

TASK 1:

How would you describe the line graph below? You only have 20 minutes in the exam, so you need a simple technique.

The graph below shows UK acid rain emissions, measured in millions of tonnes, from four different sectors between 1990 and 2007.



1. **Introduction:** Do it fast, just paraphrase the question

The graph illustrates the decrease in acid rain emissions in the UK from domestic and other industries over a 17 year period.

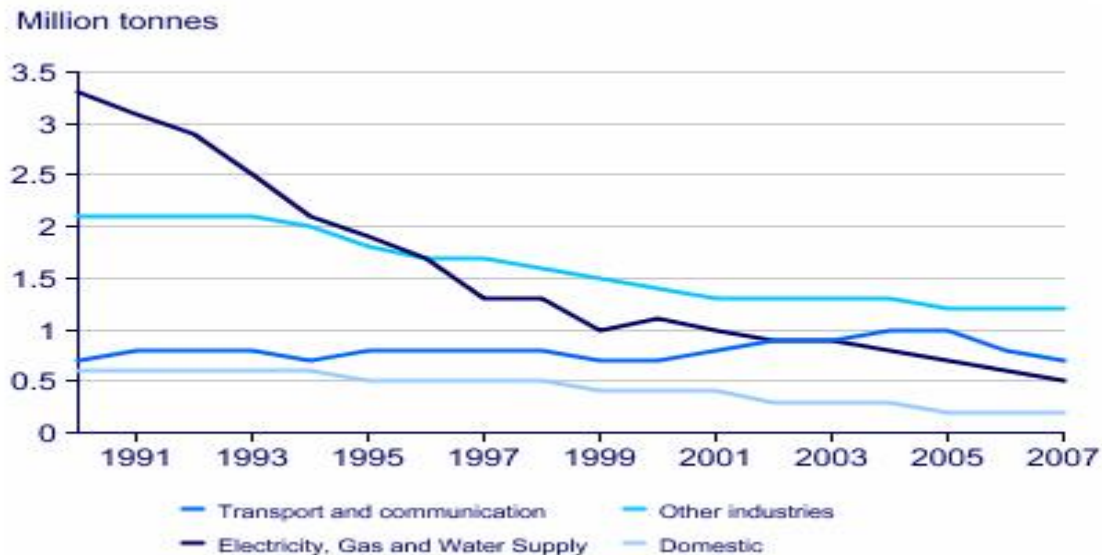
2. **Summary/overview:** describe the overall change from 1990 to 2007 (ie. acid rain emissions fell) then point out the biggest change (electricity, gas, water sector)

Acid rain emissions were quite steady for four years. on an overall gradual decline

3. **Details (one or two paragraphs):** Compare the 4 sectors in 1990, a year in the middle (e.g. 1997), then in 2007. You could also point out the small increase in one sector compared to the decrease in the others.

TASK 1:

The graph below shows UK acid rain emissions, measured in millions of tonnes, from four different sectors between 1990 and 2007.



Sample answer: It's impossible to describe every small detail; just choose a few main points and make some comparisons.

The line graph compares four sectors in **terms of the amount** of acid rain emissions that were produced over a period of 17 years in the UK.

It is clear that the total amount of acid rain emissions in the UK **fell considerably** between 1990 and 2007. The most **dramatic decrease** was seen in the electricity, gas and water supply sectors.

In 1990, around 3.3 million tonnes of acid rain emissions came from the electricity, gas and water sector. The transport and communication sector was responsible for about 0.7 million tonnes of emissions, while the domestic sector produced around 0.6 million tonnes. Just over 2 million tonnes of **acid rain gases** came from other industries.

Emissions from electricity, gas and water supply fell dramatically to only 0.5 million tonnes in 2007, a drop of almost 3 million tonnes. While acid rain gases from the domestic sector and other industries **fell gradually**, the transport sector saw a **small increase** in emissions, reaching a peak of 1 million tonnes in 2005.

REMEMBER!

The exam question always asks you to "select and report the main features". This means that you are not expected to describe every small deta

Describing line graphs

A few points to notice about the model answer

- always try to write 4 paragraphs - introduction, summary of main points, 2 detail paragraphs.
- Never describe each line separately. The examiner wants to see comparisons.
- The report focused on the beginning and the end (1990 and 2007). Of course, if you had more time you could write more, but you only have 20 minutes, so just select a few points.
- Don't worry about changing "acid rain emissions". "Acid rain gases" was used for a bit of variety.
- Use the past simple: ***produced, fell, was seen, came from, was responsible for, saw a small increase in.***
- You can put the number before the verb (2 million tonnes of emissions came from...) or after the verb (...produced 2 million tonnes of emissions)

Remember!

You only have 20 minutes for this task.

There is no correct or incorrect answer. How you see the report could be completely different to how other exam-takers see it. What is important is that you can write the report in 20 minutes or less, giving the **main points**.

- Use the language of comparison and contrast.
- Concentrate on **error-free** sentences.
- Check the tense.

Make sure you know what **150 words** looks like in your *own handwriting*.