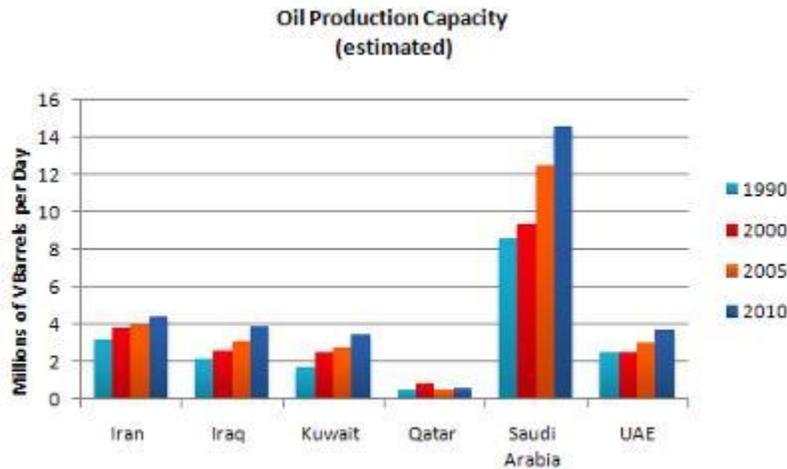




Writing Task I Formula – Answer Sheet and Example Essay

Formula to Succeed

Please see the answers and explanations for the questions below.



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1. What does the x-axis show?

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The x-axis is the horizontal line at the bottom of the graph; it is showing us the countries. Answer A explains what the y-axis is showing and C is showing us our key or legend.

2. What does the y-axis show?

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The y-axis is the vertical line on the side of the graph; it is showing us the amount of barrels. Answer B explains what the x-axis is showing and C is showing us our key or legend.

3. How is the graph measured?

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Answer A is partly correct, but it does not give us the full answer. For example, in 1990, Iraq had an estimated capacity of producing 2 million barrels per day. If you said they produced 2 barrels per day, this would be wrong, as the graph is measured in millions of barrels per day.

4. What years does the graph cover?

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Answer B tells us that the graph shows us the years 1990 through 2010 (like we would have seen if this had been a line graph), but in fact, we are only given the information for 4 of those years, so Answer C is the only correct answer. The graph does show us four years over a 20 year period, so Answer A is almost correct, but our graph shows us only 20 years, not 25.

5. Which of the following sentences is the best first sentence describing the graph?

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Let's look at each sentence individually.

Answer A: This sentence has a couple problems. Firstly, it copies the words from the graph too closely and does not use enough synonyms. Secondly, it has too much information and is not a summary of the graph. It may sometimes be necessary to list all of the years and countries, but more often it is better to paraphrase. Use your second paragraph to get more specific. This sentence is not bad overall, but it was not the best choice.

Answer B: This sentence is too general. It does not tell us how our graph is measured and it makes it sound like we know the information for every single year in a 20 year period (when in fact, we only have information for 4 of those years). It also tells us we are given the information for "the Middle East." While all six countries on our graph are located in the Middle East, they are not the only countries that make up the Middle East, so this is misleading.

Answer C: This is the best choice. It uses synonyms like "approximate" for estimated. It includes all of the necessary information, like how the graph is measured, the time periods, and how many countries are included. (The actual names of the countries can be mentioned in our 2nd paragraph.)

6. Which of the following sentences is the best overall trend statement for the task?

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Let's look at each sentence individually.

Answer A: This sentence is not terrible, but it is not the best choice. To fluctuate usually means to go up and down. While Qatar's capacity did fluctuate and the other countries capacity did *change* over the time period, it is too general of a statement to say that *all six countries* fluctuated.

Answer B: This is the best answer. In one complex sentence we have explained what happens throughout the whole graph. There are other points we should mention in our second paragraph, but this is a good overview.

Answer C: This sentence is good, but it's not the best choice. Choice C completely ignores the fact that Saudi Arabia's oil production capacity dramatically increased, while the other countries only had small advancements in production.

7. What are three points you should mention in your second paragraph? (Note: there are more than three things you should mention, but choose the three points below that you should definitely include.)

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Answer A covers four interesting and important points in our graph that it would be a good idea to point out. Answer B does not cover as many substantial points and only focuses on comparing one country to another (even if those country's trends are similar). Answer C has an interesting point in that Saudi Arabia started off higher than all the other countries and it may be a good idea to mention our highest capacity country with our lowest capacity country, but it does not seem important to compare the UAE to Iraq.

8. Which of the following is the best way to organize your second paragraph?

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Answer A is okay, but it ignores the important points discussed in question 7 that should be mentioned. Answer B has too many details. This would certainly cover a lot of information in our graph, but the task is to summarize the graph in at least 150 words. They do not want you to include everything –this would make your answer too mechanical. Answer C is the best choice because it is concise and covers the points on the graph that stand out the most.

Sample Answer –*please note: this is only one way to answer this prompt. There are many other answers that may be just as acceptable.*

The bar chart shows the approximate capacity of oil production, measured in millions of barrels per day, in six countries in four specific years, over a 20-year time period. While Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and the UAE experienced a moderate upward trend in oil production capacity over the years, Saudi Arabia showed a more substantial climb; however, Qatar's oil production capacity fluctuated during the time period.

Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait shared a similar trend over the years shown, increasing capacity gradually. Saudi Arabia started out producing more oil than the other countries –producing just over 8 million barrels a day. Furthermore, oil production dramatically increased over the time period for Saudi Arabia, to just over 14 million barrels a day in 2010. The UAE also experienced a rise from 1990 to 2010, although less substantial. Qatar is the outlier, with a fluctuating trend. Qatar's capacity began much lower than the other countries, and while it experienced growth from 1990 to 2000, this went up and down until 2010. However, comparing 1990 to 2010, the figures remained almost the same.

To conclude, five of the six Middle Eastern countries experienced growth in their oil production capacity, while Qatar did not see a marked change from 1990 to 2010.

Word count: 206