

Task 1: Living Standards – Canada, Japan, Peru, Zaire

Discuss with a partner. What information could you write in an IELTS task 1 essay?

The table below shows social and economic indicators for four countries in 1994, according to United Nations statistics.

Describe the information shown below in your own words. What implications do the indicators have for the countries?

Indicators	Canada	Japan	Peru	Zaire
Annual income per person (in \$US)	11,100	15,760	160	130
Life expectancy at birth	76	78	51	47
Daily calorie supply per person	3,326	2,846	1,927	1,749
Adult literacy rate (%)	99	99	68	34

Write in the missing words

The chart compares living standards in Japan, Canada, Peru and Zaire in (1) _____, according to four criteria. From this information, we can see the clear differences between (2) _____ and (3) _____ countries.

(4) _____ was the richest of the four nations, with a GDP of \$US (5) _____ per person. This was slightly higher than Canada's figure of just over \$US (6) _____. Both countries had long life expectancies, at (7) _____ and (8) _____ for Japan and Canada respectively. Canadians consumed an average of (9) _____ calories a day, which was about (10) _____ percent higher than Japanese consumption. The literacy rates were almost (11) _____ percent in both countries.

On the other hand, the figures show that Peru and Zaire were both very poor, with GDPs of \$US (12) _____ and \$US (13) _____ respectively. People from these countries had life expectancies of only (14) _____ and (15) _____ and they consumed much fewer calories than people from richer countries. Only (16) _____ percent of Peruvians could read and write in (17) _____, but this was (18) _____ the figure for Zaire.

Overall, the table shows that people in rich countries have a much higher standard of living than those who live in poor nations.

Answers

The chart compares living standards in Japan, Canada, Peru and Zaire in (1) 1994, according to four criteria. From this information, we can see the clear differences between (2) rich and (3) poor countries.

(4) Japan was the richest of the four nations, with a GDP of \$US (5) 15,760 per person. This was slightly higher than Canada's figure of just over \$US (6) 11,000. Both countries had long life expectancies, at (7) 78 and (8) 76 for Japan and Canada respectively. Canadians consumed an average of (9) 3,326 calories a day, which was about (10) 10 percent higher than Japanese consumption. The literacy rates were almost (11) 100 percent in both countries.

On the other hand, the figures show that Peru and Zaire were both very poor, with GDPs of \$US (12) 160 and \$US (13) 130 respectively. People from these countries had life expectancies of only (14) 51 and (15) 47 and they consumed much fewer calories than people from richer countries. Only (16) 68 percent of Peruvians could read and write in (17) 1994, but this was (18) double the figure for Zaire.

Overall, the table shows that people in rich countries have a much higher standard of living than those who live in poor nations

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Paragraph 1:
Introduction:
rich // poor

The chart compares living standards in Japan, Canada, Peru and Zaire in 1994, according to four criteria. From this information, we can see the clear differences between rich and poor countries.

Paragraph 2:
rich

Japan was the richest of the four nations, with a GDP of \$US 15,760 per person. This was slightly higher than Canada's figure of just over \$US 11,000. Both countries had long life expectancies, at 78 and 76 for Japan and Canada respectively. Canadians consumed an average of 3,326 calories a day, which was about 10 percent higher than Japanese consumption. The literacy rates were almost 100 percent in both countries.

Paragraph 3:
poor

On the other hand, the figures show that Peru and Zaire were both very poor, with GDPs of \$US 160 and \$US 130 respectively. People from these countries had life expectancies of only 51 and 47 and they consumed much fewer calories than people from richer countries. Only 68 percent of Peruvians could read and write in 1994, but this was double the figure for Zaire.

Overview:
**connection
between
wealth &
standard of
living**

Overall, the table shows that people in rich countries have a much higher standard of living than those who live in poor nations.

Word Count: 191

Key Information for Writing Task 1:**Writing Task 1:**

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

- Making comparisons is one of the key requirements of Writing Task 1.
- If you can do this accurately you will probably be able to get the score you require.
- If not, you certainly will not get a satisfactory score.

Candidates should be able to:

1. compare figures
2. compare actions or states

	Canada	Japan
Annual income per person in 1994	\$11,100	\$15,760

Various patterns to compare figures: (is / are / was / were)

- The annual income per person in Japan **was higher than** it was in Canada.
- In Japan, the average annual income per person **was \$15,760, compared with \$11,100** in Canada.

Various patterns to compare actions/ states: (use the verb which describes the action / state)

- The average Japanese person **earned more than** the average Canadian.
- The average Japanese person **earned more per year than** the average Canadian.
- On average, Japanese people **earned higher annual incomes than** Canadians.
- Japanese people **earned \$15,760** per year, **while** Canadians **earned \$11,100**.
- Japanese people **had higher** per capita incomes **than** Canadian people.

	Peru	Zaire
Adult literacy rate in 1994	68%	34%

Various patterns to compare figures: (is / are / was / were)

- The literacy rate in Peru **was higher** than it was in Zaire.
- Peru's literacy rate **was double** Zaire's.
- Peru's literacy rate **was twice as high as** Zaire's.
- The literacy rate in Peru **was 68 percent, compared with 34 percent** in Zaire.
- The literacy rate in Peru **was 68 percent**, which **was** exactly **double the rate** in Zaire.

Various patterns to compare actions / states : (use the verb which describes the action / state)

- **A higher percentage of** Peruvians **than** people from Zaire **could read and write**.
- **A higher percentage of** Peruvians **than** people from Zaire **were literate**.
- **68 percent of Peruvians could read and write, compared with only 34 percent** of people from Zaire.
- Peru **had a higher literacy rate than** Zaire.

*Write one sentence to **compare the figures** in each of the following examples and another to **compare the action / state**:*

	Toyota	Ford
Sales of cars in Cambodia every year	3,000	1,500

1.

2.

	Italy	France
Daily commuting times (in 2006)	60 mins	45 mins

1.

2.

	Spain	Japan
Average IELTS Reading Test Scores (in 2001)	6.5	5
1.		
2.		

	Australia	France
Average retirement age (in 2005)	58	62
1.		
2.		

	Brazil	Argentina
Life expectancy (now)	73	65
1.		
2.		

	Brazil	Argentina
Life expectancy (in 2019)	73	65
1.		
2.		

***Suggested Answers** (other answers are also possible):*

	Toyota	Ford
Sales of cars in Cambodia every year	3,000	1,500
The Cambodian <u>sales figures for Toyota are higher</u> than for Ford. <u>Toyota's sales figures</u> in Cambodia <u>are twice as high as</u> Ford's.		
Toyota <u>sells more cars</u> in Cambodia than Ford. Toyota <u>sells twice as many cars in Cambodia as</u> Ford.		

	Italy	France
Daily commuting times (in 2006)	60 mins	45 mins
The daily commuting time <u>was longer</u> in Italy <u>than</u> France. The daily commuting time <u>was 15-minutes longer</u> in Italy <u>than</u> France.		
Italians <u>spent more time commuting than</u> French people. Italians <u>spent more time going to and from work than</u> French people.		

	Spain	Japan
Average IELTS Reading Test Scores (in 2001)	6.5	5
Average IELTS Reading Test scores <u>were higher in Spain than Japan</u>. The average IELTS Reading Test score <u>was higher in Spain than Japan</u>.		
Spanish people <u>scored higher</u> on their IELTS Reading Test <u>than</u> Japanese people. On average, Spanish people <u>got higher</u> scores on their IELTS Reading Test <u>than</u> Japanese people.		

	Australia	France
Average retirement age (in 2005)	58	62
The average retirement age <u>was older</u> in France <u>than</u> Australia.		
Australians <u>retired younger than</u> French people. Australians <u>retired four-years earlier than</u> French people.		

	Brazil	Argentina
Life expectancy (now)	73	65
Life expectancy is longer in Brazil than it is in Argentina.		
Brazilians have a longer life expectancy than Argentineans.		
Brazilians live longer than Argentineans.		

	Brazil	Argentina
Life expectancy (in 2019)	73	65
The life expectancy of Brazilians will be longer than that of Argentineans in 2019.		
Brazilians will live longer than people from Argentina in 2019.		
Brazilian people are expected to live longer than Argentineans in 2019.		