

# IELTS Academic

Writing Module — Academic Version • Practice Paper 08

Centre Number	Candidate Number	Candidate Name	Date
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## INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.
- Write your name and candidate number in the spaces at the top of this page.
- All answers must be written in the answer booklet provided. Do not write in the margins.
- This paper contains two tasks. You must complete **both** tasks.
- Task 1 requires at least 150 words. Task 2 requires at least 250 words.
- The total time allowed is 60 minutes. It is recommended to spend 20 minutes on Task 1 and 40 minutes on Task 2.
- Task 2 carries twice as many marks as Task 1.

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Task Achievement / Response	25%
Coherence and Cohesion	25%
Lexical Resource	25%
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	25%

## BAND SCORE DESCRIPTORS (Writing)

<b>Band 9</b> <b>Expert user</b> rare and sophisticated usage	<b>Band 6</b> <b>Competent user</b> some inaccuracies in complex language
<b>Band 8</b> <b>Very good user</b> occasional unsystematic errors	<b>Band 5</b> <b>Modest user</b> frequent problems with accuracy
<b>Band 7</b> <b>Good user</b> occasional mistakes, handles complex ideas	<b>Band 4</b> <b>Limited user</b> basic communication only, many errors

# WRITING TASK 1

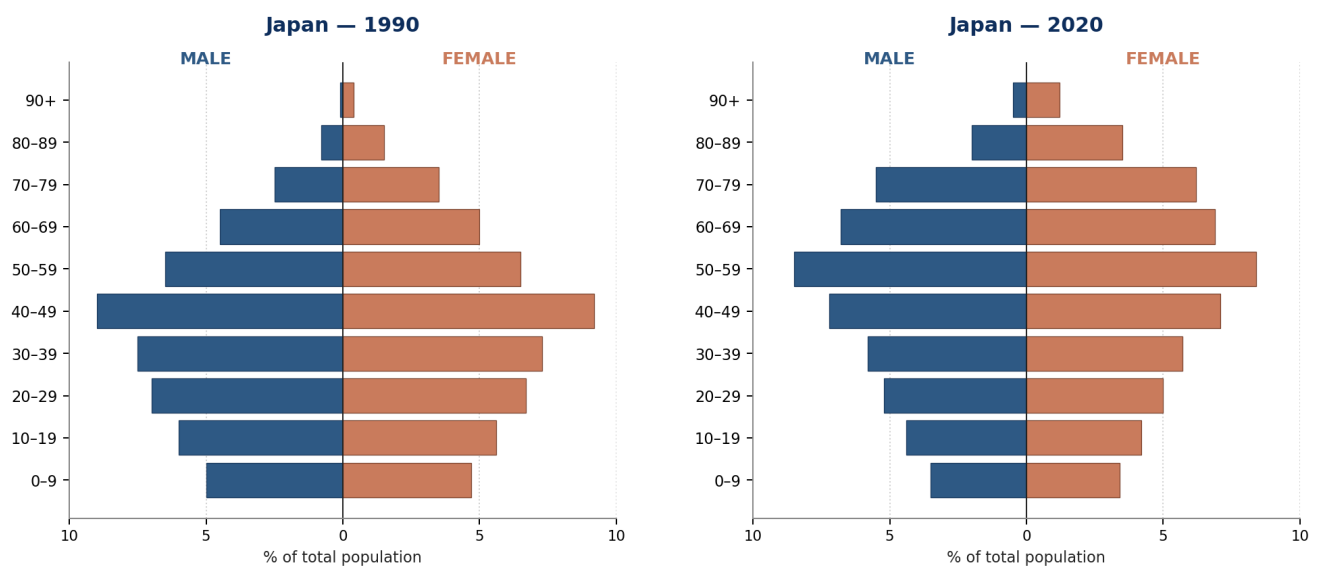
Population Pyramid — Comparison Over Time ■ Recommended: 20 minutes ✎ Minimum: 150 words

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The two population pyramids below show the age and sex structure of the population of **Japan** in **1990** and **2020**. Each bar represents the proportion of the total population accounted for by males or females in a given ten-year age band.

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

## Age and Sex Structure of the Population of Japan — 1990 vs 2020



Source: adapted from data published by the Statistics Bureau of Japan and the United Nations Population Division.

**KEY FEATURES TO DESCRIBE** In 1990 the largest age group on both sides was 40–49; by 2020 this peak had shifted upward to 50–59 · The base of the pyramid (the youngest cohorts) is markedly narrower in 2020 than in 1990 · The proportion of the population aged 70 and above grew substantially over the thirty-year period · Women consistently outnumber men at older ages, particularly from 70 onwards

# TASK 1 — ANSWER SHEET

Write your answer in the space below. An answer written in this space will be marked.

**TASK 1 ■ Begin your answer here:**

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## WRITING TASK 2

Discuss Both Views Essay ■ Recommended: 40 minutes ✎ Minimum: 250 words

**You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.**

Write about the following topic:

Many large cities suffer from severe traffic congestion. Some people argue that the most effective way to address this problem is to invest heavily in public transport — building new metro lines, expanding bus networks, and subsidising fares. Others believe a more direct solution is to make car ownership more expensive through higher fuel taxes, road tolls, congestion charges, and parking levies.

**Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

### PLANNING GUIDANCE

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. A strong response treats **both** views with comparable depth before delivering a clear personal opinion. Do not simply summarise both positions and decline to take a side — an opinion is required, and a well-defended qualified position (e.g. preferring one approach but acknowledging where the other has merit) is preferred to a purely binary stance. Develop each main idea with explanation and, where possible, a concrete example. State your position clearly in the introduction and reaffirm it in the conclusion. Examiners reward analytical depth and a coherent line of argument over the sheer number of points raised.

### TASK 2 — ANSWER SHEET

*Write your answer in the space below. Continue on the additional sheet if required.*

**TASK 2 ■ Begin your answer here:**

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