

The image features a stylized logo for 'IELTS TEST'. The text 'IELTS TEST' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, rotated 45 degrees counter-clockwise. The text is positioned over a white background that is partially obscured by two geometric shapes: a large blue triangle on the right and a smaller orange triangle on the left. The blue triangle's hypotenuse is parallel to the text, creating a sense of depth and movement. The orange triangle is a smaller right-angled triangle on the left side, also with its hypotenuse parallel to the text. The overall composition is clean and modern, using a limited color palette of orange, blue, and black on a white background.

IELTS TEST

Understanding IELTS

- What is IELTS?
- Are there other English Language testing systems?
- Why IELTS?
- What else?
- I want to become a doctor, what should I take?
- I want to live and work in an English speaking country, which line of study is best?
- IELTS is an International English Language Testing System.
- Yes, there are and depending on your interests, tests like TOEFL, TOEIC, BEC, FCE and many others exist for choice.
- IELTS is recognized by every English speaking country as a test of English proficiency and although other tests are similar, they may have a particular focus, for example, TOEFL is focused on North America.
- IELTS has the option of taking the learner in a specific direction; It has an academic focus and it has a general focus.
- Academic. (Professional)
- General. (For University entry, general work and living)

IELTS Scores and Tests

- Where can I take the IELTS Test?
- Is the IELTS test easy and what is the pass score?
- What are the score bands and can you give some examples?
- There is an IELTS test centre in over 125 countries with test dates averaging 50 per year in over 500 locations.
- There is no pass score with IELTS, remember IELTS is a test of English proficiency so depending of the pass score required by the immigration or the employer or University, you must work to that score.
- The score bands are in the chart on the next slide. Take time to review them.
- For major English speaking countries 6.5 is the score required for immigration purposes, however, entry to a university may require a higher score, for example Oxford University requires a score of 7.0.

IELTS Band Scores

	9.0	8.5	8.0	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5
9	Expert User Has full operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate and fluent with complete understanding.													
8	Very Good User Has full 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, inappropriateness 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 using complex language.													
3	Extremely Limited User Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations.													
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.													

IELTS AND THE COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

IELTS is recognized by the Council of Europe. The **Common European Framework of Reference** (CEFR) provides a basis for the mutual recognition of language qualifications, thus facilitating educational and occupational mobility.

CEFR Level	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
IELTS score range	3.5 - 4.0	4.5 - 5.0	5.5 - 6.5	7.0 - 7.5	8.0 - 9.0



A test of four skills

Listening 30 minutes

Test takers listen to 4 recorded texts, monologues and conversations by a range of native speakers, and write their answers to a series of questions.

Reading 60 minutes

The Academic version includes 3 long texts which range from the descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical.

→→ The texts are authentic and are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers, all of which have been selected for a non-specialist audience.

The General Training version requires test takers to read extracts from newspapers, advertisements, instruction manuals and books. These are materials test takers could encounter on a daily basis in an English speaking country.



Writing 60 minutes

The Academic version includes two tasks. Topics are of general interest to, suitable for and easily understood by test takers entering undergraduate or postgraduate studies or seeking professional registration.

Task 1

Test takers are presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and are asked to describe, summarize or explain the information in their own words. They may be asked to describe and explain data, describe the stages of a process, how something works or describe an object or event.

Task 2

Test takers are asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. Responses to both tasks must be written in a formal style.



Writing 60 minutes

The General Training version also includes two tasks, and is based on topics of general interest.

Task 1

Test takers are presented with a situation and are asked to write a letter requesting information or explaining the situation. The letter may be personal, semi-formal or formal in style.

Task 2

Test takers are asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. The essay can be slightly more personal in style than the Academic Writing Task 2 essay.



Speaking 11–14 minutes

The Speaking component assesses the test taker's use of spoken English, and takes between 11 and 14 minutes to complete. Every test is digitally recorded and consists of three parts:

Part 1

Test takers answer general questions about themselves and a range of familiar topics, such as their home, family, work, studies and interests. This part lasts between four and five minutes.

Part 2

Test takers are given a booklet which asks them to talk about a particular topic. They have one minute to prepare before speaking for up to two minutes. The examiner may ask one or two questions on the same topic to finish this part of the test.

Part 3

Test takers are asked further questions which are connected to the topic in Part 2. These questions give the candidate an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas. This part lasts between four and five minutes.



The format of the Speaking test is common across both the Academic and General Training modules. It is structured in such a way that does not allow test takers to rehearse set responses beforehand.



IELTS Academic

IELTS Academic module measures English language proficiency needed for an academic, higher education environment. The tasks and texts are accessible to all test-takers, irrespective of their subject focus.

Listening* (30 minutes)
• Four recorded monologues and conversations

Reading (60 minutes)
• Three long reading passages with tasks
• Texts range from the descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical
• Includes non-verbal materials such as diagrams, graphs or illustrations
• Texts are authentic (e.g. taken from books, journals and newspapers)

Writing (60 minutes)
• Writing task of at least 150 words where the candidate must summarise, describe or explain a table, graph, chart or diagram
• Short essay task of at least 250 words

Speaking (11 to 14 minutes)
• Face-to-face interview
• Includes short questions, speaking at length about a familiar topic and a structured discussion

IELTS General Training

IELTS General Training module measures English language proficiency in a practical, everyday context. The tasks and texts reflect both workplace and social situations.

Listening* (30 minutes)
• Four recorded monologues and conversations

Reading (60 minutes)
• Three reading passages with tasks
• Section 1 contains two or three short factual texts
• Section 2 contains two short, work-related, factual texts
• Section 3 contains one longer text on a topic of general interest
• Texts are authentic (e.g. taken from company handbooks, official documents, books and newspapers)

Writing (60 minutes)
• Letter writing task of at least 150 words
• Short essay task of at least 250 words

Speaking (11 to 14 minutes)
• Face-to-face interview
• Includes short questions, speaking at length about a familiar topic and a structured discussion

Key similarities

- The **Listening** and **Speaking** components are the same for both versions. The distinction between 'academic' and 'general' literacy has traditionally been seen as most marked in relation to reading and writing skills. The more socially-oriented language skills of listening and speaking are equally important in an academic study or professional context
- The same amount of time is allocated to complete the Listening and Speaking components in both the General Training and Academic Versions
- The **Reading** and **Writing** components are the same length in both versions
- Both modules have the same minimum word requirement
- The same assessment criteria and 9-band scale is used to grade both modules.

Differences

The **Reading** component of the Academic and General Training versions is differentiated in terms of:

- the choice of texts (topic, genre, length, number, etc)
- the level of difficulty of the 40 test items. The Academic Reading module has more items pitched at bands 5-8, whereas the General Training has more items pitched at bands 3-6. This is a reflection of the different demands of Academic and General Training.

For **Writing**, the Academic and General Training modules are differentiated in terms of:

- the content and nature of the two writing tasks
- the contextual parameters of the tasks.

However, given the level of differentiation described above, this does not mean that the scores across Academic and General Training Reading or Writing modules are interchangeable.



There is no pass or fail in IELTS. Rather, all test results are reported on a clear 9-band scale (from 1, the lowest, to 9, the highest), as shown in the table opposite.

Test takers receive an overall band score as well as individual scores for each test component (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking).

Each of the component scores is equally weighted. The overall band score is calculated by taking the mean of the total of the four individual component scores.

Overall band scores are reported to the nearest whole or half band.



Listening

Band score	Raw score out of 40
5	16
6	23
7	30
8	35

Academic Reading

Band score	Raw score out of 40
5	15
6	23
7	30
8	35

General Training Reading

Band score	Raw score out of 40
4	15
5	23
6	30
7	34



Writing

Examiners award a band score for each of four criterion areas:

Criterion	Weighting
Task achievement (Task 1)/ Task response (Task 2)	25%
Coherence and cohesion	25%
Lexical resource	25%
Grammatical range and accuracy	25%

Speaking

Examiners award a band score for each of four criterion areas:

Criterion	Weighting
Fluency and coherence	25%
Lexical resource	25%
Grammatical range and accuracy	25%
Pronunciation	25%

The four criteria are equally weighted.

The IELTS test provides an accurate picture of a candidate's language skills and abilities at a certain point in time. Skills and abilities inevitably diminish over time if not used. It is recommended that a Test Report Form more than two years old should only be accepted if it is accompanied by evidence that a candidate has actively maintained or improved their English.



IELTS recognises both British and American English in terms of spelling, grammar and choice of words.

It also incorporates a mix of native speaker accents from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and US in the Listening component.



