

Overview of IELTS

| Paper | Breakdown | Skills Tested |
|---|---|---|
| Listening 30 minutes + 10 minutes transfer time | 4 sections and 40 questions (10 questions in each section) | Listening for: topic / situation / detail / specific information / opinion / main ideas |
| Academic Reading One hour | 3 sections, each comprising a text of about 900 words 40 questions | Understanding: topic / situation / detail / specific information / opinion / main and supporting ideas / global ideas / gist |
| General Training Reading One hour | Section 1 – small extracts Section 2 – two texts Section 3 – one long text 40 questions | Understanding: topic / situation / detail / specific information / opinion / main and supporting ideas / global ideas / gist |
| Academic Writing One hour | Task 1: Describing graphic data / a diagram Task 2: Writing an essay | Describing trends Making comparisons Describing a process / diagram Paragraphing and organisation Language accuracy and range Lexical accuracy and range Presenting an argument Supporting a point of view Coherence and cohesion Paragraphing and organisation Language accuracy and range Lexical accuracy and range |
| General Training Writing One hour | Task 1: Writing a letter Task 2: Writing an essay | Responding appropriately to a stimulus / register / style Paragraphing and organisation Language accuracy and range Lexical accuracy and range As for Academic Writing Task 2 |
| Speaking 11–14 minutes | Part 1: Interview 4–5 minutes Part 2: Long turn 3–4 minutes Part 3: Discussion 4–5 minutes | Responding to questions / talking about oneself Giving a short talk / describing / explaining / reporting Expressing and supporting an opinion / agreeing / disagreeing / speculating Grammar / Vocabulary / Pronunciation |

IELTS LISTENING

IELTS LISTENING SAMPLE TASK – FORM COMPLETION

SECTION 1

Questions 1 – 8

Complete the form below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

PACKHAM'S SHIPPING AGENCY – customer quotation form

Example

Country of destination: Kenya.....

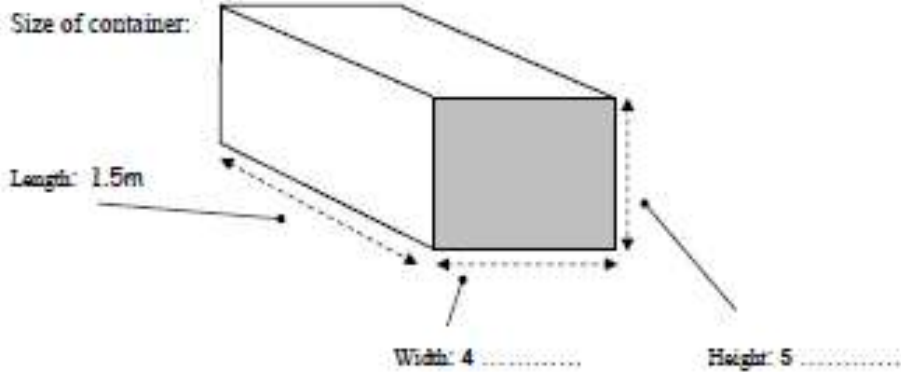
Name: Jacob 1.....

Address to be collected from: 2..... College, Downlands Rd

Town: Bristol

Postcode: 3.....

Size of container:



Length: 1.5m

Width: 4.....

Height: 5.....

Contents: clothes

6.....

7.....

Total estimated value: 8 £.....

Section 4 Questions 31–40

Questions 31–33

Choose the correct letter A, B or C.

- 31 The local business people who had approached the Centre had all encountered
- A enormous problems.
 - B few problems.
 - C many obstacles.
- 32 The main focus of the Centre is now
- A large national companies.
 - B technology companies.
 - C businesses that have just started up.
- 33 Snapshot research was carried out
- A over the Internet.
 - B by telephone.
 - C by personal contact.

Questions 34 and 35

Answer the questions below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

- 34 How much higher are local business rents compared to those nationally?
.....
- 35 How many local businesses close a year after they have started working with the Centre?
.....

Questions 36–40

Complete the table below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

| Size of business | Companies | Help being given |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| Start-ups | O-foods | improving the 36 turnaround |
| | Innovations | support to attract business partners and achieve 37 |
| Small | Sampsons Ltd | business 38 |
| | Vintage Scooter | product monitoring scheme after sales customer service |
| Medium | Build Ltd | extension of 39 |
| | Jones Systems | conflict management and 40 |

LET'S RECAP

Read the following statements very carefully and predict the type of word that is needed to fill each gap.

- 1) The IELTS Listening Test takes approximately
- 2) It has sections.
- 3) The sections gradually get more
- 4) A variety of is used, such as
- 5) Candidates hear the recordings
- 6) A range of English and dialects are used in the recordings.
- 7) At the end of the recorded material, candidates will be givenminutes to transfer their answers onto the answer sheet.
- 8) Poor and are penalised.

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| TOP TEN LISTENING STRATEGIES |
|-------------------------------------|

1. Sections
2. Understanding instructions
3. Brief outline of topic, participants, situations
4. Key words
5. Predict type of answer required
6. Listen while writing
7. No time to think
8. No blank answers
9. Spelling
10. Correct transfer

IELTS SPEAKING

The Speaking test will fall into three sections as follows. Discuss the question at the end of each part outlined below.

Part 1: the introduction and interview (4 – 5 minutes)

The examiner will ask the candidate's name and will require to see some photograph identification. The examiner will then ask questions focusing on general areas (e.g. the candidate's origins, personal interests, studies, working life.)

The candidate should try to give *interesting* answers. Why?

Part 2: the long turn (3 – 4 minutes)

The examiner will give the candidate a topic written on a card and will hand the candidate a piece of paper and a pencil in case he/she wishes to make notes. The candidate will have a minute or so to think about what he/she is going to say. The candidate will then have to talk for 1 to 2 minutes on the topic. The examiner will remain silent while the candidate is talking but will then stop the candidate when the time is up and ask a related question.

What does Part 2 give the candidate the chance to show and do? What are the implications of this for classroom work?

Part 3: the discussion (4 – 5 minutes)

The candidate will be asked some more abstract questions, related to Part 2 and should take part in a discussion with the examiner.

What does part 3 give the candidate the chance to demonstrate? Will he/she be marked or penalised for the views expressed?

SPEAKING TEST TIPS

Look at these tips and decide to which part of the speaking test they belong.

Don't waste your time trying to write out your whole talk. Use the time to jot down a few main points to prompt you when you are speaking.

Sometimes the examiner will ask you yes/no questions. Know how to expand on your answers to these.

If you can give some interesting information, it will keep the examiner interested and make it easier for him or her to ask you further questions and keep the conversation going.

Practise talking non-stop with a clock in front of you. It will give you practice judging the time.

If you need to, ask your teacher for help with certain set expressions that cover occasions when you forget a word or lose track of what you were saying etc..

IELTS READING

Here are the characteristics of the Reading Module. Which apply to both Academic and General Training? Which to ACADEMIC only and which to GT only?

1) 40 questions - each worth one mark

2) authentic texts

3) variety of styles

4) three passages

5) candidates are tested on their ability to identify main ideas, supporting ideas, writer's opinions and specific information

6) non-verbal material

7) first section "social survival"

8) non-verbal material

9) magazines, journals, books and newspapers

10) SCORES ARE REPORTED AS A WHOLE OR HALF BAND

11) variety of task types – possibly more than one/text


12) second section "training survival"

13) poor spelling and grammar are penalised

14) three sections of increasing difficulty

15) 60 minutes - no transfer time

16) advertisements, leaflets, notices, timetables



| |
|---------------------------|
| READING STRATEGIES |
|---------------------------|

Write G (good) or B (bad) next to the following strategies

1. Candidates should read the text from beginning to end and make sure that they understand every word before they attempt any questions.
2. They should look quickly at the text and get an overview of the format – headings, sub-headings, captions, diagrams, illustrations, numbers etc.
3. They should read through the text quickly to get a general – not a detailed understanding.
4. They should read the questions first so that they have an idea of what they need to look for in the text.
5. In general, they should spend no longer than about one minute on each question.
6. They should read each question or group of questions carefully, then scan the text to find the possible answers.
7. They can underline and mark the text (e.g. write question numbers next to the text to check later)
8. Candidates should make sure that they follow the instructions for each question e.g. *'Use no more than three words'*.
9. If they have difficulty with a question, they should re-read the passage several times until they are sure that they understand it.
10. They do not need to stick to the time limits recommended at the start of each section (usually 20 minutes).
11. If they are not sure of an answer, they should write it down but mark it so that they can check it later.
12. If they think a particular word is important, they should try to guess its meaning from the context but do should not spend too long on this.
13. If they are not sure which alternative (e.g. A,B,C or D) is correct, it is better that they guess the answer than write nothing at all.
14. If they are not sure, they should write the two possible answers on their Answer Sheet and let the examiner take his pick.
15. It is better to hurry over a few difficult questions but attempt all questions on the paper than to answer all questions carefully then not have time to finish the test.

GENERAL TRAINING READING SAMPLE TASK – SHORT ANSWERS**Questions 4-8**

Answer the questions below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 4-8 on your answer sheet.

- 4 What has been found in some Fancy Foods products?
- 5 Where can you find the batch number on the jars?
- 6 How much will you receive for an opened jar of contaminated Chicken Curry?
- 7 If you have eaten Chicken Curry from a jar with one of the batch numbers listed, whom should you contact?
- 8 What is the maximum reward Fancy Foods is offering for information about who contaminated their product?

IMPORTANT NOTICE: PRODUCT RETURN

Fancy Foods wishes to inform the public that pieces of metal have been found in some jars of Fancy Foods Chicken Curry (Spicy). The batches of the jars involved have numbers from J6617 to J6624. The batch number is printed on the bottom of each jar.

If you have any jars with these batch numbers, please return them (preferably unopened) to the supermarket where you purchased them. You can also return them to the factory (Fancy Foods Retailers, Blacktown). Fancy Foods will pay \$10 for each jar returned unopened and \$5 for each jar already opened.

No payment will be made for empty jars, which do not need to be returned. However, the Retailing Manager will be interested to hear from people who have consumed chicken curry from any of the above batch numbers. In particular, it will be helpful if they can give information about the place of purchase of the product.

Jars of Fancy Foods Chicken Curry (Coconut) and Fancy Foods Chicken Curry (Mango) have not been affected and do not need to be returned.

REWARD

Fancy Foods will pay a reward of \$10,000 to \$50,000 for information which leads to the conviction of any person found guilty of placing metal pieces in its products. If you have such information, please contact the Customer Relations Manager, Fancy Foods Retailers, Blacktown.

**GENERAL TRAINING READING SAMPLE TASK – MATCHING
INFORMATION****SECTION 1****Questions 1 – 8**

Questions 1 – 8

Look at the five advertisements, A-E.

Which advertisement mentions the following?

Write the correct letter, A-E, in boxes 1-8 on your answer sheet.

NB *You may use any letter more than once.*

- 1 up-to-date teaching systems
- 2 that the institution has been established for a significant time
- 3 examination classes
- 4 that arrangements can be made for activities outside class
- 5 the availability of courses for school students
- 6 language teaching for special purposes
- 7 a wide variety of language choices
- 8 evening classes

A

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Fax: 286 4714

B

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C

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- multicultural classes
- optional programs
- Cost: \$2000 AUD per 10 weeks

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TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS**

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Level 5, 1 Mill Street,
Perth 6000, Western Australia
Telephone: 019 320 3777

D

French
SUMMER COURSES
January 2005

Adult: Crash Course 9-19 Jan
Intensive 3 or 4 hrs a day,
morning or evening, *30 hrs \$250*
(Beginners and Low Intermediate only)

Adult: Normal Course 9 Jan-4 March
10 levels from Beginner to Advanced
Twice a week - 2 hrs morning or evening
Once a week, Saturday 9am-1.30pm *32hrs \$278*

High School Crash Course 11-25 Jan
Intensive 3 hrs a day, 1pm-4pm
Years 8 to 12 *24hrs \$200*
Starts Wednesday 11.1.97

Club Français
27 Claire St, Sydney, Phone 227 1746

E

**U
C**

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA
Learn English in Australia's National Capital

- * The TESOL Centre has more than 24 years' experience in providing quality language programs for overseas students
- * Test preparation, possibility of further academic study
- * Access to University facilities
- * Classes conducted on campus with opportunity to mix with Australian students

IELTS WRITING

Which of these skills are needed for which parts of the Writing Paper?
Specify if they are relevant to the Academic Module, the General Training Module or both.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------|
| bar charts | making suggestions | summarizing | spelling |
| making a complaint | organizing ideas | letter-writing conventions | |
| expressing views | tables | deciding on register | |
| making the argument clear | grouping information | line graphs | |
| apologizing | comparing data | selecting important information | |
| pie charts | weighing up the advantages and disadvantages | | |
| introductions and conclusions | appropriate vocabulary | describing a process | |

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- TASK ACHIEVEMENT/RESPONSE
- COHERENCE AND COHESION
- LEXICAL RESOURCE
- GRAMMATICAL RANGE AND ACCURACY

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IELTS NOW?

Look at these statements, read them carefully and decide whether they are TRUE or FALSE. If you think a statement is FALSE, correct it if possible.

1. There are two forms of the IELTS examination - the General Training and the Academic. Candidates should have a clear idea of which one they need to register for.
2. Learning facts about the English grammar system is the best strategy for succeeding in the IELTS examination.
3. IELTS is a test of a candidate's technical English at the time of the test.
4. Students get a Pass or Fail grade in the IELTS but must get a Pass in order to gain admittance to an English or Australian university.
5. IELTS candidates are awarded a Band Score between **0** (no assessable English) and **9** (perfect English). It is not necessary to get a **Band 9** for most requirements.
6. The candidate should find out from the college or potential host government what Band Score he/she needs.
7. The test is in two parts, written and oral, each part lasting 30 minutes.
8. Candidates can help to prepare themselves by starting to develop their general English a long time ahead of the examination, and by generally exposing themselves to as much of the language as possible e.g. watching TV, listening to the radio and reading as much as possible in English.
9. The results of the examination are given out the day after the exam.
10. If the candidate does not get the required result, he/she can do the test at the next available session.

USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/>

www.ielts.org

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/ielts/>

<http://www.roadtoielts.com/testdrive/>

