



Task 1 Sample Questions and Band 9 Model Answers

Below you will find 4 questions that are typical of those found on the Task 1 Academic test.

You should attempt the questions first and then compare your answers with my model answers.

Don't worry if your answers are not exactly the same as mine. There are many different versions that could get a very high mark.

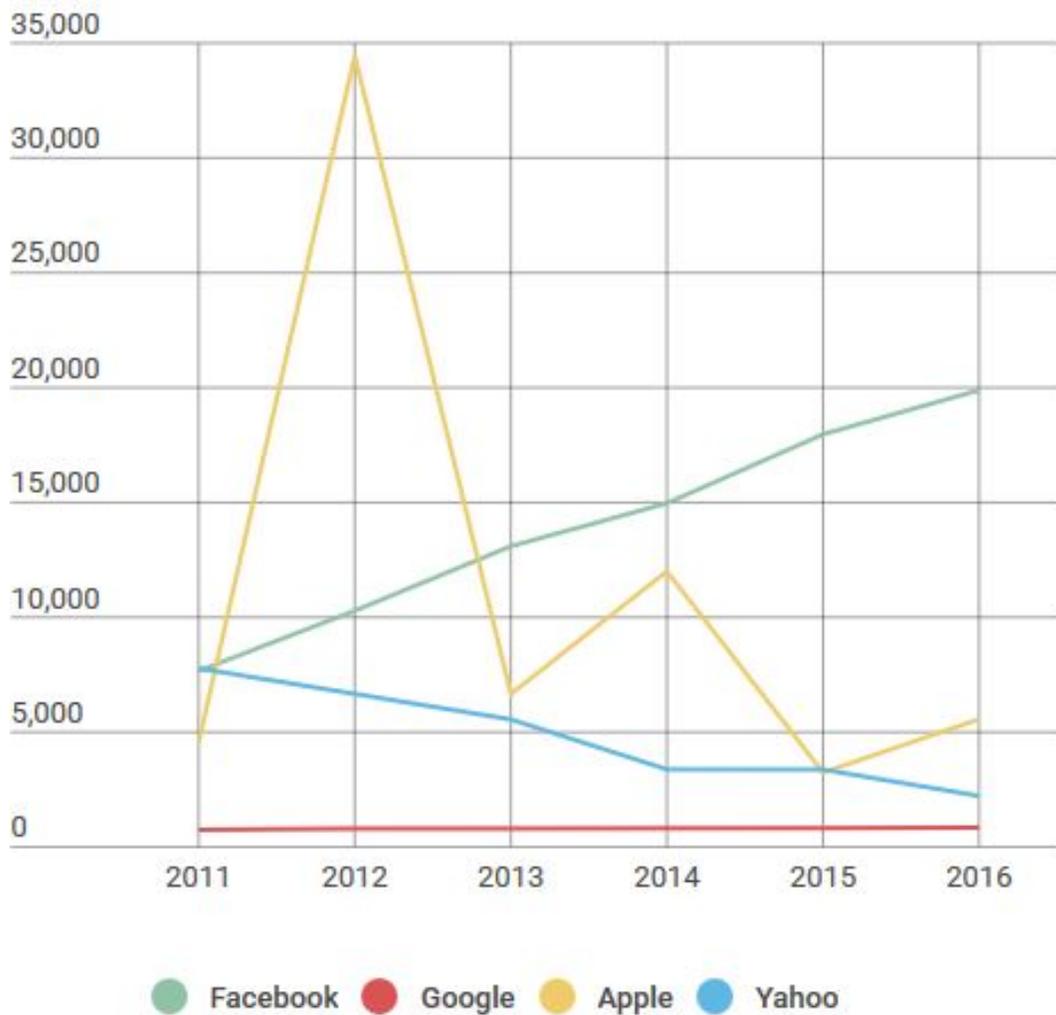
All questions are for demonstration purposes only.

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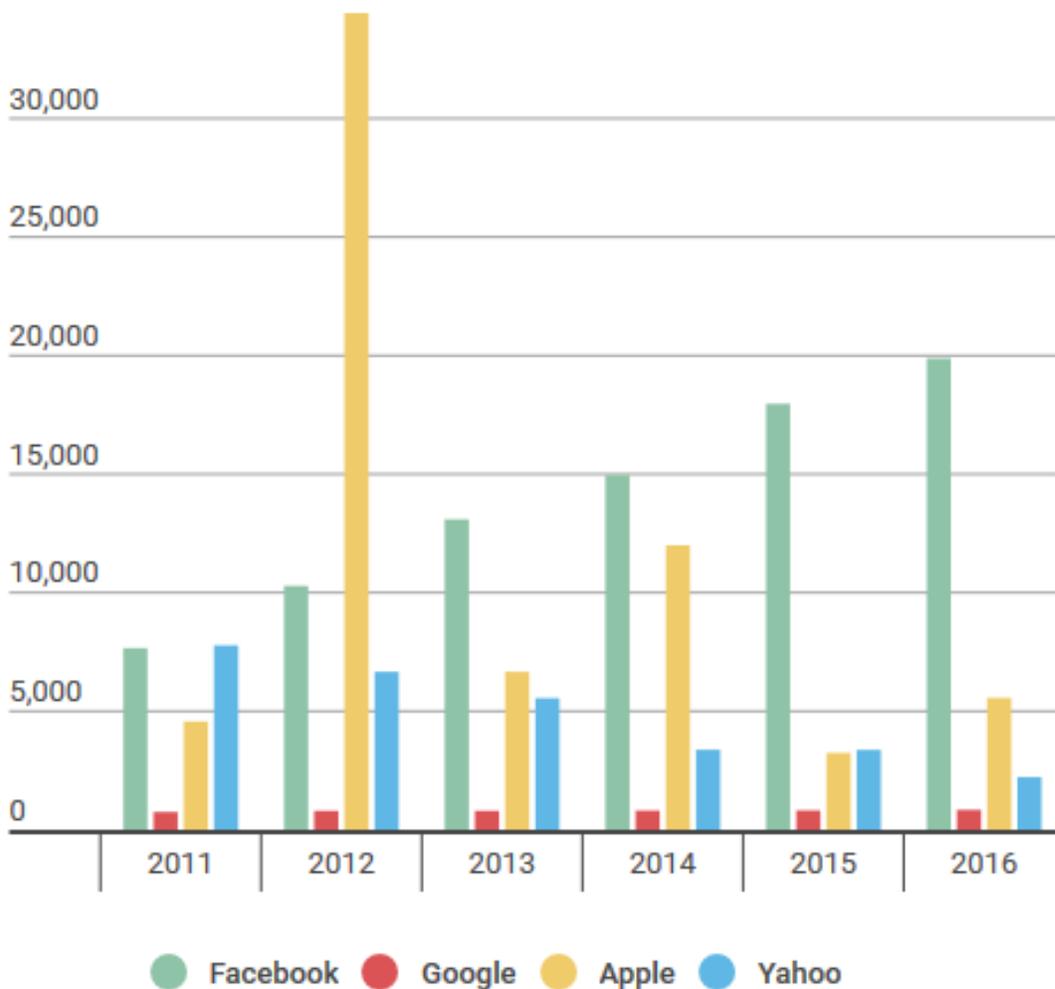
The graph above shows the stock price of four technology companies between 2011 and 2016.

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

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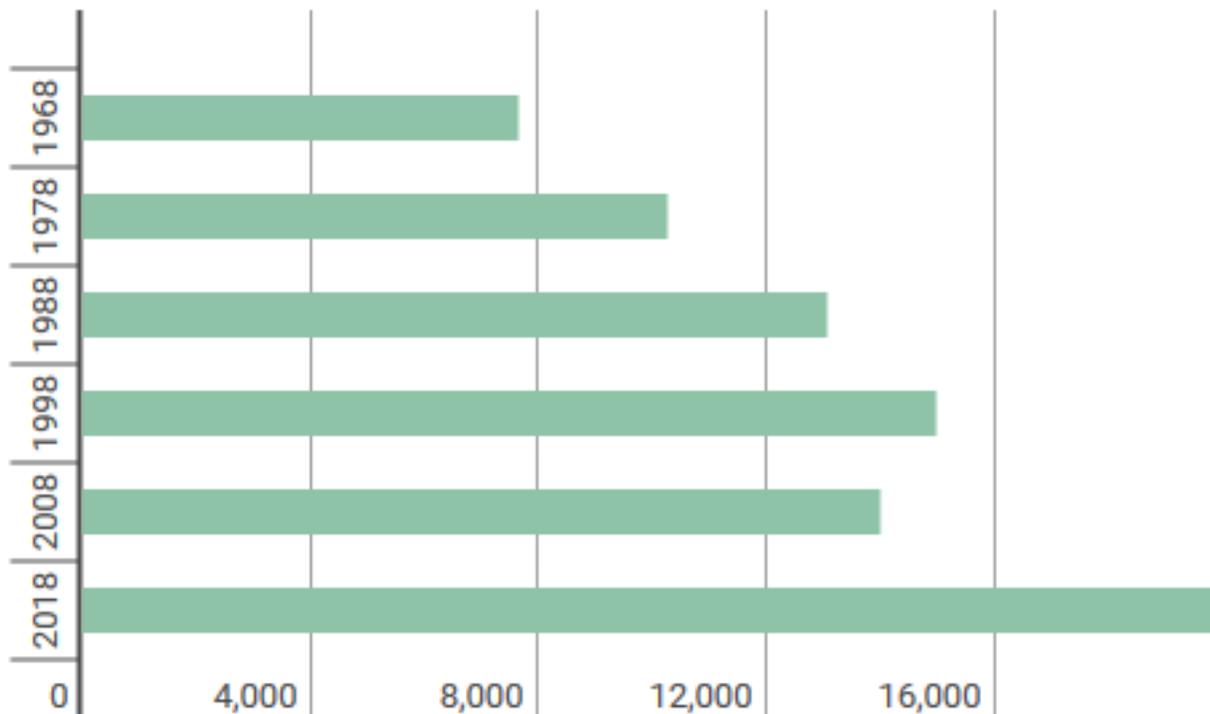
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The bar graph above shows average earnings in the Republic of Ireland in 5 different years, with projections for the future. Earnings are in US dollars (\$).

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



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	Population ↕	GDP Per Capita (\$USD) ↕	Average Life Expectancy ↕
China	1,357,000,000	6,807	75.2
Russia	143,986,000	14,987	72.3
USA	318,875,000	53,681	69.2
UK	64,937,000	41,787	81.5

The table above shows data on the demographics of four nations.

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



Task 1 Sample Questions and Band 9 Model Answers

Answers

Essay 1

The line graph displays the stock values of four different high-tech corporations from 2011 to 2016.

Overall, Facebook's value steadily increased, while Yahoo's decreased. Apple's stock price fluctuated wildly throughout the period and Google's stayed relatively unchanged.

Facebook started the period with a stock market valuation of approximately 7,500 and this consistently moved up in value year on year to reach a peak of around 20,000 in 2016. Yahoo began the recorded period with a very similar value to Facebook, but in contrast, its stock devalued every year, until it reached a low of about 2,500 in 2016.

Apple stock was valued at just below 5,000 in 2011 and this jumped dramatically to nearly 35,000 the following year, before plummeting to around 7,000 in 2013. It recovered slightly in 2014 to around 12,000 and subsequently fell to a price of just over 5,000 in 2016. Google's shares remained at around 1,000 for the entire period.



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Essay 2

Notice anything about the answer below? It is exactly the same as Essay 1.

This is to demonstrate to you that all you are looking at in Task 1 graphs and charts is data. It does not matter how the data is visually represented, it is still just data.

Many students get lost because the graphs look ‘complex’ or ‘confusing’. Just remember that it is simply data.

The line graph displays the stock values of four different high-tech corporations from 2011 to 2016.

Overall, Facebook’s value steadily increased, while Yahoo’s decreased. Apple’s stock price fluctuated wildly throughout the period and Google’s stayed relatively unchanged.

Facebook started the period with a stock market valuation of approximately 7,500 and this consistently moved up in value year on year to reach a peak of around 20,000 in 2016. Yahoo began the recorded period with a very similar value to Facebook, but in contrast, its stock devalued every year, until it reached a low of about 2,500 in 2016.

Apple stock was valued at just below 5,000 in 2011 and this jumped dramatically to nearly 35,000 the following year, before plummeting to around 7,000 in 2013. It recovered slightly in 2014 to around 12,000 and subsequently fell to a price of just over 5,000 in 2016. Google’s shares remained at around 1,000 for the entire period.

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Essay 3

The bar chart displays the average salary in the Republic of Ireland in 5 different years with an estimated value for 2018. The unit of currency is in United States dollars.

Overall, it can be clearly seen that wages consistently increased in every recorded time period, except 2008, when they decreased slightly. Salaries are expected to increase significantly in the future.

Average earnings in 1968 stood at their lowest recorded levels at just under \$8,000 and they then increased a decade later to around \$10,000 in 1978. This trend continued in 1988 with the average income climbing to approximately \$13,000. 10 years later, in 1998, it further improved to its highest recorded value of about \$15,000.

The only notable exception to this expansion in levels of pay was 2008 when wages decreased by around \$1,000 from the peak of 1998. However, this trend is not expected to continue in the future with projections of over \$20,000 forecast for 2018.



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Essay 4

The table provides key information about the population, gross domestic product per person and life expectancy in four different countries.

Overall, there are two very noticeable features. Firstly, China has by far the highest number of citizens, but they have the lowest economic output per person out of the four powers. Secondly, the United States has the highest earnings, but the lowest life expectancy.

China has the highest number of people with around 1.3 billion citizens, however, the average person only produces \$6,807 and the Chinese average age upon death is 75.2 years. This is in contrast with the USA where people earn, on average, nearly 10 times more than a normal man or woman from China. Despite this, Americans live significantly shorter lives at just 69.2 years.

The United Kingdom has the lowest population of the four countries with just under 65 million, but notably has the second highest GDP and the highest life expectancy with \$41,787 and 81.5 years respectively. Russia has a population of nearly 144 million and a relatively low GDP per capita of nearly \$15,000.