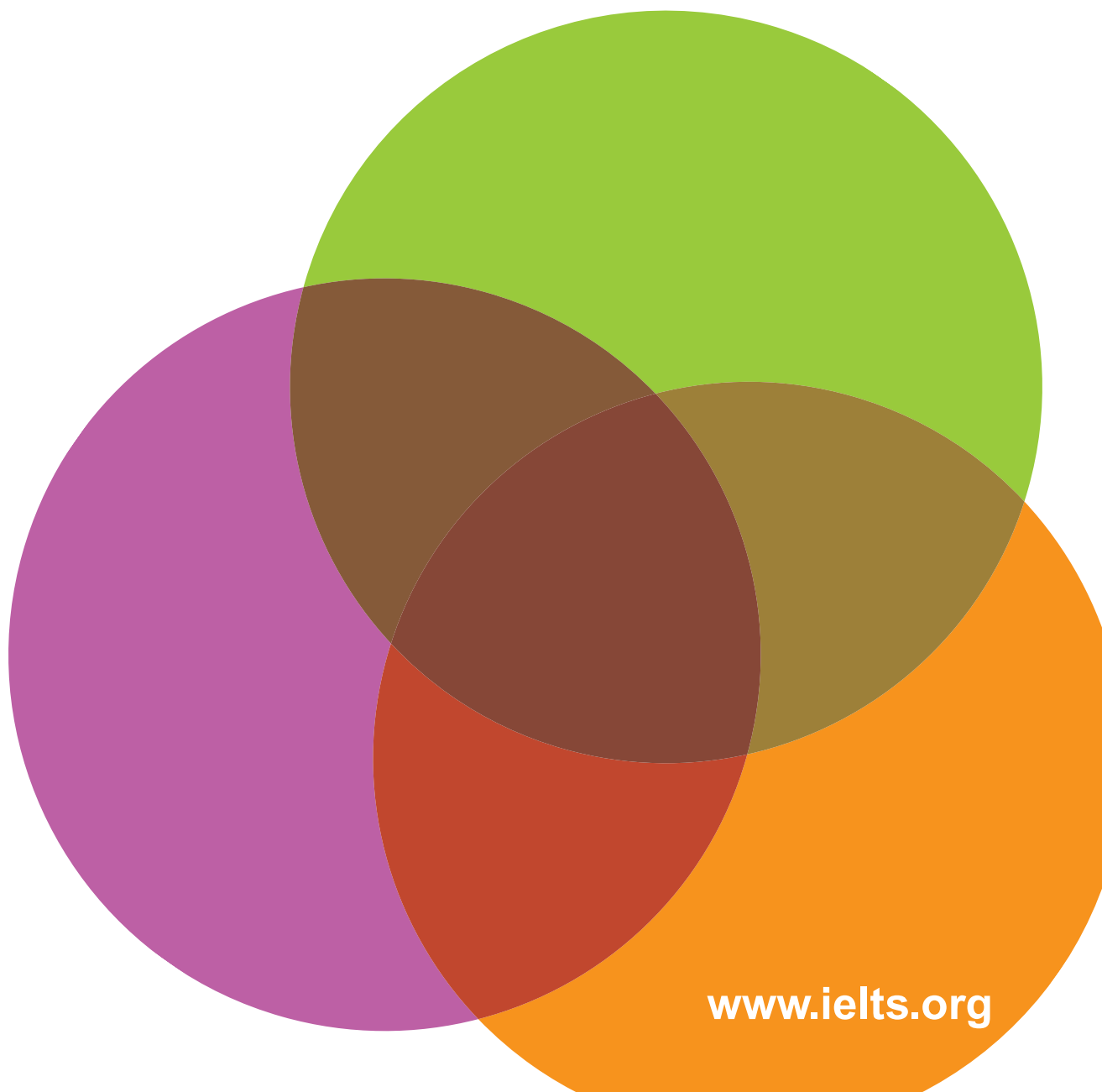


IELTS™

International English Language Testing System

Information for candidates



www.ielts.org

What is IELTS?

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

IELTS is jointly managed by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL), British Council and IDP: IELTS Australia. IELTS conforms to the highest international standards of language assessment. It covers the four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking.

IELTS is recognised by universities and employers in many countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the USA. It is also recognised by professional bodies, immigration authorities and other government agencies. Please refer to a full list of recognising organisations on the IELTS website www.ielts.org

IELTS is not recommended for candidates under the age of 16.

Test Administration

IELTS tests are administered at centres throughout the world – there are more than 500 centres, in over 125 countries. A full list of centres is available on the IELTS website www.ielts.org

IELTS is available up to four times in a month. Please contact the relevant centre for exact test dates. Results will be produced 13 days after the test.

The candidate will only receive one copy of their test result and replacement copies will not be provided. Additional copies can be sent directly to receiving organisations and institutions by test centres. Registered organisations can receive test results electronically through the e-downloads service.

There are no restrictions on candidates re-taking the test.

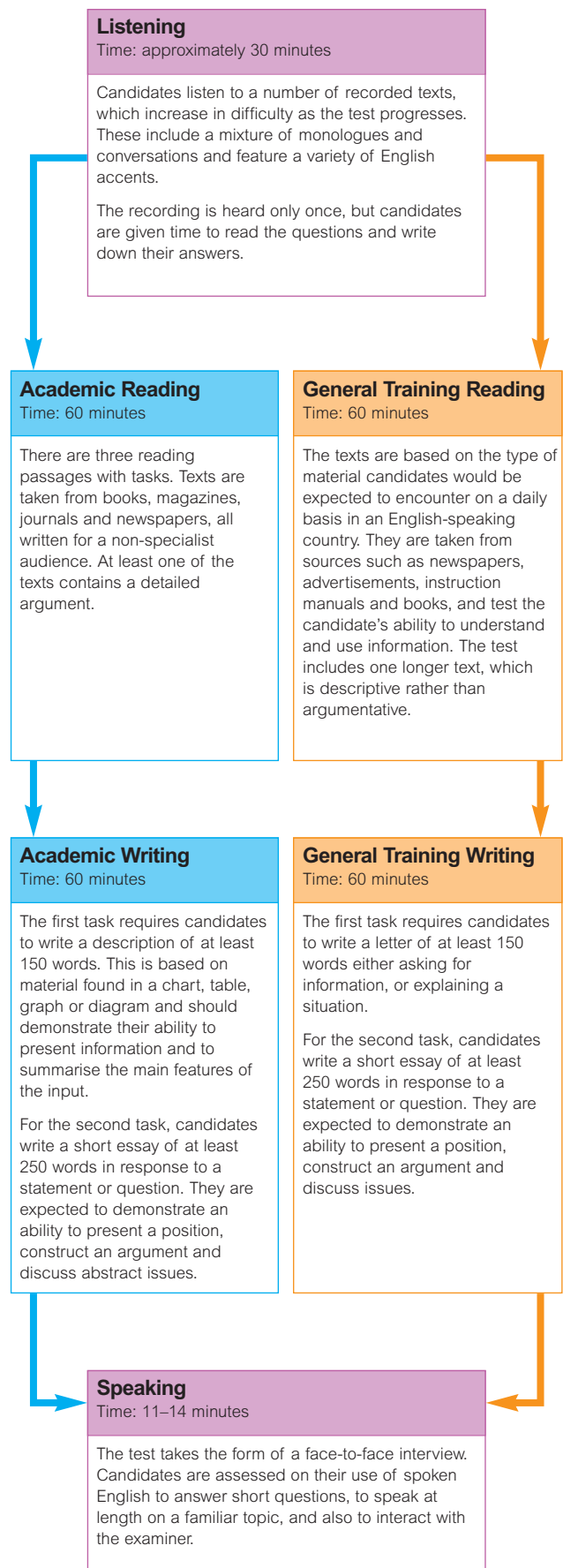
Academic and General Training

IELTS is available in two formats – Academic and General Training.

The Academic Module assesses whether a candidate is ready to study or train in the medium of English at an undergraduate or postgraduate level. Admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses should be based on the results of this module.

The General Training Module emphasises language skills in broad social and workplace contexts. It is suitable for candidates who are going to migrate to an English-speaking country, for example, to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the UK. It is also suitable for candidates planning to undertake work experience or training programmes not at degree level, or to complete their secondary education. The General Training Module is not designed to test the full range of formal language skills required for academic purposes.

If you are in doubt about which module to take, contact the organisation to which you are applying for their requirements.



Test Format

Candidates are tested in listening, reading, writing and speaking. All candidates take the same Listening and Speaking tests. There is a choice of Reading and Writing tests – Academic or General Training. It is the responsibility of the candidate to tell the Administrator which version, Academic or General Training, they need to take.

The tests are designed to cover the full range of ability from non-user to expert user.

The first three tests – Listening, Reading and Writing – must be completed in one day. No break is given between the three tests. The Speaking test may be taken, at the discretion of the test centre, in the period seven days before or after the other three tests.

Preparing for the Test

It is not necessary to attend a preparation course but it is, of course, a good idea to prepare thoroughly for the test.

Official Practice Materials are available from test centres, or directly from Cambridge ESOL or IDP:IELTS Australia. This includes a full practice test with an answer key, a CD of the Listening test and three sample Speaking tests so that candidates can get some idea of their level and familiarise themselves with the format of the test.

There is also a wide range of published preparation materials.

IELTS Test Results

Results will be produced 13 days after the test. At some centres candidates 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. Replacement Test Report Forms are not provided in case of loss.

A score is reported for each of the tests. The individual test scores are then calculated to produce an Overall Band Score. Overall Band Scores are reported in whole and half bands for each test. Further information on score processing and interpretation is available on the website www.ielts.org

The IELTS tests have been designed to reflect accurately the candidate's abilities to deal with the English language. The design of the test makes it statistically unlikely that there will be a great variation in the test scores. In order to ensure that a candidate's IELTS results genuinely reflect that candidate's English language abilities, where there are exceptionally unusual patterns of test scores the tests will be marked again, and the IELTS test partners may ask the candidate to re-take some or all of the tests. The candidate will not be charged for any such re-takes and the candidate will not be issued with their result until after the re-take.

Test Report Form

The Test Report Form includes a large number of security features, and the authenticity of any Test Report Form can be verified through the online verification service. See www.ielts.org for further details. Cambridge ESOL, British Council and IDP:IELTS Australia reserve the right to cancel any IELTS Test Report Form in the event of any attempt to tamper with or misuse the information it contains.

The IELTS test partners recommend that receiving organisations do not accept a Test Report Form that is more than two years old. For this reason, Test Report Forms will not be issued for tests taken more than two years ago. A receiving organisation may choose to accept an older Test Report Form if a candidate can provide evidence that they have actively maintained or tried to improve their English language proficiency since doing the test. However, this is the decision of the receiving organisation, not the IELTS test partners. The IELTS test partners cannot provide any letters or references endorsing a candidate's level of English.

>>> IELTS Band Scores

9 Expert user	Has fully operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate and fluent with complete understanding.
8 Very good user	Has fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.
7 Good user	Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.
6 Competent user	Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
5 Modest user	Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field.
4 Limited user	Basic competence is limited to familiar situations. Has frequent problems in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language.
3 Extremely limited user	Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns in communication occur.
2 Intermittent user	No real communication is possible except for the most basic information using isolated words or short formulae in familiar situations and to meet immediate needs. Has great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.
1 Non user	Essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words.
0 Did not attempt the test	No assessable information provided.

Tests

Each candidate takes four tests, one in each of the four skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking.

>>> Listening

The Listening test takes around 30 minutes. There are 40 questions and four sections. The Listening test is recorded on a CD and is played ONCE only.

During the test, time is given for candidates to read the questions and write down and then check their answers. Answers are written on the question paper as candidates listen. When the recording ends, 10 minutes are allowed for candidates to transfer their answers to an answer sheet.

The first two sections are concerned with social needs. There is a conversation between two speakers and then a monologue.

The final two sections are concerned with situations related more closely to educational or training contexts. There is a conversation between up to four people and then a further monologue.

A range of native-speaker English accents are used in the recordings which reflects the international usage of IELTS.

>>> Reading

The Reading test takes 60 minutes. There are 40 questions, based on three reading passages with a total of 2,000 to 2,750 words. Both the Academic Reading and General Training Reading tests have the same format.

All answers must be entered on an answer sheet during the 60-minute test. No extra time is allowed for transferring answers.

Academic Reading

Texts are taken from magazines, journals, books, and newspapers. Texts have been written for a non-specialist audience.

At least one text contains detailed logical argument. 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

The first section, 'social survival', contains texts relevant to basic linguistic survival in English with tasks mainly about retrieving and providing general factual information.

'Workplace survival', the second section, focuses on the workplace context, for example, applying for jobs, company policies, pay and conditions, workplace facilities, staff development and training.

The third section, 'general reading', involves reading more extended prose with a more complex structure but with the emphasis on descriptive and instructive rather than argumentative texts, in a general context relevant to the wide range of candidates involved.

SECTION 2 Questions 11–20

Questions 11–15

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.

- 11 The most important reason for a settlement at the Rocks was
- A fresh water.
 - B flat rock.
 - C a sea wall.
- 12 The plague was brought to Sydney by
- A rat-catchers.
 - B convicts.
 - C sailors.
- 13 The Harbour Bridge was built
- A in 10 years with 7 deaths.
 - B in 10 years with 17 deaths.
 - C in 17 years with 10 deaths.
- 14 The Chinese community arrived in the Rocks in
- A 1825.
 - B 1844.
 - C 1870.
- 15 The Chinese shops were mainly
- A restaurants and laundries.
 - B soap shops and general stores.
 - C general stores and laundries.

Questions 1–5

Complete the summary using the list of words, **A–O**, below.

Write the correct letter, **A–O**, in boxes 1–5 on your answer sheet.

Example

The **failure** during the late 1970s and early 1980s of an attempt to establish a widespread wind power industry in the United States resulted largely from the 1..... in oil prices during this period. The industry is now experiencing a steady 2..... due to improvements in technology and an increased awareness of the potential in the power of wind. The wind turbines that are now being made, based in part on the 3..... of wide-ranging research in Europe, are easier to manufacture and maintain than their predecessors. This has led wind-turbine makers to be able to standardise and thus minimise 4..... . There has been growing 5..... of the importance of wind power as an energy source.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| A criticism | H success |
| B design costs | I production costs |
| C failure | J stability |
| D operating costs | K fall |
| E growth | L recognition |
| F scepticism | M decisions |
| G effects | N decline |
| | O results |

>>> Writing

The Writing test takes 60 minutes. There are two tasks to complete. It is suggested that about 20 minutes is spent on Task 1 which requires candidates to write at least 150 words. Task 2 requires at least 250 words and should take about 40 minutes.

Answers must be given on the answer sheet and must be written in full. Notes or bullet points in whole or in part are not acceptable as answers. Candidates should note that scripts under the required minimum word limit will be penalised.

Academic Writing

In Task 1 candidates are asked to describe some information (graph/table/chart/diagram), and to present the description in their own words. They 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 candidates are presented with a point of view or argument or problem.

Candidates need to demonstrate their ability to respond appropriately in terms of content, vocabulary and the organisation of ideas. Appropriate responses are descriptions/summaries (Task 1) and short essays (Task 2) and these should be formal in style.

General Training Writing

In Task 1 candidates are asked to respond to a given problem with a letter requesting information or explaining a situation.

In Task 2 candidates are presented with a point of view or argument or problem.

Candidates need to demonstrate their ability to respond appropriately in terms of content, vocabulary and the organisation of ideas. Appropriate responses are personal, semi-formal or formal correspondence (Task 1) and short essays (Task 2). In General Training Writing Task 2 a slightly more personal response is more acceptable than in Academic Writing Task 2.

>>> Speaking

The Speaking test takes between 11 and 14 minutes and consists of an oral interview between the candidate and an examiner. All Speaking tests are recorded.

In Part 1 candidates answer general questions about themselves, their homes/families, their jobs/studies, their interests, and a range of familiar topic areas. This part lasts between 4 and 5 minutes.

In Part 2 the candidate is given a verbal prompt on a card and is asked to talk on a particular topic. The candidate has 1 minute to prepare before speaking at length for up to 2 minutes. The examiner then asks 1 or 2 rounding-off questions.

In Part 3 the examiner and candidate engage in a discussion of more abstract issues and concepts which are thematically linked to the topic prompt in Part 2. The discussion lasts between 4 and 5 minutes.

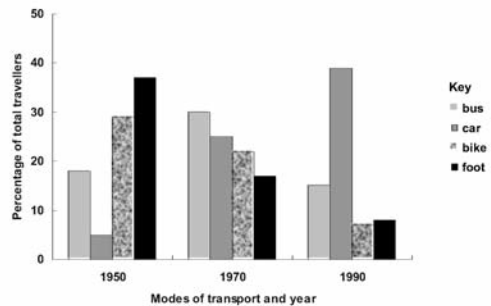
WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the different modes of transportation used to travel to and from work in one European city, in 1950, 1970 and 1990.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



Academic Writing Task 1 (example)

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You rent a house through an agency. The heating system has stopped working. You phoned the agency a week ago but it has still not been repaired.

Write a letter to the agency. In your letter

- *introduce yourself*
- *explain the situation*
- *say what action you would like the agency to take*

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear Sir or Madam,

General Training Writing Task 1 (example)

Frequently asked Questions

What help is available if you have special needs?

Test centres make every effort to cater for candidates with special needs, to enable them to best understand questions and tasks and to give their answers. It is our aim for the language level of all candidates to be assessed fairly and objectively. If you require a modified version of the test, e.g. Braille, 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 only to be made, e.g. extra time, you must give the test centre six weeks' notice. Full details of these arrangements are given on the IELTS website www.ielts.org

What happens if you want to postpone or cancel your test?

Candidates who request a postponement or cancellation of their test within 5 weeks of the test date will be charged the full fee unless they are able to provide appropriate medical evidence to support their request. Medical evidence must be provided no later than 5 days after the test date. An administrative fee may be deducted from any refund.

What happens if you are absent on the day of the test without giving prior notice?

Candidates will lose their full test fee unless they are able to provide appropriate medical evidence to the centre to explain their absence. Medical evidence must be provided no later than 5 days after the test date. Refunds will only be provided for serious illness and an administrative fee may be deducted from any refund.

What happens if you do not transfer your Listening or Reading answers to the Listening/Reading answer sheet before the end of the test?

Candidates are reminded during the test to transfer their answers to the answer sheet. In the Listening test 10 minutes is allocated specifically for this purpose. In the Reading test candidates may transfer their answers at any time during the

one hour test period. If candidates do not transfer their answers during the test they will not be given any extra time to do so. Responses provided on the question papers cannot be considered for marking purposes.

What can you do if you are unhappy with your results?

Candidates may apply for a re-mark (Enquiry on Results) at the centre where they took the test. This must be done within six weeks of the test date. The candidate can choose which tests are re-marked. There is a fee for this service which will be refunded if the result is changed. Your test centre will usually be notified of the result of the re-mark within six to eight weeks.

How strictly is IELTS marked?

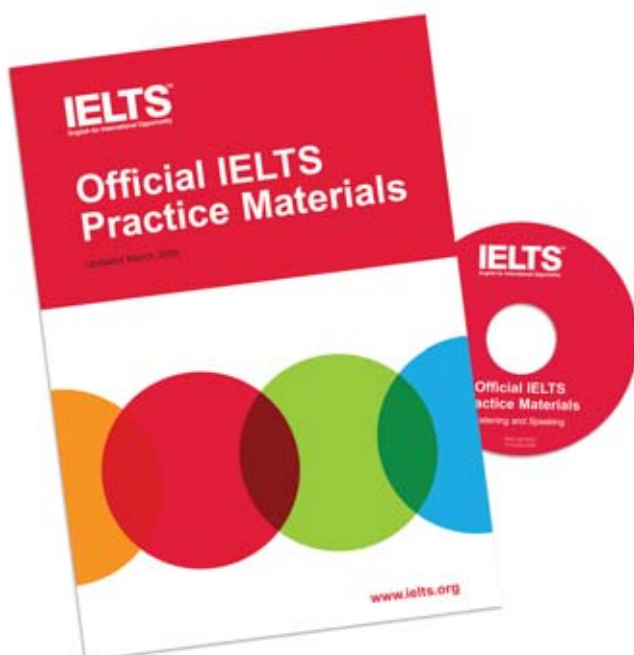
Candidates should take care when writing answers on the Listening and Reading answer sheets as incorrect spelling and grammar are penalised. Both UK and US varieties of spelling are acceptable.

If candidates are asked to write an answer using a certain number of words and/or (a) number(s), they will be penalised if they exceed this requirement. For example, if a question specifies an answer using NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS and the correct answer is 'black leather coat', the answer 'coat of black leather' is incorrect.

In questions where candidates are expected to complete a gap, candidates should only transfer the necessary missing word(s) onto the answer sheet. For example, if a candidate has to complete 'in the,..' and the correct answer is 'morning' the answer 'in the morning' would be incorrect.

Candidates should read and follow the instructions and questions very carefully. In the Listening test especially, care also should be taken when transferring answers onto the answer sheet.

More samples of IELTS test material and information about the test are available on the IELTS website www.ielts.org



Official IELTS Practice Materials are available

To purchase the Official IELTS Practice Materials, please go to <http://www.ielts.org/candidates.aspx> to download an order form.

Test Registration and Administration

ENQUIRY

Contact the nearest test centre to find out about available test dates and to obtain an application form. Contact details for all IELTS centres worldwide can be found at www.ielts.org. The test centre has Official IELTS Practice Materials for sale and these can also be bought directly from Cambridge ESOL or IDP: IELTS Australia using the order form in this booklet.

APPLICATION

Fill in the application form and send it or take it to the test centre with the test fee and two recent identical passport-sized photographs (not more than 6 months old). You need some evidence of identity. This must be a **passport or a National Identity Card with a number, photograph, date of birth and signature**. The document must be valid, not expired at registration nor on the test day.

Candidates taking the test outside their own country must present a passport. Candidates must enter the number of their passport or identity card on the application form. A copy of the identity document is to be attached to the application form. Only when all registration procedures are fully completed will the application be processed.

You must bring the ID document indicated on the application form to the test. This is the only form of identity that will be accepted on the test day.

CONFIRMATION

Test centre informs candidate of date and time of test in writing. If the Speaking test is to be on a different day, candidate is informed about this now.

DAY OF THE TEST

The identity of all candidates will be checked on test day. Photographs of candidates may be taken on the test day. **Each candidate must have the same evidence of identity as the number entered on the application form.** No other forms of identification are acceptable. Candidates also need pencils and pens, a pencil sharpener, and an eraser. Candidates must not take into the test room any bags, books, papers, cameras, mobile phones, recording devices, pagers or any other devices, electronic or not.

Candidates are met by an IELTS Administrator who checks identification and makes sure candidates know where and when to go for the test. Candidates are assigned a place which they must keep for the Listening, Reading and Writing tests.

Candidates are not allowed to leave the test room during any test.

All answers are entered on the answer sheets provided. Candidates can write on the question papers but cannot take them out of the room.

The Speaking test is recorded.

Candidates found cheating, copying the work of another candidate, disrupting the test, or removing or attempting to remove or copy any test materials from the examination room will not receive a result and may be liable to prosecution.

RESULTS

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

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UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
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IELTS is jointly managed by British Council, University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL) and IDP: IELTS Australia. The IELTS test is designed and set by some of the world's leading experts in language assessment to give a true picture of a candidate's language skills.

