

**TIMESAVER FOR EXAMS**



PHOTOCOPIABLE

**WRITING**

**(5.5—7.5)**

5

VERITY COLE



SCHOLASTIC

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# English as an additional language

- 1a** Work in pairs. Which of the ten countries in the box do you think have the highest numbers of people who speak English as an additional language? Put the countries in order from highest to lowest.

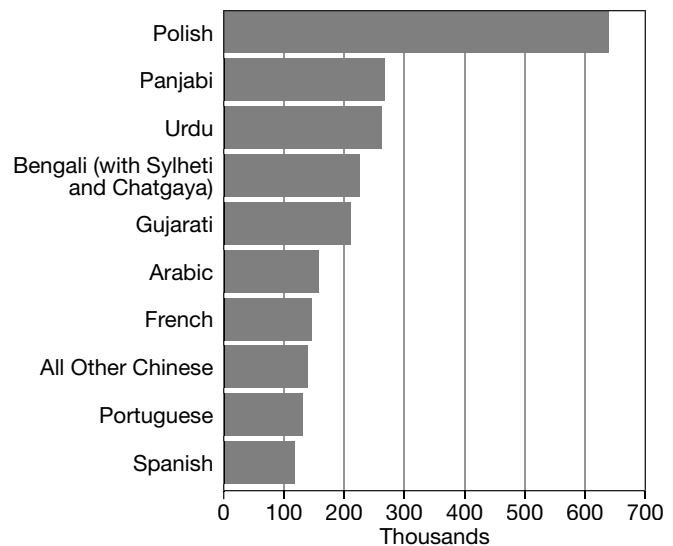
Bangladesh China Egypt France Germany India Nigeria Pakistan Philippines United States

- 1b** Check your guesses from exercise 1 in the answer key. Did anything surprise you? How do you think your country compares to others in terms of numbers of English speakers?

- 2a** Look at the bar graph and answer the questions.

- Can you describe what the bar graph shows in your own words, using the title of the graph to help you?
- Does the graph include data from one specific point in time or data from a period of time?
- Are the quantities in the graph in the form of numbers or percentages?
- What tense should you use in a written description of the graph?
- What important data in the graph would you select to describe?
- How would you group data in the graph into paragraphs in a written description?

**Top ten main 'other' languages in England and Wales in 2011**



- 2b** Read the description of the bar chart. Has the writer made the same decisions as you in questions 3–5 of exercise 2a?

The bar graph compares the number of people who had a main language other than English who were residents of England and Wales in 2011.

From the graph, we can see that Polish was spoken by the **1** ..... (high) number of people, with around 550,000 people reporting it as their main language. After Polish, the next **2** ..... (common) main languages were from South Asia. Approximately 270,000 people living in England and Wales spoke Panjabi and only **slightly 3** ..... (few) had Urdu as their main language. The numbers of Bengali and Gujarati speakers were **4** ..... (low), at around 220 and 215 thousand respectively. Overall, there were **far 5** ..... (few) speakers of Chinese languages, however — only 140,000 people, **compared to around double the number** of Panjabi speakers.

The language spoken by the **6** ..... (few) people in the UK and Wales was Spanish, with only 120,000 people reporting it as their main language. The number of speakers of other European languages were only **marginally 7** ..... (high), with around 230,000 people speaking Portuguese as their main language and 235,000 speaking French. The number of speakers of Arabic were **comparable to** those of French.

## Exam tip

When you are comparing data, it is a good idea to select and group data into paragraphs. Your description should start with the most important or noticeable piece of data in the graph.

**2c** Complete the description in exercise 2b with the correct comparative or superlative form of the word in brackets.

**2d** Which word(s) in bold in the description:

- a) describe a small difference?      b) describe a big difference?  
c) describes a similarity?      d) means the same as 'approximately twice as many'?

**3a** It is important to avoid repeating words unnecessarily in Writing Task 1. Read the two short paragraphs. Which one avoids repetition? How does the writer use 'respectively'?

**A** Approximately 270,000 people living in England and Wales spoke Panjabi and only slightly fewer people living in England and Wales had Urdu as their main language. The numbers of Bengali and Gujarati speakers were lower. There were around 220 thousand Bengali speakers and 215 thousand Gujarati speakers.

**B** Approximately 270,000 people living in England and Wales spoke Panjabi and only slightly fewer had Urdu as their main language. The numbers of Bengali and Gujarati speakers were lower at around 220 and 215 thousand respectively.

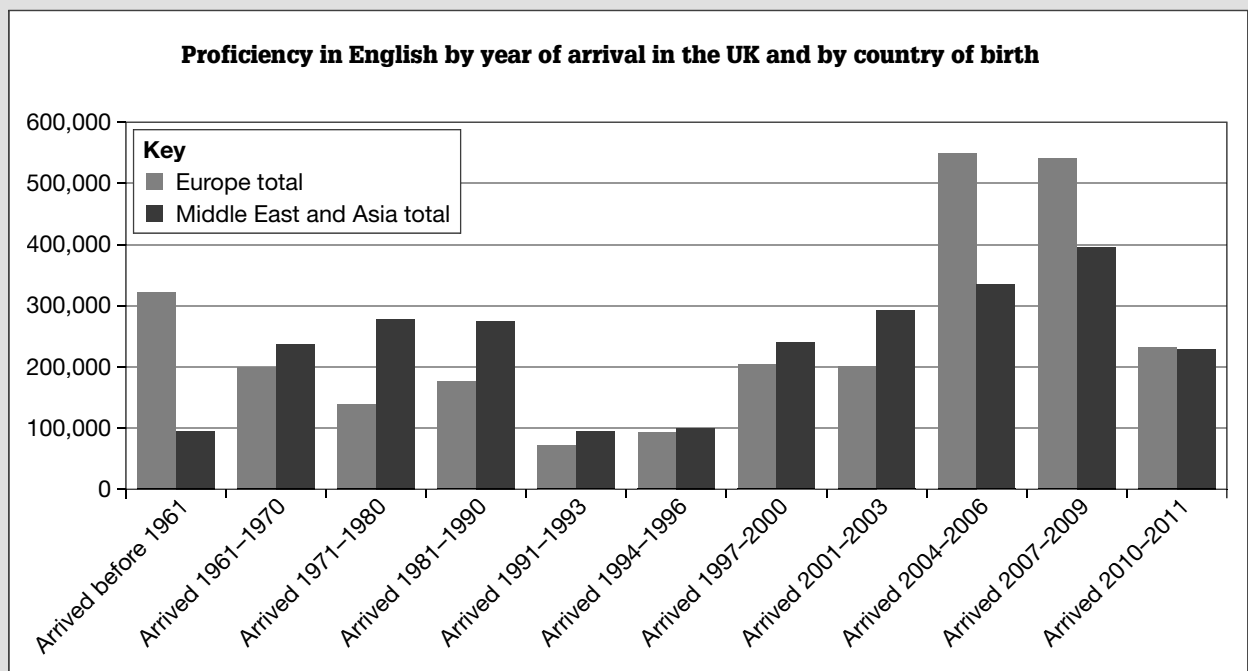
**3b** Make changes to this extract from a Writing Task 1 answer so that it avoids unnecessary repetition.

Overall, we can see that the highest number of proficient Spanish speakers arrived in the US between 2004 and 2009. We can also see that during this time, there were far higher numbers of advanced Spanish speakers from Spain than there were Spanish speakers from Mexico. Between 2004 and 2006, and between 2007 and 2009, there were 216,000 Spanish speakers from Spain and nearly 150,000 more proficient Spanish speakers from Spain.

## EXAM TASK

**4a** Work in pairs. Look at the graph below. Discuss questions 1–6 in exercise 2a again.

**4b** The graph shows the number of proficient English speakers from different countries by the year of their arrival in England and Wales. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. Write at least 150 words.



# Saving languages

**1a** Read the text about Tom and endangered languages. What do the numbers in the box refer to?

3,000    6,000    10    50%

Tom Belt, a native of Oklahoma, USA, is one of few people in the world who speaks Cherokee, a language that is thought to originate from the Great Lakes area of North America around 3,000 years ago. When Tom learned that Cherokee was on the brink of extinction, he decided to do something to save it. He volunteered to teach Cherokee lessons at a local school and now teaches the language at a local university. Cherokee is far from the only endangered language, however. According to linguists, around half of the world's remaining 6000 languages are imperilled and are likely to become extinct by the end of this century. Today, the 'top ten' languages in the world are spoken by 50% of the world's population.

**1b** Work in pairs. What do you think? In pairs, discuss the questions.

- a) Are we going to become a monolingual species, and if so, is this a good thing?
- b) Should we be doing more to save the world's endangered languages?

**1c** Read the Writing Task 2 questions below. Match them to the questions in exercise 1b.

**A** Several languages around the world are in danger of dying out because they are spoken by very few people. Some people say that governments should spend public money on saving these languages, while others believe that would be a waste of money. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

**B** Due to the development of tourism, English has become the most widely used and best-known language in the world. Some people think that this will result in English becoming the only language to be spoken globally. What are the advantages and disadvantages to having one language in the world?

**1d** Work in pairs. Discuss which of the tasks asks the writer to ...

- a) discuss benefits and drawbacks.    b) express their views on both sides of an argument.

**2a** Planning your essay allows you to organise your ideas and develop your arguments fully. In your pairs, look at the essay plans for question B below. Which way of planning would help you to:

- a) think of lots of different ideas and vocabulary, without worrying about structure?
- b) develop a balanced argument?
- c) think of examples and explanations to support your points?



B

| Advantages                                                                                                                                  | Disadvantages                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ..... makes tourism easier: everyone can understand one another.                                                                            | ..... leads to a lack of understanding of the arts: great works such as the Iliad were not written down until very recently. Some that are never written down might be lost forever.                                       |
| ..... enables everyone to access and understand diverse cultures: literary works from different cultures translated into a single language. | ..... leads to a loss of knowledge about a place: e.g. Amazonian languages tell us about the rainforest.                                                                                                                   |
| ..... facilitates globalisation: business is easier and cheaper to do with a common language.                                               | ..... leads to loss of cultural identity: language defines a particular people and their sense of self.                                                                                                                    |
| ..... cheaper: translation becomes unnecessary.                                                                                             | ..... leads to loss of particular words: some words are particular to a language e.g. oo-kah-huh-sdee (Cherokee) (cute, gorgeous, delight, engendering a desire to squeeze something – the feeling when you see a kitten). |

- 2b** Read the sample essay below. Number the ideas in plan B above in the order that they appear in the essay. Which idea is not used?

Many people believe it is inevitable that English will become the exclusive language of communication and, therefore other languages will become extinct. There are both benefits and drawbacks to a single global language. In a number of ways, communicating in a single language is more convenient. Colleagues who have English as a second language can communicate considerably more easily. Since translation is not necessarily, companies can also save a great deal of money.

Outside the world of work, a single language is also useful. It removes difficulties when people travel. For instance, shopping becomes simpler. 'Couch tourists' can also benefit from a single language. If all literary works are translated into English, readers can readily explore different cultures.

However, there is a considerable price to pay for the use of a single language. That is the loss of a people's cultural identity. Language features words and ideas which are unique to a culture. For example, in Cherokee, there is no word for goodbye. Instead they say 'I will see you again.' Extinction of a language also means that particular words die. If Indonesian wasn't spoken any more, no one would learn the word *Jayus* (A joke so poorly told and so unfunny that one cannot help but laugh). As a result, languages become impoverished.

There is also the argument that when a language dies, vital knowledge about an area dies with it. There are many endangered languages spoken by Amazonian people in the rainforest. If these are lost, an understanding of the rainforest environment also disappears forever.

In conclusion, although communication in a single, global language is convenient and economical, I would argue for the preservation of endangered languages in order to avoid loss of cultural identity and important knowledge and to ensure that language remains interesting and diverse.

### Exam tip

Use different words to those in the question in the introduction to your essay. It shows that you have a wide vocabulary.

- 2c** Read the introduction to the essay again. Find words in the introduction which have a similar meaning to words in task A in exercise 1c.
- 2d** Which words and phrases does the writer use that are connected to 'convenience' and 'loss'? Complete the table with words from the essay.

### EXAM TASK

- 3** Look at task A in exercise 1c again. Write your essay. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge and experience. Write at least 250 words.