issues which have to be dealt with.

3 FOR EXAMPLE?

In certain countries, an increasing number of older people are living by themselves, often without any relatives living nearby. The UN reports that 40% of the world's older population lives independently. Some older people are simply unable to take care of themselves, and others can only do so if their houses are specially **adapted**. Likewise, they may be unable to go shopping or wash themselves. Consequently, they need someone, perhaps a professional, to help. And, of course, older people need social activities as well.

4 AND HOW ARE SOCIETIES ADAPTING TO THIS?

Supermarkets, for example, have introduced more home-delivery services, which have been particularly beneficial for older people. In addition, there has been significant growth in companies providing services which would traditionally have been **undertaken** by relatives. These include private nursing care and 'Meals on Wheels' services, which deliver food to your door. In the USA, for example, Meals on Wheels serves more than 2.4 million elderly people across America, many of whom are living alone or isolated, according to the Urban Institute.

5 ARE THERE ANY OTHER AREAS WHERE THE IMPACT OF AGEING CAN BE CLEARLY SEEN?

Although it is not a problem yet, many governments are worried about the economic impact of an ageing population. Fewer citizens working and paying taxes obviously results in less money for the government to pay for things like health and education. NBC World News recently reported that in Italy, which has Europe's oldest population, people are now living 30 to 40 years beyond retirement. This means that the number of needy pensioners' is rising.

6 WHAT ADVANTAGES CAN AN OLDER POPULATION BRING?

Countries with a high percentage of young people need to spend a lot of money on education. In contrast, countries with a lower percentage of children have fewer education costs. In more developed countries, older people tend to have more savings and more **leisure** time. In Japan, for example, according to Bloomberg News, the popularity of luxury train travel among older Japanese people has exploded. Consequently, luxury routes are often sold out. Other elderly people may spend more time online or even go back to studying. Of course, older people do have a lot of experience, and if they can, some continue working in a **voluntary capacity** after they retire. This kind of activity adds a lot to society.

¹**pensioner (n)** a retired person who receives government money for living expenses

²**retire (v)** to leave your job or stop working because of having reached a particular age

WORK WITH THE READING

A- Categorize Read the statements. Write T (true), F (false) or DS (does not say). Then correct each false statement to make it true according to the article.

- _____ 1. Robert Huffenheimer teaches at Columbia University.
- _____ 2. It has been stated in a report that the population of people aged over 60 will grow significantly in the coming years.
- _____ 3. Most older people have relatives nearby.
- _____ 4. There are both benefits and disadvantages for societies with ageing populations.
- _____ 5. So far, most private companies have ignored the changing demographic situation.
- _____ 6. Most countries with an older population have much higher education costs.
- _____ 7. On average, older people spend four hours per day online.
- _____ 8. Countries can benefit from the skills of retired people.

B- Identify Complete the sentences using the words from the interview.

- 1. Specially adapted houses help elderly people who can't _____ themselves.
- 2. Older people require _____ as well as professional help with shopping and washing.
- 3. Home deliveries and _____ are commercial services provided for the elderly.
- 4. Governments are concerned about the _____ of a large number of elderly people in the population who are not working.
- 5. Older people are free to travel and learn new skills because they have more _____ and _____.
- 6. Experienced older people may choose to do work on a _____ basis to help society.

VOCABULARY SKILL Retirement & Ageing Vocabulary

A- Match the nouns in the box to the correct group of words (1-6) to make collocations and phrases.

<i>pension</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>retirement</i>	<i>age</i>	<i>health</i>	<i>memory</i>
compulsory be close to early active	1. _____	plan age	old advanced pensionable retirement	4. _____	-related discrimination
draw a contribute to a pay into a a private a state	2. _____	scheme	a good short-term childhood happy bring back a	5. _____	loss
in perfect ill	3. _____	centre worker problem care	coming later early recent	6. _____	of marriage ago

B- Complete the sentences with phrases from the exercise above.

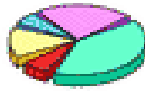
- Many people want to continue working when they reach _____.
- In 40 _____, they never had an argument.
- Many companies _____ scheme, in addition to paying a salary.
- We wish you a long and _____.
- He had to retire due to _____.
- My grandfather has _____ and tells fascinating stories from his childhood.
- In _____ the average retirement age of the population is likely to rise.
- A _____ comes in every day to change his bandages.
- When you reach _____, you can often get discounts on educational courses.



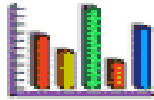
WRITING I

DESCRIBING GRAPHS & WRITING A REPORT (1)

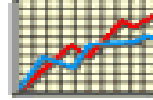
Graphs and charts are often used to present information and data.
Below you will find useful phrases and vocabulary for presenting figures and trends.



pie chart



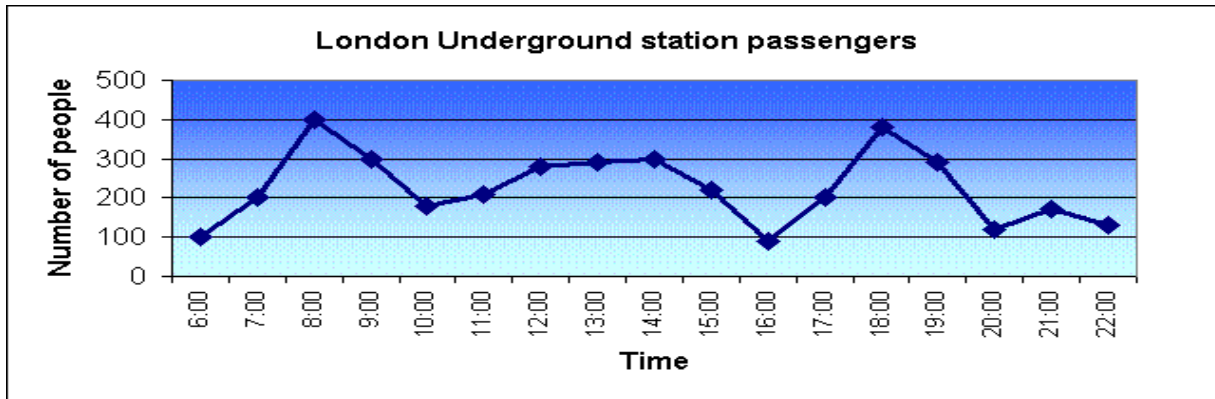
bar chart



line graph

DESCRIBING LINE GRAPHS

Look at the line graph below and read the report that describes it.



The graph shows the number of people at a London underground station over the course of a day.

Overall, the graph shows that the station is most crowded in the early morning and early evening periods.

The busiest time of the day is in the morning. There is a **sharp increase** between 06:00 and 08:00, with 400 people using the station at 8 o'clock. After this, the numbers **drop quickly** to less than 200 at 10 o'clock. Between 11 am and 3 pm, the number **rises**, with a **plateau** of just under 300 people using the station.

In the afternoon, numbers **decline**, with less than 100 using the station at 4 pm. There is then a **rapid rise** to a **peak** of 380 at 6pm. After 7 pm, numbers fall **significantly**, with only a **slight increase** again at 9pm.

PHRASES TO USE WHILE DESCRIBING A LINE GRAPH

PREPOSITIONS

- *Between 1995 and 2000
- *From 1995 to 2000
- *Sales rose from 200 to 250
- *Sales fell to 150 in March
- *Sales fell by 50%

ADJECTIVES FOR DESCRIBING MOVEMENT

A BIG CHANGE	A SMALL CHANGE
Dramatic	Small
Huge	Slight
Sharp	Minimal
Significant	Moderate
	Modest

ADVERBS FOR DESCRIBING MOVEMENT

A BIG CHANGE	A SMALL CHANGE
Dramatically	Slowly
Hugely	Slightly
Sharply	Minimally
Significantly	Moderately
	Modestly

DESCRIBING UP VARIATIONS

- * The price of oil rose / increased by 2%.
- * There was a rise / an increase of 2% in the price of oil.
- * There was a 2% rise / increase in the price of oil.

DESCRIBING DOWN VARIATIONS

- * The sales figures fell / decreased / dropped by 10%.
- * There was a fall / a decrease / a drop of 10% in the sales figures.
- * There was a 10% fall / decrease / drop in the sales figures

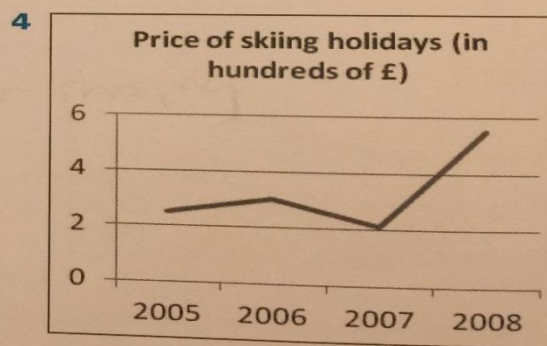
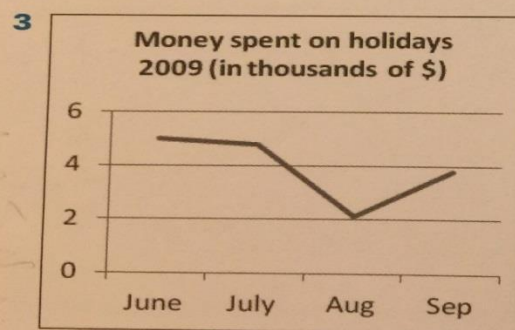
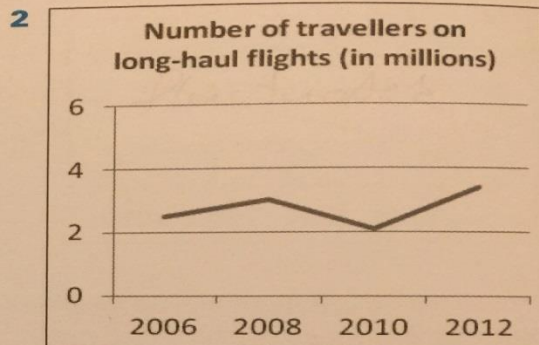
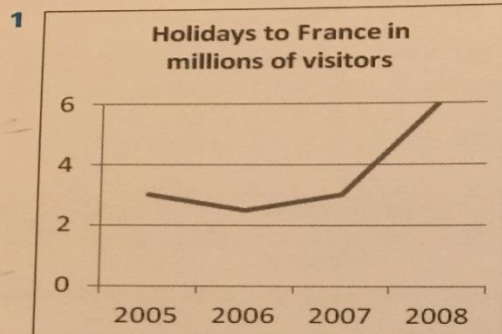
DESCRIBING UP AND DOWN VARIATIONS

- * The number of members fluctuated between 6% and 8%.
- * There was a 2% fluctuation in the number of members.

PHRASES TO SHOW NO MOVEMENT

- *remained steady
- *were unchanged
- *did not change
- *remained constant
- *remained stable

A- Complete the sentences about the graphs. Use suitable adverbs/ adjectives if possible.



1. There was a sharp increase in the number of holidays in France in 2008.
2. The number of travellers on long-haul flights _____ between 2006 and 2012.
3. There was a _____ in the amount of money spent on holidays in August.
4. The price of skiing holidays _____ in 2008.

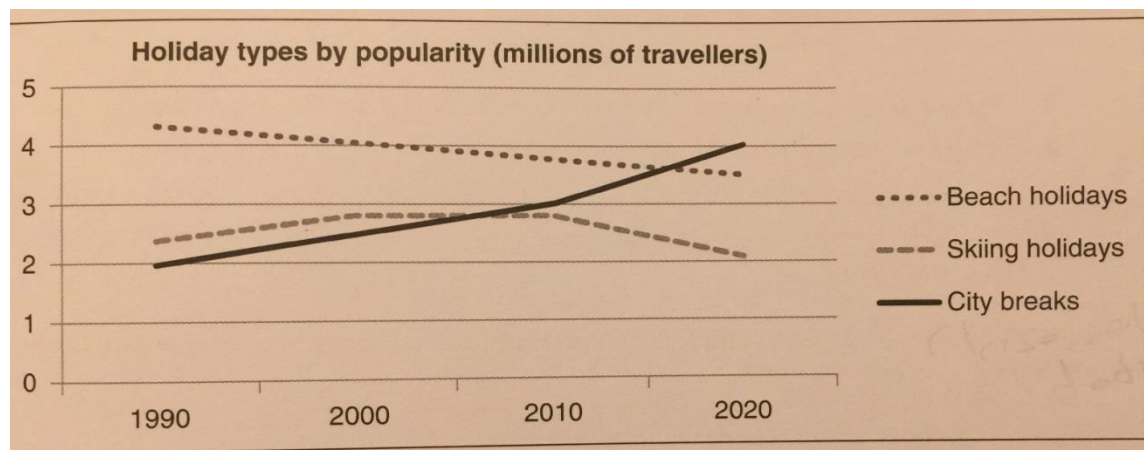
B- For graph writing, you may need to use time expressions to explain when something started or finished or to explain when something changed. For example:

<i>from 2015 to 2020</i>	<i>between 2010 and 2018</i>	<i>for ten years</i>
<i>ten years ago</i>	<i>in 2020</i>	<i>since 1990</i>
		<i>in April</i>

Complete the time expressions in these sentences describing graphs 1-4 in exercise A.

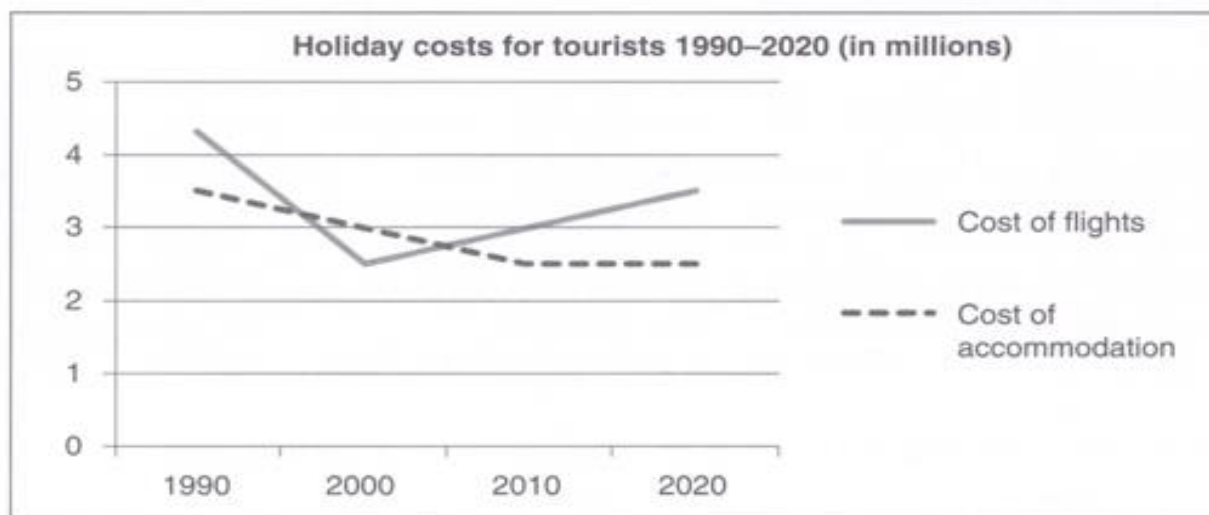
1. There was a slight increase in holidays to France between 2006 _____ 2007.
2. The number of long-haul flights fluctuated _____ four years.
3. The money spent on holidays remained stable _____ June and July.
4. The price of skiing holidays rose slightly _____ 2005 to 2006.

C- Look at the graph and write T (true) or F (false) next to the sentences below.



1. The graph shows the popularity of three different types of holiday from 1990 to 2020 in millions of travellers. ____
2. City breaks increased gradually from 2 million travellers in 1990 to 3 million in 2010. ____
3. There was a slight increase in skiing holidays after 1990, then they remained stable for about 5 years. ____
4. From 2010 to 2020, there was a sharp rise in the number of people going on skiing holidays. ____
5. Beach holidays decreased gradually from over 4 million to 3.5 million travellers. ____

D- Look at the line graph and complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.



1. The line graph _____ the cost of holidays for tourists from 1990 to 2020. (show)
2. Between 1990 and 2000 the cost of flights _____ rapidly. (drop)
3. The cost of accommodation _____ gradually for thirty years after 1990. (go down)
4. The cost of accommodation _____ from 2010 to 2020. (stay the same)

E- Rewrite the given sentences.

Example: There was a steep increase in the sales of convenience food.

The sales of convenience food increased steeply.

1. There was a dramatic decrease in the use of online materials.

The use of online materials _____.

2. The production of genetically modified food fell slightly.

There was a / an _____.

3. There was a significant drop in levels of employment.

Levels of employment _____.

4. There was a moderate fluctuation in the availability of seasonal produce.

The availability of seasonal produce _____.

5. Fast food consumption rose sharply.

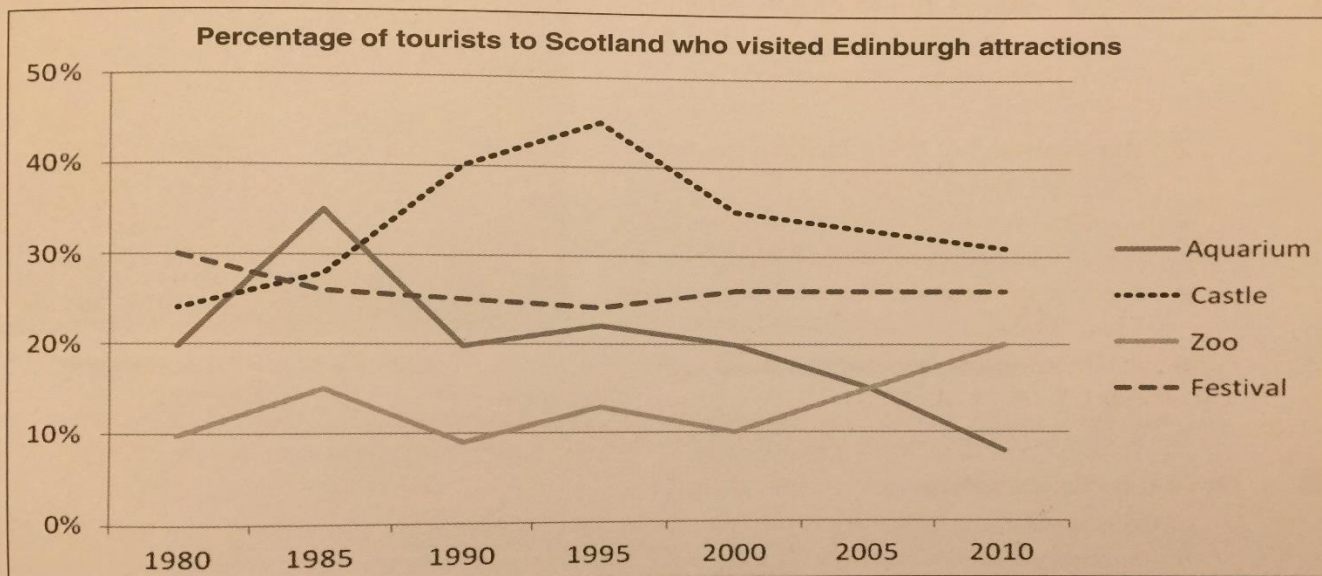
There was a / an _____.

6. The number of young people without a job rose by 10% during the last two years.

There was a / an _____.



WRITING TASK (Optional): The line graph below shows the percentage of tourists to Scotland who visited four different attractions in Edinburgh. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.



READING II-

What are the Impacts of a Young Population on a Society?



PREVIEW THE READING

A- Quick Discussion

Discuss these questions with your classmates.

1. Does your country have an ageing population?
2. What problems do elderly people in your community face?

B- Preview Skim the reading passage and choose the main idea of the text.

- a. Due to the decrease in young population, some countries face the problem of lack of labour force.
- b. Some urgent precautions need to be taken in order to tackle the problem of ageing population.
- c. In some countries, the high young population rate seems to bring about certain difficulties.

C- Vocabulary You are going to read an essay about the effects of a young population on a society.

Read the sentences and choose the best definition for the words in bold.

1. In the 1800s, life expectancy was not as well- **documented** as it is today.
 - a. recorded or written down
 - b. balanced or evened out
 - c. understood or learned
2. The **median** age in our country is just 22, so our population is young.
 - a. the age at which people are considered to be 'middle-aged'
 - b. the middle number or amount in a series
 - c. the age at which people legally become adults
3. Governments should **allocate** special funds to help elderly people pay for healthcare costs.
 - a. give something as a share of a total amount, to be used in a particular way
 - b. make a decision about something
 - c. take away from the sum total
4. This chart shows the **proportion** of people between the ages of 50 and 65 in EU countries.
 - a. the total number of something
 - b. a part or share of the whole
 - c. an advantage of something

5. In our country, a senior citizen is a person whose age falls in the **range** between age 65 and end of life.
- a. the largest amount that is allowed or possible
 - b. the middle number or amount
 - c. the amount or number between a lower and upper limit
6. It can be difficult for elderly people to **cope** with the health problems of ageing by themselves, so they often need special assistance.
- a. deal with problems or difficulties successfully
 - b. make a complaint about something
 - c. forget about something
7. My grandfather receives a monthly **pension** from the company he used to work for.
- a. a bill for services
 - b. a payment for medical costs
 - c. a sum of money paid regularly to a person who has retired

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF A YOUNG POPULATION ON A SOCIETY?

1 There is a well-**documented** problem with the ageing of the global population, but there are also areas of the world where demographics are very different. In many parts of the Middle East and North Africa, there is a much higher **proportion** of young people. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a country of over 30 million people, is one such place. This reality has brought special challenges to the Kingdom in a number of different areas such as education, housing and the economy.

2 The population graph shows the population of men and women in Saudi Arabia and their age **ranges** in 2016. The graph shows Saudi Arabia has a very young population. Upon close analysis, it can be seen that about 27% of the population is age 14 and under, and approximately 19% of the total population is between the ages of 15 and 24. The number of Saudis in their mid-twenties to mid-thirties is particularly high, with almost one in five of the

total population falling within just this ten-year age range. In the United States the **median** age is 38, in the United Kingdom it is 40, in Italy it is 45 and in Japan it is 47. In contrast, Saudi Arabia is more youthful, as the median age is 27.

3 The high percentage of children and young people leads to high education costs in Saudi Arabia. The focus on education is a high priority for Saudi society. A recent report showed that education receives 25% of the government's annual budget, making the country's education spending one of the highest in the world. As a result of its demographic profile, the government has been leading a university expansion programme to **cope** with the large number of college-aged students moving through the school system every year.

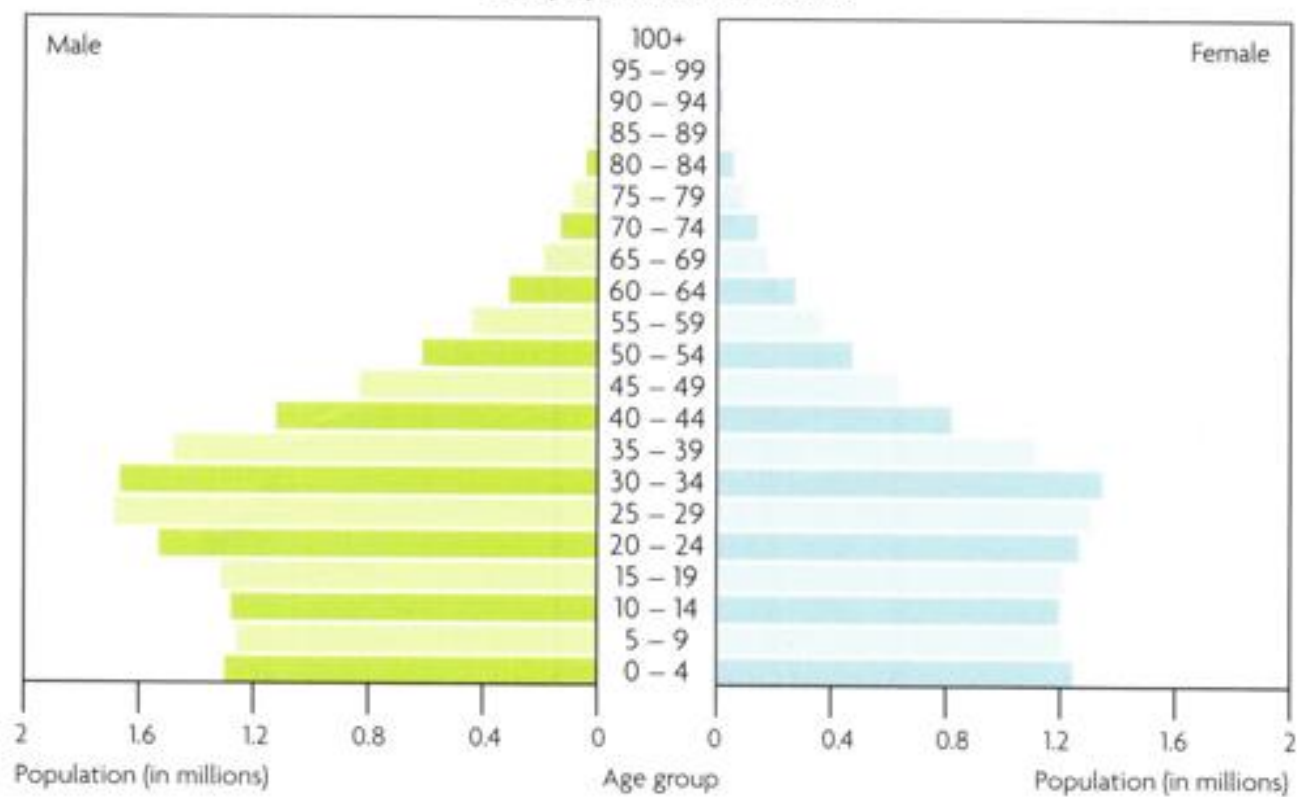
4 This also has an impact on employment opportunities for young people. Youth unemployment could well become the Kingdom's biggest social challenge in the coming years. These days, the unemployment rate for Saudis between the ages of 16 and 29 is 29%. Unless Saudi Arabia's government can provide enough public-sector jobs, or attract more private-sector employers, more budget expenditure will be needed for unemployment benefits.

5 There is a similar challenge in terms of housing, with more demand than supply. This is a particular problem in places such as Jeddah, Saudi Arabia's second-largest city. Jeddah is on the coast, with a mountain range to the east. Because of this, outward expansion is geographically impossible. As a consequence, houses have become more expensive, and young people may be unable to buy their own homes.

6 Although Saudi Arabia faces several challenges in terms of education, employment and housing as a result of its young population, it does not have to cope with the demands of an ageing population. Because the country has relatively fewer old people than the places mentioned earlier, the costs of healthcare and **pensions** are lower. This will allow more funds to be **allocated** to improving the lives of young people.

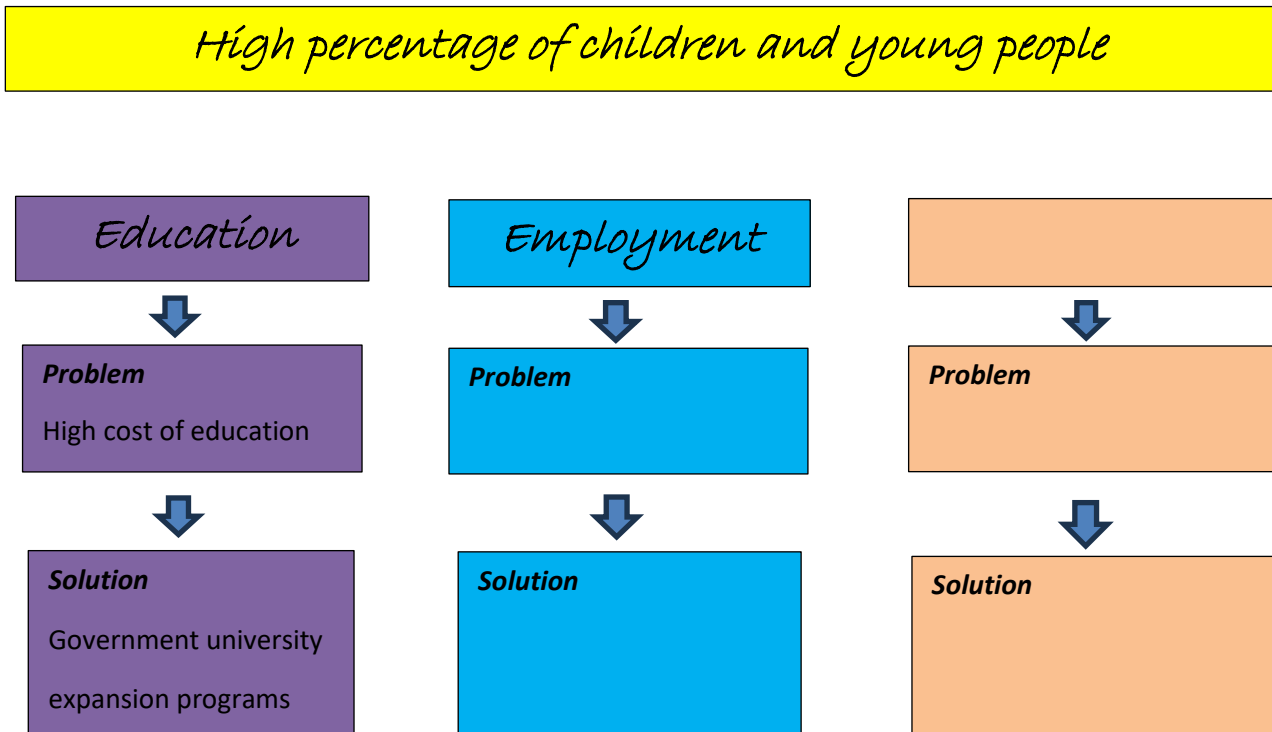
Saudi Arabia – 2016

Total population: 28,160,273



WORK WITH THE READING

A- Identify Read the case study and take notes on the main ideas. How does having a younger overall population affect Saudi Arabia? Complete the flow chart with the problems and solutions in the reading.



B- Identify Read the essay again. Complete each sentence with a word or number.

1. Saudi Arabia has a very _____ population.
2. Over _____ % of the population is younger than 14.
3. Approximately _____ % of the population is between 15 and 24 years old.
4. The median age for Saudis is _____, which is 20 years younger than the median age in _____.
5. Saudi Arabia ranks as one of the top countries in the world for government spending on _____.

6. In Saudi Arabia there is a lack of employment in both the public and the private _____.
7. A city which is located between the mountains and the sea has limited space for _____.

C- Interpret Work with a partner. Find the words and phrases in the essay and discuss what they mean.

1. upon close analysis
2. expenditure
3. special challenges
4. as a consequence

VOCABULARY SKILL Academic Collocations with Prepositions

A- Circle the best preposition to make the collocations.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <i>in / on</i> brief | 5. identify <i>with / up</i> |
| 2. a range <i>of/ on</i> | 6. <i>in / with</i> theory |
| 3. focus <i>on / with</i> | 7. rely <i>on / with</i> |
| 4. sum <i>up/ on</i> | 8. <i>on / in</i> contrast |

B- Complete the sentences with the correct phrases and phrasal verbs from Exercise A.

1. Countries may encounter financial challenges when an increasing number of older people have to _____ the government for support.
2. Countries with a younger population have high education costs. _____, those with an older population have to spend more on healthcare.
3. There is a wide _____ voluntary work opportunities for retired people such as sports coaching, business mentoring, gardening and counselling.
4. There is a tendency to _____ the problems faced by the elderly, not their valuable contribution to society.
5. _____, the major problem an ageing population will face is how to fund healthcare.

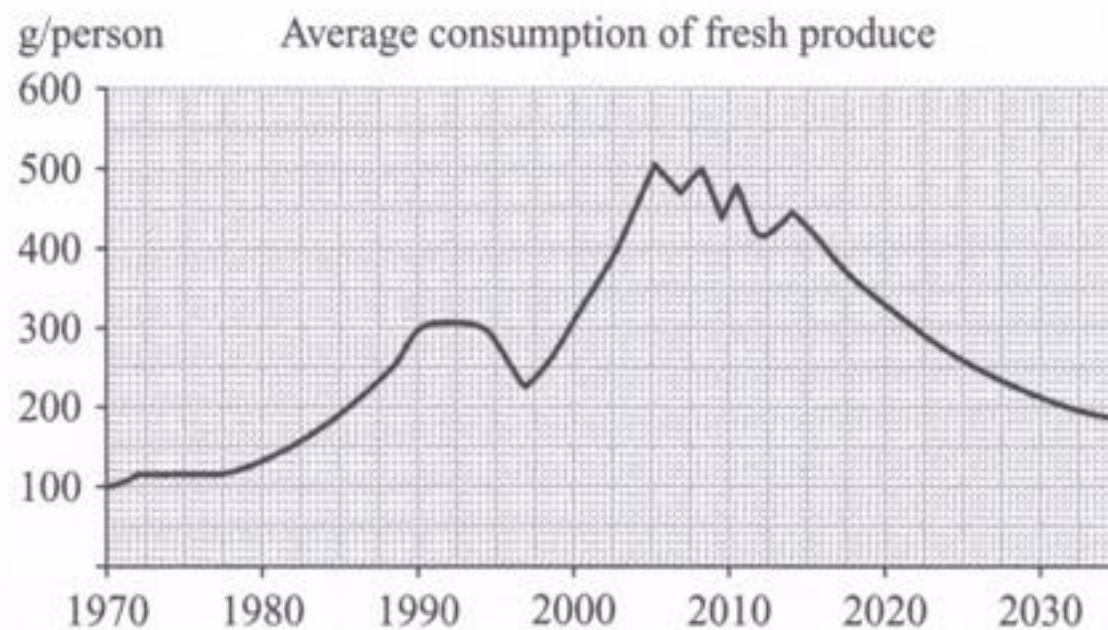
6. While many strategies may seem to work _____ when those strategies are put into action, they rarely succeed.
7. It might be difficult for citizens of countries with ageing populations to _____ the challenges of countries which have a younger population.
8. To _____, this report's key recommendation is that more educational opportunities should be provided for people over 60.



WRITING II

DESCRIBING GRAPHS & WRITING A REPORT (2)

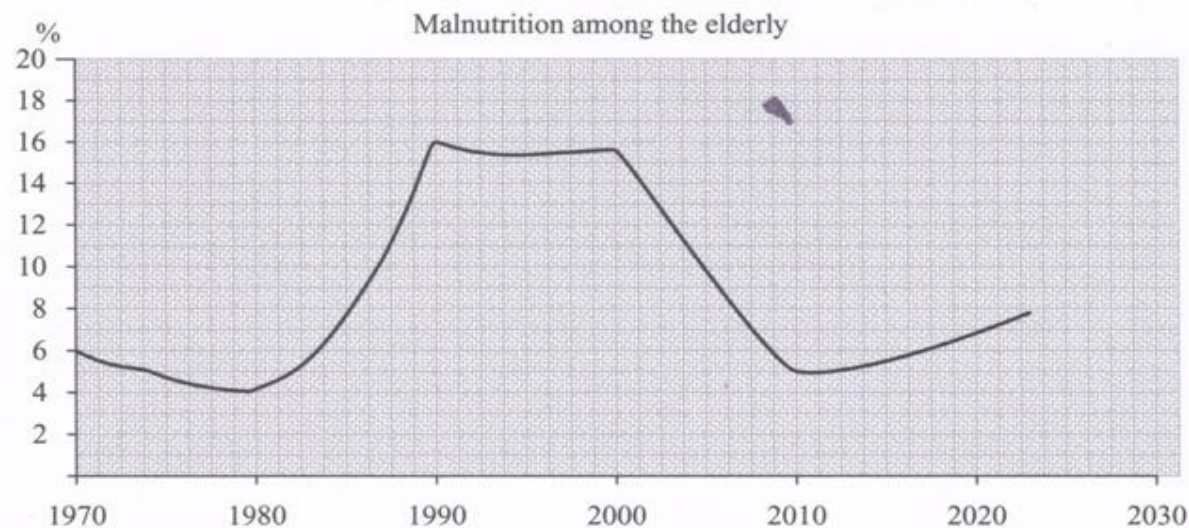
A- Study the line graph on consumption of fresh produce. Complete the blanks with the given words in the box.



remained stable	fall gradually	sharp fall	fluctuated
reached	dramatic increase	rose steadily	

Consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables (1)_____ from 1970 to 1990, and then (2)_____. There was a / an (3) _____ in the early and mid 1990s, and then a / an (4) _____ until it (5)_____ a peak of 500g per person in 2005. Between the years of 2004 and 2014, the consumption (6)_____. Since 2014, it has started to (7) _____.

B- Complete the passage below using verbs, adverbs, adjectives and nouns. Make sure you use the correct verb tenses. The first one has been done for you.



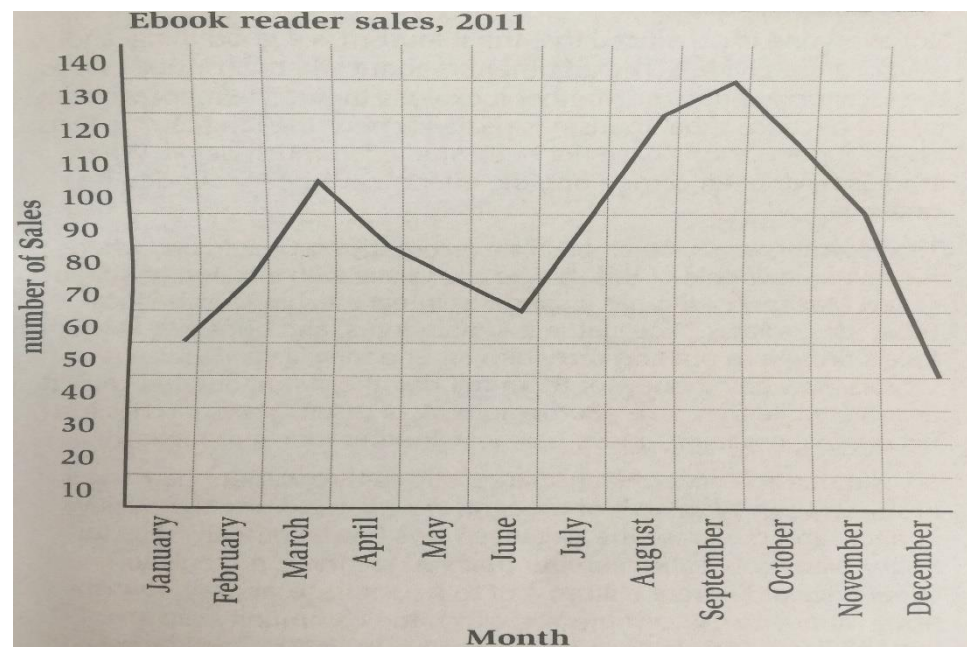
The percentage of malnourished elderly people in the EU fell gradually between 1970 and 1978. Over the following seven years, it (1) _____ (2) _____, until 1990, when it (3) _____ at 16 per cent. After falling slightly, the rate of malnutrition (4) _____ for a decade. Between 2000 and 2010, there (5) _____ a (6) _____ fall. Finally, it (7) _____ (8) _____ from 2010 to 2021.

C- Complete the second sentence in each pair, replacing the words and phrases in bold with the words from the box. You will need to use some words more than once.

about	another	decrease	fall	fluctuated
gives	increase	information	peak	
reached	rise	sharp	slight	

- The graph **shows** the number of customers visiting the book shop over a six- month period.
The graph _____
- Customer numbers **increased slightly** in May.
There _____
- Customer numbers **decreased slightly** the following month.
There _____
- Customer numbers **rose sharply** in July.
There _____
- Customer numbers **fell again** in August.
There _____
- Customer numbers **peaked** in September.
Customer numbers _____
- There were **fluctuations** in customer numbers during the six-month period.
Customer numbers _____

D- Look at the graph and complete the paragraph with the prepositions from the box. In some cases, more than one preposition is possible.



between	during	in	for	from	over
---------	--------	----	-----	------	------

The graph shows ebook reader sales for a small electronics company 1 _____ a one-year period. After rising 2 _____ January and March, sales fell 3 _____ April to June. Then, they went up again 4 _____ the summer. However, after a peak, sales of ebook readers started to decrease again 5 _____ October and continued falling 6 _____ the last two months of the year. Overall, ebook reader sales fluctuated considerably 7 _____ 2011.

E- Complete the sentences using the information in the graph in exercise D and preposition from the box.

at	by	from	in	of	to
----	----	------	----	----	----

January- March

1. There was a rise _____ sales of ebook readers.
2. Sales of ebook readers saw an increase _____ 100 per cent.

April- June

3. Sales fell _____ 20.

July- September

4. Sales of readers rose _____ 90 a month _____ 130 a month.
5. Sales peaked _____ 130.



WRITING TASK 6: The line graph below gives information about the changing ages of marriage for men and women in the USA.

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

Age of Marriage, USA

