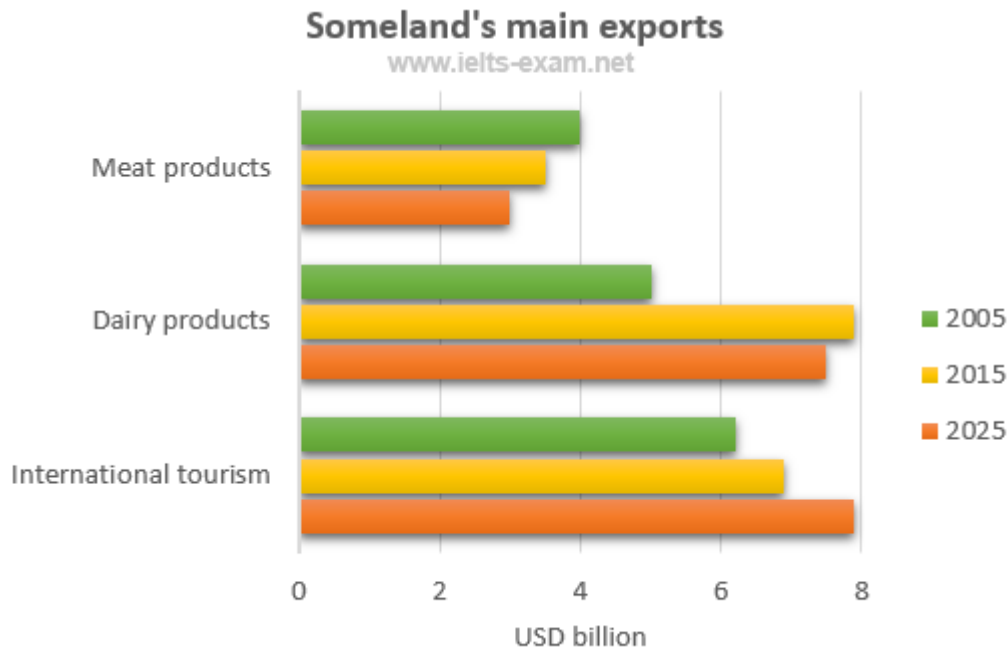


1. Writing

1. The chart below gives information about Someland's main exports in 2005, 2015, and future projections for 2025.

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

Write at least 150 words.



Model answer

This bar chart illustrates the performance of Someland's primary exports in 2005 and 2015. It also indicates future projections for 2025. According to the data, it seems likely that international tourism will become the dominant industry, although dairy exports will remain strong. In 2005, we can see that tourism was the greatest exports earner of the three industries, with revenue standing at just over \$6 billion.

This figure has increased slightly, so that now, in 2015, it has reached almost \$7 billion. It is estimated that international tourism will continue to grow, so that by 2025, it will be earning around \$8 billion for the country. In 2000, dairy exports were worth around \$5 billion, but since then there has been a dramatic increase, and sales for this year are approximately \$8 billion. Experts are predicting that exports in this area may fall slightly, so a figure of \$7.5 billion is expected for 2025. Meat products are the third key industry in Someland, but sales have dropped since 2000 and now stand at \$3.5 billion. It is expected that sales will continue to decrease in the future.

(187 words)

- 2. Many high-level positions in companies are filled by men even though the workforce in many developed countries is more than 50 per cent female. Companies should be required to allocate a certain percentage of these positions to women.**

To what extent do you agree?

Write at least 250 words.

Model answer

In many countries these days, females make up over 50 per cent of the workforce, and increasingly highly skilled women are taking managerial positions. However, it is still a fact that high positions such as CEO posts are still dominated by men. Although this is not desirable, I do not personally believe that imposed quotas are the solution.

Firstly, I believe companies have a right to choose the best person for the job, whatever their gender, in order to contribute to the success of the business. Forcing companies to hire, promote and appoint women could negatively affect business in the short term and even the long term.

Secondly, to my mind the solution to this problem should be solved outside the workplace. Girls need to be encouraged to take more male-dominated subjects at school and later at university, and to aspire to do well in their careers. Girls and boys also need to be taught equality from an early age. This education can take place in schools and career programmes and in the home.

To those who argue that quotas are a good way to initiate this change, I would like to point out that artificially imposing rules has not always had the desired effect. When governments required males and females to receive the same pay for the same jobs, employers simply changed job titles to ensure that women were still paid less than men. It is my belief that employers will simply try to find loopholes to get around any such law.

In summary, I do not believe that forcing companies to allocate jobs to women is the best way to address the imbalance. Rather, it is a question of education and of changing mindsets so that those who deserve to be at the top will earn it and be appropriately appointed.

(303 words)