Useful Phrases for IELTS Writing Part One
With a partner, brainstorm at least two phrases into each of the categories below. Explain what the task shows (in the first sentence of the essay)

Explaining the paragraph structure

Selecting the most important information/ Giving overall information

Mentioning parts of what the page shows (= Giving details about the graph etc)

Upward trends

Downward trends

Going up and down

Not changing

Big changes

Small changes

Comparing

Contrasting

Sequencing

Starting the second main paragraph (= the second paragraph of the body of the text)

Conclusion/ Summary (only if you can’t find another way of reaching 150 words)

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Useful Phrases for IELTS Writing Part One Suggested Answers
Explaining what the task shows
The table/ pie chart/ bar chart/ line graph/ map/ flow chart/ diagram/ illustration/ figures…
... shows/ represents/ gives data on/ presents statistics on/ compares…
... information/ data/ figures…
The vertical axis/ y axis is…
The horizontal axis/ x axis represents…
Explaining the paragraph structure
These two sources of information will be examined in turn.
I will start by explaining…/ First, I will look at…/ First of all, I will focus on…/ Firstly, I will describe…
In the next paragraph I will…/ and the following paragraph will…/ and then I will…/ … and after that I will…/ and the final paragraph will be on…
The information will be divided into… and… and looked at in that order.
Selecting the most important information/ Giving overall information
... stands out (because…)
The first thing you notice looking at the graph is…
The biggest/ largest/ most noticeable/ most important/ most obvious + difference/
similarity/ trend is…
Overall,…
The main trend…
Over the entire period shown,…
It can be said that in general,…
Mentioning parts of what the page shows
The left-hand column/ first column/ middle column/ second column/ third column/ last column/ right-hand column
The top row/ first row/ second row/ last row/ bottom row
stage of the process
in the North/ Northwest/ Southeast
top right/ bottom left/ middle/ centre
segment
arrow
axis/ axes
Upward trends
To rise/ go up/ increase/ escalate/ climb/ grow/ expand/ soar/ take off
(nearly) double/ triple
A rise/ An increase
Reach a new high
Plateau
Downward trends
To drop/ fall/ dive/ plunge/ crash/ decline/ decrease/ deteriorate/ plummet
A drop/ A fall/ A crash/ A decline/ A decrease/ A deterioration
Bottom out
Shrink
(nearly) halve
Going up and down
Fluctuate/ Be unstable
Reach a peak
Recover/ Bounce back/ Pick up

Not changing
Remain stable
Flatten out

Big changes
Significant(ly)/ Substantial(ly)/ Dramatic(ally)/ Considerable(/bly), Sharp(ly)
Dive/ Plunge/ Crash/ Plummets
Rocket/ Shoot up/ Soar/ Take off

Small changes
Slight(ly)/ Gradual(ly)
Creep up

Comparing
(far/ much/ substantially/ significantly/ slightly) ...er/ more/ less...
(not) as...as...
(very) similar/ almost the same/ almost identical
in some ways similar to...
Comparing the... with/ to...

Contrasting
While......
In contrast,...
... shows a rather/ very different pattern/ trend.
We can contrast this with...
... is almost the exact opposite.
... is (a/ the) (major) exception...

Sequencing
Some time later...
After that...
The next/ following stage is...
This is followed by...
This reoccurs...
In the following hours/ days/ weeks/ months/ years,...
Subsequently,...
..., after which...
As soon as.......