

IELTS Preparation Mini-Course

Lecture 1

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Understanding the IELTS Test

**Who am
I?**

14

37

1

2

Who am I?

14

Years of experience in teaching



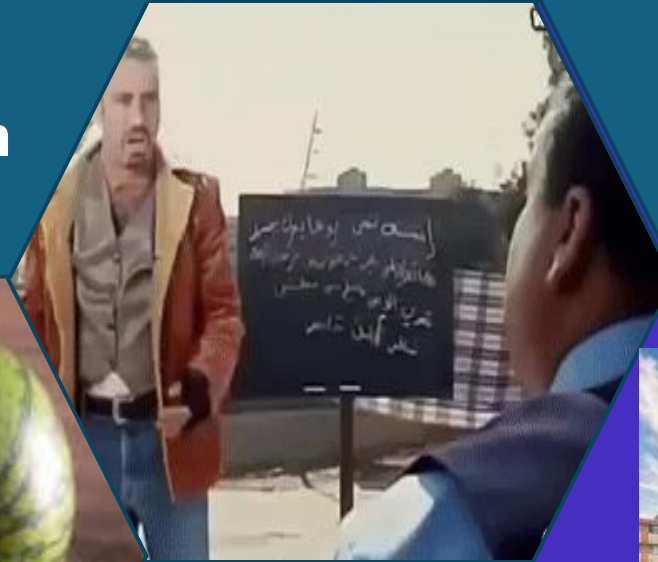
2

My 2 favourite foods



1

The years I taught at KU.



37

My age



Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify the four IELTS test sections and their timing.
2. Differentiate between **Academic** and **General Training** modules.
3. Recognize basic question types in each section.
4. Understand IELTS scoring and band descriptors.

What is IELTS? (International English Language Testing System)

IELTS (General Questions):

1. What are the four main sections of the IELTS test?
 2. How long does the IELTS test take to complete?
 3. Is the IELTS test paper-based or computer-based?
 4. What is the scoring system in IELTS?
 5. Can you take the Speaking test on a different day than the other sections?
1. Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking
 2. About 2 hours 45 minutes
 3. Both paper-based and computer-based options
 4. Scores from 0 to 9 for each section, averaged overall
 5. Yes, Speaking can be on a different day

Academic vs General IELTS – Structure Focused

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. How is the Reading section structured differently in General and Academic IELTS? | 1. Academic has 3 long academic texts; General has shorter, everyday texts |
| 2. What is the difference in Writing Task 1 between the two versions? | 2. Academic: describe a graph/chart; General: write a letter |
| 3. Is Writing Task 2 the same in both versions? | 3. Yes, same essay structure but different topics |
| 4. Do the Listening sections have different formats in the two versions? | 4. No, Listening is the same in both |
| 5. How does the level of vocabulary and text complexity differ between the two versions? | 5. Academic uses more advanced vocabulary and complex texts |

Test Structure

Section	Time	Number of Questions	Skills Tested
Listening	30 min + 10 min transfer	40	Comprehension, detail, gist
Reading	60 min	40	Skimming, scanning, inference
Writing	60 min	2 tasks	Description (T1), Essay (T2)
Speaking	11–14 min	3 parts	Fluency, pronunciation, coherence

Listening

1. How long does the listening module take?
2. How many questions are there?
3. How many sections are there?
4. What happens to the level of difficulty as you progress through the test sections?
5. How many times do you hear the CD?
6. What kinds of conversations/ topics do you listen to?
7. What sort of tasks do you have to do?
8. Do you use pencil or pen to write your answers on the computer sheet?
9. While the CD is playing, where do you write your answers?
10. Does correct spelling matter?

Listening (Answers)

1. About 30 mins, plus candidate gets 10 mins time after to transfer answers to computerised answer sheet.
2. 40
3. 4
4. The level of difficulty increases.
5. Once Only. No possibility of playing it again
6. Conversation between 2 people regarding an everyday social context, monologue/ talk in an everyday social context, conversation regarding study/ training conversation between 3 or 4 people & lecture / talk (academic)
7. Label/map diagram, multiple choice, matching, complete for chart, table, summary, notes and short answers.
8. Pencil only and pen now.
9. On the Question paper
10. Yes, as a general rule (and grammatical accuracy as well).

1. How long does the reading module take?
2. How long are the reading passages altogether?
3. How many reading passages are there?
4. How many questions do you have to answer?
5. There are different reading papers for Academic IELTS and General Training IELTS. What are the main differences?
6. Where are the reading tests taken from?
7. What sort of tasks are commonly set?
8. How carefully should you read the instructions?

Reading (Answers)

1. 60 minutes
2. 2,150- 2750 words. (around 2,500)
3. 3 in Academic. General uses 2 or 3 short texts in Section 1, 2 short texts in section 2 and one longer text in section 3
4. 40
5. Academic- topics of general academic interest- written for non-specialist audience- authentic books, journals, magazine newspaper material. General- authentic adverts, brochures newspapers, notices – simpler, more factual than Academic
6. authentic material see answer 5.
7. MCQ, sentence completion, matching paragraph headings to paragraphs- testing gist reading- classification, TFNG, short answer, completion: note-flowchart-table-summary etc
8. Very carefully. Do not exceed number of specified words in the answer.

1. How long is the writing test?
2. How many pieces of writing do you have to do?
3. What is the minimum number of words you must write for each task?
4. What does Writing Task One for Academic IELTS consist of?
5. What does Writing Task One for General Training IELTS consist of?
6. What kind of writing do you do for Task Two?
7. How long should you spend on each task?
8. Are you allowed to write on the question paper?
9. Which is better to write with- pen or pencil?
10. What are the marking criteria for Writing?

Writing (Answers)

1. 60 minutes
2. 2 a Task One and a Task 2.
3. 150 for Task One and 250 for Task 2(question words are discounted, so repeating words from the question [or RUBRIC} doesn't count towards the word count.
4. A report on a graph, chart, bar chart, or diagram of a change or a process.
5. A transactional letter- i.e. a letter that requires a response, or action, on the part of the recipient. Formal, informal or semi-formal.
6. An essay, look carefully at the TASK.
7. recommended is 20 mins on first task and 40 on 2nd, because mark on 2nd task carries more weight – mark is calculated by a computer programme.
8. Yes
9. pencil- you can rub it out, pen.
10. Public marking criteria on official Cambridge ESOL website, for Speaking and writing. Writing is: Task Achievement, lexis, grammar- range and accuracy- and Coherence and cohesion

Speaking

1. How long is the speaking test, approximately?
2. Is the speaking test recorded?
3. How many sections are there to the speaking test?
4. What does each section test?
5. Is good pronunciation important?
6. In Section two of the speaking test, you are required to speak on a topic for 1 to 2 minutes. Who chooses the topic, you or the examiner?
7. What are the marking criteria for Speaking?

Speaking (Answers)

1. 11- 14 mins. (usually nearer 14.)
2. yes- digital recorder.
3. 3
4. section 1- responses to everyday topics 2- ability to organize a solo contribution 3- ability to interact with a native speaker- turn-taking, recognizing summarizing, challenges etc. ability to explain, clarify, justify, paraphrase.
5. yes.
6. The examiner. You CANNOT ask for another topic.
7. Public marking criteria on official Cambridge ESOL website, for Speaking and writing. Speaking is: fluency and coherence, lexis, grammar (range and accuracy)- and pron.

Writing and Speaking Criteria

Both are **graded by certified IELTS examiners** using specific criteria:

Writing Criteria

- 1.Task Achievement (Task 1) / Task Response (Task 2)
- 2.Coherence and Cohesion
- 3.Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)
- 4.Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Speaking Criteria

- 1.Fluency and Coherence
- 2.Lexical Resource
- 3.Grammatical Range and Accuracy
- 4.Pronunciation

IELTS Listening & Reading Band Score

LISTENING		ACADEMIC READING		GENERAL READING	
Correct Answers	Score	Correct Answers	Score	Correct Answers	Score
39 - 40	9	39 - 40	9	40	9
37 - 38	8.5	37 - 38	8.5	39	8.5
35 - 36	8	35 - 36	8	37 - 38	8
32 - 34	7.5	33 - 34	7.5	36	7.5
30 - 31	7	30 - 32	7	34 - 35	7
25 - 29	6.5	27 - 29	6.5	32 - 33	6.5
23 - 25	6	23 - 26	6	30 - 31	6
18 - 22	5.5	19 - 22	5.5	27 - 29	5.5
16 - 17	5	15 - 18	5	23 - 26	5
13 - 15	4.5	13 - 14	4.5	19 - 22	4.5
10 - 12	4	10 - 12	4	15 - 18	4

Example of Overall Band Calculation

Skill	Score
Listening	7.5
Reading	7.0
Writing	6.5
Speaking	7.0

Average = $(7.5 + 7.0 + 6.5 + 7.0) \div 4 = 7.0$

 **Overall Band Score = 7.0**



Activity: Mini Quiz (4 Questions)

1. How many parts are there in the Speaking test?
2. How long does the Listening test take?
3. What is the total test duration (approx.)?
4. What does Task 1 in Academic Writing describe?

IELTS Websites

- <https://ieltonlinetests.com/>
- <http://mini-ielts.com/>
- <https://starkcamp.com/>
- Recent Topics in IELTS: <https://howtodoielts.com/recent-ielts-writing-topics-2022/>

Speaking Questions (Part 1)

Q1: What technologies do you often use, computers or cellphones?

Ideas: Family [Cellphone + portable device + for social purposes+ communicate with my family and friends] [laptop + take online courses + do my assignments + word processing + make an excel spreadsheet]
Work [when I go outside + air quality + reduce anxiety]
Mental health [vent out the stress + watch reels on Facebook and Instagram]

Q2: What electronic devices have you bought lately?

Ideas: Work [iPad + perfect alternative + much lighter and more portable.

Q3: Is there any technology that you want to buy?

Ideas: Family [digital camera + capture all these wonderful moments with my family + make up my life]

Q4: Do you think technology is important in your life?

Ideas: Physical health [robot vacuum cleaner + brings much convenience]
Time [saves time and effort]

Q5: Is there any technology you do not like?

Ideas: [social media platforms + collect and sell user data for profit + privacy concern]
Time [time-consuming and addictive]
Mental health [negative/ deleterious mental health effects]

Speaking Questions (Part 2)

(Part 2) (Cue card) Describe a website that you visit often.

- When you found it
- What it is about
- How often you visit it
- Why you like it

**Answer test 1 in Cambridge 19 book.
(Listening – Reading- Writing Task 1)**



Thank You

