

Class X (English)

Analytical Paragraph

An analytical paragraph is a form of descriptive writing which is written on the basis of a given chart, graph, data, outline, clues, table etc. It requires analysis and comparison of the given facts and drawing conclusion based on the given data. When writing an analytical paragraph, one should remember to describe the facts in the best possible manner and cover the information provided. The paragraph must use clear and crisp language along with providing complete details of the data provided in the question.

Features of an Analytical Paragraph:

- It describes the given chart, table, data, graph, cues etc.
- It should be brief and comprehensive but at the same time, include complete information.
- It should state the facts that are provided.
- It should have simple and accurate language.
- It should mention figures and quantities appropriately.
- It should use the same tense throughout, as far as possible.
- It should not provide any personal observation or response.
- It should preferably use the passive form of the verb.

Format of an Analytical Paragraph

Content in 100-120 words

The content of the paragraph must include the following:

- **Introduction** (explain in one or two lines the context or what is clearly evident from the chart or graph)
- **Body of the paragraph** (explain in detail the figure and trends, making comparisons and contrasts)
- **Conclusion** (give the overall view or summary of the chart or graph)

Points to Remember

- We must not include any personal opinions, conclusions or observations but simply stick to the facts.
- We must choose wisely the important information, organize it well, state the correct facts and summarize it properly.

Let us discuss each of these in detail:

1. The Introduction

The introduction is the first paragraph that should describe in brief what the graph is about. It should be like an opening paragraph that introduces the reader to the context of the chart given. When writing the introductory paragraph, you need not go into the details. You just need to

mention what is clearly evident from the chart or the graph given in the question. It is best to write the introduction in one or two lines.

2. The body of the paragraph

This part of the analytical paragraph should contain details of the graph/chart given in the question. It should contain all the important information. It is extremely important to choose the significant details that should be included in the paragraph.

The body can be broken into two or three sub- paragraphs depending on the information extracted from the graph. Breaking the body into sub-paragraphs makes it easy for the reader to understand.

i. Organizing information: You should look for the large differences that are very prominent. You can mention the aspect which is the smallest or the largest in the data given. Any aspects that are similar should be mentioned next. You should further mention about the aspect that has remained unchanged or constant throughout.

ii. Comparing information: If the chart mentions two different parties, for example, men and women, refer to both of them in the analytical paragraph. If there is any contrast or comparison that could be drawn, you must present it effectively. If the chart is about a particular time period or highlights trends of several years, mention each year in a concise manner. If any comparison or contrast can be done for two or more years, you should write about it too.

iii. Mentioning quantities: When including numbers and figures, their accuracy must be ensured. There are a number of ways that can be used to describe quantities, for example- percentage, fraction, ratios, etc.

iv. Connecting sentences: If different information or ideas are there, you should use connectors or linking phrases to link them logically. The sentences of the paragraph should be sequential and connected rationally.

3. The conclusion

The last paragraph should summarise the idea mentioned and the information in general. It should be concluding in nature and act as the closing statement. One should keep in mind that one must not include any personal opinions, conclusions, or observations. You should simply stick to the facts.

You need not dispose of the information to write a good analytical paragraph. The key is to choose wisely the important information, organize it well, state correct facts and summarise it properly.

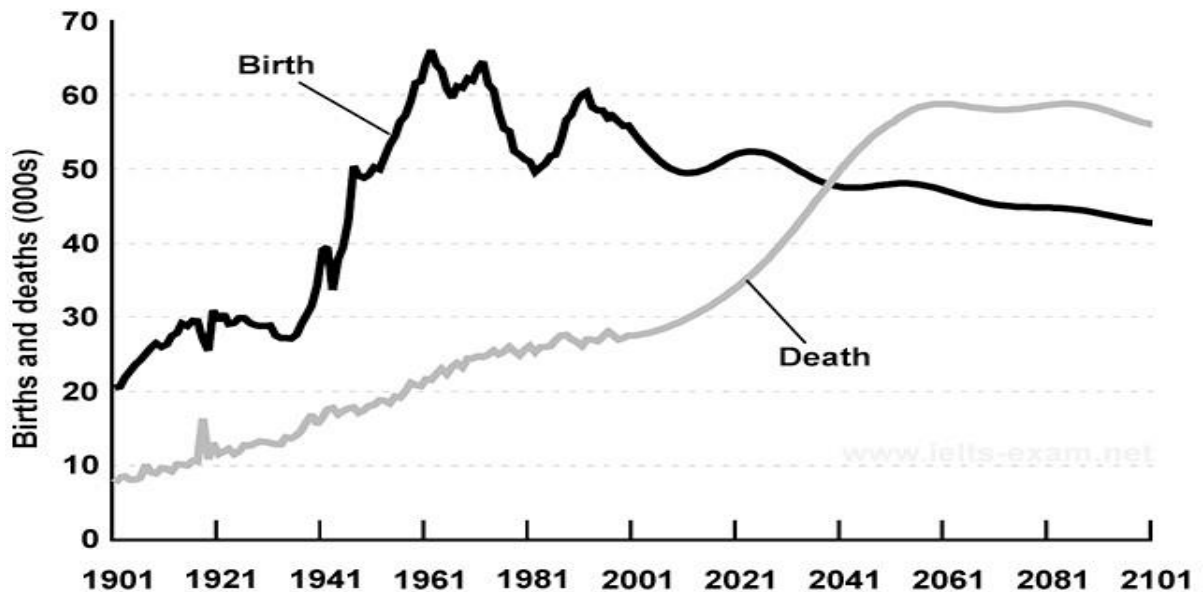
Useful tips for writing an analytical paragraph

- **For introduction,** we can start with phrases such as-
The chart given above describes.../The given table suggests.../ The line graph shows.../ The data given provides information about.../ The pie chart illustrates..., etc.
- **For describing trends/the pattern of growth,** we can use words and phrases like- ‘rapidly doubled’, ‘skyrocketed’, ‘striking increase’, ‘peaked’, ‘soared’, ‘declined’, ‘plummeted’, ‘leveled off’, ‘stagnated’, ‘fluctuating’, ‘starting to rise’, ‘starting to fall’, ‘drop down’, ‘slightly’, etc.
- **Mentioning quantities:** When including numbers and figures, the accuracy must be ensured. Quantities can be described in a number of ways, such as percentage, fraction, ratios etc. For describing quantities, we can also use words and phrases like ‘one-third of’, ‘nearly one-fourth of’, ‘majority’, ‘on an average’, ‘twice as much’, ‘almost equal’, ‘the highest’, ‘the lowest’, ‘approximately’, etc.

- **For establishing relationship or contrast**, we can make use of words and phrases like- ‘similarly’, ‘in contrast with’, ‘in comparison to’, ‘however’, ‘whereas’, ‘as opposed to’, ‘while’, ‘a striking difference’, ‘a noticeable difference’, etc.
- **For conclusion**, we may use words and phrases like ‘overall’, ‘subsequently’, ‘in all’, ‘in a nutshell’, ‘in short’, ‘therefore’, etc.

Sample Questions

Q1: The given line graph provides information about changes in birth and death rates in New Zealand between 1901 and 2101. Write an analytical paragraph summarizing the information and make comparisons where relevant in about 100-120 words.

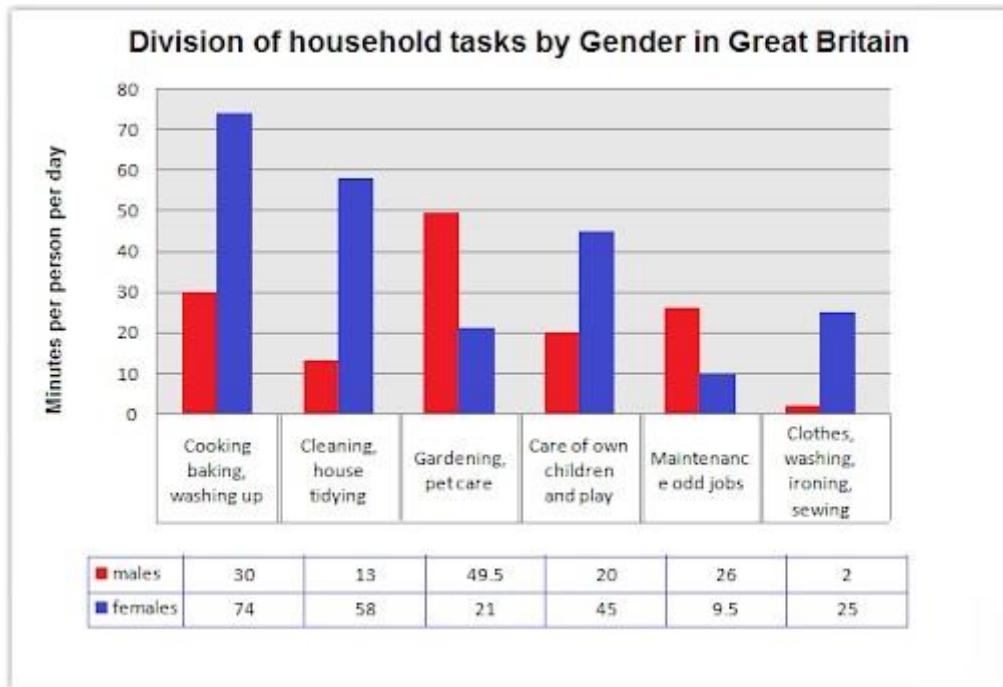


Ans: The graph shows changes in the birth and death rates in New Zealand since 1901 and forecasts trends till 2101.

Between 1901 and 2041, the birth rate has been consistently higher than the death rate. It stood at 20000 in 1901, at the start of this period and started increasing gradually after that. It reached to its peak of around 65000 in 1961. Since then, the birth rate has fluctuated between 50000 and 60000. It is expected to decline in the coming years, reaching approximately 42000 by 2101. In contrast, the death rate stood at around 10000 in 1901 and has increased steadily after that. It is expected to rise strikingly from 2021 before leveling off to approximately 60000 between 2061 and 2081. The graph indicates a slight decline in deaths in the year 2101. The graph shows a huge gap between birth rate and death rate from 1961 to 2001. However, this gap is expected to reduce in the later years.

Overall, as opposed to the prevailing trends, the death rate will be reversed and will be more than the birth rate in the later part of this century.

Q2: The given chart shows the division of household tasks by gender in Great Britain. Write an analytical paragraph describing the chart in not more than 100-120 words.

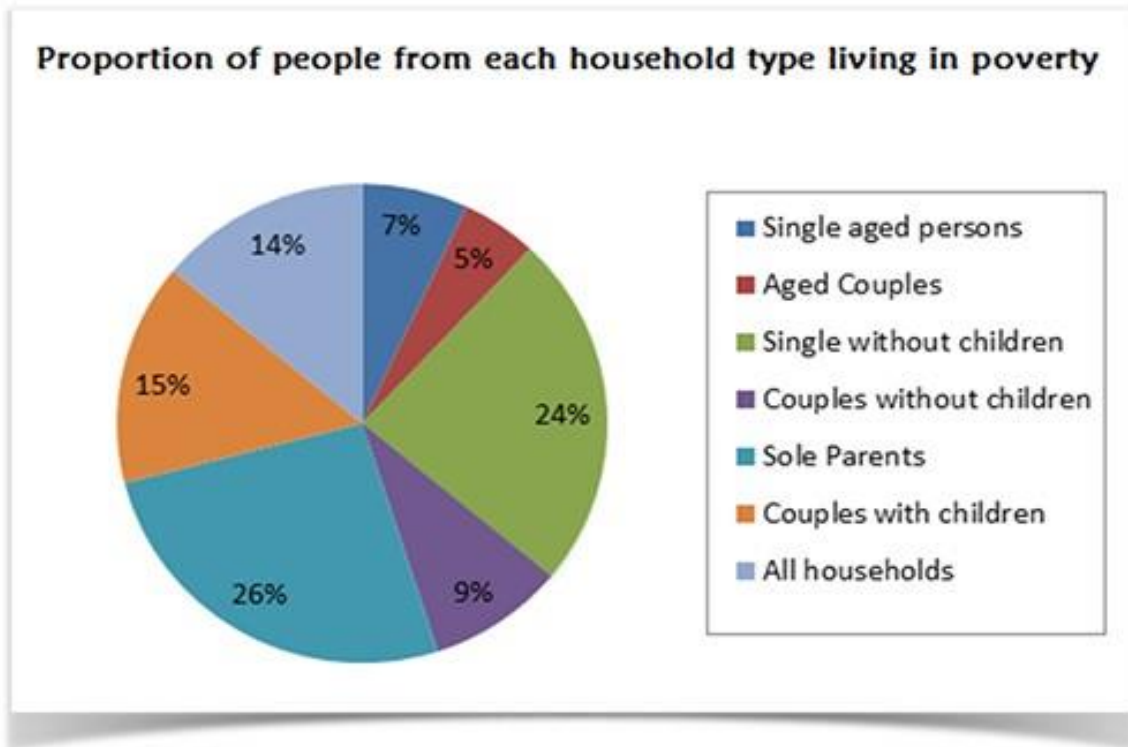


Ans: The chart provides information about the division of household tasks by gender in Great Britain and the number of minutes per day spent by both males as well as females in doing various tasks.

On an average, women spend approximately four hours doing the household tasks, whereas men spend less than two and half hours for the same. The tasks on which women spend more time than men include cooking, cleaning the house, taking care of the children and laundry. In doing all these tasks, women spend approximately 200 minutes which is almost three times the time spent by men in accomplishing these tasks. On the other hand, men spend twice the time than women in doing tasks like gardening and maintenance of odd jobs in the house. Men spend majority of their time, almost 50 minutes, in gardening and pet care whereas women spend only 30 minutes for these tasks. The time spent by men in washing, ironing and sewing clothes is as low as 2 minutes per day as opposed to 25 minutes spent by women.

In a nutshell, women spend far more time when it comes to doing household chores than men who prefer to do gardening, pet care and maintenance of odd jobs.

Q3: The given pie chart shows proportion of people from different households living in a state of poverty in the UK in the year 2002. Write an analytical paragraph based upon the information provided in about 100-120 words.



Ans: The given pie chart illustrates seven different categories of households living in poverty in the UK in the year 2002.

It is clearly evident from the pie chart that 26% of the total poverty-stricken households were those of sole parents who formed the majority. Single people without children accounted for the second highest proportion of 24%. In contrast to couples without children who accounted for just 9%, couples with children accounted for 15% of the poor households. Single aged persons formed 7%, whereas aged couples formed 5% of poor households. Overall, 14% of all households in the UK were living under poverty in the year 2002.

In all, the younger generation seemed to have a greater poor percentage than their aged counterparts and couples without children had better economic conditions than those with children.

Q4: The following table shows details about the different internet activities for six categories of people according to different age groups. Study the table and write an analytical paragraph based upon it in about 100- 120 words.

Internet Activities by Age Group

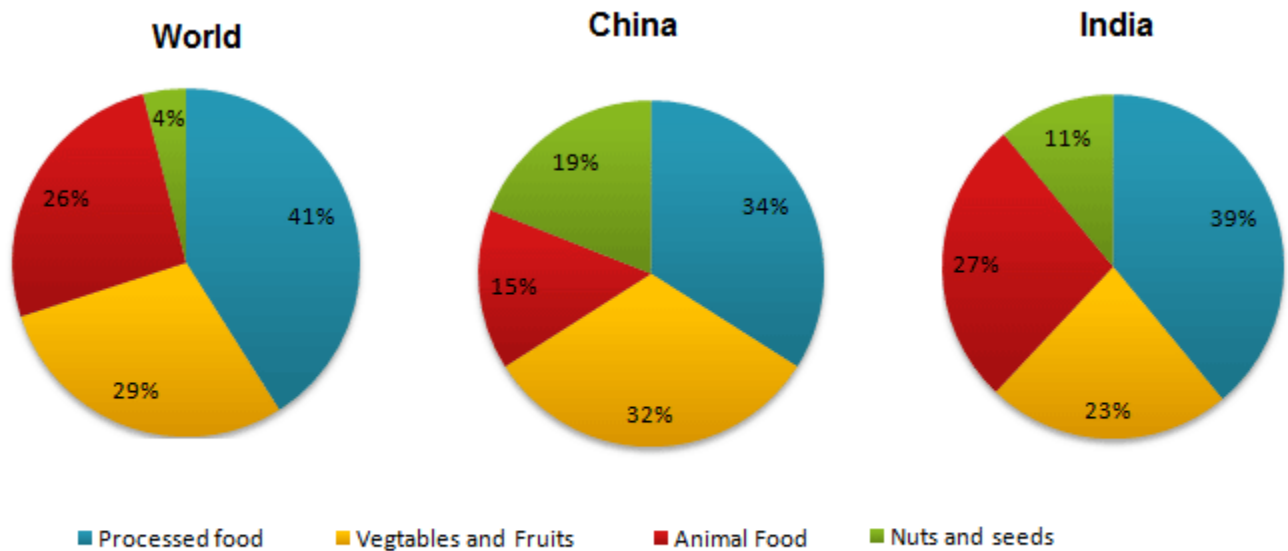
Activity%	Age group						
	Teens	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70+
Get News	76	73	76	75	71	74	70
Online games	81	54	37	29	25	25	32
Downloads	52	46	27	15	13	8	6
Product research	0	79	80	83	79	74	70
Buying a product	43	68	69	68	67	65	41
Searching for people	5	31	23	23	24	29	27

Ans: The given table suggests the internet activities of six age groups ranging from teens to those in their seventies for six different kinds of activities on the internet. The table shows that the younger generation is more interested in online games and news, whereas the older generation spends time on the internet in order to research and buy products.

It is evident from the table that 81% of the teens mainly use the internet for playing online games, and many are also interested in news and downloads as well as in buying products. The middle-age group, that is, people in the age group ranging from 20s to 60s is highly interested in getting news, doing product research and buying products, with the percentage ranging from 70-80%. The internet activity which gets the least time is searching for people. All the age groups spend less than 30% of their internet time on the same. The amount of time spent on downloads decreases with age and gets as low as 6% for the people in 70s.

Overall, the table suggests that teenagers are most likely to spend time playing games and doing downloads. On the other hand, older people, on an average, are interested in researching and buying products. It is also significant to note that people spend the least amount of time when it comes to searching for other people online.

Q5: Below given are three pie charts showing consumption habits of India, China and World overall in 2008. Write an analytical paragraph describing the pie charts (100-120 words).



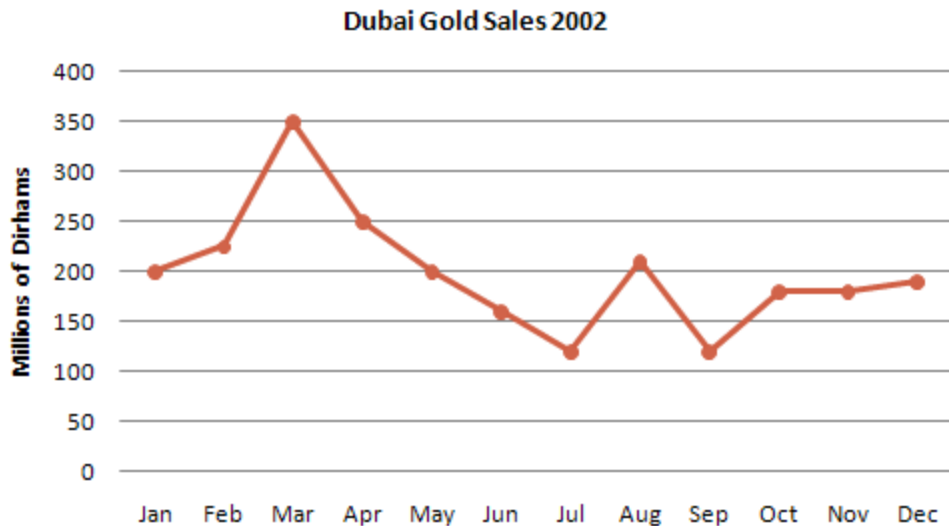
Ans:

The three given pie charts depicts types of food consumption in 2008 as compared in two countries- India and China. In general, processed food is the major type of food eaten.

Processed food comprises as high as 41% of the global consumption. In China and India as well, processed foods are consumed the most, the rate of consumption being 34% and 39% respectively. On an average, vegetables and fruits constitute 29% of consumption. In China, vegetables and fruits comprise 32% of food consumption which is 9% more than that of India. For Indians, animal food accounts for 27% of their diet, exceeding Chinese food consumption by a striking 12%. However, nuts and seeds comprise almost one-fifth of Chinese food habits. This is way more than the global consumption of 4% and 11% of India.

Overall, world food consumption largely comprises processed food. Chinese consumption of nuts and seeds is unbelievably higher than the average percentage.

Q6: The graph given shows estimated sales of gold in Dubai in 2002. Write an analytical paragraph describing the line graph in around 100-120 words.



Ans:

The line graph depicts the estimated sales of gold in Dubai for a period of twelve months in 2002 in millions of Dirhams.

In January 2002, the sales stood at 200 million Dirhams. It steadily increased through the next month and peaked to 350 million Dirhams in the third month of the year. However, the gold sales started to plummet over the next three months and hit 110 million Dirhams in the month of July. Unexpectedly, the sales doubled in August before coming down to the same level as in July for the month of September. For the next two months of the year, the gold sales levelled off to 180 million Dirhams and then slightly increased in December.

Overall, the estimated gold sales fluctuated in 2002. The sales were the highest in the month of March and lowest in the months of July and September. The sales at the end of the year were almost the same as they were in the beginning of the year.