

Look at the exam question, bar chart and model answer and do the exercises to practise and improve your writing skills.

### Preparation

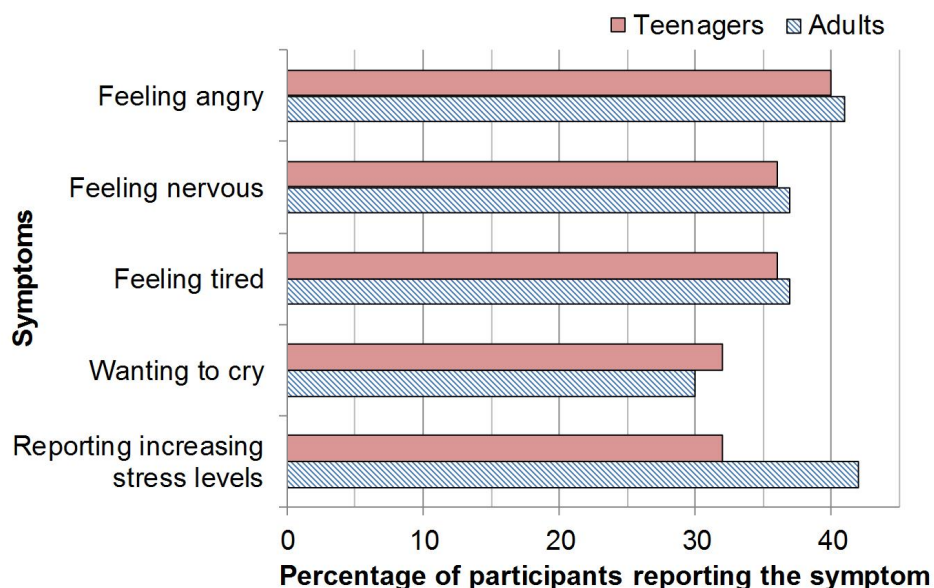
Circle the best option to complete the sentence.

- This bar **diagram / chart / table** illustrates the results of a survey.
- It allows us to **make / do / take** comparisons between the two groups.
- The survey looked at teenagers in relation **of / with / to** adults.
- The information **refers / looks / talks** to specific age groups.
- It covers a one-month **time / schedule / period** .
- The chart **demonstrates / explains / presents** statistics for two groups.
- 40% of / 40% / The 40%** the people surveyed answered 'yes'.
- There is a **significant / weighty / grand** difference between the two groups.

### Exam question

The chart shows the symptoms of stress reported by survey participants in the month before the survey took place.

Summarise the information in the chart by selecting and reporting the main features. Make comparisons where relevant.



The bar chart illustrates teenagers' experiences of stress in relation to those of adults. The chart presents five separate indicators: feeling angry, feeling nervous, feeling tired, wanting to cry and reporting increasing stress levels. The data refers to the one-month period previous to conducting the survey.

Overall, a similar percentage of teenagers and adults have suffered the first four symptoms. 40% of teenagers reported feeling angry as a result of stress, while just 1% more adults reported having the same experience. Over a third of teenagers reported feeling nervous and tired: 36%, compared to 37% of adults. At 32%, slightly more teenagers than adults reported wanting to cry.

The only indicator where there was a significant difference between the two groups related to changing stress levels. 42% of adults said that their levels of stress were going up, whereas only 31% of teenagers reported increasing stress levels.

To sum up, more than a third of all adults and teenagers who took part in the survey have reported signs of stress in the previous month. Although they are less likely to report increasing stress, the figures for teenagers show levels of stress symptoms very similar to adults.

### Top Tips for writing

1. Start by saying exactly what the chart shows. Mention the time period, the place and any other details given about the participants.
2. Describe the information in general before going into detail.
3. Compare the information for the two groups in more detail. Describe similarities and differences.
4. To sum up, highlight the most important things the information shows.

**1. Check your writing: gap fill**

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

compared to	while	Overall
third	slightly more	similar

1. \_\_\_\_\_, the percentages of adults and teenagers reporting different symptoms of stress are similar.
2. 40% of teenagers reported feeling angry due to stress, \_\_\_\_\_ 41% of adults had had the same experience.
3. 36% of teenagers reported feeling tired, \_\_\_\_\_ 37% of adults.
4. The number of teenagers reporting wanting to cry was \_\_\_\_\_ than adults: 32%, compared to 30%.
5. To sum up, more than a \_\_\_\_\_ of adults and teenagers who took part in the survey reported signs of stress.
6. The figures show that teenagers suffer very \_\_\_\_\_ levels of stress to adults.

**2. Check your writing: reordering**

Here are some paragraphs about another exam question. Write numbers (1–4) to put the paragraphs in order.

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| ..... | Looking at the detail, we can see that in France a higher proportion of expenditure was on clothes (43%), while in Spain clothing accounted for 32%. Entertainment came in second place in Spain at 27%, while in France the proportion was only 15%. In France the second major expense for teenagers was technology, at 20%, but in Spain this was a little lower (15%). |
| ..... | Overall, we can see teenagers in both countries spent the greatest proportion of their pocket money on clothes. Spanish teenagers tended to spend more money on entertainment than French teenagers.   |
| ..... | The bar chart shows the proportion of their pocket money teenagers spent on various expenses in France and Spain. The data covers a one-year period.   |
| ..... | To sum up, teenagers in both countries spent the most significant amounts on clothes, entertainment and technology. However, the proportion of money spent on clothes was significantly greater in France, while entertainment was a greater financial priority in Spain.  |

### 3. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets.

1. We will record and \_\_\_\_\_ the most important information. (*summary*)
2. We made a \_\_\_\_\_ between the two countries. (*compare*)
3. The bar chart \_\_\_\_\_ the number of male and female students studying engineering. (*illustration*)
4. Participants were asked to describe their \_\_\_\_\_. (*feel*)
5. The most significant difference between the two groups \_\_\_\_\_ to increasing stress levels. (*relation*)
6. Some people said they suffered from \_\_\_\_\_ and stress. (*nervous*)

#### Discussion

Do you think teenagers are as stressed as adults where you live?