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IELTS 12

GENERAL TRAINING

WITH ANSWERS

AUTHENTIC EXAMINATION PAPERS

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Introduction

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is widely recognised as a reliable means of assessing the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is the language of communication. These Practice Tests are designed to give future IELTS candidates an idea of whether their English is at the required level.

IELTS is owned by three partners, Cambridge English Language Assessment, part of the University of Cambridge, the British Council and IDP Education Pty Limited (through its subsidiary company, IELTS Australia Pty Limited). Further information on IELTS can be found on the IELTS website www.ielts.org. irLanguage.com

WHAT IS THE TEST FORMAT?

IELTS consists of four components. All candidates take the same Listening and Speaking tests. There is a choice of Reading and Writing tests according to whether a candidate is taking the Academic or General Training module.

Academic	General Training
For candidates wishing to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels, and for those seeking professional registration.	For candidates wishing to migrate to an English-speaking country (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK), and for those wishing to train or study at below degree level.

The test components are taken in the following order:

Listening 4 sections, 40 items, approximately 30 minutes		
Academic Reading 3 sections, 40 items 60 minutes	or	General Training Reading 3 sections, 40 items 60 minutes
Academic Writing 2 tasks 60 minutes	or	General Training Writing 2 tasks 60 minutes
Speaking 11 to 14 minutes		
Total Test Time 2 hours 44 minutes		

GENERAL TRAINING TEST FORMAT

Listening

This test consists of four sections, each with ten questions. The first two sections are concerned with social needs. The first section is a conversation between two speakers and the second section is a monologue. The final two sections are concerned with situations related to educational or training contexts. The third section is a conversation between up to four people and the fourth section is a monologue.

A variety of question types is used, including: multiple choice, matching, plan/map/diagram labelling, form completion, note completion, table completion, flow-chart completion, summary completion, sentence completion and short-answer questions.

Candidates hear the recording once only and answer the questions as they listen. Ten minutes are allowed at the end for candidates to transfer their answers to the answer sheet.

Reading

This test consists of three sections with 40 questions. The texts are taken from notices, advertisements, leaflets, newspapers, instruction manuals, books and magazines. The first section contains texts relevant to basic linguistic survival in English, with tasks mainly concerned with providing factual information. The second section focuses on the work context and involves texts of more complex language. The third section involves reading more extended texts, with a more complex structure, but with the emphasis on descriptive and instructive rather than argumentative texts.

A variety of question types is used, including: multiple choice, identifying information (True/False/Not Given), identifying the writer's views/claims (Yes/No/Not Given), matching information, matching headings, matching features, matching sentence endings, sentence completion, summary completion, note completion, table completion, flow-chart completion, diagram label completion and short-answer questions.

Writing

This test consists of two tasks. It is suggested that candidates spend about 20 minutes on Task 1, which requires them to write at least 150 words, and 40 minutes on Task 2, which requires them to write at least 250 words. Task 2 contributes twice as much as Task 1 to the Writing score.

In Task 1, candidates are asked to respond to a given situation with a letter requesting information or explaining the situation. They are assessed on their ability to engage in personal correspondence, elicit and provide general factual information, express needs, wants, likes and dislikes, express opinions, complaints, etc.

In Task 2, candidates are presented with a point of view, argument or problem. They are assessed on their ability to provide general factual information, outline a problem and present a solution, present and justify an opinion, and to evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or arguments.

Candidates are also assessed on their ability to write in an appropriate style.

More information on assessing the Writing test, including Writing assessment criteria (public version), is available on the IELTS website.

Introduction

Speaking

This test takes between 11 and 14 minutes and is conducted by a trained examiner. There are three parts:

Part 1

The candidate and the examiner introduce themselves. Candidates then answer general questions about themselves, their home/family, their job/studies, their interests and a wide range of similar familiar topic areas. This part lasts between four and five minutes.

Part 2

The candidate is given a task card with prompts and is asked to talk on a particular topic. The candidate has one minute to prepare and they can make some notes if they wish, before speaking for between one and two minutes. The examiner then asks one or two questions on the same topic.

Part 3

The examiner and the candidate engage in a discussion of more abstract issues which are thematically linked to the topic in Part 2. The discussion lasts between four and five minutes.

The Speaking test assesses whether candidates can communicate effectively in English. The assessment takes into account Fluency and Coherence, Lexical Resource, Grammatical Range and Accuracy, and Pronunciation. More information on assessing the Speaking test, including Speaking assessment criteria (public version), is available on the IELTS website.

HOW IS IELTS SCORED?

IELTS results are reported on a nine-band scale. In addition to the score for overall language ability, IELTS provides a score in the form of a profile for each of the four skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking). These scores are also reported on a nine-band scale. All scores are recorded on the Test Report Form along with details of the candidate's nationality, first language and date of birth. Each Overall Band Score corresponds to a descriptive statement which gives a summary of the English language ability of a candidate classified at that level. The nine bands and their descriptive statements are as follows:

- 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.

MARKING THE PRACTICE TESTS

Listening and Reading

The Answer Keys are on pages 123–130.

Each question in the Listening and Reading tests is worth one mark.

Questions which require letter / Roman numeral answers

- For questions where the answers are letters or Roman numerals, you should write *only* the number of answers required. For example, if the answer is a single letter or numeral you should write only one answer. If you have written more letters or numerals than are required, the answer must be marked wrong.

Questions which require answers in the form of words or numbers

- Answers may be written in upper or lower case.
- Words in brackets are *optional* – they are correct, but not necessary.
- Alternative answers are separated by a slash (/).
- If you are asked to write an answer using a certain number of words and/or (a) number(s), you will be penalised if you exceed this. 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 you are expected to complete a gap, you should only transfer the necessary missing word(s) onto the answer sheet. For example, to complete 'in the ...', where the correct answer is 'morning', the answer 'in the morning' would be *incorrect*.
- All answers require correct spelling (including words in brackets).
- Both US and UK spelling are acceptable and are included in the Answer Key.
- All standard alternatives for numbers, dates and currencies are acceptable.
- All standard abbreviations are acceptable.
- You will find additional notes about individual answers in the Answer Key.

Writing

The sample answers are on pages 131–138. It is not possible for you to give yourself a mark for the Writing tasks. We have provided sample answers (written by candidates), showing their score and the examiner's comments. These sample answers will give you an insight into what is required for the Writing test.

HOW SHOULD YOU INTERPRET YOUR SCORES?

At the end of each Listening and Reading Answer Key you will find a chart which will help you assess whether, on the basis of your Practice Test results, you are ready to take the IELTS test.

In interpreting your score, there are a number of points you should bear in mind. Your performance in the real IELTS test will be reported in two ways: there will be a Band Score from 1 to 9 for each of the components and an Overall Band Score from 1 to 9, which is the average of your scores in the four components. However, institutions considering your application are advised to look at both the Overall Band Score and the Bands for each component in order to determine whether you have the language skills needed for a particular course of study or work environment. For example, if you are applying for a course which involves a lot of reading and writing, but no lectures, listening skills might be less important and a score of 5 in Listening might be acceptable if the Overall Band Score was 7. However, for a course which has lots of lectures and spoken instructions, a score of 5 in Listening might be unacceptable even though the Overall Band Score was 7.

Once you have marked your tests, you should have some idea of whether your listening and reading skills are good enough for you to try the IELTS test. If you did well enough in one component, but not in others, you will have to decide for yourself whether you are ready to take the test.

The Practice Tests have been checked to ensure that they are of approximately the same level of difficulty as the real IELTS test. However, we cannot guarantee that your score in the Practice Tests will be reflected in the real IELTS test. The Practice Tests can only give you an idea of your possible future performance and it is ultimately up to you to make decisions based on your score.

Different institutions accept different IELTS scores for different types of courses. We have based our recommendations on the average scores which the majority of institutions accept. The institution to which you are applying may, of course, require a higher or lower score than most other institutions.

Further information

For more information about IELTS or any other Cambridge English Language Assessment examination, write to:

Cambridge English Language Assessment
1 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 2EU
United Kingdom

<https://support.cambridgeenglish.org>
<http://www.ielts.org>

Test 5

LISTENING

SECTION 1 Questions 1–10

Complete the notes below.

Write **ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Family Excursions

Cruise on a lake

Example

- Travel on an old *steamship*

- Can take photos of the **1** that surround the lake

Farm visit

- Children can help feed the sheep
- Visit can include a 40-minute ride on a **2**
- Visitors can walk in the farm's **3** by the lake
- **4** is available at extra cost

Cycling trips

- Cyclists explore the Back Road
- A **5** is provided
- Only suitable for cyclists who have some **6**

Bikes can be hired from **7** (near the Cruise Ship terminal)

- Cyclists need:
 - a repair kit
 - food and drink
 - a **8** (can be hired)
- There are no **9** or accommodation in the area

Cost

- Total cost for whole family of cruise and farm visit: **10** \$

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SECTION 2 Questions 11–20

Questions 11–14 irLanguage.com

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

Talk to new kitchen assistants

- 11 According to the manager, what do most people like about the job of kitchen assistant?
- A the variety of work
 - B the friendly atmosphere
 - C the opportunities for promotion
- 12 The manager is concerned about some of the new staff's
- A jewellery.
 - B hair styles.
 - C shoes.
- 13 The manager says that the day is likely to be busy for kitchen staff because
- A it is a public holiday.
 - B the head chef is absent.
 - C the restaurant is almost fully booked.
- 14 Only kitchen staff who are 18 or older are allowed to use
- A the waste disposal unit.
 - B the electric mixer.
 - C the meat slicer.

Questions 15 and 16

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

According to the manager, which **TWO** things can make the job of kitchen assistant stressful?

- A They have to follow orders immediately.
- B The kitchen gets very hot.
- C They may not be able to take a break.
- D They have to do overtime.
- E The work is physically demanding.

Questions 17–20

What is the responsibility of each of the following restaurant staff?

Choose **FOUR** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A–F**, next to Questions 17–20.

Responsibilities	
A	training courses
B	food stocks
C	first aid
D	breakages
E	staff discounts
F	timetables

Restaurant staff

- 17 Joy Parkins
- 18 David Field
- 19 Dexter Wills
- 20 Mike Smith

SECTION 3 Questions 21–30

Questions 21–23

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

Paper on Public Libraries

- 21** What will be the main topic of Trudie and Stewart's paper?
- A** how public library services are organised in different countries
 - B** how changes in society are reflected in public libraries
 - C** how the funding of public libraries has changed
- 22** They agree that one disadvantage of free digitalised books is that
- A** they may take a long time to read.
 - B** they can be difficult to read.
 - C** they are generally old.
- 23** Stewart expects that in the future libraries will
- A** maintain their traditional function.
 - B** become centres for local communities.
 - C** no longer contain any books.

Questions 24–30

Complete the notes below.

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.

Study of local library: possible questions

- whether it has a **24** of its own
- its policy regarding noise of various kinds
- how it's affected by laws regarding all aspects of **25**
- how the design needs to take the **26** of customers into account
- what **27** is required in case of accidents
- why a famous person's **28** is located in the library
- whether it has a **29** of local organisations
- how it's different from a library in a **30**

SECTION 4 Questions 31–40

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.

Four business values

Many business values can result in **31**

Senior managers need to understand and deal with the potential **32** that may result.

Collaboration

During a training course, the speaker was in a team that had to build a **33**

Other teams experienced **34** from trying to collaborate.

The speaker's team won because they **reduced** collaboration.

Sales of a **35** were poor because of collaboration.

Industriousness

Hard work may be a bad use of various company **36**

The word 'lazy' in this context refers to people who avoid doing tasks that are **37**

Creativity

An advertising campaign for a **38** was memorable but failed to boost sales.

Creativity should be used as a response to a particular **39**

Excellence

According to one study, on average, pioneers had a **40** that was far higher than that of followers.

Companies that always aim at excellence may miss opportunities.

SECTION 1 **Questions 1–14**

Read the text below and answer Questions 1–8.

A Bath International Music Festival

From electronic to folk, jazz and classical, this festival is renowned for bringing world-class musicians to this historical city. Starting with a great night of free music, 'Party in the City' this year is going to be no exception.

B The Great Escape

Often referred to as Europe's leading festival for new music, more than 300 bands will perform to around 10,000 people in 30-plus venues, meaning you're sure to see the next big thing in music.

C Springwatch Festival

The much loved television series *Springwatch* celebrates the countryside as it does every year, with sheep herding, wood carving demonstrations, insect hunts and more activities, accompanied by live music and a great farmers' market, offering all sorts of mouth-watering produce.

D Wychwood Music Festival

Rightly nominated for the best family festival award every year since it began in 2005, this festival offers a combination of different music genres – many featuring artists from around the Wychwood area – and comedy, alongside a selection of outdoor cafés serving amazing world foods.

E Love Food Festival

Bringing together a selection of the finest produce, this festival aims to educate visitors about how food should be produced and where it should come from, through sampling a range of tasty treats, cooked on site.

F The 3 Wishes Faery Festival

The UK's most magical event, this is a three-day festival of folk art, live music and fashion shows set in the beautiful wild surroundings of Bodmin Moor. If you don't fancy taking a tent, some local residents usually offer to put visitors up.

G Bath International Dance Festival

Featuring demonstrations from world champion dancers and stars from the TV series *Strictly Come Dancing*, the festival promises toe-tapping action, including a world-record attempt, where everyone is invited to join in.