

read once for sense, then hunt the exact line

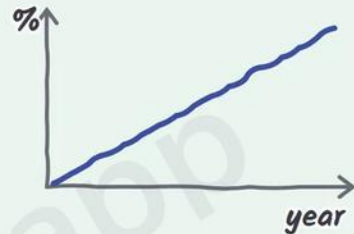
Discursive passage, what it asks

- the longer of the two, running about 400 to 450 words, on an issue the writer thinks about rather than just reports
- the writer's stand usually shows in the opening lines, then the middle builds reasons and examples for it
- mark every turn word (however, but, yet, although), a shift in the argument almost always sits there
- the closing paragraph restates the stand, read it even when you are short of time

Case based factual passage, what it asks

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- the shorter one, about 200 to 250 words, reporting a survey, a study, a report or a real situation
- it carries a visual input: a table, a bar chart, a pie chart or a graph beside the text
- some answers sit in the sentences, others sit only in the visual, and a few need both put together
- names, years, figures and units are what get asked back, so underline them on the first read



labelled axes, percent against year, with one straight rising line: the trend shape a data passage carries

Discursive vs case based, side by side

Discursive



four stops in order along a dashed path, the stand, then reasons, then examples, then the stand restated

- argues, reflects, persuades
- answers need two ideas joined from different lines
- asks why, what is implied, what is the tone

Case based



two points joined twice, by a wandering path and by a straight dashed line, the straight line is the direct route a case based answer takes

- reports data and facts
- answers are findable, in the text or the chart
- asks what, when, how many, which is highest

the first two lines tell you which one you are holding, and that decides how you read the rest