Key Exam Skills

Data and Trend Analysis
Skill 1: DATA

• Being able to effectively use and interpret data is a key requirement across many AOS.
• The following is a guide to help you structure your answers for questions relating to data:
TIP 1

• **Use the data in the questions:** both numbers and measurements. In doing so read the fine print on the title of graphs and tables.
TIP 2

- Explain what the numbers mean: It’s too simplistic to say 10 males compared to 11 females. Instead: There are 10 males diagnosed per population of 10,000 per year, compared to the rate of 11 females per 10,000
TIP 3

- Explicitly state the population groups being compared. I.e. Australia v USA
Using Data: Practice

• Question 1: 2011 VCCA exam, watch the following clip from 1:30min onwards:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZs6Tv0HSy4&list=PLiN0deeR2BkPIwY0-GwKS9GLIA0qv0vvq
Using the data, draw a conclusion about how Australians aged 15-24 rate their health.

Source: AIHW, Australia’s Health 2016, page 395.
The majority of Australian’s aged 15-24 rate their health as excellent/very good at approx 64%. Only 28% rated their health as good and 8% rated it as fair/poor.

**Source:** AIHW, *Australia’s Health 2016*, page 395.
Skill 2: Analysing Trends

• What is a Trend?
• General patterns that occur over a period of time
Tips for Analysing Trends

• Tip 1: **Use Statistics** (percentages etc.)
• Tip 2: **Direction of Trend** (increase/decrease/improved etc.)
• Tip 3: **Time Frame** (year to year)
• Tip 4: **Population Group** (male v female etc.)
Using the data, describe the trend of Life Expectancy in Australia over the past 125 years.
Life expectancy has increased in Australia from 1890 to 2015. Males were expected to live to approx. 45 years old in 1890 compared to 75 in 2015. Females were expected to live to approx. 47 years in 1890 compared to 79 in 2015.
Analysing Trends Practice

Using the data, identify the trend in Figure 2.5

Death rates for Australians have decreased from 1970-2014 from 38 to 15 and 107 to 30.

Source: Adapted from AIHW data.