Present a written argument to an educated reader on the following topic:

“One of the liveliest current debates [...] revolves around the accelerating global spread of English and the urgent socio-economic, ideological, and ecological issues raised as a consequence of this spread” (Seidlhofer 2003: 7).

Do the potential benefits of having English as a global language for international communication outweigh possible disadvantages?

You have 75 minutes to complete this task.
Write between 300 and 400 words.

Support your arguments by referring to both sources of visual information and at least one of the other quotations below.

You will receive points for task achievement, good organization, range of vocabulary and sentence structure, and linguistic accuracy.

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**First languages of Internet users**
Total: 680 million

- **English**: 35.6%
- **Chinese**: 12.2%
- **Japanese**: 9.5%
- **Spanish**: 8.0%
- **French**: 3.7%
- **German**: 7.0%
- **Italian**: 3.3%
- **Russian**: 2.5%
- **Portuguese**: 2.6%
- **Dutch**: 1.8%
- **Other**: 9.8%

**Number of languages worldwide**
Graddol (2006: 60)

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[...] around two-thirds of the world’s top 100 universities are in English-speaking countries. This is one reason why English is used increasingly as the medium of education in universities across the world. [...] English-speaking countries have the most entrepreneurial universities, who seek income by marketing their courses to overseas students; and English itself is seen as a key educational investment.

Graddol (2006: 74-76)

[Crystal] warns us of the resentment, envy, anger of the non-English mother-tongue speakers who feel disadvantaged. Or who, worse still, feel their mother tongue or identity threatened.

Hanson (1997: 22)

Language may be a cornerstone of culture, but the culture itself would not have to disappear if English were used as a second or third language for the pure purpose of communicating globally.

Wheaton (2011: 1)

A language has traditionally become an international language for one chief reason: the power of its people - especially their political and military power.

Crystal (2003: 9)