



# Preparing students for IELTS Academic Module



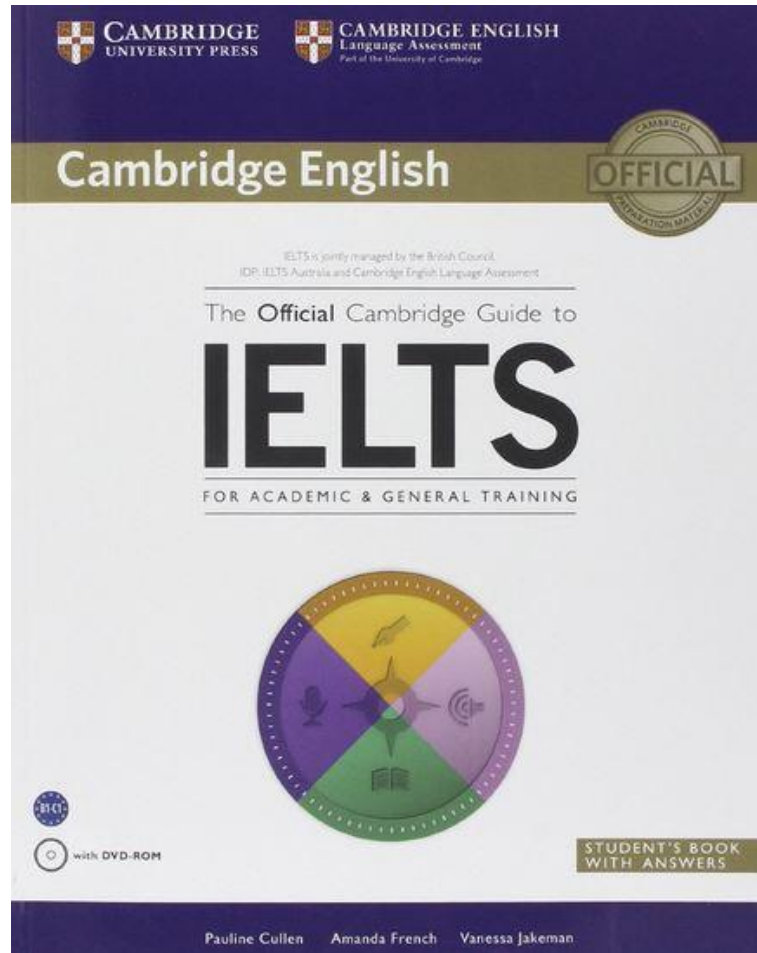
Choosing the right book depends:

- **On your aimed band score**
- **On your personal needs and ‘language baggage’**

# IELTS™

English for International Opportunity

The test  
that sets the  
standard



[www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

# *The Official Cambridge Guide*

- A very comprehensive book that covers writing, listening, speaking and reading.

## **Who is this book for?**

- This book is for someone who is confident about their English level already and wants to familiarise themselves with the test format. Recommended for anyone hoping to get a 6.0 or above in the test.

## **Who is this book not for?**

- You shouldn't buy this book if your English is pre-intermediate or below, because the language used requires a certain level of English.

The guide approaches a problem from the test-taker's perspective, explaining how specific types of tasks or questions should be tackled and pointing out strategies on how to improve one's performance.

The guide's second half consists of full-length official IELTS practice tests. Each test has a detailed answer key with explanations. The guide also comes with a DVD that includes the book's listening portions as MP3 audio tracks as well as speaking test videos.

## Positives

All aspects of the test are covered in a user-friendly way. There are tips and hints on every page and the practice tests really help students consolidate what they have learnt.

Most publishers print one book for writing, one for reading and so on. This book covers all four skills so you don't have to carry four books around with you.

It is published by Cambridge who also write the test, so you know that all the information is reliable.

## Negatives

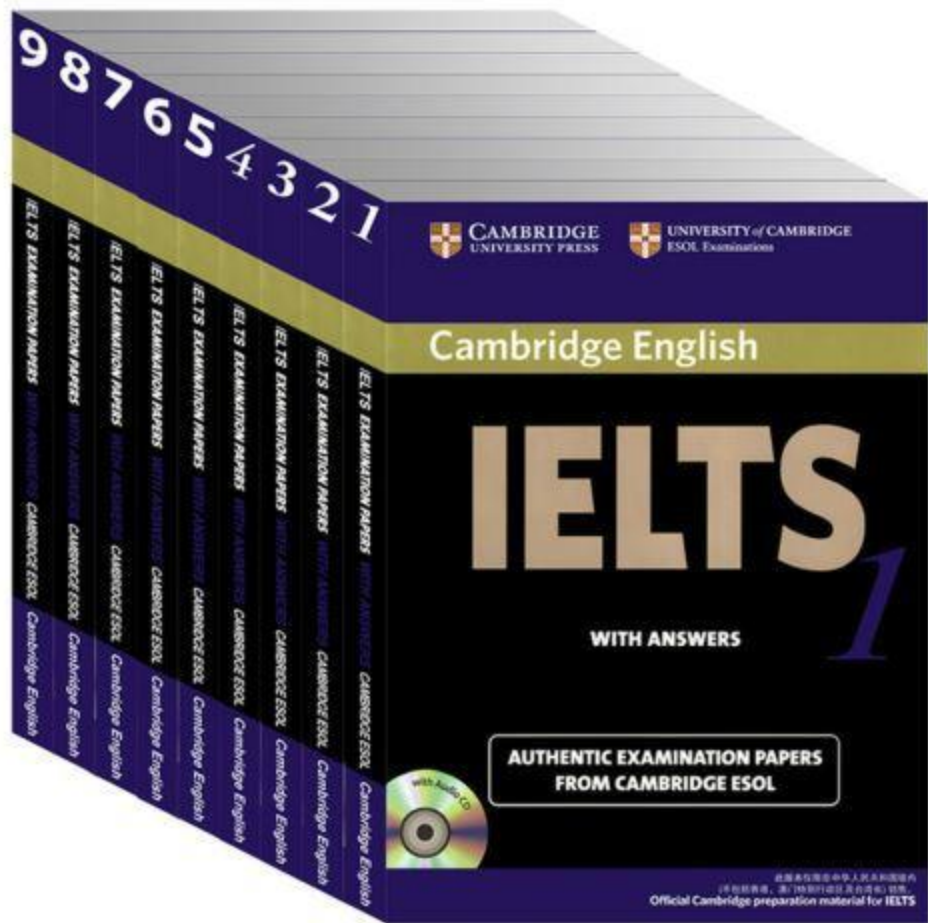
At over \$50 it is a little bit expensive for some students.

Cambridge writes it so they are not going to help you too much. They are not going to give you any insider knowledge about how the test is marked or how you can gain an advantage, just a good overview. Cambridge want to keep the test as reliable as possible and that means they can't give you as much advice as some of the more independent publishers

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# *Cambridge Examination Papers*

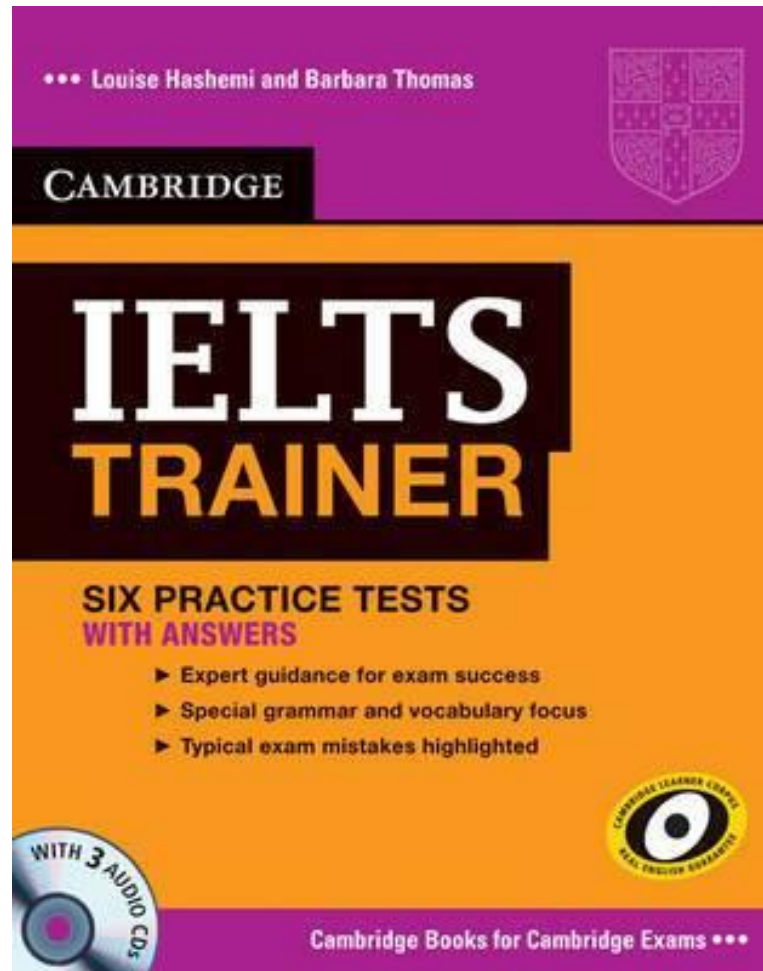
- The best books for practice. There are now 10 books in this series (2015) and they provide four authentic practice tests and a set of accompanying Audio CDs in each book.
- **Who is this book for?**
- Anyone doing the IELTS test.
- **Who is it not for?**
- The majority of the past papers are for the Academic paper, but there are also some General Training papers in each book.
- Student Book provides the answers to the exams as well as includes additional materials for the Reading and Writing modules.
- While the Pack does not provide assistance with strategies/techniques for writing the IELTS or in-depth explanations for the answers to the exam materials, its provision of a comprehensive set of exam materials makes it an excellent complement to other IELTS preparation manuals.



<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>
<p>They are a very good reflection of the actual test so you can see exactly what is expected. They give you a good idea what your score will be in the reading and listening tests and give you sample answers for the writing test.</p>	<p>Often Cambridge gives sample answers that are band 4.0 or 5.0. Looking at poor sample answers is a valuable thing to do but I think it would be better if they also gave a band 8 or 9 answer for the same essay.</p>
	<p>You are not going to improve your English skills with these books and if your English level needs to improve you would be better finding a general English book.</p>



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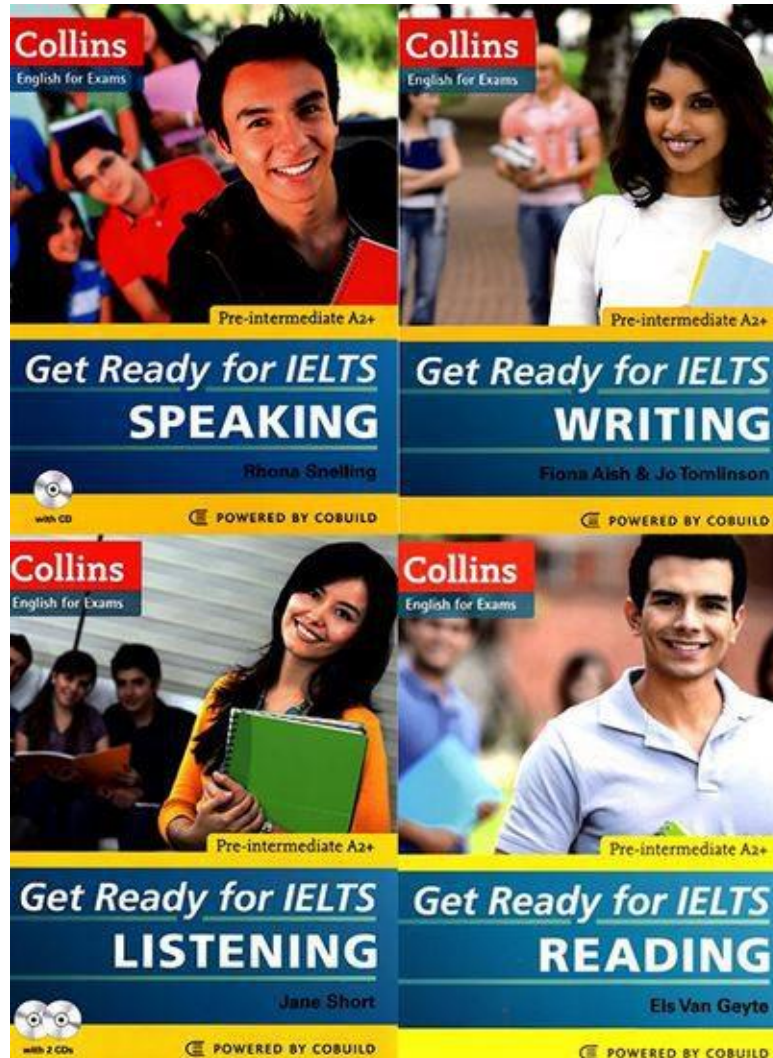
# ***IELTS Trainer Six Practice Tests***

- This book contains 6 practice tests as well as some useful advice for tackling the test. BUT these tests are not officially published by IELTS though are still realistic.
- **Who is this book for?**
- For academic paper only.
- **Who is it not for?**
- Not for complete newcomers at English, level at approx. 5.5 is expected.
  
- Student Book provides the answers to the exams as well as includes CDs for the Listening module.
- This prep book provides full guidance and step-by-step advice on how to handle each and every section of two complete practice tests. Moreover, it also provides four additional practice tests allowing test-takers to use and employ the skills they have learned from their personal tour.



<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>
Made specifically for IELTS Academic.	Requires more intensive personal work as only first 2 tests provide real well explained insights for the test-takers.
Much cheaper than other preparatory materials made by Cambridge publishers.	
Provision of actual candidates' exam papers, enabling prospective test-takers to focus on issues where students have typically struggled the most.	

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## ***Collin's Get Ready for IELTS***

- Some people only require 4.0-5.5 on their test and they should therefore choose a book that is a little simpler and made for their needs. This series has been developed with lower level students in mind and covers both English skills and IELTS skills.
- **Who is this book for?**
- Anyone hoping to get a band score of between 4.0-5.5. This book is suitable for someone who likes to study at home and does not need lots of supervision from a teacher.
- **Who is it not for?**
- Anyone aiming to get a score over 5.5. This book might not be suitable for someone who needs lots of help and in this case it might be better to hire an IELTS teacher to help you.



<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>
<p>Each chapter covers a common IELTS topic and this allows students to build their vocabulary as they learn IELTS skills at the same time.</p>	<p>This book lacks some practice tests, but these can be accessed online for free from other sites.</p>
<p>There are short tips on nearly every page that cover the core things students need to know. There are also practice activities throughout the book to help students consolidate their knowledge.</p>	
<p>It is obvious that the people writing the book have lots of experience teaching IELTS to lower levels and all of their advice is sound.</p>	



IMPROVE YOUR IELTS	IMPROVE YOUR IELTS	IMPROVE YOUR IELTS
Reading Skills	Writing Skills	Listening and Speaking Skills
		
Sam McCarter Norman Whitby 	Sam McCarter Norman Whitby	Barry Cusack Sam McCarter 

## ***Macmillan's 'Improve your IELTS Skills'***

- There are three books: writing, reading and listening and speaking combined.
- They are very comprehensive and allow students to prepare for the test without the aid of a teacher. All chapters have a focus on both exam technique, grammar and vocabulary. There are exercises for every chapter.
- **Who is this book for?**
- This is for someone hoping to get between 5.5 and 7.0 in their IELTS test and someone who wishes to prepare for IELTS without a teacher.
- **Who is it not for?**
- Lower levels might find this book a little difficult to understand.
- To get the most out of this book it requires motivation and self-discipline, so if you are the type of person who needs a teacher to motivate you, this book might not be for you.



## Positives

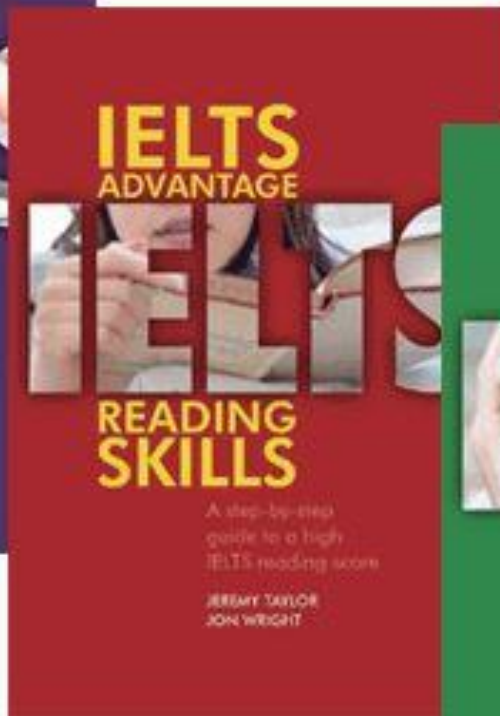
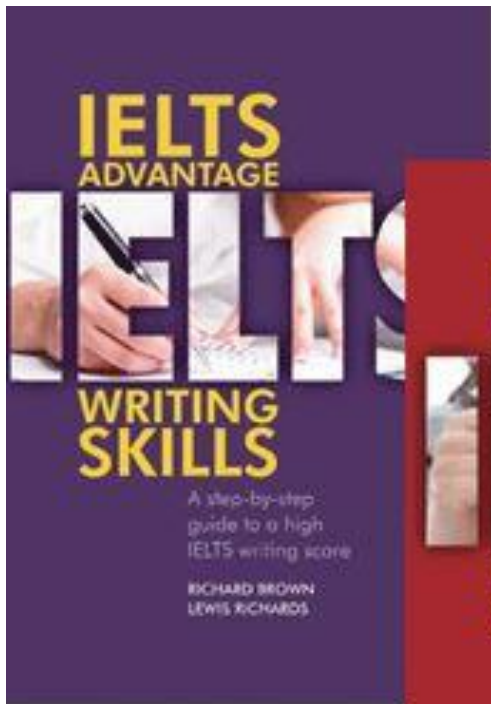
This book is also for someone who wishes to improve their grammar and vocabulary.

The author of this book, Sam McCarter, is recognised as an expert in his field. Sam not only knows the test inside out, he also gives very specific techniques and advice for each question type. For example, there are a number of different reading question types and Sam offers tailored advice for each of these different kinds of question. There are also a number of different types of writing question and each requires a different approach and this is also addressed in the book.

## Negatives

Lack of examples of very good answers. It would be very helpful if there were band 5 answers and then show how these could be improved and a corresponding band 8 answer.

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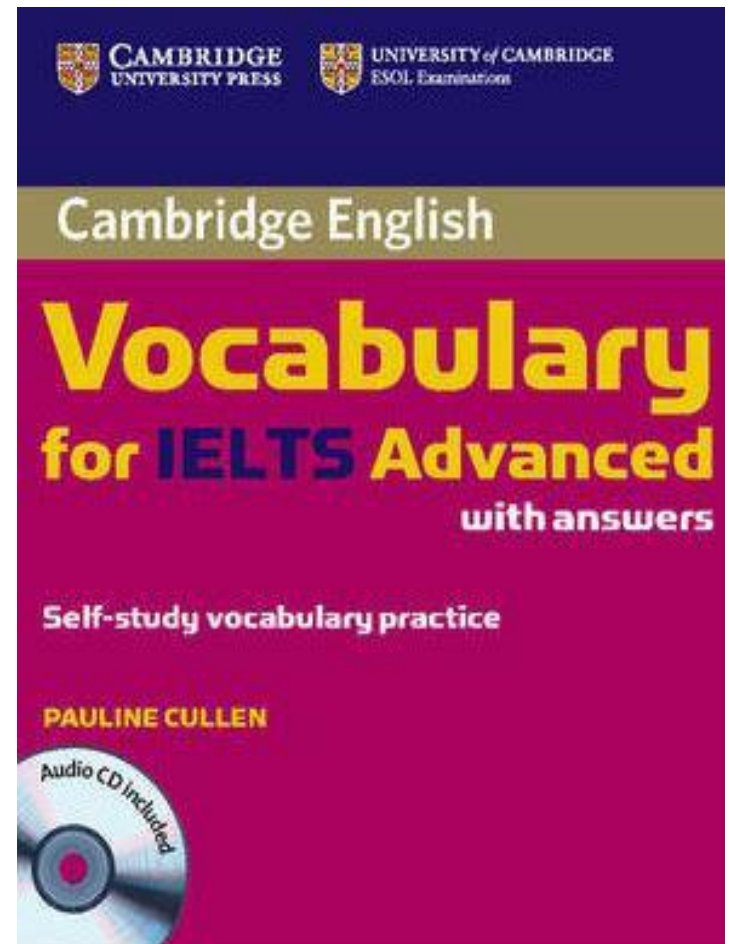
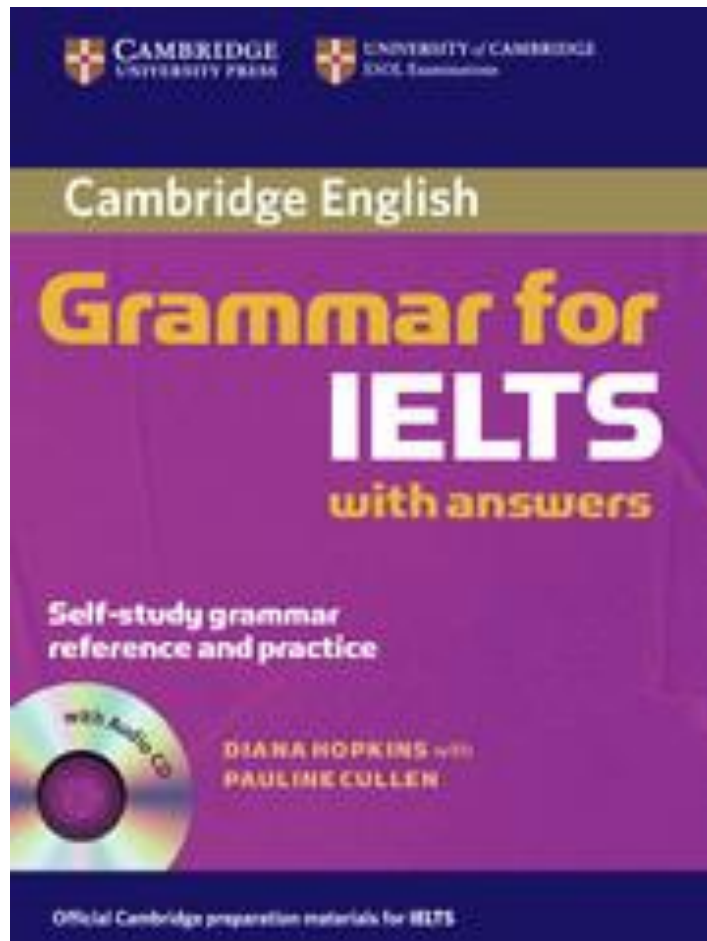
## ***Delta Publishing's IELTS Advantage***

- Series of books that is said to be the best resource for students hoping to get above a band 7.0.
- **Who is this book for?**
- This book is for someone who already has a good level of English and wants to improve their exam technique at home and score at least a band score of 7.0.
- **Who is it not for?**
- Anyone at pre-intermediate level or below.
  
- A key feature of a book on Writing is the provision of actual writing samples that have been generated by previous test-takers and are commented upon by examiners. This provides concrete examples and explanations as to what is necessary to reach a high band for the Writing module.



<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>
<p>Giving students suggested fixed phrases and collocations is a big strength of this book.</p>	<p>The book does not cover every aspect of the IELTS test. This book had the potential to be the definitive guide to IELTS but they missed a few things out which is unfortunate.</p>
<p>There are lots of example essays and speaking sample answers which really helps students because it allows them to compare their own work with good examples.</p>	
<p>There is a summary of the main points at the end of every chapter that helps students recall the most important information.</p>	
<p>The reasoning behind each activity is explained and linked to the exam.</p>	

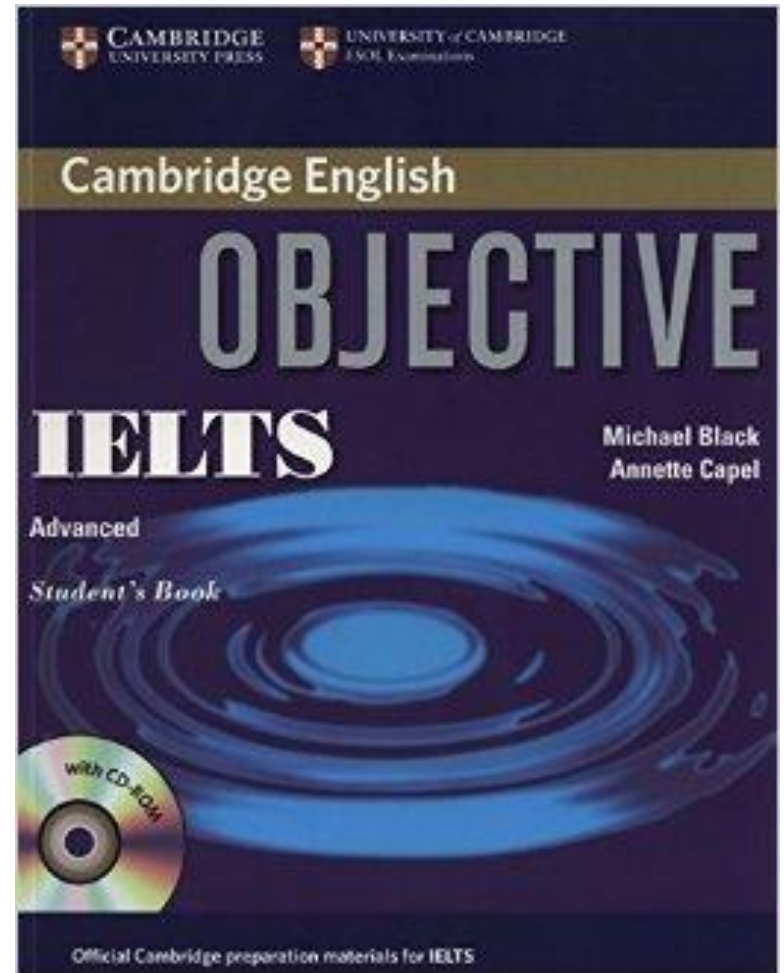
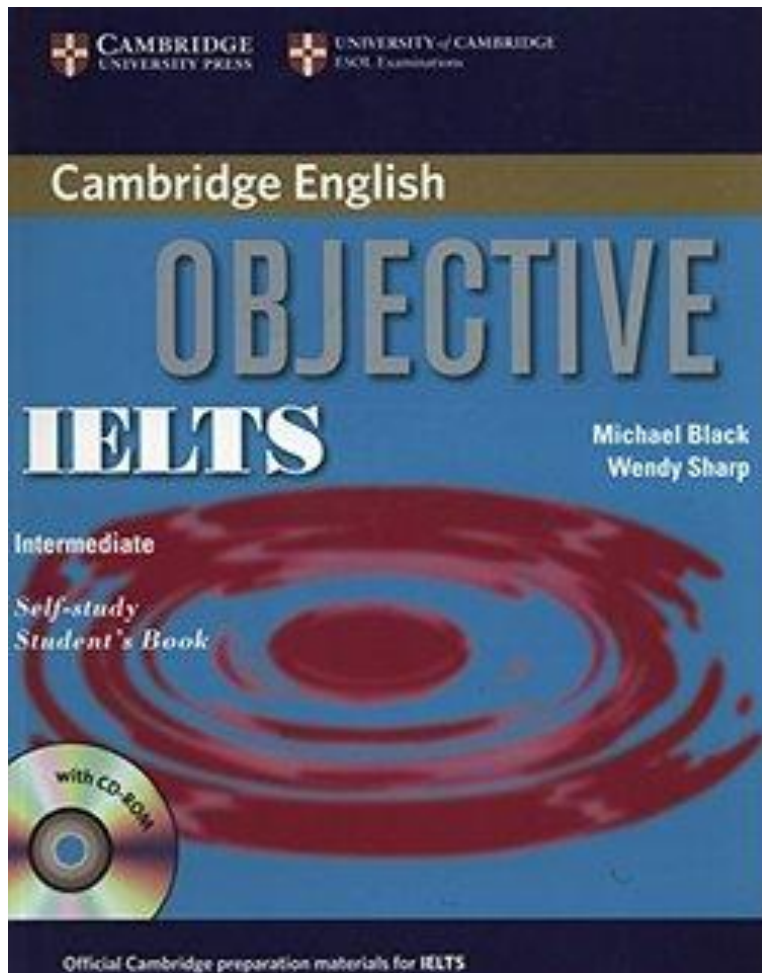
## Special Cambridge Books



**IELTS**<sup>TM</sup>  
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# Cambridge Objective IELTS





## *Key Features:*

- Vocabulary and grammar practice in every unit, and a separate 'Grammar folder' target areas most relevant to IELTS candidates.
- A free accompanying CD-ROM for each level provides extra IELTS practice in each of the four skills, as well as further work on pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar.
- Regular 'Test folders' and 'Writing folders' provide thorough guidance and practice of every aspect of the test.
- Regular revision sections motivate students by showing them how much they have achieved.
- The twenty units cover a wide variety of topics over the course of each level, maintaining students' interest and giving a sense of meaningful progress.
- The Workbook offers additional 'Writing workout' sections, along with a complete IELTS Reading module and extra reading, writing, vocabulary and grammar practice.

## Other Cambridge Books on IELTS







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## Barron's Books on IELTS (Superpack)

**BARRON'S**  
The Leader in Test Preparation

**IELTS**  
PRACTICE EXAMS


INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM

**MOST UP-TO-DATE REVIEW  
AND PRACTICE TESTS  
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

Dr. Lin Lougheed

- Four full-length practice exams reflect the actual IELTS in length, format, question types, and degree of difficulty
- All questions answered and explained
- Listening and reading modules for all practice exams on enclosed compact discs

**TWO  
COMPACT  
DISCS ENCLOSED**



**BARRON'S**  
The Leader in Test Preparation

**IELTS**  
PRACTICE EXAMS


**MOST UP-TO-DATE  
PRACTICE TESTS  
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

**2ND EDITION**  
Dr. Lin Lougheed

- Six full-length Academic Module practice exams with answers and explanations
- Six full-length General Training Module practice exams with answers and explanations
- Audio prompts for all Listening and Writing Modules
- Sample speaking and writing responses

**BOOK**

**AUDIO**



**BARRON'S**  
The Leader in Test Preparation

**ESSENTIAL  
WORDS  
FOR THE  
IELTS**

Dr. Lin Lougheed

- Extensive practice in vocabulary building and correct English usage, with emphasis on 600 words that appear frequently on the IELTS
- Exercises grouped into thematic categories that include nature and the environment, leisure activities and hobbies, the arts and culture, transportation, health, tourism, business, technology, and more

**ENCLOSED  
AUDIO CD CONTAINS  
ALL LISTENING  
COMPREHENSION  
EXERCISES**

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## Understanding IELTS Band Scores

- **Candidates' scores: 1 to 9**
- **L/R/W/S: score 1-9**
- **Overall Band Score /9**



**Listening and Reading scores are presented in whole or half bands**

**Writing and Speaking scores are reported in whole bands only**



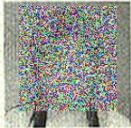
## The IELTS TRF (Test Report Form)

**INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM**  
**Test Report Form** ACADEMIC

NOTE: Admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses should be based on the ACADEMIC Reading and Writing Modules. GENERAL TRAINING Reading and Writing Modules are not designed to test the full range of language skills required for academic purposes. It is recommended that the candidate's language ability as evidenced in this Test Report Form be re-assessed after two years from the date of the test.

Centre Number  Date  Candidate Number

**Candidate Details**

Family Name  

First Name

Candidate ID

Date of Birth  Sex (M/F)  Scheme Code


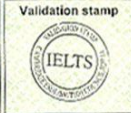
Country of Origin  First Language

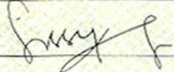
Repeating IELTS (Y/N)  Previous Test Date  Previous Test Centre

**Test Results**



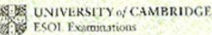
Listening  Reading  Writing  Speaking  Overall Band Score

**Administrator Comments**

Centre stamp  Validation stamp 

Writing Examiner Number  Administrator's Signature 

Speaking Examiner Number  Date  Test Report Form Number

 BRITISH COUNCIL  IELTS AUSTRALIA  UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE ESOL Examinations

The validity of this IELTS Test Report Form can be verified online by recognising organisations at <https://ielts.ucles.org.uk>



**YES! IELTS**