



GSA Sample Questions

The following are examples of **some** types of question that might be found on a GSA paper. Note that these are **examples only** and the actual questions may vary in style and content. Please print out the questions because some rely on information on another page.

Problem Solving [analysis of information and application to problems]

UNIT 1

A study in 1989 looked at the relationship between the consumption of dairy products and coronary heart disease (CHD) in 21 countries. The average intake of dairy products per head of population was compared with the male mortality rate from coronary heart disease (number of men per 100 000 of population who died in 1989). The results of this study are shown in Figure 1.

- A line of best fit is drawn on each figure of this unit.

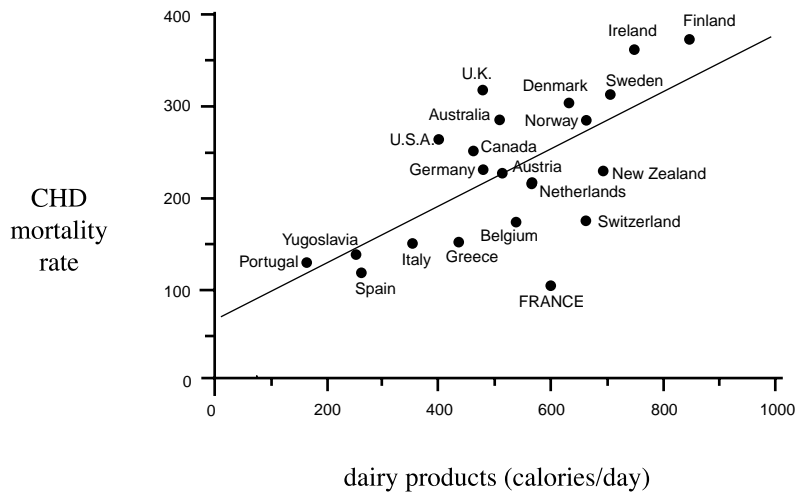


Figure 1

- Which one of the following statements is supported by the data shown in Figure 1?
 - The country that has the highest consumption of dairy products has the highest mortality rate from CHD.
 - The country that has the highest consumption of dairy products has the lowest mortality rate from CHD.
 - The country that has the lowest consumption of dairy products has the highest mortality rate from CHD.
 - The country that has the lowest consumption of dairy products has the lowest mortality rate from CHD.
 - None of the above.

- In which one of the following countries is the mortality rate from CHD most significantly lower than that expected from their level of dairy food consumption?

A Switzerland	D Spain
B Finland	E UK
C France	

Questions 3 and 4 relate to the following additional information.

A second study compared the level of consumption of vegetable products (vegetables, vegetable oils and fruit) with CHD mortality rate for the same population as illustrated in Figure 1. Figure 2 shows the results of this study.

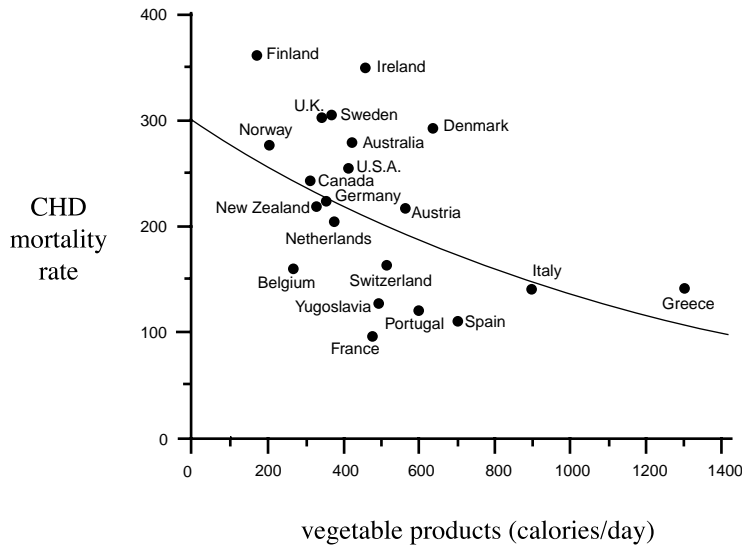


Figure 2

3 Which one of the following statements concerning the mortality rate due to CHD in the French population best summarises the data in both Figures 1 and 2?

The French population has a mortality rate due to CHD that is

- A close to that expected from the level of consumption of dairy foods.
- B close to that expected from the level of consumption of vegetable products.
- C greater than that expected from the level of consumption of dairy foods but close to that expected from the level of consumption of vegetable products.
- D greater than that expected from either the level of consumption of vegetable products or the level of consumption of dairy foods.
- E less than that expected from either the level of consumption of dairy foods or the level of consumption of vegetable products.

4 Figures 1 and 2 are based on data from 21 countries.

Which one of the following indicates the most serious potential problem arising from **not** using data from all countries?

- A The findings are reliable only if all available data are included in such studies.
- B If some countries are omitted then valuable confirmatory information can be lost.
- C If certain countries are left out by choice, the results could be skewed in a particular way.
- D If some countries are left out at random, the results could be skewed in a particular way.
- E If a link between CHD mortality rate and lifestyle factors were demonstrated, this would not apply to those countries omitted from the study.

Question 5 relates to the following additional information.

A third study compared the level of consumption of wine with the CHD mortality rate, for the same population as illustrated in Figure 1. Figure 3 shows the results of this study.

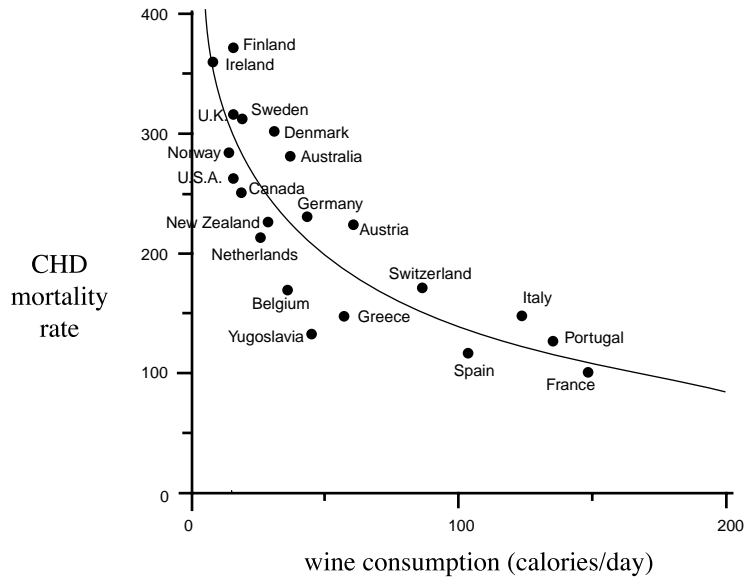


Figure 3

- 5 On the basis of the data shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3, which one of the following would represent the best strategy to reduce the occurrence of heart disease in a population?

Encourage the population to consume a diet that is

- A high in vegetables and dairy products, and to avoid alcohol.
- B high in vegetables and low in dairy products, and to avoid alcohol.
- C low in vegetables and dairy products, and includes about 100 calories of wine per day.
- D high in vegetables and low in dairy products, and includes about 100 calories of wine per day.
- E low in vegetables and high in dairy products, and includes about 100 calories of wine per day.

UNIT 2

Simon is responsible for scheduling the weekly meetings of four sporting clubs at his campus. The meetings are to be held at lunchtimes, Monday to Friday. Each club has one meeting each week.

All the clubs are able to meet in any lunchtime when they do not have training. The clubs train at lunchtime(s) on the following days (Table 1):

Table 1

Club	Training Days
Netball	Mondays and Wednesdays
Mountaineering	Tuesdays
Triathlon	Mondays and Thursdays
Orienteering	Fridays

6 Simon draws up four possible schedules for the meetings, shown below.

Which one of these schedules does **not** involve a clash with a club's training?

A

	M	Tu	W	Th	F
N					*
M	*				
T				*	
O			*		

D

	M	Tu	W	Th	F
N		*			
M				*	
T			*		
O					*

B

	M	Tu	W	Th	F
N					*
M	*				
T		*			
O			*		

E All four schedules involve a clash.

C

	M	Tu	W	Th	F
N					*
M		*			
T			*		
O	*				



UNIT 3

Dale, a plumber, charges for work done in people's homes as follows:

\$60.00 to go to the home, which includes a maximum of 15 minutes work; plus \$15.00 for any part of each 15 minutes' work after the first 15 minutes.

- 7 Dale calls at Mrs Acorn's home and does an hour and twenty minutes' work.

His charge will be

- A \$75.00.
- B \$90.00.
- C \$120.00.
- D \$135.00.
- E \$150.00.

- 8 Dale calls at Paul's place. Paul wants work done, but only has \$160 to pay for it.

Dale starts work at 2:00 p.m. and works continuously for the maximum time that could be covered by the \$160.

When does Dale stop?

- A 3:45 p.m.
- B 3:50 p.m.
- C 3:55 p.m.
- D 4:00 p.m.
- E 4:05 p.m.

Questions 9 – 11 relate to the following additional information.

Dale wants to set up a computer program to automate his billing of customers. The illustration opposite (Figure 1) shows the stage he has reached in his planning of the flow chart for the program. There is nothing in the circle marked with an X at this stage.

- 9 Without an instruction at X, a problem with this program is that it will

- A always charge customers too little.
- B always charge customers too little, except for periods of 15 minutes or less.
- C always charge customers too much, except for periods of 15 minutes or less.
- D only charge customers correctly for periods of time that are exact multiples of 15 minutes.
- E only charge customers correctly for periods of time that are not exact multiples of 15 minutes.

- 10 Which one of the following instructions at position X would correct Dale's program?

- A subtract \$15.00
- B add \$45.00
- C subtract \$45.00
- D add \$60.00
- E subtract \$60.00

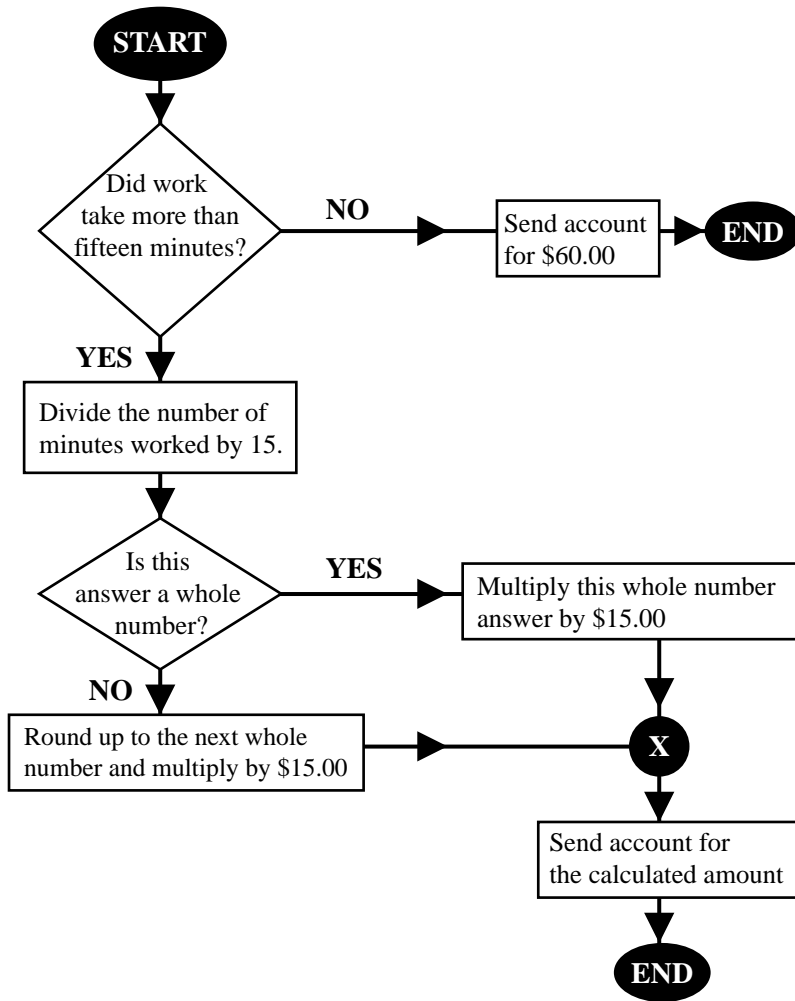


Figure 1

- 11 Rather than modify the program by adding an instruction at 'X', Dale considers correcting it by:

changing the instruction

Multiply this whole number answer by \$15.00

to read

Multiply this whole number answer by \$15.00 and add \$60.00

Under what circumstances will this modified program bill customers the correct amount?

- A always
- B only when the answer to the question in the second diamond is YES (a whole number)
- C only when the answer to the question in the second diamond is NO (not a whole number)
- D only when the time is less than fifteen minutes
- E in none of the above circumstances

Critical Thinking [analysis and evaluation of view points and arguments]

UNIT 4

Consider the following account adapted from an article in a science magazine:

'Rupert Sheldrake crystallised his ideas on telepathy* in dogs thanks in no small measure to Jaytee, a 10-year-old terrier owned by Pamela Smart, who lives next door to her retired parents in Manchester.

The family had noticed that the dog tended to anticipate Smart's return whenever she left the house. Jaytee would do this by sitting and apparently waiting by a window 10 or more minutes before Smart walked into the house. This was later confirmed in more than 100 experiments with the dog.

5

To Sheldrake, there is no better explanation for Jaytee's behaviour than telepathy between dog and owner. Many psychologists and experts in animal behaviour agree that Sheldrake's observations of Jaytee merit further study. But for them, telepathy is a claim too far.

10

Sheldrake invited Richard Wiseman; a psychologist at the University of Hertfordshire, to replicate experiments with Jaytee. During the experiments, Smart left home and returned when instructed to do so at a random time set by the experimenter.

But Sheldrake and Wiseman disagreed on which of Jaytee's many visits to the window they should use as the signal that the dog was preparing to greet his owner. Was it the first trip he made to the window or the period when he spent the most time at the window? And should the dog have responded at the precise time when Smart was told to go home, when she started off, or when she simply found herself thinking about going home?

15

Wiseman published his findings in the *British Journal of Psychology*, and went to the press claiming to have found no evidence of telepathy. Using the same data, Sheldrake tried to publish the opposite conclusion in the same journal, but failed.'

20

* *telepathy* is the transmission of thoughts between minds without speech or physical signalling

- 12** Which one of the following is the most credible evidence supporting Sheldrake's view that Jaytee exhibited telepathy?
- A** During experiments, Smart left home and returned at random times.
 - B** Pamela Smart's family said that the dog anticipated her return whenever she left the house.
 - C** Sheldrake said that there is no better explanation for Jaytee's behaviour than telepathy between dog and owner.
 - D** Many psychologists and experts in animal behaviour agree that Sheldrake's observations of Jaytee merit further study.
 - E** In one hundred experiments, the dog was observed to sit by a window 10 or more minutes before Smart walked back into the house.
- 13** Of the following, it is likely that Wiseman could most justifiably argue that Sheldrake's original observations of Jaytee
- A** would occur with no other dog.
 - B** were completely made up by Sheldrake.
 - C** could only be the result of a trick by Smart.
 - D** were correct, but the dog behaved quite differently when Wiseman made observations.
 - E** were based on selective reporting and interpretation because the dog often went to the window.
- 14** At the conclusion of all the experiments, which one of the following is **least** likely to be a source of disagreement between Sheldrake and Wiseman?
- A difference in views about
- A** the existence of telepathy.
 - B** what the dog's behaviour meant.
 - C** whether telepathy should have been investigated.
 - D** the standards of the *British Journal of Psychology*.
 - E** the significance of the dog's behaviour with respect to Smart's behaviour.

UNIT 5

Read the passage below, which is an extract from a letter to a newspaper, and answer the questions that follow.

In our rush to ensure that our children are computer literate, we have forgotten to ask what we are trying to accomplish in the schools. After all, the computer is simply a machine. Is it any different from an automobile or television set? We didn't change the entire curriculum of schools to accommodate those technologies when they were new. Nor would we think of training our youngsters to drive a car using a Model A Ford*, yet in terms of what today's youngsters will use when they grow up, present-day computers will seem pretty crude indeed. Back in the 1960s, I struggled to learn Fortran, the computer language of the time, and I can tell you that the ease with which we now use computers staggers me. Computers will continue to get easier and easier to use.

5

* **Note:** The Model A Ford car was introduced in 1928.

15 The main point of the passage is that

- A** computers are not as useful as people think.
- B** most children will need to use computers in their future jobs.
- C** the emphasis given to children's computer literacy is misplaced.
- D** very few children will need to use computers in their future jobs.
- E** community hostility to the presence of computers in schools is ill founded.

16 If the reader accepts the statement

'Computers will continue to get easier and easier to use' (line 9)

then the writer's argument is strengthened for the reader since it is implied that

- A** more people will enjoy using computers.
- B** fewer people will develop work-related illnesses.
- C** there is little need for formal teaching of computer skills.
- D** there is every reason to teach specific skills which will be needed.
- E** there is good reason to teach skills which will form the basis of further skills.

17 Which one of the following statements (**A** to **E**) would, if true, most damage the value of the following quote to the author's argument?

'We didn't change the entire curriculum of schools to accommodate those technologies when they were new' (lines 3 – 4).

- A** Curriculum tends to reflect the needs and values of society.
- B** No one has suggested that we make television-watching a school subject.
- C** No one is proposing to change the entire curriculum of schools to accommodate computer technology.
- D** The computer industry is urging us to change the entire curriculum of schools to accommodate computer technology.
- E** Some educationists are proposing that aspects of the curriculum of schools be changed to accommodate computer technology.

UNIT 6

18 Consider the statement:

‘For the sake of our society, we ought to send as high a proportion of our population to university as is humanly possible.’

Which one of the following could **not** be used to support this statement?

Evidence that

- A learning can take place outside university.
- B university education enhances academic ability.
- C university learning has widespread applications.
- D university education is more useful than other kinds of learning.
- E learning that takes place outside university is not very effective in enhancing academic ability.

UNIT 7

The following proposition is the basis of questions 19 and 20.

Our society will benefit from less government intervention and regulation.

For each question you are asked to indicate which one of the alternatives (A – E) most appropriately describes the relationship of the statement (given in the question) to the proposition.

(In answering these questions you are not being asked whether you agree or disagree with the statements or whether you think the statements are true or false. You are being asked to consider how the statements relate to the proposition.)

19 Statement:

‘The future offers great opportunities and great challenges for our society to deal with.’

In relation to the proposition, this statement:

- A can be used as significant support.
- B can be used as a significant counter.
- C merely repeats or offers insignificant support.
- D merely contradicts or offers an insignificant counter.
- E is irrelevant and cannot be used as support or to counter.

20 Statement:

‘Less government intervention should involve less expense on parliaments and politicians.’

In relation to the proposition, this statement:

- A can be used as significant support.
- B can be used as a significant counter.
- C merely repeats or offers insignificant support.
- D merely contradicts or offers an insignificant counter.
- E is irrelevant and cannot be used as support or to counter.



Interpersonal Understandings [analysis and evaluation of work and other social situations]

UNIT 8

It's the Monday morning meeting of your work group. As leader, it's your responsibility to keep the group operating at maximum effectiveness. As you look around, you note just how varied the members are.

Joanne is trying to explain a new concept to Frank. She is quite excited by the idea (as she often is with her many new ideas) and is pointing at a diagram she has hastily drawn on the back of the agenda sheet. Joanne likes researching new concepts and projects, but tends to be somewhat disorganised, especially where detailed tasks are concerned.

Frank is listening politely, but does not appear all that impressed. He is drumming the fingers of one hand on the table, while entering numbers into a calculator with his other hand, perhaps checking Joanne's idea. He's quite the best worker in his field, and is outstanding at hunting down facts. He is modest about his achievements, however, and often says 'Look, I'm just a number-cruncher, not an ideas person.' He can also be a prickly person to deal with, and prefers to work alone.

Sitting back from the table is **Carla**, the newest member of the team. She is smiling nervously and biting her thumbnail as she listens to Joanne. Carla looks somewhat startled, and looks down at the agenda every now and then, making detailed notations on the sheets, her brow becoming more furrowed with each passing minute.

Also sitting back from the table is **Melanie**, with her frown, and her look of contempt, she is — again — in a bad mood this morning. She is looking closely at the meeting agenda, writing notes in the margin, and looking at her watch. Perhaps she is planning to make some points of order about meeting procedure, as she often does. The only thing she has said so far this morning is a 'That's not funny — that's pathetic!' to a joke told earlier by Joanne. The group simply shrugged it off, each member apparently thinking 'Oh, well, that's just Melanie.' Melanie is very good at what she does, but she seems bored and unchallenged, and she certainly lacks the subtle touch.

21 Carla and Melanie are both described as ‘sitting back’.

Of the following, they are most likely to be doing this because

- A** Melanie is angry and Carla is bored.
- B** Carla is angry and Melanie is bored.
- C** both have been rejected by the team.
- D** both have made a definite decision to quit.
- E** neither has a strong feeling of belonging to the team.

22 Someone suggested that you should ask Carla to lead a brainstorming session on this, her first morning at work.

Of the following, this strategy is likely to be

- A** appropriate, because Carla appears to take work very seriously.
- B** appropriate, because you know that Carla has good university marks.
- C** appropriate, because Carla would be able to add fresh perspectives to the group’s problem-solving.
- D** inappropriate, because Carla seems to be ill at ease with the group, and her interpersonal skills are unknown.
- E** inappropriate, because Carla has shown that she has no appreciation of group dynamics.

23 Of the following, the most effective strategy to get the best out of Joanne in the next few weeks is likely to be to

- A** have her involvement in freewheeling discussions about a major project that has become stalled.
- B** ask her to act as the secretary for a technical research sub-group working on a major project.
- C** commission her to accurately measure trends over a twelve-month period, and use this research to set up a data base which can be used to help solve problems in major projects.
- D** ask her to lead a group which will tidy up the loose ends of the documentation of a large, complex project which has just been completed.
- E** have her undergo some training to develop more research skills.

24 Of the following, the most effective strategy to get the best out of Frank in the next few weeks is likely to be to

- A** give him a specific, complex problem to solve.
- B** give him a large, complex project to co-ordinate.
- C** take him aside and suggest that he should try to be more considerate of others.
- D** suggest that he take Carla under his wing as an ‘apprentice’ and show her the ropes.
- E** ask him to lead a small working group that brainstorms solutions to a particular problem.

Unit 9

The following questions relate to a variety of interpersonal issues.

- 25 In a situation in which one person confides about a personal problem to another, the most appropriate response in the initial stages is likely be a response that
- A offers advice or solutions.
 - B invites the speaker to speak freely.
 - C implies that the speaker ought to consider other views.
 - D suggests that the listener has a different perspective from the speaker.
 - E implies that the listener has unusual insight into the speaker's problem.
- 26 Before setting up a new project team, which one of the following should be the first question to be considered?
- A Who should be on the team?
 - B What is the purpose of the team?
 - C How will we know if the team is successful?
 - D What methods will the team use during the project?
 - E How can we make the team flexible enough to deal with the unexpected?
- 27 Which one of the following is likely to be **least** useful for the effective functioning of a team working on a project?
- A Being selective about who works on the team.
 - B Having social meetings as well as formal meetings.
 - C Dividing the project into parts and assigning responsibilities.
 - D Giving feedback that says exactly what you think, irrespective of people's feelings.
 - E Having regular meetings to discuss progress, rather than only meeting when there are problems.
- 28 Sam put a lot of effort into applying for a job. He was short listed, but has just received a letter telling him that he is unsuccessful.

In the following questions; Sam makes a statement and then there are five possible responses from Deirdre, who has also been trying to get a job.

Choose the response in which Deirdre is giving feedback that most indicates she is trying to understand and identify with Sam's feelings while being non-judgmental.

Sam: 'In the interview they seemed to be really interested in me!'

Deirdre:

- A 'Forget it. Try something else.'
- B 'They always act like that. Maybe you were too confident?'
- C 'You'd gone to a lot of effort. It was probably really close. You must feel let down!'
- D 'That's life, Sam. Surely you realise there are thousands of people looking for work!'
- E 'Sometimes you can get a job when the panel is very off-hand. That's what it was like when I got my holiday job.'

Written Communication [thought, organisation, language and expression in report and argument writing]

argument task

Consider the following comments and develop a piece of writing presenting your point of view on one or more of the issues.

Your response will be judged on:

- the quality of your ideas and opinions, regardless of the position you take;
- how well your argument is organised and structured; and
- how clearly and fluently your views are expressed.

You may find it useful to provide a title for your argument.

The media is the watchdog of society, bringing into the open things that many people would prefer to remain secret.

News is more often than not created by the media rather than simply reported by it.

The media is just the modern form of the age-old need to inquire after, listen to and pass on information.

The pervasive influence of the media has meant that people are no longer able to genuinely think for themselves; they just repeat whatever they've read in the paper or heard on television or radio.

report task

Write a report presenting the major ideas and information in the material provided below.

Your response will be judged on:

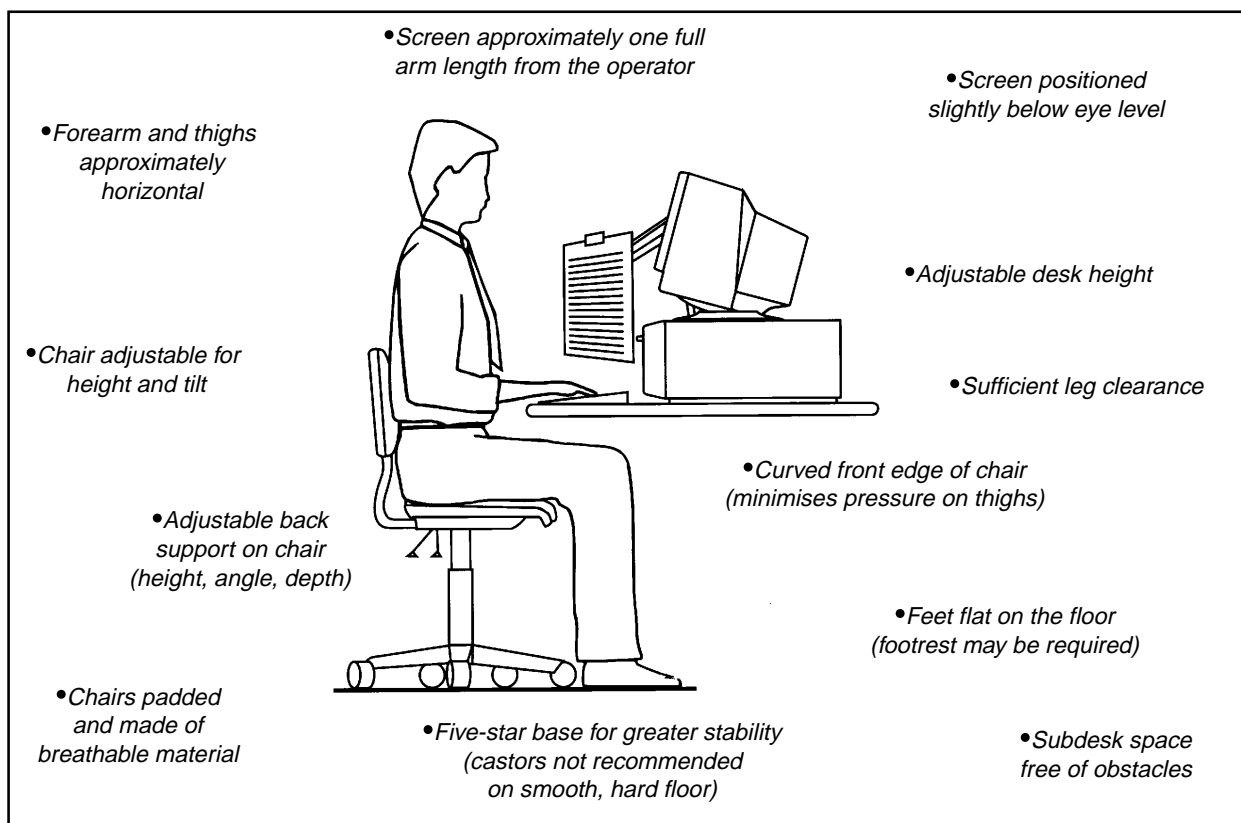
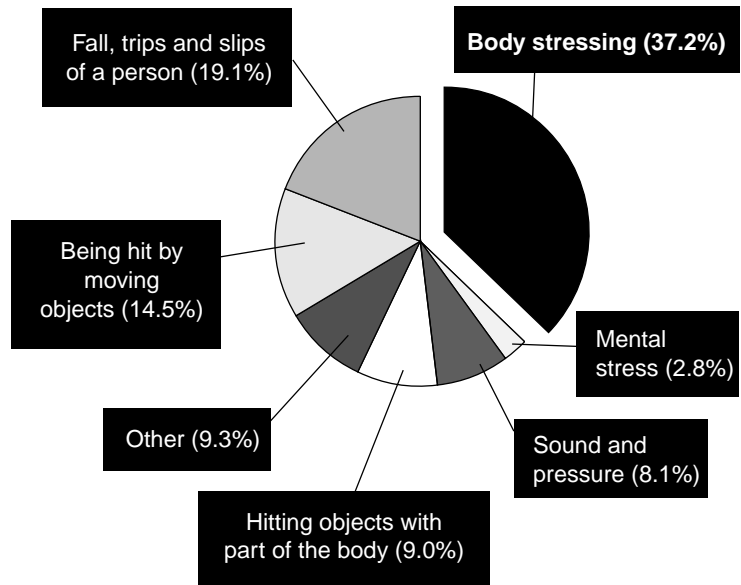
- the quality of your understanding and selection of the material;
- how well your report is organised and structured; and
- how clearly the ideas and information are expressed.

You may find it useful to provide a title for your report

Mechanism of injury, Australian workplaces compensation claims, 1993–94

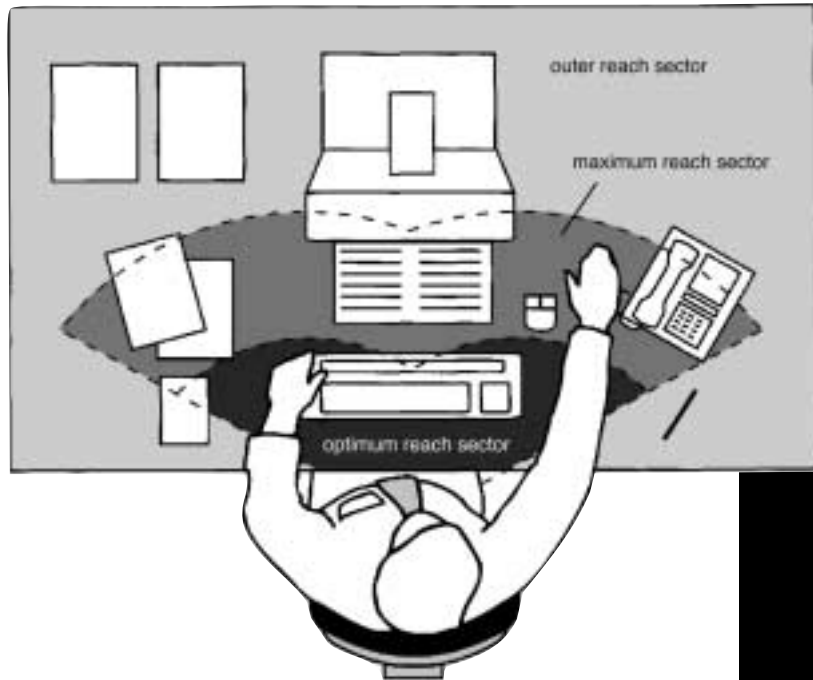
Some risk factors for work-related overuse injuries:

- Awkward, rigid or sustained working positions
- Excessive work rates
- Financial incentives to increase productivity
- Inadequate rest breaks
- Inadequate training
- Individual capacity for repetitive work
- Lack of job variation
- Monitoring of work rate by machine
- Overbearing supervision
- Poor workplace design
- Psychological or emotional stress
- Rapid repetitive movements



Body stressing involves:

- muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects
- muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down
- muscular stress with no objects being handled
- repetitive movement with low muscle loading



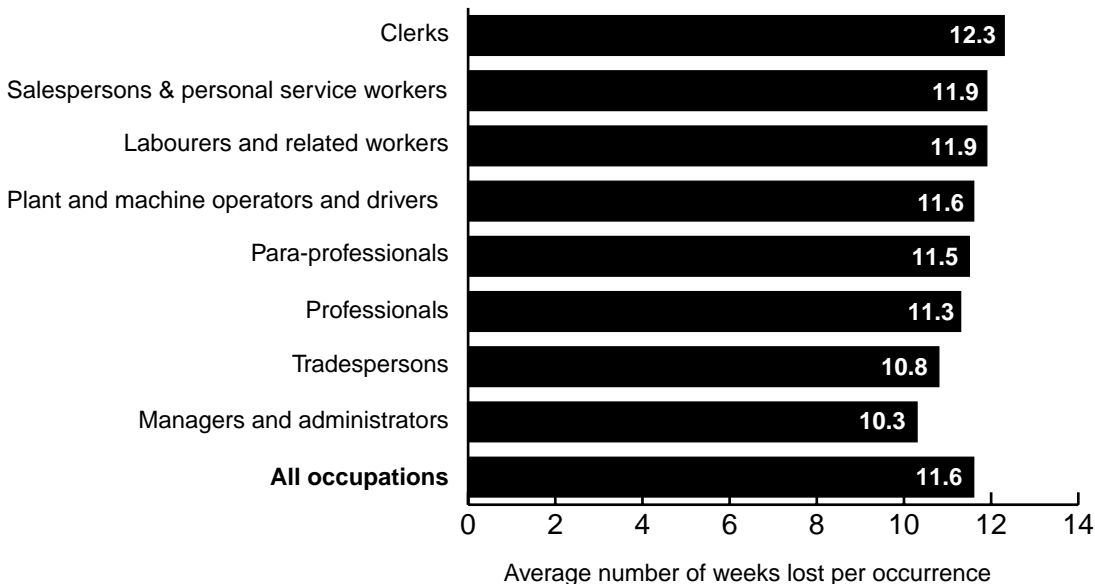
There are more than 2 chances in 5 that an Australian worker will experience a serious work-related injury/disease as a result of body stressing during the course of his or her working life.

The total annual cost of body stressing cases to employers, injured workers and the general community is estimated at \$9.5 billion.

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, Sydney

Body stressing – duration of absence from workplace by occupation

Australian workplaces compensation claims, 1993–94



Answers

1	A	6	B	11	D	16	C	21	E	26	B
2	C	7	D	12	E	17	C	22	D	27	D
3	E	8	A	13	E	18	A	23	A	28	C
4	C	9	B	14	C	19	E	24	A		
5	D	10	B	15	C	20	A	25	B		

References

Jeffrey Boyling for the extract from 'Prevention and treatment of upper limb disorders', in Richardson B. and Eastlake A. (eds), *Physiotherapy in Occupational Health: Management, Prevention & Health Promotion in the Workplace*, Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann, 1994; Greg Foley for the extract from *Occupational Health and Safety in Australian Workplaces: The High Risk and High Cost of Serious Body Stressing Incidents*, National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, Nov. 1996, website: <http://www.nohsc.gov.au>; Comcare Australia, *Officewise: A Guide to Health & Safety in the Office* - ComCare Australia, 1996, <http://www.comcare.gov.au>.
New Scientist for the extract from Opinion interview, 28 Aug, 1999; S. Renaud for the extract from 'The French paradox', *Proceedings from the Wolf Blass Foundation International Wine and Health Conference*, Ed. C. S. Stockley, The Wolf Blass Foundation Inc., 1996; D. Suzuki for the extract from *Inventing the Future*, Allen & Unwin Pty. Ltd., 1990.