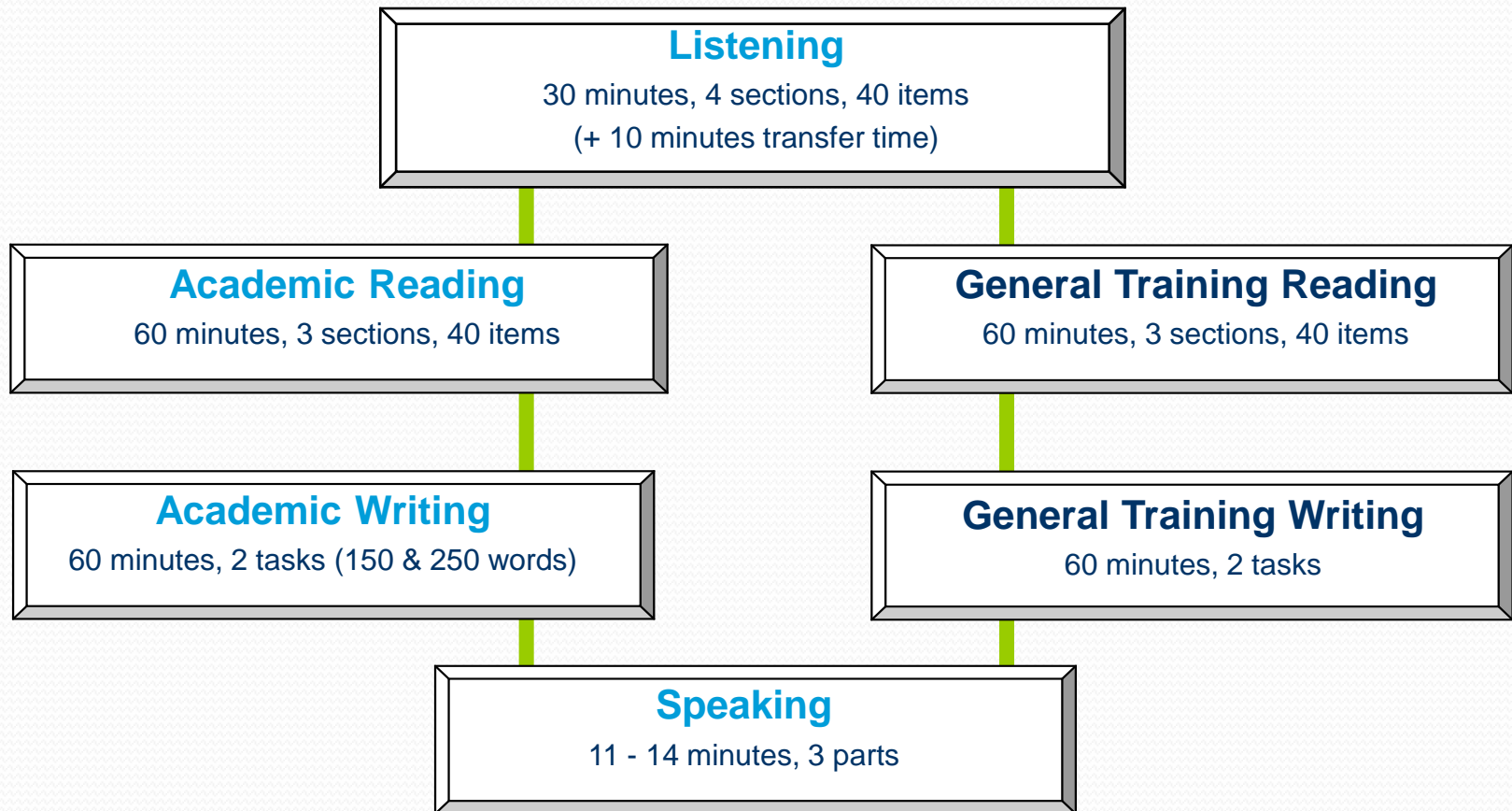


IELTS Reading

Format and Strategies



IELTS Exam



Total Test Time=
About 2 hours, 54 minutes
(including the 10 minute listening transfer time)

IELTS Reading Module

- 60 minutes
- 40 questions
- 3 reading passages
 - 2150 – 2750 words total
 - Progressively becomes more difficult
 - Authentic readings from books (A, G), newspapers (A, G), magazines (A, G), journals (A), advertisements (G), notices (G), company handbooks (G) and official documents (G)

General vs. Academic

- One longer text, which is descriptive rather than argumentative
 - Type of material needed on a daily basis in an English speaking country
 - Topics are relevant to everyday life in an English-speaking country
 - Short factual texts related to a topic, such as hotel advertisements and work-related issues
- At least 1 passage will contain a detailed, logical argument
 - Texts are appropriate to candidates entering undergraduate or postgraduate courses
 - Topics are on academic topics of general interest (Ex: The coral reefs, drug addiction)

Skills Assessed

A wide range of reading skills is assessed, including: reading for gist, reading for main ideas, reading for detail; understanding inferences and implied meaning; recognising a writer's opinions, attitudes and purpose; and following the development of an argument.*

* From ielts.org

Question Types

- Short answer questions
- Multiple-choice questions
- Completion of sentences, notes, summaries, tables, diagrams or flow charts
- Matching headings to paragraphs or sections of the passage
- Locating information in a paragraph or section
- Matching lists/phrases
- True/False/Not Given: identifying information in the passage
- Yes/No/Not Given: identifying the writer's view or opinion

Short Answer Questions

Questions 8 – 10

*Answer the questions below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

8. Which American company is doing research on the genetic basis of hair and eye colour?
9. How many groups of eye colour can now be identified through SNP mapping?
10. Which British institution unsuccessfully researched data from humans on the genetic basis of facial features?

Multiple-Choice Questions

Questions 10 – 12

Choose the appropriate letters A, B, C or D.

Write your answers in boxes 10-12 on your answer sheet.

- 10 Research completed in 1982 found that in the United States soil erosion
- A reduced the productivity of farmland by 20 per cent.
 - B was almost as severe as in India and China.
 - C was causing significant damage to 20 per cent of farmland.
 - D could be reduced by converting cultivated land to meadow or forest.
- 11 By the mid-1980s, farmers in Denmark
- A used 50 per cent less fertiliser than Dutch farmers.
 - B used twice as much fertiliser as they had in 1960.
 - C applied fertiliser much more frequently than in 1960.
 - D more than doubled the amount of pesticide they used in just 3 years.
- 12 Which one of the following increased in New Zealand after 1984?
- A farm incomes
 - B use of fertiliser
 - C over-stocking
 - D farm diversification

Completion Questions

Completion of sentences, notes, summaries, tables, diagrams or flow charts

- The words you use to answer the question must be taken directly from the text; DO NOT paraphrase the answer or put it in your own words or you will not get the answer correct

Table Completion Example

Question 9 – 13

Complete the table below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 9-13 on your answer sheet.

Species	Size	Preferred climate	Complementary species	Start of active period	Number of generations per year
French	2.5 cm	cool	Spanish	late spring	1 - 2
Spanish	1.25 cm	9		10	11
South African ball roller		12	13		

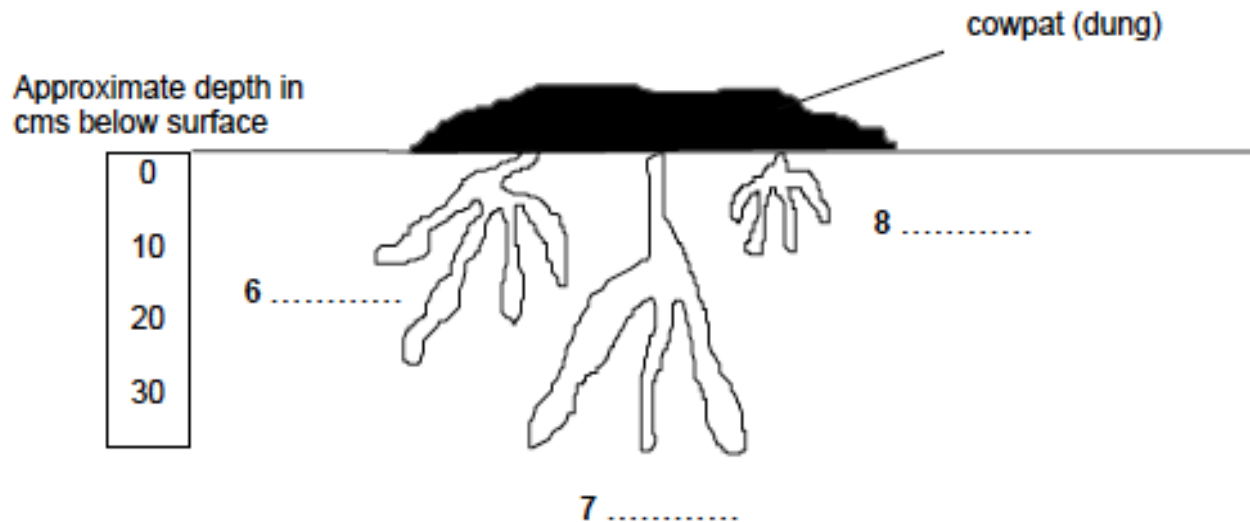
Completion Questions

Diagram Label Completion Example

Questions 6 – 8

Label the tunnels on the diagram below using words from the box.

Write your answers in boxes 6-8 on your answer sheet.



Dung Beetle Types

French
Mediterranean
Australian native

Spanish
South African
South African ball roller

Matching Headings Questions

Matching headings to paragraphs or sections of the passage

Questions 1 – 5

Sample Passage 6 has six sections, A-F.

Choose the correct heading for sections A-D and F from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number i-ix in boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

- i The probable effects of the new international trade agreement
- ii The environmental impact of modern farming
- iii Farming and soil erosion
- iv The effects of government policy in rich countries
- v Governments and management of the environment
- vi The effects of government policy in poor countries
- vii Farming and food output
- viii The effects of government policy on food output
- ix The new prospects for world trade

1 Section A

2 Section B

3 Section C

4 Section D

Example Section E vi

5 Section F

Locating Info Questions

Questions 14 – 19

Sample Passage 7 has eight paragraphs labelled A-H.

Which paragraphs contains the following information?

Write the correct letter A-H in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.

NB *You may use any letter more than once.*

- 14** a comparison of past and present transportation methods
- 15** how driving habits contribute to road problems
- 16** the relative merits of cars and public transport
- 17** the writer's prediction on future solutions
- 18** the increasing use of motor vehicles
- 19** the impact of the car on city development

Matching Lists/Phrases

Questions 7 – 10

Look at the following items (Questions 7-10) and the list of groups below.

Match each item with the group which first invented or used them.

Write the correct letter A-E in boxes 7-10 on your answer sheet.

NB *You may use any letter more than once.*

- 7 black powder
- 8 rocket-propelled arrows for fighting
- 9 rockets as war weapons
- 10 the rocket launcher

First invented or used by

- A** the Chinese
- B** the Indians
- C** the British
- D** the Arabs
- E** the Americans

True/False/NG Questions

Questions 1 – 4

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Text 1?

Write

TRUE *if the statement agrees with the information*

FALSE *if the statement contradicts the information*

NOT GIVEN *if there is no information on this*

1. Just over one third of the total population of the US is overweight.
2. Asia and Europe have an equal proportion of obese children.
3. It is forecast that the proportion of overweight or obese children in China will reach 20% in ten years' time.
4. There is a downward trend in childhood obesity in some African towns and cities.

Yes/No/Not Given Questions

Questions 4 – 7

Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer in the reading passage?

In boxes 4-7 on your answer sheet write

YES

if the statement reflects the claims of the writer

NO

if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

NOT GIVEN

if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

- 4 Thirty per cent of deaths in the United States are caused by smoking-related diseases.
- 5 If one partner in a marriage smokes, the other is likely to take up smoking.
- 6 Teenagers whose parents smoke are at risk of getting lung cancer at some time during their lives.
- 7 Opponents of smoking financed the UCSF study.

Scoring

Each correct
answer receives
1 mark

(You can't get partial
credit so watch your
spelling and
grammar)

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

From 2006

Tips – Before Taking the Test

- Build your vocabulary and synonym word bank
 - Keep a notebook of unknown words and make vocabulary cards
- Practice skimming and scanning
- Improve your spelling and grammar
 - Misspelled words will be marked incorrect
 - Grammar knowledge is important
 - Helps you guess the type of word for sentence completion tasks (ex: n, v, adj, plural n)
 - Know word forms (n – v- adj/ Ex: impression – impress – impressionable)

Tips – Before Taking the Test

- Learn organizing words (for matching tasks) such as: *advantage, aim, analysis, benefit, consequence, difference, difficulty, discrepancy, effect, factor, feature, goal, hazard, influence, objective, outcome, outline, problem, purpose, reason, risk, role, strategy*
- Understand qualifying words (often for multiple choice questions) such as: *mainly, usually, the majority, the most*

Tips – Before Taking the Test

- Know prefixes (un-, pre-) and suffixes (-ful, -less)
- Read from a variety of sources
- Do practice tests
 - Practice analyzing questions
 - Work on understanding meaning to increase your speed
 - When you've become more comfortable with the reading test, give yourself timed practice

Tips – During the Test

1. Read the directions
2. Look at the title and headings of the passage to get an idea of what it's about
 - You can also read the 1st sentence of the 1st paragraph
3. Look at the questions
 - Underline or circle key words in the question
 - Think of possible answers
4. Scan the passage for key words and synonyms

Tips – During the Test (cont.)

5. When you find the paragraph/area where the word is, circle or underline the word and skim that area
 - Is this the correct area? Can you find the answer here? If not, then you need to search the text again.
6. If you have more than 1 answer, mark the possible answers on your test booklet (not answer sheet) and then go back after completing that section

Tips – During the Test (cont.)

7. For matching headings questions:
 - Skim the headings
 - Find key words or organizing words like *problem*, *effects*, *reason*, etc. and circle or underline them
 - Scan the text for key words or organizing words
 - Think of the logical order
8. Predict which paragraph each heading relates to
9. Quickly read the paragraphs
 - If you have 2 possibilities, write the letters next to it and go back to it after you have matched all headings

Tips – During the Test (cont.)

- Keep in mind, sometimes the questions follow the order of information
- When you answer the questions, don't spend too much time on the ones you don't feel sure about. Make a guess and go on.
- Remember that you're not reading the texts for enjoyment; you need to quickly find the answer

Tips – During the Test (cont.)

- After you have answered all the questions, you can go back and check the ones you aren't sure about (if you have time left)
- Write your answers directly onto your answer sheet
- Don't spend more than 20 minutes on each passage
You have about 1 ½ minutes to answer each question



WORK

HARD

DREAM

BIG