



The International English Language Testing Service (IELTS)

Background and Milestones of The International English Language Testing Service (IELTS)

- It was launched in 1980 by Cambridge English Language Assessment (then known as UCLES) and the British Council.
- there were practical difficulties administering the test. As a result, the IELTS Revision Project was set up to oversee the redesign of the test.
- IDP: IELTS Australia, joined Cambridge English Language Assessment and the British Council to form the international IELTS partnership which delivers the test to this day.
- IELTS went live in 1989
- IELTS was revised again in 1995
- Further revisions went live in 2001 (revised Speaking Test) and 2005 (new assessment criteria for the Writing test)

IELTS FREQUENCY AND AVAILABILITY

AVAILABILITY:

- IELTS is available at more than 1,100 locations in over 130 countries worldwide, including more than 50 locations in the USA

FREQUENCY:

- IELTS Academic: 48 days per year
- IELTS General Training: 24 days per year
- 3-4 times per month depending on the country

PRICE:

- The IELTS test fee is €195

TARGET AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE

- **IELTS Academic:**

Students who want to enroll in Universities

Doctors and Nurses who want to study or practise in an English-speaking country.

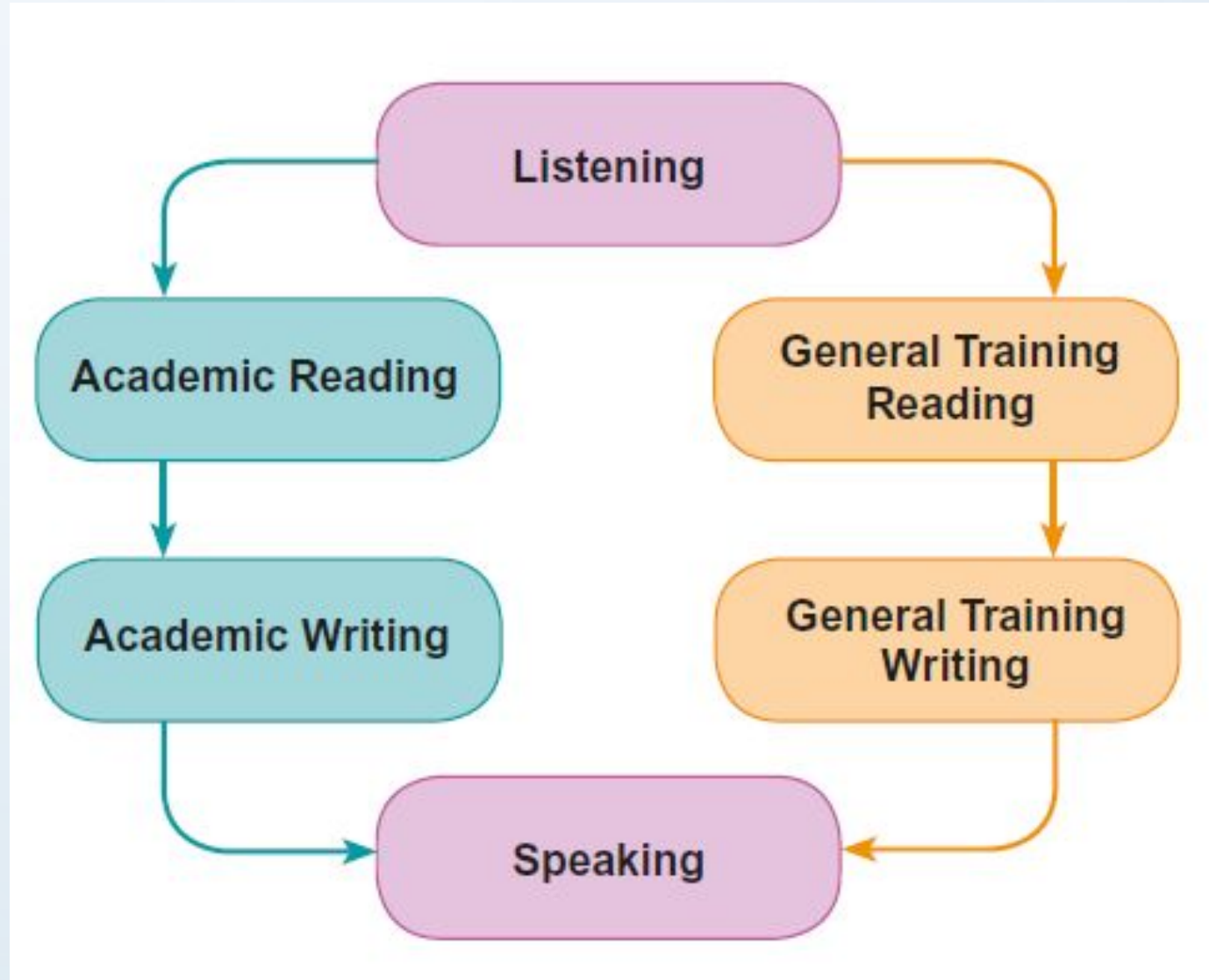
- **IELTS General Training**

- Is intended for those planning to undertake non-academic training or to gain work experience, or for immigration purposes.
- IELTS Life Skills is intended for those who need to prove their English speaking and listening skills at Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) levels A1 or B1 and can be used to apply for a 'family of a settled person' visa, indefinite leave to remain or citizenship in the UK.

RECOGNITION

- The IELTS test is recognized by over 9,000 institutions worldwide.
- 2,000 universities in the US,
- Many universities in the UK and Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as numerous professional organizations around the world.
- <https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/who-accepts-ielts-scores/RO/All/All/All/All>
- The IELTS Test Report Form (TRF) is valid for two years. At present, IELTS score is valid for a three year period for Australian General Skilled Migration (GSM) applications.

IELTS TEST FORMAT



LISTENING TEST FORMAT

- **30 minutes**
- You will listen to four recordings of native English speakers and then write your answers to a series of questions.
- Recording 1 – a conversation between two people set in an everyday social context.
- Recording 2 - a monologue set in an everyday social context, e.g. a speech about local facilities.
- Recording 3 – a conversation between up to four people 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.

READING TEST FORMAT

- **60 minutes**
- The Reading component consists of 40 questions, reading for gist, reading for main ideas, reading for detail, skimming, understanding logical argument recognizing writers' opinions, attitudes and purpose.
- **IELTS Academic test** -Text are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers. They have been selected for a non-specialist audience but are appropriate for people entering university courses or seeking professional registration.
- **IELTS General Training test** - this includes extracts from books, magazines, newspapers, notices, advertisements, company handbooks and guidelines. These are materials you are likely to encounter on a daily basis in an English-speaking environment.

WRITING TEST FORMAT

IELTS Academic 60 minutes

- Task 1: test takers describe a graph, table, chart or diagram in their own words.
- Task 2: test takers discuss a point of view, argument or problem. Depending on the task, test takers may be required to present a solution to a problem, present and justify an opinion, compare and contrast evidence, opinions and implications, and evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or an argument.

IELTS General Training

- Task 1: test takers write a letter in response to a given everyday situation. For example, writing to an accommodation officer about problems with your accommodation, writing to a new employer about problems managing your time, writing to a local newspaper about a plan to develop a local airport.
- Task 2: test takers write an essay about a topic of general interests. For example, whether smoking should be banned in public places, whether children's leisure activities should be educational, how environmental problems can be solved.

SPEAKING TEST FORMAT

- **Part 1** – Introduction and interview - lasts for 4–5 minutes

This part of the test focuses on the ability to communicate opinions and information on everyday topics and common experiences or situations by answering a range of questions.

- **Part 2** – Long turn- lasts 3–4 minutes, including the preparation time.

This part of the test focuses on the ability to speak at length on a given topic (without further prompts from the examiner), using appropriate language and organising ideas coherently. It is likely that the test takers will need to draw on their own experience to complete the long turn.

Part 3 – Discussion lasts 4–5 minutes.

In Part 3, the examiner and the test takers discuss issues related to the topic in Part 2 in a more general and abstract way and, where appropriate, in greater depth.

This part of the test focuses on the ability to express and justify opinions and to analyse, discuss and speculate about issues.

SPEAKING TEST SAMPLE

(PART 3, BAND 9)



IELTS Speaking- How it's marked

- **Fluency and coherence**

key indicators : fluency: speech rate and speech continuity.

Coherence: logical sequencing of sentences, clear marking of stages in a discussion, narration or argument, and the use of cohesive devices.

- **Lexical resource:** key indicators :variety of words used

The adequacy and appropriacy of the words used

The ability to circumlocute (get round a vocabulary gap by using other words) with or without noticeable hesitation.

- **Grammatical range and accuracy**

Grammatical range: key indicators: length and complexity of the spoken sentences,

the appropriate use of subordinate clauses

the range of sentence structures, especially to move elements around for information focus

Accuracy: key indicator: the number of grammatical errors in a given amount of speech and the communicative effect of error.

Pronunciation: key indicator the amount of strain caused to the listener, the amount of the speech which is unintelligible and the noticeability of L1 influence.

ASSESSMENT

- **Listening and Reading tests**

IELTS Listening and Reading tests both contain 40 items. Each correct item is awarded one mark.

Writing and Speaking tests

- Examiners use detailed performance descriptors when assessing the Writing and Speaking tests. These band descriptors describe performance in four categories:
 - task achievement
 - coherence and cohesion
 - lexical resource
 - grammatical range and accuracy

IELTS BAND SCORE

Bandscore	Skill level	Description
Band 9	Expert user	You have a full operational command of the language. Your use of English is appropriate, accurate and fluent, and you show complete understanding.
Band 8	Very good user	You have a fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriate usage. You may misunderstand some things in unfamiliar situations. You handle complex detailed argumentation well.
Band 7	Good user	You have an operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriate usage and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally you handle complex language well and understand detailed reasoning.
Band 6	Competent user	Generally you have an effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriate usage and misunderstandings. You can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
Band 5	Modest user	You have a partial command of the language, and cope with overall meaning in most situations, although you are likely to make many mistakes. You should be able to handle basic communication in your own field.
Band 4	Limited user	Your basic competence is limited to familiar situations. You frequently show problems in understanding and expression. You are not able to use complex language.
Band 3	Extremely limited user	You convey and understand only general meaning in very familiar situations. There are frequent breakdowns in communication.
Band 2	Intermittent user	You have great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.
Band 1	Non-user	You have no ability to use the language except a few isolated words.
Band 0	Did not attempt the test	You did not answer the questions.

IELTS Band Score	CEFR Level ^[24]
8.5 and higher	C2
8.0	Borderline C2/C1
7.5	C1
7.0	C1
6.5	Borderline C1/B2
6.0	B2
5.5	B2
5.0	Borderline B2/B1
4.5	B1
4.0	B1

THANK YOU!!!

