



The IELTS Test Format Explained

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The 4 Disciplines



- **Listening**
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The 4 Disciplines



- **The Listening, reading, & writing tests will all be done on the same day**
- **Speaking will be done on a different day**
 - **within 1 week of the other parts of the test**

Listening



- **Understand the main ideas and specific factual information**
- **Recognise opinions, attitudes and purpose of a speaker**
- **Follow the development of an argument**

Listening



- **You will have 30 minutes to answer 40 questions**
- **You have an extra 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet**

Listening



- **You will listen to four different recordings**
- **You will answer questions about each recording.**
- **Each correct answer will score 1 point**

Listening



- **Recording 1: a conversation between two people set in an everyday social situation.**
- **Recording 2: a speech set in an everyday social context (e.g. a speech about local amenities)**

Listening



- **Recording 3: a conversation set in an educational or training context (e.g. a university tutor and a student discussing an assignment)**
- **Recording 4: a monologue on an academic subject (e.g. a university lecture)**

Listening



- **Questions Types**
 - **Multiple Choice**
 - **Matching**
 - **Labelling visuals**
 - **Completing information (forms / charts)**
 - **Sentence completion**
 - **Short-answers**

Reading



- **read for the general sense / feeling**
- **read for the main ideas**
- **read for detail**
- **understand inferences and implied meaning**
- **recognise a writer's opinions, attitudes or purpose**
- **follow the development of an argument**

Reading



- **You will have 60 minutes to answer 40 questions**
- **You don't get any extra time to transfer your answers**

Reading



Academic Reading

- **has 3 long texts.**
- **They are taken from books, journals, or newspapers**
- **Texts can be descriptive, factual, or analytical.**

Reading



General Training Reading

- **Everyday subjects**
- **Texts are taken from books, newspapers, notices, or company handbooks.**

Reading



General Training Reading

- **Part 1 – 2 or 3 short texts**
- **Part 2 – 2 texts**
- **Part 3 – 1 longer text**

Reading



- **Questions Types for both tests**
 - **Fill in the gaps**
 - **Match headings**
 - **Complete sentences**
 - **Give short answers to open questions**
 - **Answer multiple choice questions**

Writing



- **Assesses a wide range of writing skills**
 - **write an appropriate response**
 - **organise your ideas**
 - **use a variety vocabulary and grammar accurately**

Writing



- **Academic Writing has 2 parts**
 - **Task 1 – Describe information shown in a chart or table (150 – 250 words)**
 - **Task 2 – Write a formal essay in response to an opinion or problem (250 -350 words)**

Writing



- **General Training Writing also has 2 parts**
 - **Task 1 – Write a letter requesting information or explain a situation (150 – 250 words)**
 - **Task 2 – Write a personal essay in response to an opinion or problem (250 -350 words)**

Writing



- **You have 60 minutes to complete the writing test.**
- **You manage your own time.**
- **Suggested times**
 - **Part 1 – 20 minutes**
 - **Part 2 – 40 minutes**

Writing



- **The two parts of the writing test are scored differently.**
 - **Part 1 is weighted at 33.33%**
 - **Part 2 is weighted at 66.66%**

Speaking



- **The Academic and General Training tests are exactly the same.**
- **The IELTS Speaking test is designed to assess a wide range of skills.**
- **The test will be recorded.**
- **Test Time: 11 - 14 minutes**

Speaking



- **You will talk to face-to-face with a certified examiner**
- **The test is interactive and aims to recreate a real-life situation**
- **There are 3 parts to the speaking test**
- **A variety of accents may be used**

Speaking



You will be graded on your ability to:

- **communicate opinions and information on everyday topics and common experiences**
- **speak at length on a given topic using appropriate language**
- **organise your ideas clearly**
- **express and support your opinions**
- **analyse, discuss and speculate about issues**

Speaking



Part 1

- **Examiner introduces him or herself**
- **You introduce yourself**
- **You confirm your identity (passport, ID Card)**
- **You will answer a series of questions about everyday topics**

Speaking



Part 2

- **The examiner gives you a task card**
- **The topic will be less general and more specific than the topics in part 1**
- **You have 1 minute to read the card and prepare an answer**
- **You can make notes during this time**

Speaking



Part 2

- **You will speak for between 1 and 2 minutes**
- **The examiner will not interrupt you during this time**
- **The examiner will ask 1 or 2 follow up questions when you finish speaking.**

Speaking



Part 3

- **The examiner will ask further questions on the topic covered in part 2.**
- **This part goes into more detail about the subject.**
- **You will discuss more theoretical or abstract ideas**

The IELTS Test Explained

