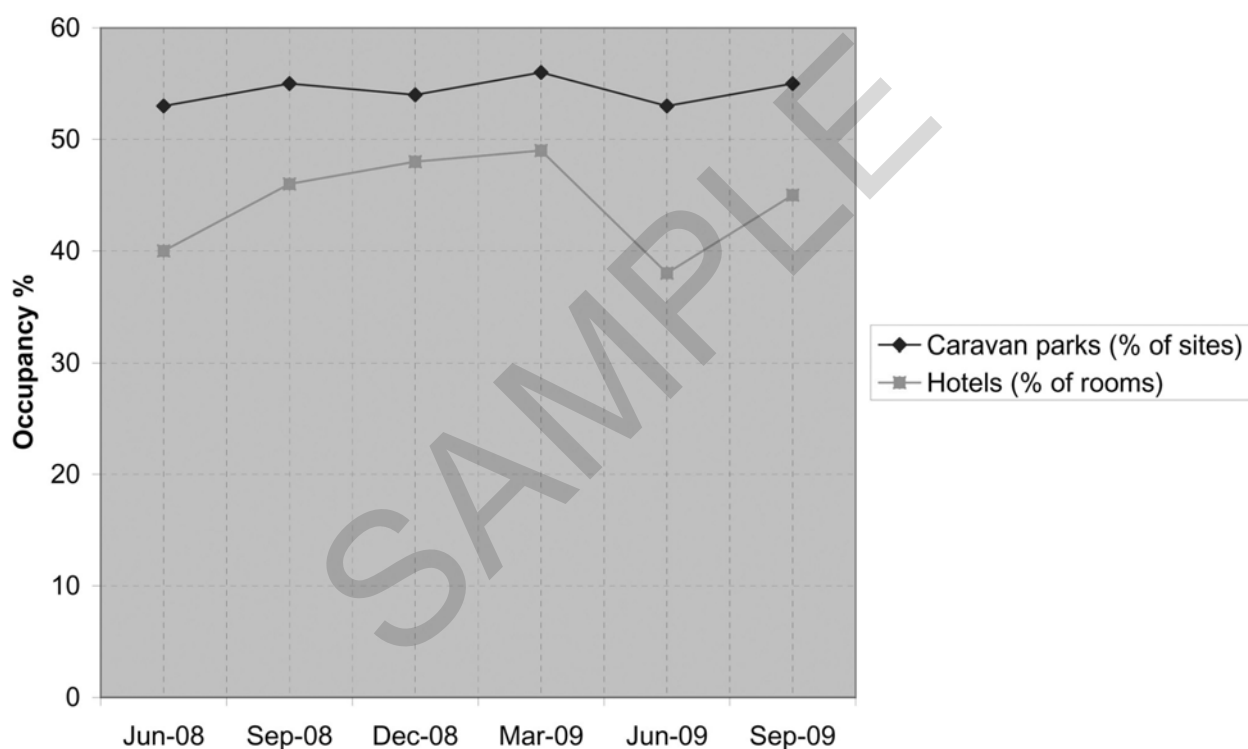


WRITING TASK 1 – RATED SAMPLE

As you may know, IELTS writing task 1s are marked using band descriptors in four categories: **Task Achievement, Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource, and Grammatical Range and Accuracy**. You can find the publicly available performance descriptors on the official IELTS website: www.ielts.org.

This sample report has been analysed to help you understand what score it would perhaps be awarded in each category and some reasons why.

Percentage occupancy rates in caravan parks and hotels Jun '08 - Sep '09



Task Question

The graph shows the percentage occupancy of caravan parks and hotel rooms between June '08 and September '09.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the key features, and make any relevant comparisons.

Write at least 150 words.

Analysing Task Achievement

The graph compares the proportion of occupancy rates in caravan parks and hotels from June 2008 to September 2009.

Obviously, it was observed that there was a constant elevation in the percentage of occupancy rates in hotel rooms, from 40% in June 2008 reaching nearly 50% in March 2009.

On the other hand, occupancy rates in caravan parks show a slightly different trend. There was a gradual increase of 2% in June to September 2008, reaching 56% occupancy rate, but, decreased shortly by 1% in December 2008 and went up again in March 2009 to 55%.

However, a dramatic drop in the percentage of occupants in both venues was very apparent in June 2009, but managed to gain back in September 2009. The occupancy rate in caravan parks lowered to 53% but increased by 2% after three months. As for the hotels, the rate of occupants significantly dropped to 48% in June 2009, and was able to come up with 7% increase after three months had passed.

Analysis: This response has a reasonable level of task achievement. It identifies the main trending features of both hotel and caravan occupancy during the period June '08 – March '09, but then seems to mis-apply the word 'dramatic' to the change in caravan occupancy. There is an attempt to include comparisons between the two accommodation types. The statistics quoted (the percentage numbers) seem accurate. One key weakness is that although the answer establishes (in paragraph 1) the subject of the information, it does not establish a broad overview of the data (For example that June is the period of lower occupancy for both, or that occupancy in both types fluctuates, or that caravans overall have a better occupancy rate).

Impression score for Task Achievement: The report seems to be between 5 and 6 level.

Analysing Coherence and Cohesion

The graph compares the proportion of occupancy rates in caravan parks and hotels from June 2008 to September 2009.

[Obviously], it was observed that there was a constant elevation in the percentage of occupancy rates in hotel rooms, from 40% in June 2008 reaching nearly 50% in March 2009.

[On the other hand], occupancy rates in caravan parks show a slightly different trend. There was a gradual increase of 2% in June to September 2008, reaching 56% occupancy rate, but, decreased shortly by 1% in December 2008 and went up again in March 2009 to 55%.

[However], a dramatic drop in the percentage of occupants in both venues was very apparent in June 2009, but managed to gain back in September 2009. The occupancy rate in caravan parks lowered to 53% but increased by 2% after three months. [As for] the hotels, the rate of occupants significantly dropped to 48% in June 2009, and was able to come up with 7% increase after three months had passed.



Note: Brackets [] show the connecting expressions.

Analysis: The response to this task in terms of coherence and cohesion is only reasonable. Cohesive expressions are used appropriately (Obviously/On the other hand/As for...) but there is insufficient signalling of the report's parts. For example, there is no final paragraph starting with a connector such as 'Overall' or 'In conclusion'. The expression 'however' is used in English more often as a link between sentences and is not so commonly used as a paragraph starting device. There are no clear topic sentences (meaning the first sentence of a paragraph that is used to establish what the paragraph will talk about) within the two larger paragraphs. The paragraph structure of the report lacks clarity for these reasons. There is very little use of referencing (such as 'This trend...', 'it', 'this') as an aid to cohesion and as a means of avoiding over-repetition.

Impression score for Coherence and Cohesion: Possibly 5 or 6.

Analysing Lexical Resource

The graph compares the **proportion (#1)** of occupancy rates in caravan parks and hotels from June 2008 to September 2009.

Obviously, it was observed that there was a **constant (#2) elevation (#3)** in the percentage of occupancy rates in hotel rooms, from 40% in June 2008 reaching nearly 50% in March 2009. On the other hand, occupancy rates in caravan parks show a slightly different trend. There was a gradual increase of 2% in June to September 2008, reaching 56% occupancy rate, but, decreased **shortly (#4)** by 1% in December 2008 and went up again in March 2009 to 55%.

However, a **dramatic (#5)** drop in the percentage of occupants in both venues was very apparent in June 2009, but **managed (#6) to gain back (#7)** in September 2009. The occupancy rate in caravan parks **lowered (#8)** to 53% but increased by 2% after three months. As for the hotels, the rate of occupants significantly dropped to 48% in June 2009, and was able **to come up (#9)** 7% increase after three months had **passed (#10)**.



Note: '#' (+ number) is used to mark each vocabulary item that seems faulty or inappropriate.

Analysis: The response communicates effectively but the use of vocabulary indicates lack of precise understanding of when and how to use certain forms, with the result that inappropriate choices are sometimes made. Occasionally a lack of grammatical knowledge is exposed at the same time as poor word selection. There is also a slightly repetitive quality which tends to indicate lack of lexical flexibility.

Impression score for Lexical Resource: 6 would probably be awarded for this criterion.

Corrections

#	Explanation of problem	More appropriate forms
1	The graph is not comparing proportions but percentage occupancy.	'occupancy levels' 'rates of occupancy as percentages'
2	'constant' suggests an unceasing quality rather than steady movement or change.	'marked'; 'noticeable'; 'gradual'