

Writing Model Answers

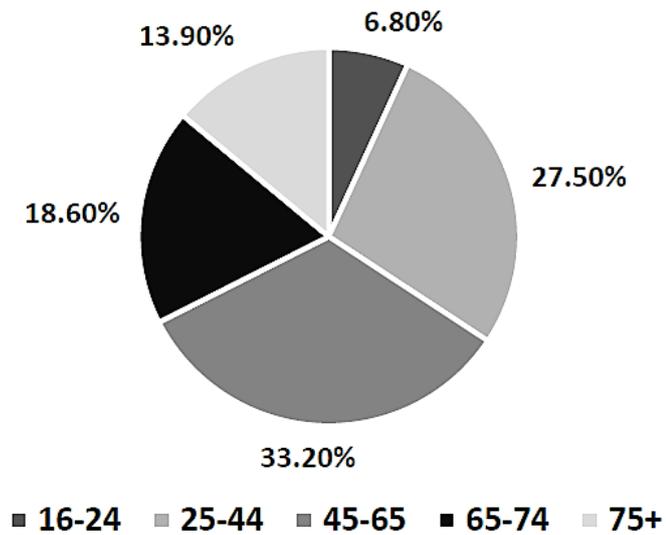
Task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

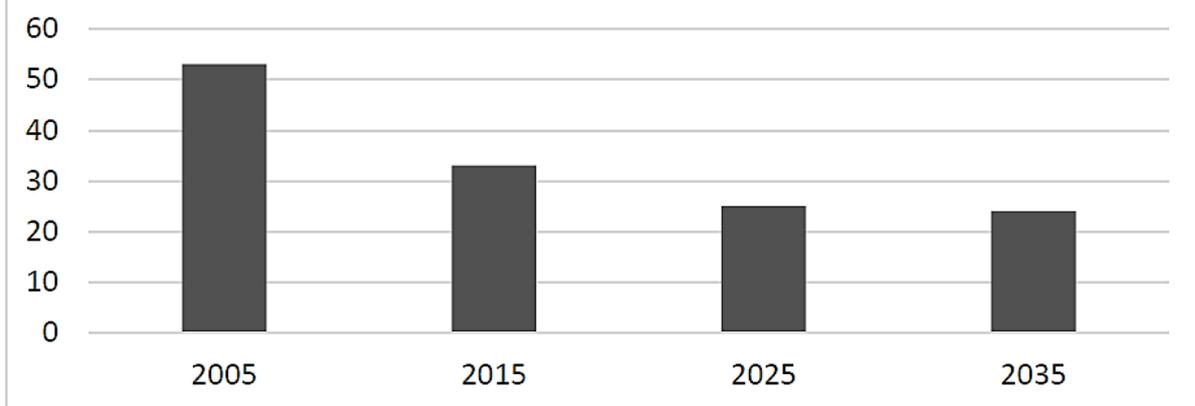
The charts below give information about libraries visitors in the UK.

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

Age distribution of UK library users in 2015



Percentage of adults who visited a library



Write at least 150 words.

Model answer

The pie chart represents British library users in 2015 by five age groups, while the bar graph compares visitor figures from 2005 to 2035 at fifteen year intervals. Overall, the mid-range age groups recorded high percentages and user numbers show a declining trend.

Regarding the age distribution, the largest category comprised the 45 to 65 age group with approximately one third. This was followed by the 25 to 44 year olds, who registered just over a quarter. The lowest share, with 6.8 percent, was recorded by people in the 16 to 24 age bracket, which is the youngest group.

Turning to the annual visitor percentages, in 2005, over 50 percent of adults in the UK visited a library. However, by 2015, this figure had declined by 20 percentage points. Further falls are projected for 2025 and 2035 when about one in every four UK residents is expected to go to a library.

152 word

Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic.

Some people support using nuclear power for our electricity. Other people claim it is too dangerous.

Do the advantages of nuclear power outweigh the disadvantages?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge and experience.

Write at least 250 words

Model answers

Supporting

A number of people are in favour of **utilising** nuclear energy to generate electricity, whereas others oppose it due to the risks involved. In my opinion, the benefits of nuclear power are greater than the **drawbacks** because it is clean, cheap and safe.

In this age of **global warming**, the greatest merit of nuclear generation is that it produces no **greenhouse gases**, unlike **fossil fuel** power stations, which are a major source of CO2 **emissions**. Another major benefit is that nuclear power is substantially cheaper than virtually all other forms of generation. An example of these points is seen in France, where **conventional** power stations have been decommissioned and replaced by nuclear plants. As a result, the country has been able to drastically cut its CO2 emissions, thereby meeting its international **treaty** targets, as well as boost its industrial output and national economy with an **abundance** of low-cost electricity.

While **acknowledging** the benefits, many critics of nuclear power emphasise the inherent dangers of accidents resulting in nuclear contamination. In support of their claims they **cite** the examples of Chernobyl and Fukushima, where meltdowns of nuclear fuel **occurred** which released radiation into the environment. While these are undeniably **catastrophic** cases of contamination, it should be remembered that both these power plants were over thirty years old and of **obsolete** design. With modern reactors these kinds of accidents are **inconceivable**.

In conclusion, nuclear energy brings huge environmental and economic benefits and, provided aging reactors are replaced, the safety level is extremely high. Therefore, it is safe to say that the advantages of nuclear power outweigh any disadvantages.

265 Words

Vocabulary

utilise	/ˈjuːtɪlaɪz/	v	use	Advanced technology must be utilised to tackle environmental pollution.
drawback	/ˈdrɔːbæk/	n	disadvantage	Pollution is a major drawback of industrialisation.
global warming	/ˈglɒsbəl/ /ˈwɔːmɪŋ/	n	rising of the average world temperature	Global warming is causing the icecaps to melt and sea levels to rise.
greenhouse gases	/ˈɡriːnhaʊs/ /ˈɡæsɪs/	n	gases which contribute to global warming	Greenhouse gases include CO2 and methane.
fossil fuel	/ˈfɒsəl/ /fjuəl/	n	coal, oil, natural gas	Burning fossil fuels is the main cause of the rise in CO2 in the atmosphere.
emissions	/ɪˈmɪʃən/	n	discharges	Emissions of CO2 and methane must be reduced to halt global warming.
conventional	/kənˈvenʃənəl/	adj	usual /ordinary	Electric and fuel cell motors will replace conventional petrol engines.
treaty	/ˈtriːti/	n	international agreement	Germany invaded the USSR despite their peace treaty of 1939.
abundance	/əˈbʌndəns/	n	plenty	There is an abundance of salt in the sea.
acknowledge	/əkˈnɒlɪdʒ/	v	recognise / admit	The Government refused to acknowledge responsibility crises.
occur	/əˈkɜː/	v	happen	A nuclear meltdown occurred in the reactor
catastrophic	/kætəˈstrɒfɪk/	adj	disastrous	The earthquake and tsunami caused catastrophic damage.
obsolete	/ɒbsəˈliːt/	adj	outdated	Steam trains are obsolete in many countries.
inconceivable	/ɪnkənˈsiːvəbl/	adj	unimaginable	Humans travelling to other galaxies is inconceivable.

Opposing

A number of people are in favour of utilising nuclear energy to generate electricity, whereas others oppose it due to the risks involved. In my opinion, the drawbacks of nuclear power, which include nuclear **catastrophes** and harmful waste, are greater than the benefits.

Nuclear energy **poses colossal** dangers from a range of sources. First, there is the possibility of a nuclear accident caused by human error, as in the example of Chernobyl, where engineers **conducting** maintenance on the reactor core made mistakes which led to a meltdown and radioactive **contamination** over a **massive** area. Then there is the risk from natural disasters, as was seen in Fukushima, where a nuclear power plant was hit by a tsunami resulting in the worst case of nuclear pollution in history. Other threats include attacks by terrorists and **sabotage** by **deranged** workers.

While **dismissing** these dangers, many supporters of nuclear power emphasise how environmentally friendly it is. **Advocates** compare it to conventional fossil fuel power stations and highlight the fact that nuclear power is far cleaner as it produces **negligible** amounts of greenhouse gases. However, in comparison to renewable energy sources, such as solar power, wind turbines and **geothermal** generation, nuclear power is in fact damaging to the environment. This is because it creates huge amounts of nuclear waste which remain active for centuries and are buried deep underground, where they have the potential to pollute groundwater.

In conclusion, nuclear energy brings huge dangers and environmental problems, yet safe and clean alternatives are available. Therefore, it is safe to say that the disadvantages of atomic power far outweigh any advantages.

266 Words

catastrophes	/kə'tæstrəfi/	<i>n</i>	disaster / calamity	Pilot error caused a catastrophe.
pose	/pəʊz/	<i>v</i>	present	This new disease poses a serious threat.
colossal	/kə'lɒsəl/	<i>adj</i>	huge / massive	The government has colossal debts.
conduct	/'kɒndʌkt	<i>v</i>	do / perform	The company conducted a survey.
contamination	/kɒntæmɪ'neɪʃən/	<i>n</i>	pollution	Landfill sites are contaminating the ground water.
massive	/'mæsɪv/	<i>adj</i>	huge / colossal	Many of the dinosaurs were massive.
sabotage	/'sæbətɑ:ʒ/	<i>v</i>	purposely damage	The rebels sabotaged the electricity supply.
deranged	/dɪ'reɪndʒd/	<i>adj</i>	mad / crazy	Three people were shot by a deranged gunman.
dismiss	/dɪ'smɪs/	<i>v</i>	reject / refuse	The CEO dismissed the plan.
advocate	/'ædvəkət/	<i>n</i>	supporter / believer	The new headmaster is a strong advocate of frequent tests.
negligible	/'neglɪdʒəbəl/	<i>adj</i>	insignificant / minor	The difference in these machines is negligible.
geothermal	/dʒi:əʊ'θɜ:məl/	<i>adj</i>	related to heat in the earth	Japan has huge geothermal resources.