

WRITING

Writing Task 1 **Sample answer**

The chart shows that there is considerable variation in the popularity of participating in different sports, among adults in the area in question. It also shows that there were significant changes in the numbers taking part in these sports between 1997 and 2017. By far the highest number of people doing sports in 1997 did gentle walking. The figure for this was 50,000, compared with the next highest participation sport, which was aerobic gym at 36,000. However, the numbers doing gentle walking did not increase significantly over the 20-year period. Notably, there were only 5,000 more people taking part in 2017. This is in contrast with basketball, which saw a massive rise, with figures almost tripling from 9,000 in 1997 to 24,000 in 2017. Other sports also grew considerably in popularity. The number of people playing football rose from 34,000 to 48,000, and those doing hiking from 35,000 to 49,000. Figures for jogging essentially stayed the same, but there was a major decline in cricket, which had only 7,000 players in 2017, compared to 27,000 in 1997, making it the major sport with the smallest numbers participating.

Writing Task 2 **Sample answer**

It is certainly the case in my local area that many young people choose to leave their home village or town as soon as they finish college or when they first get full-time employment.

There are several advantages to this. Firstly, it gives the individuals better opportunities to find more suitable jobs. This means they have much greater flexibility in the careers they can choose and are no longer forced to take the work available in the local area. A second benefit is that they have the chance to meet and work alongside a wider variety of people, which enriches their social and professional lives. Another relevant point is that moving to a place where they are anonymous allows people greater freedom to behave as they wish, without worrying about what those around them think.

However, there are a number of drawbacks to this development, the most serious being loss of support. It is important for humans to feel that they are part of a community and can rely on family and friends for help, on a day-to-day basis. In a place where individuals know few people it is easy to become isolated and lonely. Related to this point is the fact that when people know very little about their neighbours, it is hard for mutual trust to develop. When people have lived in the same place or village all their lives, their personal and family backgrounds are widely known and this information can help others make reliable judgements, building personal and business relationships.

On balance, I feel that this trend brings more negative outcomes than advantages and that it is leading to real problems of isolation and erosion of identity.