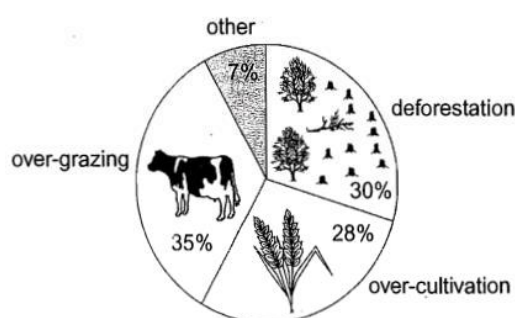## WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The pie chart below shows the main reasons why agricultural land becomes less productive. The table shows how these causes affected three regions of the world during the 1990s.

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

Write at least 150 words.

Causes of worldwide land degradation

Causes of land degradation by region

Region	% land degraded by...			
	deforestation	over-cultivation	over-grazing	Total land degraded
North America	0.2	3.3	1.5	5%
Europe	9.8	7.7	5.5	23%
Oceania*	1.7	0	11.3	13%

* A large group of islands in the South Pacific including Australia and New Zealand

(Cambridge IELTS Past Papers 8)

Useful Expressions for Describing Pie Charts and Tables

This report will provide a summary of the information presented in a pie chart and a table, which show the factors leading to land degradation and their percentages according to the three regions of North America, Europe and Oceania.

According to the pie chart, the greatest cause of land degradation is over-grazing, accounting for 35%. The second largest reason is deforestation at 30% whilst over-cultivation is responsible for 28% of the planet's erosion.

The table highlights that Europe had a higher level of land degradation than the regions of North American and Oceania in the 1990's, with 23% of the total land degraded compared to 5% and 13% respectively. Europe had a large amount of

deforestation, and over 8% more than the other regions. Similarly, whilst it over-cultivated 5.5% of its agricultural land, North America over-cultivated just 3.3% and Oceania none at all. For over-grazing, however, Oceania showed the highest amount at 11.3%, followed by Europe and then North America.

Overall, it is clear that activities in Europe are having a serious impact on its farming land.
(177 words)

Useful Expressions for Describing Pie Charts and Tables

According to the pie chart/ the table/ the graph,

The largest/ smallest is _____, accounting for __%

(factor) at __%

The table highlights that

with __% of the total

Useful Language of Comparison

the greatest + noun

the second largest

whilst

has a higher level of _____ than _____

_____ compared to _____

over ___% more than

Similarly,

whilst

however,

the highest