

**Unit  
6**

## Speaking Task

**(1) Discuss the key difference between the letter extract and graph.**

In the letter, the head of the History Department at Jintan University urges the college principal to recruit more history teachers because some current teachers will leave. The department head specifies a preference for local history specialists with knowledge of the 18th and 19th centuries. However, according to the chart, a survey of those studying history at Jintan reveals a strong preference among them for international history.

**(2) State your own opinion on the topic, comparing the information from the letter and graph with your own experiences.**

In my opinion, even though the chart shows international history becoming more popular as domestic history loses popularity, the department head's request is justified. Some might argue that the department should meet student demand, but university education is not driven by market forces. Domestic history is as important as, if not more important than, international history. The decline in popularity might be due to a lack of high-quality domestic history teachers. If this is true, it's clear that we need to hire the local history specialists that the department head is asking for.



## Suggested Response Strategies

This speaking task focuses on the hiring of university faculty. First, we read a message from the chair of the History Department to the university president, explaining the areas of expertise he hopes to see in a new professor. Then we compare this with the results of a student survey in the History Department, presented in charts from 2019 to 2023. According to the task instructions, the following requirements should be addressed in sequence:

- Question (1) requires explaining the differences between the message and the chart information. According to the message, the History Department chair hopes to hire a professor specializing in domestic history, whereas the charts show that, starting in 2021, more students believe that foundational history courses should focus on international history, and this preference has increased each year—differing from the recommendation in the chair’s message.
- Question (2) asks students to express their opinions on this issue based on their own experience. Please note the organizational structure used in the sample answer:
  - 1) The first sentence compares the views of the faculty and students and indicates that the author agrees more with the department chair’s opinion.
  - 2) The middle section explains the reasons for this position, arguing that university education should not be driven by the market. Domestic history is as important as international history. The speaker further speculates that students’ loss of interest in local history may be due to insufficient teaching quality.
  - 3) The final sentence uses “If this is true ...” to connect with the previous discussion about teaching quality and reiterates the author’s view that new professors with expertise in local/domestic history should be hired.

## Writing Task

*According to official statistics, there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of crimes reported over the past two decades. However, some people believe that the real situation is not quite so clearcut. In this essay, I will provide my opinion on this topic. But first I will summarize Susan Lee's opinion piece that disputes the official figures.*

Susan Lee claims most crimes go unreported for three reasons. First, victims think the police won't help them. Second, they want to avoid the mental strain of dealing with bureaucracy. Third, they feel small crimes aren't worth reporting. Because of this, criminals often don't face consequences, making it harder to stop crime effectively.

I agree with Lee's points. While official statistics show a decline in reported crimes, this does not necessarily mean that crime rates have genuinely dropped. The reasons she gives for underreporting are valid and highlight a significant issue in how crime data is collected and interpreted. Whereas media portrayal of crime can influence public perception, making it seem more prevalent than it might be, we should not ignore the fact that unreported crimes could still be occurring at high rates. It is crucial to address the reasons behind underreporting to ensure a more accurate understanding of crime and to allocate resources effectively to protect society.



## Suggested Response Strategies

This writing task focuses on crime statistics. A government-released statistical report published in the West House City newspaper shows that crime incidents have been decreasing year by year. In response to this report, Susan Lee wrote a commentary titled *Much Crime is Hidden*. Based on the charts and the commentary, the task requires students to address the following:

- Question (1) requires summarizing the key points of the commentary *Much Crime is Hidden*. In the sample answer, the first paragraph is a concise summary of about 50 words. The opening sentence presents the author's argument (most crimes go unreported, low reporting rate) and structure (for three reasons). Each of the following sentences summarizes one reason for the low reporting rate, and the paragraph concludes with a final summarizing sentence.
- Question (2) asks students to explain their own opinion on this issue. The author agrees with Susan Lee's view on the low reporting rate and emphasizes that this problem deserves broader attention.