

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO IELTS

Travel Culture Career Study



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WHAT IS IELTS?





IELTS, which stands for International English Language Testing System, is one of the most widespread exams used around the world by companies and universities because it evaluates your real knowledge of English. It is officially recognized in Australia, Britain, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA. In some countries, IELTS also allows you to obtain educational credits that give you access to certain programmes like Erasmus.



The advantage IELTS has over other tests is that it is available in two versions:

IELTS

• Academic

For people who want to **apply for education or join an organization** in any of the English speaking countries.

• General training

For people who want to **enroll in non-academic courses** or to establish in an English speaking country.

Both IELTS formats assess students' abilities in **speaking, listening, reading** and **writing**. The Listening and Speaking tests are the same for both formats, but the reading and writing are quite different. Let's have a closer look at all the sections.



Section 1

Two people talking about everyday situations using simple, clear language and most times, the part you need to focus on is repeated.

Tip: Pay attention to given facts

Section 2

A speaker gives a monologue about situations set in an everyday social context in a slow pace and making pauses to help understanding.

Tip: Again, focus on given facts

Section 3

Up to 4 speakers engaged in a conversation about education or training situations. The pace of the conversation is faster and includes a more difficult vocabulary.

Tip: Focus not only on given facts, but also on speakers' opinions

If you want to try a sample listening test here's a link you can use:

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-your-test/free-ielts-practice-tests/listening-practice-test-1>



The speaking section evaluates your fluency, your vocabulary, your grammatical performance and your pronunciation.

Part 1

You will be asked about personal topics. There are no right or wrong answers since you have to talk about your personal experience. E.g. name, nationality, work, hobbies, likes and dislikes, place of residence, etc.

Part 2

You will be given cards related to a certain topic and you'll be given a few minutes to take notes and prepare a monologue about them. Finally, the examiner may ask you questions about them.

Part 3

You will get involved in a discussion with your examiner about the topic presented in part 2. These questions will try to elicit your own ideas about that topic.



Tips for this section:

- talk as much and as fluently as possible,
- try not to hesitate when you answer a question (in this way, the examiner won't interrupt you),
- show the examiner that you are relaxed and feel at ease taking this test.

If you want to try a speaking test you can follow this link:

www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/freepracticetests/speakingpracticetests



Academic

You will be asked to answer 40 questions about three long passages taken from technical books, magazines and newspapers similar to the ones you can find in a college class.

This section tests your ability to read, understand the content and also what the author thinks and feels about the passage he has written.

General Training

You will be asked to answer 40 questions about 4 or 5 short passages taken from books, leaflets, magazines, etc that you may find in everyday life.

This section tests your ability to understand the general meaning of the passage, some details and also, the author's opinion and purpose of the passage he has written.

If you want to practice the reading sections, you can follow this link:

www.ielts-exam.net/ielts_reading/



Academic

- For **Task 1** you will be asked to write a 150 word report describing and analyzing the data stated in a bar chart, a line graph, a pie chart, a table and/or a diagram
- For **Task 2** you will be asked to write a 250 word essay on any academic topic.

General Training

- For **Task 1** you will be asked to write a 150 word informal / formal letter.
- For **Task 2** you will be asked to write a 250 word essay on any topic of general interest

Following this link you will get help you practice the writing section of this test:

www.ielts-exam.net/ielts-writing-samples/ielts-writing.htm



Your score in IELTS can range from 1 (the lowest) to 9 (the highest) based on the average of the scores you receive for each of the four sections. It's also possible to get half marks (e.g. 7.5). If you get a score of 9 you are an expert user (C2). Postgraduate courses often require a minimum of 7 or 7.5 (C1), while many undergraduate courses require a score of 6 (B2).

In order to get a high mark you need to demonstrate your knowledge and ability to apply all the key English grammar structures and a wide vocabulary.



HOW TO PREPARE FOR IELTS?





The best way to prepare for the IELTS exam is **to do a course** that helps you practice the different skills that are tested in the exam.

Practicing and studying with a teacher is ideal because the teacher can identify the areas where you need to improve and help you. This is especially true of the writing section which is quite challenging in terms of style and structure, and without guidance and feedback from a teacher, it can be hard to practice and improve.

At Wall Street English we have a special course available for students who need to take the IELTS exam, led by expert teachers.



It is also really useful to do other things to practice in preparation for the IELTS, including:

- Reading the news (via a website or a newspaper/magazine)
- Reading a book
- Watching videos, TV series or films
- Keeping a diary to practice writing
- Doing exercises on specific grammar structures
- Creating word families to help you remember important vocabulary

There are some common themes that often appear in IELTS.

These include issues regarding the environment, education, jobs and careers, living in the city/country, technology, health, transport, communication, food, language, society, and sport.

Take some time to identify some of the most common vocabulary linked to each of these topics. It will really help you during the exam.



Once you have done all these things to prepare well for IELTS, all that's left to do is take the exam!

Here are a few useful tips to remember on the day:

Be on time!

Make sure you arrive at the location of the exam with plenty of time to spare so you can take a moment to relax before the exam begins.

Read the questions carefully

Before you listen to the recordings, read the questions so you can start to have an idea of what you will hear. Identify key words in questions before looking for the answers in the reading texts. It will save you valuable time. Check very carefully what you are asked in the written tasks before starting to write. And make sure you speak about all the points mentioned in the second part of the speaking test (the Long Turn).

Keep track of the time

During the reading and writing tests, you need to pay attention to the clock because the time will go quickly and you don't want to risk not completing the tasks.

Time to double check

At the end of the listening test, you will have time to transfer your answers to the exam answer sheet. If you have any time left at the end of the reading test, go through your answers again to check your writing is clear. And in the writing test, be sure to leave at least five minutes at the end to re-read your tasks to correct any small mistakes. Correcting spelling and grammar mistakes could mean the difference between getting an extra half point.



Time to speak

During the speaking test, try to speak as much as possible and avoid giving simple, short answers. If you go over the time limited, the examiner will simply interrupt you which is no problem. The questions are aimed at giving you the chance to show how well you can speak, so try to develop your argument as much as you can.



**PRACTICE ANSWERING
QUESTIONS RELATED TO
THE IELTS EXAM:**

PRACTICE NOW

<https://wallstreetenglish.edu.vn/vi/english-tests/preparation-for-ielts.html>





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