



**Information
for Candidates**
Introducing IELTS
to test takers

The test that opens doors around the world

This booklet contains important information to help you prepare for your IELTS test.

IELTS, the International English Language Testing System, is designed to assess the language ability of people who want to study or work where English is the language of communication.

IELTS is recognised and accepted by over 9,000 organisations worldwide, including universities, employers, professional bodies, immigration authorities and other government agencies. For a list of organisations that accept IELTS scores, visit www.ielts.org/recognition.

Accessible and convenient

IELTS is offered up to four times a month in more than 130 countries. Tests are held on Saturdays and Thursdays. To find out test dates in your area, please contact your nearest IELTS test centre. A list of all IELTS test locations worldwide is available at www.ielts.org.

The international test

IELTS is internationally focused in its content. For example, texts and tasks are sourced from publications from all over the English-speaking world; a range of native-speaker accents (North American, Australian, New Zealand, British etc.) are used in the Listening test; and all standard varieties of English are accepted in test takers' written and spoken responses.

The test that's tried and trusted

IELTS has been developed by some of the world's leading experts in language assessment, and is supported by an extensive programme of research, validation and test development.

The level of the test

IELTS is designed to assess English language skills across a wide range of levels. There is no such thing as a pass or fail in IELTS. Results are reported as band scores on a scale from 1 (the lowest) to 9 (the highest).

The IELTS band score scale

9	Expert user
8	Very good user
7	Good user
6	Competent user
5	Modest user
4	Limited user
3	Extremely limited user
2	Intermittent user
1	Non user
0	Did not attempt the test

Preparing for your test

Make sure you are ready to demonstrate your English

1. Familiarise yourself with the format of the test by reading this booklet. If you would like more information about the format of the test and the question types used, you can find the test specifications at www.ielts.org/testtakers.
2. Practise using sample questions from www.ielts.org/samples.
3. Consider doing a practice test. Two volumes of *Official IELTS Practice Materials* are available for purchase from test centres or at www.ielts.org/testtakers. These materials include a full practice test with answers, and sample Writing and Speaking performances with examiner comments.
4. Consider enrolling in a preparation course to improve your performance in the test. IELTS test centres and language schools around the world offer IELTS preparation courses.

More information is available from:

www.ielts.org
www.britishcouncil.org/takeielts
www.ieltsessentials.com/prepare
www.cambridgeenglish.org/ielts
www.ielts.org/usa

Know the IELTS rules and regulations

It's important to familiarise yourself with the IELTS rules and regulations. These are laid out in the **Notice to Candidates** and **Declaration** which are included in the application form. When you sign the application form declaration, or agree to the terms online, you are confirming that you have read and understood the IELTS rules and regulations and agree to abide by them.

Register as soon as possible

When you feel you are ready to take the test, you need to register for a test date with an IELTS centre. Contact the centre as soon as possible, as the number of test takers who can take the test on a particular date may be limited. You will need to pay the test fee when you register.

Tell your centre if you have special requirements

In order to ensure that the language ability of all test takers is assessed fairly and objectively, IELTS provides a comprehensive service for test takers who have special requirements, including specific learning difficulties, hearing difficulties and visual difficulties.

If you require a modified version of the test, for example a Large Print or Braille version, you must give the test centre three months' notice. This notice period is necessary for the modified test version to be prepared. If your circumstances require special administrative arrangements to be made, for example if you need extra time or you need to use access technology such as a screen reader, you must give the test centre six weeks' notice. Please contact your test centre to discuss your requirements. Any special arrangements agreed are in accordance with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).

Test format

There are two modules to choose from – Academic and General Training.

IELTS Academic

IELTS Academic is for test takers wishing to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels, and for those seeking professional registration.

IELTS General Training

IELTS General Training is for test takers wishing to migrate to an English-speaking country (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK), and for those wishing to train or study at below degree level.

Each organisation sets its own entry requirements. In some cases both Academic or General Training may be accepted. If you are in doubt as to which to take, you should contact the organisation you are applying to in order to check their requirements.

You are tested on all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking, unless you have an exemption due to a disability (see section on special requirements). Everyone takes the same Listening and Speaking tests. There are different Reading and Writing tests for IELTS Academic and General Training.

The Listening, Reading and Writing tests must be completed on the same day. The order in which these tests are taken may vary. There are no breaks between these three tests. The Speaking test may be taken up to seven days before or after the other three tests.



The four components of the IELTS test

Listening

Timing

Approximately 30 minutes (plus 10 minutes' transfer time).

Questions

There are 40 questions. A variety of question types are used, chosen from the following: multiple choice, matching, plan/map/diagram labelling, form completion, note completion, table completion, flow-chart completion, summary completion, sentence completion, short-answer questions.

Test Parts

There are 4 sections:

Section 1 is a conversation between two people set in an everyday social context (e.g. a conversation in an accommodation agency).

Section 2 is a monologue set in an everyday social context (e.g. a speech about local facilities or a talk about the arrangements for meals during a conference).

Section 3 is a conversation between up to four people set in an educational or training context (e.g. a university tutor and a student discussing an assignment, or a group of students planning a research project).

Section 4 is a monologue on an academic subject (e.g. a university lecture).

Each section is heard once only.

A variety of voices and native-speaker accents are used.

Skills assessed

A wide range of listening skills are assessed, including:

- understanding of main ideas
- understanding of specific factual information
- recognising opinions, attitudes and purpose of a speaker
- following the development of an argument.

Marking

Each correct answer receives 1 mark. Scores out of 40 are converted to the IELTS 9-band scale.

Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

Reading

Timing

60 minutes (no extra transfer time).

Questions

There are 40 questions. A variety of question types are used, chosen from the following: multiple choice, identifying information (True/False/Not Given), identifying a writer's views/claims (Yes/No/Not Given), matching information, matching headings, matching features, matching sentence endings, sentence completion, summary completion, note completion, table completion, flow-chart completion, diagram label completion, short-answer questions.

Test Parts

There are 3 sections. The total text length is 2,150-2,750 words.

Academic Reading

Each section contains one long text. Texts are authentic and are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers. They have been written for a non-specialist audience and are on academic topics of general interest. Texts are appropriate to, and accessible to, test takers entering undergraduate or postgraduate courses or seeking professional registration. Texts range from the descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical. Texts may contain non-verbal materials such as diagrams, graphs or illustrations. If texts contain technical terms, then a simple glossary is provided.

General Training Reading

Section 1 contains two or three short factual texts, one of which may be composite (consisting of 6-8 short texts related by topic, e.g. hotel advertisements). Topics are relevant to everyday life in an English-speaking country.

Section 2 contains two short factual texts focusing on work-related issues (e.g. applying for jobs, company policies, pay and conditions, workplace facilities, staff development and training).

Section 3 contains one longer, more complex text on a topic of general interest.

Texts are authentic and are taken from notices, advertisements, company handbooks, official documents, books, magazines and newspapers.

Skills assessed

A wide range of reading skills are assessed, including:

- reading for gist
- reading for main ideas
- reading for detail
- understanding inferences and implied meaning
- recognising writer's opinions, attitudes and purpose
- following the development of an argument.

Marking

Each correct answer receives 1 mark. Scores out of 40 are converted to the IELTS 9-band scale.

Scores are reported in whole and half bands.



For test specifications visit www.ielts.org/testtakers

For marking information visit www.ielts.org/criteria

For sample questions visit www.ielts.org/samples

Writing

Timing

60 minutes

Tasks

There are 2 tasks. You are required to write at least 150 words for Task 1 and at least 250 words for Task 2.

Test Parts

There are 2 parts.

Academic Writing

In Task 1, you are presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and are asked to describe, summarise or explain the information in your own words. You may be asked to describe and explain data, describe the stages of a process, how something works or describe an object or event.

In Task 2, you are asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem.

The issues raised are of general interest to, suitable for and easily understood by test takers entering undergraduate or postgraduate studies or seeking professional registration. Responses to Task 1 and Task 2 should be written in an academic, semi-formal/neutral style.

General Training Writing

In Task 1, you are presented with a situation and are asked to write a letter requesting information or explaining the situation. The letter may be personal or semi-formal/neutral in style.

In Task 2, you are asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. The essay can be slightly more personal in style than the Academic Writing Task 2 essay.

Topics are of general interest.

Skills assessed

In both tasks, you are assessed on your ability to write a response which is appropriate in terms of:

- content
- the organisation of ideas
- the accuracy and range of vocabulary and grammar.

Academic Writing

In Task 1, depending on the task type, you are assessed on your ability to organise, present and possibly compare data; to describe the stages of a process or procedure; to describe an object or event or sequence of events; to explain how something works.

In Task 2, depending on the task type, you are assessed on your ability to present a solution to a problem; to present and justify an opinion; to compare and contrast evidence, opinions and implications; to evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or an argument.

General Training Writing

In Task 1, depending on the task type, you are assessed on your ability to engage in personal correspondence in order to: elicit and provide general factual information; express needs, wants, likes and dislikes; express opinions (views, complaints etc.).

In Task 2, you are assessed on your ability to provide general factual information; to outline a problem and present a solution; to present and possibly justify an opinion; to evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or an argument.

Marking

You are assessed on your performance on each task by certificated IELTS examiners according to the IELTS Writing test assessment criteria (Task Achievement/Response, Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource, Grammatical Range and Accuracy). The public version of the assessment criteria can be found at www.ielts.org/criteria.

Task 2 contributes twice as much as Task 1 to the Writing score.

Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

Speaking

Timing

11-14 minutes

Test Parts

There are 3 parts.

Part 1 Introduction and interview (4-5 minutes)

The examiner introduces him/herself and asks you to introduce yourself and confirm your identity. The examiner asks you general questions on familiar topics, e.g. home, family, work, studies and interests.

Part 2 Individual long turn (3-4 minutes)

The examiner gives you a task card which asks you to talk about a particular topic and which includes points you can cover in your talk. You are given 1 minute to prepare your talk, and are given a pencil and paper to make notes. You talk for 1-2 minutes on the topic. The examiner may then ask you one or two questions on the same topic.

Part 3 Two-way discussion (4-5 minutes)

The examiner asks further questions which are connected to the topic of Part 2. These questions give you an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas.

Skills assessed

A wide range of speaking skills are assessed, including:

- the ability to communicate opinions and information on everyday topics and common experiences and situations by answering a range of questions
- the ability to speak at length on a given topic using appropriate language and organising ideas coherently
- the ability to express and justify opinions and to analyse, discuss and speculate about issues.

Marking

You are assessed on your performance throughout the test by certificated IELTS examiners according to the IELTS Speaking test assessment criteria (Fluency and Coherence, Lexical Resource, Grammatical Range and Accuracy, Pronunciation). The public version of the assessment criteria can be found at www.ielts.org/criteria.

Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

Test tips

Listening

- Each recording in the Listening test is heard once only.
- You will be given time to read through the questions before you listen.
- As you listen, write your answers on the question paper. At the end of the test, you will have 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. It is essential that you transfer your answers to the answer sheet as nothing you write on the question paper will be marked.
- You must write your answers in pencil.
- An example of a completed Listening answer sheet is given on the next page.
- 'Completion' question types (e.g. note completion):
 - Pay attention to the word limit. For example, if you are asked to complete a sentence using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**, and the correct answer is 'leather coat', the answer 'coat made of leather' would be incorrect.
 - Transfer only the missing word(s) to the answer sheet. For example, if you have to complete the note 'in the ...', and the correct answer is 'morning', the answer 'in the morning' would be incorrect.
 - You will hear the word(s) you need to use in the recording. You will not need to change the form of the word(s) you hear.
 - Pay attention to spelling and grammar: you will lose marks for mistakes.
 - You may write your answers in lower case or in capitals.

Reading

- You may write your answers directly on the answer sheet or you may write them on the question paper and transfer them to the answer sheet before the end of the test. You will not be given extra time to transfer answers at the end of the test. Nothing you write on the question paper will be marked.
- You must write your answers in pencil.
- An example of a completed Reading answer sheet is given on the next page.
- 'Completion' question types (e.g. note completion):
 - The same rules apply to 'completion' question types as in Listening (see above).
 - The word(s) you use must be taken from the Reading text. You will not need to change the form of the word(s) in the text.

Writing

- You may write your answers in pencil or pen.
- Pay attention to the number of words required for each task. You will lose marks if you do not write at least 150 words for Task 1 and at least 250 words for Task 2.
- You should spend approximately 20 minutes on Task 1 and approximately 40 minutes on Task 2.
- You must write your answers in full; answers written in note form or in bullet points will lose marks.
- Pay attention to spelling, grammar and punctuation; you will lose marks for mistakes.
- You may write your answers entirely in capitals if you wish.
- You may make notes on the question paper but nothing you write on the question paper will be marked.

Test results

The Test Report Form

You will receive a Test Report Form which reports a score for each of the four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking), as well as an overall band score. Half band scores may be awarded to indicate a strong performance within a particular band. You can find more information on score processing and score interpretation at www.ielts.org/criteria.

Results are available 13 calendar days after the test. At some test centres test takers may collect their results on the 13th day; at others, results are mailed on the 13th day. Test centres are not permitted to give results over the phone or by fax or email.

Preview your results online

You can preview your results online 13 calendar days after the test. Results remain online for 28 days. Please note that the online preview of results should not be used as an official confirmation of your performance.

Results validity period

Organisations will not usually accept a Test Report Form that is more than two years old unless you provide evidence that you have actively maintained or tried to improve your English since taking the test. The IELTS Test Partners cannot confirm the validity of test results that are more than two years old.

You will receive only one copy of the Test Report Form. It's important that you keep it safe as replacement Test Report Forms cannot be issued. Test centres will send copies of your Test Report Form to up to five organisations free of charge.

Re-taking IELTS

There are no restrictions on re-taking IELTS. You can register for a test as soon as you feel you are ready to do so. Please note that your score is unlikely to increase unless you make a significant effort to improve your English before re-taking the test. More information is available from www.ielts.org/resitting.

Enquiries on results

If you are unhappy with your test result, you can apply for a re-mark (Enquiry on Results) at the centre where you took the test. You must make the application no later than six weeks after the test date. You can choose which test components are re-marked. There is a fee for this service which will be refunded if your score on any component is increased. Enquiries on Results take six to eight weeks to complete.

Pencil must be used to complete the answer sheet

BRITISH COUNCIL

idp
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
Language Assessment
NOT FOR CREDIT

IELTS Listening and Reading

Centre number:
(This must be used to complete this sheet)

Please enter your full name in CAPITALS, letters on the line below:

PERVIN KABA

Test date (shade OMR box for the month and OMR box for the year):

Day: 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Month: 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12

Year (use 2 digits): 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

Listening Listening Listening Listening Listening Listening Listening Listening Listening Listening

1 12 Riverbank A 1 A 21 A 4 21 A

2 April 2 C 22 C 5 22 A

3 5 weeks 3 A 23 A 6 23 A

4 newspaper 4 A 24 B 7 24 A

5 internet 5 A 25 C 8 25 A

6 face to face 6 A 26 A 9 26 A

7 laptop 7 A 27 report writing 10 27 A

8 police department 8 A 28 group 11 28 A

9 green 9 A 29 interview 12 29 A

10 bookstore 10 A 30 fee 13 30 A

11 C 11 A 31 C 14 31 A

12 A 12 A 32 E 15 32 A

13 G 13 A 33 F 16 33 A

14 E 14 A 34 D 17 34 A

15 D 15 A 35 D 18 35 A

16 H 16 A 36 poverty 19 36 A

17 central 17 A 37 brother 20 37 A

18 3rd floor 18 A 38 soil, water 21 38 A

19 security 19 A 39 diet 22 39 A

20 box 20 A 40 agriculture 23 40 A

Marker 1 Signature Marking 1

Marker 2 Signature Marking 2

Listening Total

IELTS UK v1.0

019930384

Write your name in capital letters

Write your candidate number

Shade a box to indicate your gender

Shade a box to indicate which version you are taking

Please write your full name in CAPITAL letters on the line below

Please write your Candidate number on the line below

Please write your three digit language code in the boxes and shade the numbers in the grid on the right

Are you: Female? — Male? —

Module taken (shade one box): Academic — General Training —

Reading Reading Reading Reading Reading Reading Reading Reading Reading Reading

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
1	isolation	21	not given	22	not given	23	not given	24	not given	25	not given	26	not given	27	not given	28	not given	29	not given	30	not given
2	economic pressures	31	not given	32	not given	33	not given	34	not given	35	not given	36	not given	37	not given	38	not given	39	not given	40	not given
3	cultural values	41	not given	42	not given	43	not given	44	not given	45	not given	46	not given	47	not given	48	not given	49	not given	50	not given
4	traditional skills	51	not given	52	not given	53	not given	54	not given	55	not given	56	not given	57	not given	58	not given	59	not given	60	not given
5	E	61	not given	62	not given	63	not given	64	not given	65	not given	66	not given	67	not given	68	not given	69	not given	70	not given
6	B	71	not given	72	not given	73	not given	74	not given	75	not given	76	not given	77	not given	78	not given	79	not given	80	not given
7	D	81	not given	82	not given	83	not given	84	not given	85	not given	86	not given	87	not given	88	not given	89	not given	90	not given
8	B	91	not given	92	not given	93	not given	94	not given	95	not given	96	not given	97	not given	98	not given	99	not given	100	not given
9	C	101	not given	102	not given	103	not given	104	not given	105	not given	106	not given	107	not given	108	not given	109	not given	110	not given
10	no	111	not given	112	not given	113	not given	114	not given	115	not given	116	not given	117	not given	118	not given	119	not given	120	not given
11	not given	121	not given	122	not given	123	not given	124	not given	125	not given	126	not given	127	not given	128	not given	129	not given	130	not given
12	yes	131	not given	132	not given	133	not given	134	not given	135	not given	136	not given	137	not given	138	not given	139	not given	140	not given
13	yes	141	not given	142	not given	143	not given	144	not given	145	not given	146	not given	147	not given	148	not given	149	not given	150	not given
14	A	151	not given	152	not given	153	not given	154	not given	155	not given	156	not given	157	not given	158	not given	159	not given	160	not given
15	C	161	not given	162	not given	163	not given	164	not given	165	not given	166	not given	167	not given	168	not given	169	not given	170	not given
16	true	171	not given	172	not given	173	not given	174	not given	175	not given	176	not given	177	not given	178	not given	179	not given	180	not given
17	false	181	not given	182	not given	183	not given	184	not given	185	not given	186	not given	187	not given	188	not given	189	not given	190	not given
18	not given	191	not given	192	not given	193	not given	194	not given	195	not given	196	not given	197	not given	198	not given	199	not given	200	not given
19	true	201	not given	202	not given	203	not given	204	not given	205	not given	206	not given	207	not given	208	not given	209	not given	210	not given
20	true	211	not given	212	not given	213	not given	214	not given	215	not given	216	not given	217	not given	218	not given	219	not given	220	not given

Marker 2 Signature

Marker 1 Signature

Reading Total

IELTS five steps to success

1 Enquiry

Contact details for all IELTS test centres worldwide can be found at www.ielts.org, where you can also download the application form.

2 Registration

Read through all the information you receive with the application form carefully. Complete the paper application form or online registration and submit it to your nearest test centre. You will need to enclose the test fee or make the payment online.

Make sure you enter the number of your identity document (your passport or national identity card) and attach a clear colour photocopy or scanned copy of your identity document to the application form. The identity document must be valid at the time of registration and the same ID document must be presented on the day of the test.

3 Confirmation

The test centre will give you written confirmation of the date and time of the test. Your Speaking test time will be scheduled on the same day as the written tests or on a different day within a 7-day window before or after the written tests. The test centre will confirm your Speaking test time.

4 Test day

Your identity will be checked on the day of the test and before the Speaking test. You must present the same identity document that you used when you registered for the test. Your photograph will be taken as an additional security measure, and it will appear on your IELTS Test Report Form. In addition a finger scan may be taken.

5 Results

Results will be available 13 calendar days after the test. At some test centres test takers can collect their results on the 13th day. At other test centres results are mailed to test takers on the 13th day. Test centres are not permitted to give results out over the phone or by scan or email.

Preview of your results is available online 13 calendar days after the test. Results will remain online for 28 days. Please note that the online preview of your results should not be used as an official confirmation of your performance.

Find out more at www.ielts.org

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Your privacy

The IELTS Test Partners recognise and support the right of genuine IELTS test candidates to privacy. For more information visit www.ielts.org/privacy.

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