

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, play /map/diagram labeling, from 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 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. university tutor and a student planning a research project).

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

Each section is heard once only.

A variety of voices and native –speaker accent is used.

Skills assessed

A wide range of listening skills are assessed, including

Understanding of main ideas

Understanding of specific factual information

Recognizing 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 ending, sentence completion, summary completion, note completion, table completion, Flow-chart completion, diagram label completion, short-answer question.

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. Text is 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 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

Recognizing writers 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.

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 asked to describe, summaries 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 2 should be written in an academic, semi –formal/natural 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/natural 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.

Skill assessed

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

Content

The organization of ideas

The accuracy and range of vocabulary and grammar.

Academic Writing

In task 1, depending on the task types, you are assessed on your ability to
organize, 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 work.

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
option; to evaluate 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 (3-4 minutes)

The examiner introduce him/herself and asks you to introduce yourself and confirm your identify. 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's 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 ask father question which are connected to the topic of part .These Question 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 opinion and information on everyday topics and common experience and situation by answering a range of questions

The ability to speak a length on a given topic using appropriate language and organizing ideas coherently

The ability to express and justify opinions and to analyses, discuss and speculate about issues.

Marking

You are assessed on your performance throughout the test by certificated IELTS speaking teats 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](http://www.ielts.org/criteria).

Test Tips

Listening

Each recording in the listening test is heard once only.

You will be given a time to read through the question before you listening.

As you listen, write you answer on the question paper.

At the end of the test, you will have 10 minutes to transfer your answer to the answer sheet. It is essential that you transfer you answer to the answer sheet as nothing you write on the question paper will be marked.

You must write your answer 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 I s leather curt

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 “

I 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 in capitals.

Reading

You may write your answer 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 answer 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 must write your answers in full; answers written in note form or in bullet points will lose marks.

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.