IELTS ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

TASK 1

WRITING

Adjectives & Adverbs Large Changes

Adjectives	Adverbs
significant	significantly
rapid	rapidly
dramatic	dramatically
considerable	considerably
sharp	sharply
sudden	suddenly
steep	steeply

Small / Moderate Changes

Adjectives	Adverbs
slight	slightly
slow	slowly
steady	steadily
gradual	gradually
moderate	moderately
marginal	marginally

Verbs & Nouns

Upward Movement

Verbs	Nouns
to increase	an increase
to rise	a rise
to improve	an improvement
to grow	growth
to climb	a climb
to jump	a jump
to peak	a peak
to go up	

Downward Movement

Verbs	Nouns
to decrease	a decrease
to fall	a fall
to decline	a decline
to drop	a drop
to dip	a dip
to go down	
to plummet	

Upward & Downward (Zig Zag) Movement

Verbs	Nouns
to fluctuate	a fluctuation
to vary	a variation

Little or No Changes

Verbs	Nouns
to remain the same	a period of stability
to remain static	
to remain unchanged	
to stabilize	
to level out	

Collocations

Verb + Adverb	Adjective + Noun
increased significantly	a dramatic improvement
rose steeply	a sudden increase
improved considerably	a rapid rise
jumped suddenly	a steady growth
fluctuated slightly	a slight fluctuation
fell rapidly	a gradual decrease
dropped dramatically	a steep drop
dipped sharply	a sharp decline

Other Useful Phrases

upward trend	compare to
downward trend	in comparison with
highest point	relative to
lowest point	second/third highest/lowest

Approximations

Approximate	More	Less
roughly	more than	less than
approximately	well over	well below
almost	just above	just below
nearly	just over	just under
about	a little more than	slightly less than
around	a large proportion	a small proportion
exactly	a significant majority	a insignificant minority

Percentage

6% - a small proportion	53% - more than half	
23% - just under a quarter	72% - slightly less than three quarters	
27% - approximately a quarter	77% - roughly three quarters	
48% - almost a half	85% - well over three quarters	
50% - exactly a half	96% - a significant majority	