IELTS, surrender!(2024)

General thoughts

It's time to talk about something that is becoming more and more relevant for many people today, namely, the International English Language Testing System. This system, of course, does not test the language, but how well and fluently you speak it. And it is generally accepted to call it *the International English Language Testing System.* It covers almost all English-speaking countries, with the exception, perhaps, of the USA, where they prefer to make you take the TOEFL. By the way, they make you take it in almost the same way, so if you got excited about preparing for IELTS because you were going to live or study in a foreign land, and then suddenly realized that this foreign land must necessarily be filthy New York or some other backwater undiscovered by Columbus, then it will not be difficult to "retrain". At one time, I took the TOEFL the day after I found out that such an exam even existed. Because this is just, I repeat, a method based on your knowledge (or ignorance), and not at all another language from another universe.

For some reason, it is generally accepted that IELTS is an assessment of purely British English. No, you are wrong, comrades. If you did not know yet, there are a ton of English languages today. Almost as many as their native speakers. Of course, I am exaggerating, but the fact is that IELTS tests what the bourgeoisie calls *international English.* If you want, translate it as “international”, if you want, as “international” (We will destroy the entire world of violence!..), but I would say “generally accepted”.

I repeat and emphasize that those who are planning to study, work or live for some reason in an English-speaking country need to overcome IELTS .

You can take it in writing, on paper, or intelligently - on a computer. There is no difference: the questions, principles and grades are the same.

Sections, like everyone who studied at school and passed Unified State Exam, you know, is four: listening, reading, writing and speaking. A few words about each.

Hearing

There are 4 sections with 40 questions. The first two are based on "social" topics, the second two - on "academic" ones. There are also quite a few types of these questions, so if you are going to prepare, then prepare for each one. We will talk about this (and the nuances in general) later. For now, we are just looking down from the heights of the balloon and are glad that we still have time to collect our thoughts, save up money and... perhaps change our minds altogether. But seriously, you will have 30 minutes to listen, after which there will be some time - 10 minutes - to write down the answers and check them.

Reading

Expect to get 3 verses (paragraphs, passages, whatever you want) with another 40 questions. If you are studying, that is, want to become academics, then you will be given verses on academic topics. They are somewhat more difficult than those received by the so-called *GTs* candidates, that is, the rest of the mortals, who only need to demonstrate their virtuosity in *General Training.* No, this is not a drill for generals, but knowledge of English in everyday life. In other words, get ready for texts about everyday life and work. True, the last of the 3 verses will be similar to the academic one. We'll talk later. All questions of both levels are in turn divided into 14 types. You have 1 hour to overcome this section.

Scripture

There will be 2 tasks here. *GT* candidates write a letter in the first task, academics analyze some stupid table, graph, etc. The second task is the same for everyone: a composition (it is also pseudo-aristocratically called an "essay"). There are 5 types of compositions. All of them are based on the disclosure of one or another topic, so if you have time to prepare, you need to stock up on smart ideas and an appropriate set of expressions. It sounds scarier than it really is, which we will, again, talk about in much more detail later. I will reveal one secret right away: not only your knowledge of English will be assessed, but also... other criteria. Writing takes 1 hour.

Here I will allow myself to pause and clarify that there are no breaks between the listed sections. That is, you must be charged strictly for 2 hours and 40 minutes.

Speaking

This part of the exam is conducted in the form of a personal interview with the examiner, either in the room or online. It is short - 11-14 minutes - and is divided into 3 parts. Parts 1 and 3 are essentially questions and answers. Part 2 is your personal chat for 2 minutes with 1 minute for preparation. Despite its brevity and speed, this section is extremely important for the overall assessment, so again it is better to crouch in advance and work out various "topics" and burden your memory with an appropriate stock of expressions.

Having read this far, you now have a general idea of what's in store for you. But you probably immediately have questions that you want answered before you wade through my jokes and gags any further. So let me try to answer some of them right away.

Typical General Questions

character

What does "IELTS" mean?

As already mentioned above, this abbreviation stands for *International English Language Testing System.* or the International English Language Testing System. Note, not British, but English, any English.

What skills does IELTS test?

There are 4 of them: understanding live English speech by ear (listening), understanding texts (reading), the ability to express your English thoughts in writing (writing) and orally (speaking).

What is IELTS UKVI?

IELTS test taken by those who are aiming to obtain a visa (V) for immigration (I) to the United Kingdom (UK). It is no different from the regular IELTS test and can also be taken in both written and computer-based forms. If you need more details, you will find them here: https://ieltsregistration.britishcouncil.org/ukvi

IN VIEW of its "seriousness" in terms of goals - after all, an immigration visa is at stake - this exam can only be taken directly at the examiner's office. We'll talk about other options below.

Is it possible to take IELTS

with American English?

Of course. American English is as international as all the rest, be it Nigeria, Jamaica, India, South Africa or New Zealand. Write and speak as Americans do. The main thing is not to make a mess: if you write according to American rules *(color* instead of *colour),* then always write like this.

Are all my skills tested   
on the same day?

No, the listening, writing and reading exams are all done on the same day, but speaking is usually checked either before or after. Sometimes, though, yes, it happens that everything is scheduled for the same day, but rarely.

Is there a break between reading   
and writing?

No, there are no breaks. You are given 2 hours and 40 minutes for the first three parts, which you must sit through at once. So prepare yourself mentally and physically in advance.

Can I use a pen in IELTS?

In the written part - yes. In listening and reading - only a pencil (and eraser) is allowed.

How many times can I take IELTS?

As much as you like. The commission will be only too happy, since you will have to pay each time. In addition, there is no limit on the time that must pass between your attempts.

Is it possible to have a watch with you during the exam   
?

For some reason, no. I have no idea what motivates this, but watches are unacceptable even for the conversational part. It is believed that you can always tell the time by the wall clock.

What should I do if I am color blind?

In this case, please inform the organizers in advance.

They will select the appropriate pages and pictures for you.

What is different about IELTS General Training ?

Only reading and task 1 in the written part. However, the questions for the written part are exactly the same as if you were taking *Academic IELTS.* Task 2 in the written part is also not very different, but the questions are considered easier. Listening and speaking are the same as for *GT,* and for *Academic.*

Is it possible to take IELTS?

via the Internet from home?

Since 2022, this practice has become very widespread. Today, you can take IELTS both in a special center and at home, on the couch or in a jacuzzi. If you need more details, go to this address:

https://ielts.org/take-a-test/test-types/ielts-academic-test/ielts-online

At the time of writing, however, the residents of our long-suffering Russia are deprived of such an opportunity even with the availability of a jacuzzi. It will probably return someday, but for now, alas, you will have to go take IELTS somewhere in Turkey or Uganda.

What are the benefits of taking   
IELTS online?

The results will be ready quickly, in 4-5 days.

Not to mention the homely atmosphere, saving nerves, travel time, etc.

If I take IELTS online, does that mean the written test and the speaking parts are assessed by a computer?

These parts are, in any case, assessed exclusively by a live, specially trained examiner.

Is there any difference   
in essence between taking the IETLS test at a special centre or at home?

None. In any case, the format, content, level and grades remain the same.

How do I pass the oral, speaking   
part online?

As usual, via video call. So make sure in advance that the camera shows, the headphones hear, and the microphone does not make noise.

How soon will I receive my   
test results?

Results are usually sent by mail two weeks after the exam. Some centres provide results via SMS or online. Of course, there are delays.

How long is my result valid?

IELTS results are valid for 2 years.

Can I ask for a review of my test results?

Yes, you can. Find out the price of this service at your center.

If the results eventually change to higher scores, you should get your money back. You have one and a half months to challenge the initial scores. The recheck will be done by another examiner. The new results will be ready in one and a half to two months. So I think it's easier to retake the test.

If I took IELTS twice ,

What results are considered relevant?

Of course, those that are higher, but only within 2 years from the date of delivery.

Next, we will talk about the questions that arise in connection with each of the four parts of the exam separately.

What do I hear! - Questions

ON listening

How many parts are there in the IELTS   
Listening section?

Four: the first and second are built on “social” situations, the third and fourth on “academic” ones.

Does everyone take the same thing or is there a difference between General Training and Academic?

No, there is no difference. This test is the same for all levels.

The speaking test will also be uniform.

How many questions will there be?

There are 40 questions in the IELTS listening test .

10 for each subsection. Each correct answer is worth 1 point.

How long does listening last?

IELTS listening test lasts 40 minutes.

Of these, you listen to the recording and answer the questions for 30 minutes. The remaining 10 minutes are devoted to transferring your answers to the exam form. If the test is taken on a computer, you will only be given 2 minutes to check your answers.

How many times can I listen to   
the recording?

Unfortunately, only one. So try to understand and remember the question right away, and listen as carefully as possible to catch the key words and phrases.

Can I review the questions   
before the audition?

Yes, and regardless of whether you take the exam in writing or on a computer. However, there will be little time to get acquainted, so you want to read quickly and grasp the main points. As an example, you can look at this address:

<https://test-english.com/exams/ielts/ielts-exam-1-listening/>

In principle, I highly recommend this site for practical training.

Will I be able to see the questions while   
I listen?

Of course. IELTS is not a test of your memory. The questions will be in front of you either on paper or on a computer screen, depending on which format you take the exam in.

What is a listening answer sheet?

You receive this sheet only in the case of a "paper" exam format. In fact, you receive two sheets: one with questions, the other - for your answers. When recording, you mark your answers on the sheet with questions. After finishing recording, you have 10 minutes to transfer your rough answers to the second sheet, for answers. This will be considered your final answer.

How then to transfer answers   
to the computer?

In the case of the computer version, you enter your answers directly into the computer as you listen. You don't need to transfer anything anywhere, as in the "paper" version, so by the END of listening to the recording, all your answers are already in the computer, and you are given only 2 minutes for their final checking. This is the only difference between the "paper" and "computer" formats of taking IETLS.

How can I respond on the computer   
"immediately"?

It's very simple: we select the correct answer on the screen. This is done either by typing the desired word, or by "dragging" the word from one place to another, or simply by clicking on the answer. You can practice, again, here:

<https://test-english.com/listening/b1/famous-sports-cheating-scandals-b1-english-listening-test/>

Can I prepare to the computer version,   
using the "paper" one?

Easy. As already mentioned above, there is no difference in the content. Prepare in the way that is most convenient for you.

How is my answer scored?

There are 40 questions in total, as you already know. If you answer 23 correctly, you get 6. If 30 - 7, if 35 - 8.

Do I lose points if I answer incorrectly?

No. You don't lose them, you just don't get them. There are no "negative" points in IELTS , and no one takes points away. What does this mean? That's right: never leave a question unanswered. If you don't know, guess, intuit. It certainly won't get any worse.

Are the answers given in order?

Yes, they follow the order of the questions. That is, the answer to question 1 will be offered before the answer to question 2. However, some answers require a choice, in other words, a list of possible options. And these options are not given in order, but in a heap. For example, option A may turn out to be worthwhile after option C, if you follow the recording you are listening to.

Can I write on the question sheet?

Yes, as I said above. On a "paper" exam, you can fill the entire sheet with questions to the point of holes. Since only those answers that you transfer to a special answer sheet are considered.

Can I write during listening on other paper?

No, only on the question sheet.

Will I be able to see subtitles?

Figushki! Only sound, only ears, no hints. If you go to the site I recommended above, of course, you will most likely find subtitles there for self-testing purposes, but this is done exclusively for preparation. The exam excludes them.

Is it important   
to use capital/block letters correctly?

No, it does not affect the assessment. For the computer version, this is not relevant at all, and as for the "paper" version, it is entirely a matter of your handwriting. If you can write quickly in block letters, write - it will be easier to understand you. If you write in a cramped handwriting that you yourself can hardly understand, then yes, it's better to be clever and "print". Don't cut off the branch you're sitting on.

Is it better to write with a pen or   
a pencil?

The listening and reading exams require only one thing - a pencil. So don't forget an eraser.

In the writing exam, you can write with either a pen or a pencil. With the computer format, I think you definitely won't make a mistake in your choice.

When the answers require   
choosing the correct option,   
can I answer in words or   
do I have to choose   
the corresponding letters?

Read or listen carefully to the instructions for the tasks. If you need to choose a letter with the correct answer, you choose the letter. Write in words - you will lose points. And vice versa.

What English accents can I   
hear in the recording?

Since we are talking about "international" English, accents can be very different. Therefore, it is advisable to practice understanding by ear the Americans (they have dozens of these accents), the British (same story), the Australians, the Indians, and also it would be good to learn how the French, Italians, Germans, etc. speak English.

Is spelling important?

Yes, if the answer is correct but has errors, it is most likely considered incorrect.

How can I practice   
listening?

You can contact me: best-repetitor.jimdofree.com

You can use the website test-english.com. There, choose the appropriate level of difficulty for yourself, and go ahead.

If you want to combine business with pleasure, watch any films or TV series in the original, record 5 minutes of them by ear, and then compare them with the subtitles. It will be hard at first, but if you don't give up, you will get unexpectedly good results pretty soon.

How can I avoid screwing up   
in section 4?

Section 4 is a one-person speech, something like a lecture, i.e. the speech will be structured. The speaker will move from point to point sequentially. Watch the questions so as not to miss the transition, since they are given in the same sequence. Here you need to be able to quickly pick out key words from the questions, so that you can then try to catch them in the recording. This skill - reading diagonally - can and should also be trained. It is also important to be able to see at least two questions at the same time: you read the recording related to question 21, and you yourself are already looking at question 22. That is, you should mentally be ready to hear the key words and expressions from it.

By the way, about "key words". Some of them you will actually hear in the recording. But not all of them. Some "key words" will be given to confuse you. For example, when taking the listening test for the Unified State Exam, I draw the attention of schoolchildren to the fact that in such situations, if they are not sure, it is always worth choosing as the correct answer the words from which were not heard in the text in open form, but hidden under synonyms. In 85% of cases, oddly enough, this works.

Pay attention to what serves as markers - *signposts.* They will tell you whether the speaker is repeating his thought, moving on to a new one, or simply giving examples and considering nuances. These can be phrases like:

New topic:

*Today, we are going to talk about...*

*In this lecture, I’ll focus on...*

*Let me start by discussing...*

Go to new item:

*Now, let's move on to...*

*The next point I’d like to discuss is...*

*Turning to...*

Clarifications or examples:

*For instance...*

*An example of this would be...*

*To clarify this point...*

Emphasizing important information:

*It's important to note that...*

*What I really want to stress here is...*

*You should keep in mind that...*

To sum it up:

*To sum up...*

*In conclusion...*

*So, what we've covered today is...*

the two words mark mean?

and/or number?

This means that in the answer you can write two words and a number. Or without a number. But no more than 2 words. One is allowed, but three is not allowed. One or two words may or may not be accompanied by a number. There may be only a number, without words. We will talk about this later.

Which articles should I use   
in my answers - definite or   
indefinite?

If you are writing a sentence, it must, of course, also comply with English grammar in this part of the exam. If you are simply filling in tables, diagrams, forms or making notes, you can safely forget about articles.

Is it better to write numbers in numbers   
or letters?

In numbers: 20, 20th, etc. For your own good. Because when writing a number as a word, you can make an annoying mistake. In addition, when listening, this will save you precious time.

By the way, what is the best form   
to record time?

Write 9 am or 9.30 am. Instead of the more familiar colon, use a period.

And in what form should dates be written?

You can write *25th March,* you can - *25 March.* Never use the preposition *of,* although when reading the same date out loud it always, as you know, sounds.

If I type the name of some   
street as Northroad   
instead of North Road, will it be   
considered a mistake?

Yes. Although the Unified State Exam requires, say, two or three-syllable tense forms to be written in one word, we are not taking the Unified State Exam, but the IELTS, and here everything is like adults: if the correct answer consists of two separate words, they are written separately. At the same time, your knowledge of complex (compound) words is tested.

Can I use   
brackets in my answers, like school(s)?

No, you must choose only one answer, no options.

*Can I rephrase my answer, say educate instead of teach? Or use similar words, say colour instead of colouring?*

No, you can't. Your answer is considered to be either 100% correct or wrong. The correct word is the form you heard in the recording. You can't replace or rephrase the word.

Can I write 6 instead of six?

Yes, since, as we have already said, examiners monitor spelling, it is better (for you) to write numbers in numbers. This possibility is also usually specified in the explanations to the tasks.

Will a date like   
05/10/2024 be considered as one   
word?

Yes, in one word or number. Three numbers written as one are considered one number.

And how many digits-words is an address like Flat 36B?

It is one word and one number. The number of a British house often contains a letter - 36,36A, 36B. These letters are part of the number.

What happens if I correctly choose two out of three answers in a multiple choice question?

First, make sure that the three answers you have to choose relate to three questions. Let's say for questions 10, 11 and 12 you have to choose letters from a list. In this case, each correct letter counts as an answer to one question. Each correct answer will give you 1 point. In this case, it turns out that you got two answers correct and one wrong. However, if you are required to choose three correct letters for the same question (which never happens in IELTS ), then the set of all three letters will be considered correct. The main thing to remember is that one correct answer is 1 point in your piggy bank.

Next, let's talk about the *Reading section.*

Reading Questions

How long does the   
reading test last?

It lasts for an hour and starts *immediately* after listening. No breaks. And no extra time to transfer answers from a draft, which simply does not exist.

How many paragraphs are there in the text?

About a few paragraphs. And for both GT and Academic levels.

Is the reading test the same for everyone?

No, for GT and Academic the complexity and subject matter of the texts are somewhat different. The same applies to writing, but more on that later.

How are the readings for the Academic   
level different ?

Firstly, the paragraphs are long. Secondly, they are taken from books or magazines (original, not adapted). Their language may seem complex, the set of words specific (professional, scientific), and they may also contain tables, diagrams and other illustrations.

How then does reading   
for the General Training level differ?

The text in GT is divided into three parts, from the easiest to the most difficult. The first part is related to everyday life and may contain facts about student life or services such as hotel accommodation. The second part is related to work, such as additional training, salary, etc. The third part is the longest and most difficult. It is usually related to some general topic and resembles Academic.

How many questions are there in reading?

40.

How are points calculated?

As usual: 1 point for each correct answer.

Incorrect answers are not minused. Therefore, do not leave questions unanswered if you are not sure - just guess. The calculation for GT and Academic is different, but we will talk about this in due time.

And yet, what difference does it make   
in calculating the score?

GT is considered easier, so to get a higher score you will have to answer more questions correctly than in Academic.

Do I lose points if   
I answer incorrectly?

No, as I just said above (regarding guessing).

So don't leave any empty spaces - be intuitive.

Will I have time to transfer the correct answers from the draft?

No, there will be no time for transferring or even checking. The entire hour you enter the answers directly into the computer or on the form.

How much time is best spent   
on each part?

It's the same - 20 minutes per part. Keep an eye on the clock. The main thing is that you have enough time for the last part.

What types of questions do you encounter   
during reading?

The most varied ones are: choosing headings, “true-false-not said”, selecting questions for the text, summarizing information, completing sentences, multiple choice, classification, etc. We will talk about all of this separately.

Can I write on the   
question form?

Yes, you can. Make notes, underline words, write wherever you want. You will only get a mark for what is written on the answer sheet.

Can I write my answers in block   
letters?

You can. If your handwriting is so-so, it is even recommended, since it is important for you to be understood.

Can I use   
a felt-tip pen?

No, no color underlining or highlighting. If you need to underline or circle something, use your pencil.

Can I highlight words   
on the computer?

Yes, if you right-click on a word, a *highlight option should appear.* or *make a note.*

What is better to write with - a pen or   
a pencil?

In listening and reading, you are allowed to use only a pencil. I have already mentioned the eraser in this regard. But when you get to the *Writing part,* there you can choose at your own discretion.

Is spelling important when reading?

Of course! If you answer correctly but write incorrectly, the answer will not be counted. That's why it's generally better to take IELTS on a computer, because the words are usually already written there, and you only need to drag and drop the correct ones, placing them in the right places.

In case of true/false questions, can I write, for example, just T or F?

Yes, you can. It is also acceptable to write Y instead of YES.

But if the correct answer is YES, and you wrote T, then this will be considered an error.

What and how should I work on   
to prepare for reading?

The reading section contains 14 types of questions.

We will definitely talk about each of them below. So keep reading. This is the first thing.

Secondly, develop the skill that I am not the only one who calls “scanning”. You do not need to understand the entire text to the last word. Do not get distracted by words that you do not know. Do not get hung up on them.

Learn to quickly find key words for the answer. This only comes with practice. Let me remind you of the address of a good site for this: <https://test-english.com/exams/ielts/>

If anything happens, contact me - I will help as much as I can.

**Are all the answers given in a general order?**

Far from it. Only in some cases the questions follow the order of presentation of information in the text. We will also talk about this separately later.

How can I improve my score when   
choosing the right titles?

A separate topic, but for now I will say this. The main thing is to see the main idea of the paragraph. It can be hidden at its beginning, in the middle or at the end. Your ability to separate flies from cockroaches is being tested. Secondly, make sure that you understand the essence of the headings themselves. If you understand them, and some seem very similar to you, always start with those that stand apart and are easy to distinguish - this will be both faster and easier. There are usually more headings than you need, and therefore, if you are not sure about one, move on to another, do not get hung up. Finally, do not compare the words of the heading with the words of the text - compare the meaning. For example, if the heading says *A description of ...,* do not look for the word description in the text *,* and look which of the texts is descriptive in nature.

Can I answer parts of the reading assignment in any order?

Yes. You have an hour to do as you wish. You can start with Part 3. You can skip some questions, but don't forget to come back to them later.

In the "paper" version

exam, do I need to immediately write down the answers   
on the appropriate form?

As I mentioned, you won't have any extra time. So yes, write down the answer as soon as you think you've found it.

Can I ask   
for extra minutes or   
seconds if I didn't have time   
to write down the answer?

No way. In exactly one hour your sheets will be taken away from you and your computer screen will be blocked. By agreeing to take IELTS, you find yourself in the world of the bourgeoisie, where everything is done on a bell and a whistle. No concessions. Get used to it.

Next, let's talk about the part of IETLS called Writing.

I write, I write, I write -   
General Questions

About IELTS Writing

How many parts does the written exam consist of?

Two. The first is the "report" if you are taking the Academic level, or the "letter" if you are taking the General Training level. The second is an essay, which is the same for both levels.

How much time is given for the IELTS writing test?

One hour, that is 60 minutes; 20 minutes for the first part and 40 for the second.

How many words do you need to write in both parts?

In the first part (task 1) - more than 150, in the second (task 2) - more than 250. We will discuss the details later.

What is the difference between General   
Training and Academic?

GT level is designed for people who want to move to a foreign country. They, as I said, write a letter and an essay. The Academic level is needed for students who want to obtain higher education abroad, as well as doctors and nurses. As a result, it turns out that this is what most people take. They write a "report" (or "paper") based on some graph and again an essay.

Can I have (have with me)   
extra sheets of paper   
for writing an outline and notes?

Usually, there are no extra sheets of paper provided for this purpose. However, you can always use the question form.

Do I have to start with the first   
task?

In principle, no. Although I would "sign" for the first one, which is considered easier and for which 20 minutes are allocated. But it's up to you.

Is it important to start each

paragraph with a new line?

No, there are no strict rules here, but experience shows that it is better to separate paragraphs not with a new line, but with an additional space, that is, an empty line between them. It is believed that this makes it easier for examiners to see the end of one paragraph and the beginning of the next.

Is it better to write words   
in the American or British   
tradition?

It doesn't matter. But on condition that you write ALL words either in the American manner or in the British manner (color - colour , etc.). You can't mix spellings.

Questions about the first

written assignment   
(task 1)

How many variants of the first task are there?

For the level GT there is only one, a letter. For the Academic level there are a ton of options: a diagram, a map, an architectural plan, a graph, a table, etc. Sometimes in the first academic task you can get not one type, but several. We will analyze the details when we get to this topic.

How much does the first task weigh   
in terms of the final grade?

Its "weight" is one third of the entire written exam. The second part is twice as "important". For example, if you got 8 points for the first part and 6 for the second, then the final grade will be 6.5. We will talk about this topic separately.

Is the first assignment graded   
the same for GT and Academic?

No. When assessing the first task, examiners rely on 4 criteria, among which is such a concept as Task Achievement, which accordingly “weighs” 25% of your final grade. So this criterion is calculated differently for both levels.

Can I spend   
more than 20 minutes on the first task?

The time for the entire written assignment is yours. Divide it as you wish, but it is usually strongly recommended not to linger on the first one and to finish it in 20 minutes.

How should I organize   
the information in the first   
task if I am taking the Academic?

A separate conversation, but in general terms it’s like this:

*Entry*

*Key Performance Indicators Overview*

*Paragraph A*

*Paragraph B*

In paragraphs - usually two, rarely three - you compare, contrast the information you see, for example, on a graph, that is, you find and comment on similarities and differences. Below we will analyze this approach in much more detail. It seems complicated, but the formula-composition is always the same, so it is a purely practical matter.

Continuing on the topic: do I need to show similarities and differences in each paragraph?

No, it is not necessary. According to the instructions, you should make comparisons where possible. You should not compare everything all the time. Otherwise, you can get confused and confuse the examiner. Some of the data you only mention, some you compare.

What should I write   
in the "introduction" then?

It is extremely formalized. Usually it is enough to look carefully at the text information given to you for the task and simply reformulate it. Add perhaps numbers, countries, etc. The introduction is short, no more than two sentences. For example:

The graph illustrates the number   
of people traveling abroad from UK   
over a ten-year period from   
2020 to 2024

If you feel like there aren't enough words, you can add, say, *Units are measured in...* etc.

And in the "report" is it necessary to mention only two key indicators?

Depends on the schedule. In some there may be several of them, then you will need to include them as well. There is no hard and fast rule. We'll talk later.

Do I need to write a conclusion?

Oddly enough, no. For some reason, examiners are only interested in how you list and compare facts. I have generally noticed that bourgeois education is focused on secrecy, not on thoughts and conclusions. If you write nonsense in essence, but format it correctly, the mark will be much higher than if you wrote smart things, but formatted them incorrectly. Now I am talking about the criteria of their education in general, and not about IELTS. A regular circus with animals.

How can I assess the level of my writing myself ?

If very roughly, then frequent mistakes are level 5, episodic - 7. To correct the sentiment, practice. You will not learn to write better in your sleep. You can again use the conditions of the site:

https://test-english.com/

Will the examiner check my spelling?

Of course, and quite strictly. You paid him for it.

If there are a lot of mistakes, the overall score will be lower.

How do you organize paragraphs   
in a GT-level letter?

In the order in which they are written in the list of the task itself. You will need one more introductory phrase before and a conclusion phrase after. We will consider the details later.

Can I fantasize when I write a letter to GT?

Of course, any improvisation within the bounds of common sense is good enough. But in a "report" at the Academic level , you can't invent anything.

Do you need to sign   
your name on a GT letter ?

Any.

Should I write the date and address at the beginning of the letter?

No, this is not a real letter. Only the essence and its presentation are important. That is why you start with words like *Dear Sir* or *Hi John.*

Next, we will talk in more detail about the written assignment Task 2.

Questions for the second

written task (task 2)

What does Task 2 in IELTS Writing involve?

It requires you to write an essay of more than 250 words, and it will take you no more than 40 minutes. You will receive the essay topic directly during the exam.

Can I spend   
more than 40 minutes on the essay?

Yes, if you take them from your first task. No one will give you more than 60 minutes for both texts.

Is it better to start with the first or   
second task?

The choice is yours. Most people write the first thing first and then move on to the essay. I would do the same.

What is the difference in the second task between General Training   
and Academic levels?

Almost none. Except that the topics of GT- level essays are considered a bit simpler.

How important is an essay grade?

It is twice as important as the grade for the first written assignment. Let me remind you of the calculation example: if you got 8 points for the first part and 6 for the second, then the final grade will be only 6.5.

What types   
of essays are there on the second task?

The most varied: opinion ("Many people *think that by 2040 only electric cars should be on the roads. Do you agree or disagree?"),* discussion *("Some people think that healthcare should be free, while others think that it should only be paid. What do you think?"),* pros and cons *("Some people think that it is a good idea to take a year to think before entering a university. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this approach?"),* solution *("Many children are obese. How can this problem be combated?")* and a direct question *("Many people spend a lot of money on weddings. Why do they do this? Do you agree with them?").*

How is the essay grade calculated?

According to 4 criteria: answer to the question, coherence of presentation of thoughts, vocabulary and grammar. Each of the criteria makes up 25% of the final grade.

We will discuss the calculation details below.

Do I need to express my own opinion in my essay?

Only if the task requires it, say "Do you agree with this or not?" If the task does not require it, it is better to keep your opinion to yourself. Therefore, read the text of the task carefully.

How long should an essay be?

As already said, not less than 250 words. This means more than 250. There is no official upper limit, but I don't think it's worth getting too carried away and writing a short novel. There is always a chance of repeating yourself or making annoying mistakes. I wouldn't write more than 260-280 words. It's not worth it.

What happens if I write less than 250 words?

Previously, this was punishable. Now something in the rules has changed, and shortfalls are treated more leniently. However, it is still considered that 250 words or less will not allow you to fully disclose the answer to the question, so the first of the 4 evaluation criteria mentioned above may suffer. Do not risk it if you are aiming for a score higher than 5-6.

How many paragraphs should an essay   
have?

Usually 4-5. The first one is always an introduction.

The last one is always the conclusion. Plus two or three key, meaningful ones.

Is the conclusion necessary?

Yes, absolutely. To the point that if you feel you are running out of time, skip straight to the conclusion.

Should I give my essay a title?

No, don't waste your time. The examiner knows by default what topic you are writing about. That is, the very first sentence is the beginning of your essay.

Is spelling important?

Yes, it is. Spelling falls under the one of the 4 assessment criteria called "vocabulary".

Is punctuation important?

Yes, it falls under the "grammar" criterion. So it's best to avoid colons (:) and semicolons (;). Limit yourself to regular periods and commas. If you're not sure about them, you can always find a useful article on my website ‘best-repetitor.jimdofree.com’ called "To execute is impossible to pardon".

What is the difference between an IELTS essay and a regular essay?

Firstly, you are given a limited amount of time - 40 minutes. Secondly, you must use a set number of words - more than 250. Thirdly, the IELTS essay gives you the opportunity to demonstrate your ability to use English expressions and knowledge of grammar. Fourthly, the IELTS essay assumes a specific structure of presentation and recommended linking expressions. Finally, the IELTS essay assumes that you are familiar with a variety of possible topics and know how to develop them in order to get the highest score.

What is the difference between   
an opinion essay and an   
argumentative essay ?

There is no difference. Except perhaps in the terminology, which may differ between tutors. In both essays, you express your opinion, since the task asks "to what extent do you agree with this statement."

Can I choose whether to write   
with a pen or a pencil?

Yes, there are no strict requirements for a paper essay, so the choice is yours.

If I don't have enough of   
the form I received, can I ask for   
additional paper?

Sure. Just raise your hand, the examiner (or rather, supervisor) will come up to you and give it to you.

Is there anywhere I can download the official essay test paper to practice?

Yes. For example, at this address:

https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-english-practice-tests/writing/academic

Next, let's talk about the oral exam.

Speak, but don't overspeak - IELTS Speaking Questions

How many parts does the IETLS   
oral exam consist of ?

Of the three: interviews, “performances” and discussions.

How much time does the oral part take?

Usually 11-14 minutes. Interview - 4-5 minutes, presentation - 3-4, discussion - 4-5.

Does the oral exam involve   
face-to-face interaction or can it be   
taken on a computer?

The IELTS oral test is conducted entirely in the form of face-to-face communication with the examiner. No computer is provided.

How will my "speaking" be assessed?

*Your fluency* of speech (not speed, but ease of understanding by you), *vocabulary* , *grammar* and *pronunciation* will be assessed . That is, again, each of these parameters takes 25% of the overall assessment.

When is this assessment given - immediately during the exam or after the recording has been analyzed?

Your final grade is determined by the examiner who communicates with you. That is, you must leave the room with the points you deserve. The recording will only be needed if you insist on reviewing the results. Then the senior examiner will listen to it.

What topics are covered   
in the oral exam?

There are too many to list them all here. You may be asked about work, school, hometown, weather, food, internet, happiness, hobbies, music, television, etc. In short, about everything. However, work and school are usually mentioned, perhaps, more often than others. We will discuss this topic in more detail in due time.

How many questions will I be asked?

In the first part you will have 12 questions (in total) on 3 topics, and in the third - 5 or more, depending on the completeness of your answers. Therefore, it is better to answer in the third part in more detail.

Why should I talk so much?

Because if you want to get 6 points or more for such a criterion as "fluency" , you must show that you love and want to speak. This desire will only be a plus for you.

And in the second part I need   
to speak for 2 minutes?

Your speech should take 1-2 minutes. In other words, aim to speak for one and a half to two minutes , to demonstrate your ability and desire to communicate in English. Of course, if you are not confident in yourself, you should not speak for more than one minute.

What if I speak longer than   
2 minutes in the second part?

The examiner will stop you and move on to the third part.

Can I choose the topic for the second part myself ?

No, the examiner will give you a list of topics and questions.

Can I ask the examiner   
to change the topic of Part 2 if   
it is not suitable for me?

No, you are obliged to speak on the topic that you were given.

Do I need to follow   
the order of the questions   
listed on the card?

No, they are not, but I think they are worth it because they will help you structure your answer.

Can I look at my notes during the second part?

Of course, your notes are your help, but try to exchange glances with the examiner from time to time, so that he does not think that all you can do is read.

Can I look at the question card?

Of course. The examiner will take it away only after your answer.

Will the examiner evaluate my notes to answer the second part?

No, your rough notes are for you only. The examiner will take them after you answer along with the card. They will simply be thrown away after the exam.

Do I need to bring a pencil to the oral exam?

No, you will receive paper and pencil from the examiner.

During the second part, you can keep both the card and your notes in front of you. Before the start of the third part, the examiner will again take away your notes, paper, and pencil.

Will the examiner look at my notes?

No, he does not evaluate them or read them. They are exclusively for you to help you build the logic of your answer.

What is the difference between   
IELTS Speaking Part 1 and Part 3 ?

The first part is an interview . The examiner will ask you short questions about your life and country. In the third part, expect more general questions about the world in general, which you will discuss with the examiner. So you will have to make your answers longer and more detailed.

Do I need to give any examples in my answers?

Yes, that would be very helpful, especially in Part 3, where, as I said, your answers need to be more detailed.

What should I do if I don't understand   
a question?

In the first part - the interview - you can only ask the examiner to repeat the question. He will not explain anything. In the second part, you simply receive a topic that you cannot change. But in the third part, yes, you can say, for example, *" Sorry, could you explain it, please."*

Will my grade be lowered if I ask   
the examiner again?

No, it will not affect the final score. However, do not do this more than 1-2 times.

What if I have no idea how to answer the topic of part 3?

This happens. For example, the examiner asks: *How do you think space exploration benefits mankind?* And you either have never thought about it before, or you do not share the official point of view and understand that the "space program" is just a legal a way of robbing the state budget, i.e. taxpayers. The main thing is not to remain silent. Start talking right away, for example, the following:

*That be honest, Гѵе never really thought about is before. I guess there are benefits to space exploration but I can't say what they are.*

So, although you don't answer the question, you still demonstrate a good knowledge of English. But you are not obliged to know the details of the same mythical space program.

Does it matter what accent I   
answer with?

Don't even think about it. The only thing that matters is that the examiner understands you. Now, if your accent is so hard to understand (like some Scottish Highlander or Irish peasant), then yes, your mark will be lowered.

Why can the examiner interrupt me?

There are usually only three reasons. First, he has to stick to the time frame. Second, he may be satisfied with your answer and wants to ask an additional question so as not to test you again. Third, you have gotten distracted from the topic, and the examiner wants to ask a new question. That is, you should not react to the fact that you were interrupted, but rather concentrate on the next question.

May I ask the examiner's opinion?

No, your English is being tested, so the examiner is interested in your opinion on it, not his own.

Where can I practice   
the IELTS speaking test ?

For example, here: https://test-english.com/exams/ielts/ielts-exam-1-speaking/

Can I correct my own   
mistakes and slips of the tongue in my speech?

Yes, of course, unless it interferes with your "fluency". So I advise you, even if you notice your own mistake, to pretend that it did not happen and continue speaking. Any pause to correct it can affect the *fluency parameter.*

How should I address   
the examiner when I meet him?

The main thing is a smile. It is your shield and your weapon when you are in the company of capitalists and bourgeois. We Russians usually do not trust smiles, and they are used to hiding their fears behind them. Yankovsky hardly thought about this when he said "Smile, gentlemen" or wrote a book of the same name. Depending on the time of day, say *Good morning. Good afternoon.* or *Good evening.* When asking for permission, avoid using can*,* use *may.* And don't interrupt the examiner.

What is the best way to dress for the oral part?

As you prefer. This is not a job interview, just an informal exam. The main thing is that you don't get too cold or too hot.

What if my answer to one question partially answers the next question on the examiner's list?

The examiner has a long enough list, so he can always choose the most appropriate question. Therefore, if the topic has already been partially covered by you, the examiner will skip the extra question. In short, there is no need to worry about this. More - not less.

Can I use sign language when answering?

This is your full right, but it will not be assessed.

So if you like to wave your arms and roll your eyes, go ahead. Just make sure you feel relaxed and natural.

How are IELTS scores calculated and for what?

In my opinion, this is not the topic you should pay attention to. Let the examiners count. Your job is to know English. However, for some reason, many people are interested in scores even before they come to the exam. Often this is due to the fact that you do not just want to pass the exam as well as possible, but are trying to achieve at least the minimum that is sufficient for you for this or that goal. Which is understandable. At the same time, it is known that you should always aim higher and further to definitely hit where you need to. So if you want to test your strength and aim properly, of course, read on.

The overall score you are looking for is called *the band score.* Here is a brief official description of these points according to your level of English:

**Band 9 (Expert user) -** Has fully operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate, and fluent 'with complete understanding.

**Band 8 (Very good user) -** Has fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriate usage. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.

**Band 7 (Good user) -** Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriate usage, and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

**Band 6 (Competent user) -** Has an effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriate usage, and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.

**Band 5 (Modest user) -** Has a 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.

**Band 4 (Limited user) -** Basic competence is limited to familiar situations. Has problems frequent in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language.

**Band 3 (Extremely limited user) -** Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns in communication occur.

Band 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.

**Band 1 (Non-user) -** Essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words.

**Band about (Did not attempt the test) -** No assessable information provided.

Now that you have the general picture, I will add that the score can be not only a whole number, but also a fractional one, for example, 6.5 or 5.5. There are no scores like 6.1 or 6.4 - they are rounded. Let's look at an example:

Listening - 8

Reading - 7.5

Scripture - 7

Speaking - 7.5

OVERALL - 7.5

Sometimes the overall score can be more awkward, then the examiners round it off. For example, if it comes out to 6.1, you are given an overall score of 6. If it is 6.85 or

6.75 - you get 7. If 6.25 - your final score will be 6.5.

Now let's see how this looks directly in application to the exam. Let's take *listening.* You are supposed to answer 40 questions. To get the highest grade - 9 - you only need to answer 39 questions, to get 8.5 - 37, 8 - 35, 7.5 - 32, 7 - 30, 6.5 - 26, 6 - 23, 5, 5 - 18. I won't list the rest - it's not worthy of you.

Academic level *reading* with the same 40 questions is calculated exactly the same as in the previous paragraph. But if you take *reading* GT, the dependencies are as follows: 9 – 40, 8.5 – 39, 8 - 37, 7.5 - 36, 7 - 34, 6.5 - 32, 6 - 30, 5.5 - 27. As you can see, getting the same score on GT is more difficult, since the questions themselves are considered easier. So think about what level is best for you to take.

Written Part Assessment Criteria

IELTS Writing test is assessed using four main criteria. Each criterion is given equal weighting and examiners mark both Task 1 and Task 2 against these standards:

Executing a task (Task 1) / Answering a task (Task 2)

This criterion assesses how well you have met the requirements of the task. Task 1 requires you to cover all the key information and provide a clear overview of trends or characteristics. Task 2 assesses how well you have answered the essay question, including providing relevant ideas, fully developing your arguments, and supporting them with examples.

Coherence and consistency

This criterion evaluates how logically ideas are organized and connected. Coherence refers to how easy it is for the reader to follow your argument, while cohesion refers to the use of linking words, phrases, and paragraphs to create a "smooth flow" of information. Paragraphs and the overall structure of the text play an important role here.

Vocabulary

This criterion focuses on the variety and accuracy of your vocabulary use. Examiners look at how appropriately you use different words, avoid repetition, and demonstrate the correct word forms. The ability to use less common words, terms, etc. correctly is also assessed.

Grammatical range and accuracy

Examiners assess the range of grammatical structures used and the accuracy with which they are applied. This includes the correct use of sentences (complex and simple), verb tenses, punctuation, with a minimum of grammatical errors.

Evaluation criteria for the oral part

IELTS speaking test is also assessed based on four main criteria, each of which contributes equally to the overall score:

Fluency and coherence of speech

This criterion evaluates how well you can speak fluently, without long pauses or hesitations, and how logically your ideas are organized. It is important to maintain a flowing conversation, develop thoughts, and use connecting words and phrases.

Lexical resource

The range and accuracy of your vocabulary is assessed. This includes your ability to use a wide range of words appropriately, paraphrase and use less common or more complex words where appropriate. That's why I always encourage my students to memorise synonyms, whether words or phrases.

Grammatical range and accuracy

Examiners assess the variety of grammatical structures and the accuracy of their use. This includes the use of complex and simple sentences, verb tenses, word order and minimizing grammatical errors.

Pronunciation

This criterion evaluates how clearly you pronounce words, use intonation and maintain a natural rhythm of speech. It evaluates how easy it is to understand you despite your accent, as well as how well you use stress and intonation to convey meaning. In this regard, I also came to the conclusion a long time ago that "accent" is not only and not even so much pronunciation as crooked *intonation.* Watch more films and programs and try to parrot, repeating after native speakers certain phrases that you like. For some reason, intonation is almost never paid attention to anywhere - neither tutors nor courses. I'm not talking about school.

Tips for getting   
a high score on the exam

IELTS (very short)

Listening

*Practice active listening -* Practice picking up key information such as dates, numbers and names.

*Anticipate answers -* Before each section, read the questions carefully and anticipate the type of answer (e.g. number, location, etc.).

*Focus on synonyms -* The words you hear may be different from those in the questions, so practice recognizing synonyms and paraphrasing.

*Stay calm -* If you miss an answer, don't panic. Focus on the next question.

Reading

*Skim and Scan Text -* Develop the skill of quickly finding information in a text without reading it entirely.

*Understand Question Types -* Become familiar with all the question types (e.g. True/False/Not Given, header matching, etc.).

*Manage your time -* Spend the optimal time on each question and don't get hung up on difficult ones.

*Expand your vocabulary -* A deep vocabulary will help you better understand topics and answer questions accurately.

Essay

*Understand the task requirements -* Make sure you answer the question in both Task 1 and Task 2 directly and completely.

*Plan a structure -* Organize your essay logically, with clear paragraphs and a strong introduction and conclusion.

*Use a variety of sentence structures -* Show your grammatical range by using both simple and complex sentences.

*Check your work -* Take a few minutes at the end to check for spelling and grammar errors.

Speaking

*Speak fluently and confidently -* Avoid long pauses and don't worry about small mistakes.

*Expand your answers -* Don't give short, one-word answers. Try to explain and give examples.

*Practice a variety of topics -* Be prepared to speak on a wide range of topics. Familiarity with the topic will help you with fluency.

*Work on your pronunciation -* Clear pronunciation is important, even with an accent. Practice stress and intonation to sound natural.

Differences between General   
(GT) and Academic

Listening

*General IELTS* and *Academic IELTS* imply *the same listening test.* Candidates answer the same types of questions, the structure of the test is identical. The recordings include dialogues, monologues and situations from everyday life or an educational context.

Reading

*Academic IELTS -* The reading test is more challenging, with texts often taken from academic journals, books and magazines. The texts are more formal and may include diagrams or illustrations. The questions are designed to test your ability to understand academically written texts.

*General IELTS -* You will be asked to read texts from newspapers, advertisements, instructions and everyday materials. The focus is on understanding information that you might encounter in everyday life, at work and in 'social situations', whatever that means.

Letter

Academic IELTS

**Task** i: You are required to write a report based on visual information such as graphs, charts, tables or diagrams. You are required to summarize and explain key trends or features.

**Task 2:** Involves writing an essay in response to a specific issue or argument. Topics are usually more academic in nature, meaning you will be expected to write in a more formal style.

General IELTS

**Task** i; You are required to write a letter which may be formal, semi-formal or informal, depending on the situation (for example, a letter to a friend, an employer or a company).

**Task 2:** As in the Academic test, you are required to write an essay, but the topics are usually less academic and related to everyday situations. The language may be slightly less formal compared to the Academic IELTS essay.

Speaking

*General IELTS* and *Academic IELTS* Both are *identical speaking tests.* The format, structure and questions are identical, assessing fluency, coherence, pronunciation and the ability to express ideas on a variety of topics. The only difference may be in the topics, which you may find more academic - Surprise, surprise! - in Academic IELTS, but are still relevant to both formats.

The difference between "paper"

and computer IELTS options

So what's the difference?

There is basically no difference. In the first case, the answers are written on a form, in the second, they are typed directly on the computer (that is, on the screen).

And do the ratings differ?

The grading system is also absolutely identical. Same exam - same points.

It can't be that there is no difference at all...

One minor one, of course, hid. In listening in the “paper” format you have 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the appropriate form. In the computer format, you do not have this opportunity and this time. After you typed your answers into the computer, you will have only 2 minutes to check.

Why then take IELTS on a computer?

Firstly, for many people today, typing on a keyboard is more convenient than writing by hand. If you type slowly, of course, it is better to write on paper. Secondly and most importantly, the computer exam can be taken from home.

In more detail, what are the pros and cons of computer-based IELTS?

Pros:

It is convenient to type answers if you are used to the keyboard.

It is convenient to read tasks from a large screen.

The timer is located directly on the screen.

Fewer people - not many people are renting it out at the same time.

Fast results - 3-5 days.

More available time for delivery.

You can take the test from home.

You can also make notes and highlights on the screen.

Cons:

You need to be a confident computer user to type quickly and without typos.

The screen locks exactly at the set time, no breaks.

However, at the last minute the timer does not show seconds, so the blocking may come as a surprise to you.

The computer will not check your syntax and punctuation the way, say, Word does.

General tips for computer-based   
IELTS

Be sure to practice online before taking the test. For example, the tool on the official website: https://ielts.org/take-a-test/test-types/ielts-academic-test/ielts-online

Do not use third-party sites, especially for developing listening and reading skills. They may contain inaccuracies. It is best to go to the above official site or here:

https://ieltsregistration.britishcouncil.org/​​

Otherwise, you may have a misunderstanding of where such assessments come from (too good or too bad), which occurs due to the occasional discrepancy between questions and correct answers.

Since the computer-based exam and the paper-based exam are the same, you can use the official paper reference books when preparing. By the latter, I mean *the IELTS Cambridge Test Book.*

If you decide to take the paper-based exam, make sure your handwriting is easy to read.

Pros and cons of computer listening

Pros:

You can select text.

It is convenient to switch from one part to another by pressing the *Tab key.*

Cons:

Although you will be given a pen and paper, you must type your answers directly into the computer. That is, you must be able to type and listen at the same time.

Some questions require you to type in answers, others require you to drag words from one place on the screen to another, and others require you to select the correct answer from a box. It's best to practice beforehand.

You have only 2 minutes to check your answers.

If you don't know how to move from one part to another, you can waste valuable time. Practice.

Note:

Computers rarely, but sometimes have glitches. And we are not talking about your computer or electricity, which can suddenly go out, etc. Glitches, if you are unlucky, can occur in the exam program itself, for example, during the same listening, the order of tasks can be out of order. Of course, you should not be afraid of this, since this happens very rarely, but you should be mentally prepared.

Advice:

Just to reiterate: practice on the above mentioned sites beforehand. Don't be lazy.

Pros and Cons of Computer-Based Reading Test

Pros:

Questions on the screen are on the left, answers are on the right. What could be more convenient!

If you can't see it well, you can always increase the font size.

You can select the text by pressing the right mouse button. In the "paper" version you cannot use a felt-tip pen - you can only underline and circle the text.

If you want to make a note, for example, to indicate several synonyms, press the right mouse button again and select make note*.*

If you need to copy the text of the task into the answer, you can do this with the usual combination of Ctrl+C and Ctrl+V. You will save time and avoid typos.

Cons:

The combination of searching for the necessary words in the text Ctrl+F will not work. The exam - both computer and "paper" - reveals your ability to quickly find information in an unfamiliar text.

Advice:

Practice beforehand. Forget about laziness. Be lazy about being lazy.

Pros and Cons of Computer-Based Written Exam

Pros:

There is no need to count words - the computer will show you their number!

It's more convenient to print - you can easily erase, copy and paste.

You can move sentences and entire paragraphs if you are not satisfied with their current order.

Cons:

It's easy to miss a typo. Practice.

If you are taking an exam in a classroom, you may be annoyed by the noise as other students are typing on their keyboards nearby.

You need to be able to type quickly.

Note:

You will be given a pen and paper to plan your essay.

IELTS Speaking on the computer

It is always conducted in a one-on-one mode with the examiner, i.e. in a "video call" mode. Make sure that the headphones work well and your microphone is loud.

How to prepare for the exam

IELTS correct

Preparing for the IELTS exam requires a holistic approach as it assesses all four skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Here are some key tips on how to effectively prepare for each section:

Understanding the exam format

IELTS exam structure so that you know exactly what to expect in each section:

**Listening :** 30 minutes +10 minutes for transferring answers (or 38+2 in the computer

option)

Reading : 60 minutes.

**Writing :** 60 minutes (2 tasks).

Speaking : about 11-14 minutes.

Knowing the format and types of assignments will help you better manage your time and avoid making mistakes related to misunderstanding the requirements.

Preparation for each section

Listening​

**Practice with audio recordings:** Listen to as much English material as possible, especially recordings on different topics (news, podcasts, lectures). This will help improve your listening comprehension.

**Practice test tasks:** Use audio materials from real IELTS tests. This will help you get used to the speed and accents used in the exam.

Practice multitasking: Practice listening and writing down answers at the same time. This is especially important for the listening section, where you will have limited time.

Reading​

**Develop speed reading skills:** Practice **skimming** (reading text quickly to understand the main idea) and **scanning** (searching for specific information). This will help you save time during the exam.

Read texts in English daily:

Use articles from newspapers, magazines, and scientific publications to get used to different writing styles and terminology.

**Practice taking real tests: The** IELTS Reading consists of 3 texts and you need to learn to navigate the content quickly and answer questions within a limited time.

Writing​

**Writing tasks:** In Writing Task 1 (General) you will need to write a letter, and in Writing Task 2 you will need to write an essay on a given topic.

**Learn structure:** The letter should be structured: a clear introduction, body text, and conclusion. For an essay: an introductory paragraph, 2-3 paragraphs with arguments, and a conclusion.

**Practice writing:** Write essays and letters daily, within time limits. This will help improve your argumentative and persuasive writing skills.

**Get feedback:** Ask someone with a high level of English to check your texts and point out mistakes.

Speaking​

Practice speaking on a variety of topics:

In the Speaking section , you may be asked questions about your personal interests, everyday life, or asked to discuss more abstract topics. Learn to express yourself freely on any topic.

**Practise with a partner:** Try to simulate the exam by asking questions on different topics and following the IELTS Speaking structure (3 parts).

**Expand your vocabulary:** Engage in targeted study of vocabulary on various topics and try to use new words in your speech.

Time management

Time management is important in the exam. Practice doing test questions with a timer to learn how to enjoy the time limit. This is especially important for *the reading* and *writing sections,* where time is very limited.

Use official

materials for preparation

IELTS resources . This will help you get used to the format and types of tasks. There are many sites where you can find free preparation materials, but if we talk about official ones, here are:

*ielts.org*

*takeielts.britishcouncil.org*

[*www.idp.com/india/ielts*](http://WWW.idp.com/india/ielts)

Preparatory courses

and tutors

If you have the opportunity, please sign up.

IELTS preparatory courses or find a qualified tutor. This will help you get professional feedback and fix your weak points.

Psychological preparation

*Prepare yourself psychologically for the exam:*

Try to get a good night's sleep the night before the exam to stay focused.

Learn to control your emotions, especially during the oral part of the exam, so as not to lose concentration.

*Regular classes*

Consistency is the key to success. Spend time on each section of the exam regularly and you will see progress. Create a study plan and stick to it, setting aside time for different activities.

*Example of a preparation plan:*

**Reading:** Reading articles for 30 minutes every day.

**Listening:** Listening to audio materials 30 minutes a day.

**Letter:** Write an essay every other day.

**Speaking:** Practice speaking with a partner or on your own every other day.

Proper preparation for IELTS requires consistency, practice and knowledge of the exam format.

We are taking the listening test

Listening, that is, perceiving unfamiliar speech by ear, may seem like a difficult task to you, but it is not only easy, but also possible to cope with it. Here are some basic tips to avoid failing and get decent scores.

Know the exam format

In 30 minutes you will have to listen to 4 recordings. They are absolutely the same for GT and Academic both in terms of topics and grades.

Each entry contains 10 questions, meaning there will be 40 questions in total.

You will hear different types of monologues, conversations and academic discussions.

Listen to different accents

IELTS listening involves hearing a variety of English accents - British, American, Australian, Canadian, etc. Be prepared. That is, listen in advance and try to understand these accents by watching videos on the Internet, films, news, etc.

Practice with the official ones

materials

Without knowing the ford... you know what happens. So be sure to visit the official resources and try your hand at real tasks. Let me remind you:

*ielts.org*

*takeielts.britishcouncil.org*

[*www.idp.com/india/ielts*](http://WWW.idp.com/india/ielts)

Moreover, don't just "try it", but practice it properly. This is not a waste of time, but a necessary investment in inevitable success.

Train in conditions as close to reality as possible, i.e. with a timer on, to work on speed and accuracy.

Develop prudence and foresight

Before you start listening, you will have time to familiarize yourself with the questions. As you read them, think about what kind of information you will expect and what you will need: names, titles, numbers, places, etc.

Highlight key words in the questions so you know what to focus on when listening.

Learn to take notes

Practice taking notes while listening.

Write down important dates, numbers, points, without worrying too much about the sentences as a whole. You will need reference points.

Use abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols to save time.

Don't lose concentration

You will only be able to listen to the recording once! Therefore, it is extremely important to stay focused at all times.

If you missed an answer, don't panic. Move on to the next one. It's always better to miss one answer (point) than to lose several in the rush.

Watch out for distractions

moments

Sometimes speakers may self-correct, i.e. change the meaning of their statement. This is a common trick in IELTS. Don't miss this "correction" to catch the essence of the final thought.

Practice following

instructions

You may be asked to fill in the blanks, complete a sentence, or answer questions with "multi-choice". The answer may require only one word, several words or a whole phrase. Complete the task exactly as instructed.

Learn the right way

manage time

Between sections you will have some time to check your answers. Check if you have filled in everything and how correctly.

In the “paper” version of the exam, in the allotted 10 minutes, not only rewrite your answers on the form, but also check for any errors or typos.

Know the words, phrases and their

synonyms

In the IELTS exam you will often be asked to identify the meaning in a 'paraphrased' way. For example, if the question asks for *a large house,* The recording may sound like *a spacious home.* Learn to see synonyms and word variations and turns of speech.

Read more different texts to expand your vocabulary. In my opinion, reading in this case is much more effective than speaking, which is good for getting used to different accents.

Don't lose your cool

Unfamiliar words and unclear sentences should not throw you off track. Stay calm, focus on what you understand, and move on.

Calmness comes with experience, so practice more.

Check your spelling

and grammar

This is especially true for the "paper" version. Annoying mistakes can deprive you of precious points.

IELTS Sample Questions   
Listening

Here are examples of the types of questions you might encounter in the **IELTS Listening test:**

1. Fill in the blanks

You will hear a recording and must fill in the blanks in the sentences. Usually it is one or two words, a number or a date.

Example:

You will hear a conversation about booking a hotel room. Complete the notes below:

- Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

- Number of nights: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

- Room type: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Answer:

* Arrival date: **15th June**
* Number of nights: 3
* Room type: Double

1. Multiple choice

You will hear a recording and you need to choose the correct answer from several options.

Example:

You will hear a lecture about renewable energy. Choose the correct option:

What is the main benefit of wind energy according to the speaker?

1. It is inexpensive to install.
2. It is widely available.
3. It is environmentally friendly.

Answer:

1. It is environmentally friendly.
2. Matching​

You need to match items from a list with certain statements or criteria.

which you will hear in the recording.

Example:

You will hear a conversation about choosing a university. Match each student with the subject they want to study:

- Student A:

- Student B:

- Student C:

Subjects:

a) Engineering

b) History

c) Medicine

Answer:

- Student A: **Medicine**

- Student B: **Engineering**

- Student C: **History**

1. Sentence completion tasks

You must complete the sentences based on the information you heard.

Example:

You will hear a talk about a museum tour. Complete the sentence:

The museum tour starts at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and ends at

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

The museum tour starts at 10 **a.m.** and ends at **4 p.m..**

1. Short-answer questions

You need to answer the questions based on the information you heard. The answers should be short - one or two words.

Example:

You will hear a man talking about his holiday plans.

- What country is he going to visit?

- How long will he stay there?

- What activity does he plan to do there?

Answer:

- Country: **Italy**

- Stay: two weeks

- Activity: **sightseeing**

1. Charts, maps, diagrams (Maps, diagrams, flowcharts)

You must fill in the blanks on the map, diagram or chart based on what you heard.

Example:

You will hear directions to a place. Complete the map below:

- The library is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the bank and the cafe.

- The train station is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the park

Answer:

- The library is **between** the bank and the cafe.

- The train station is **north** of the park.

These examples will help you understand the types of questions you might encounter in **the IELTS Listening Test.**

Taking the reading test

It is important to remember

There are 40 questions waiting for you, in other words, 40 potential points.

Your goal is not to understand everything, but just to find the right answers to the questions asked.

The score requirements for GT and Academic levels are different. Different difficulty levels imply different grades. I will repeat what we have already discussed, but in a little more detail:

In *Academic Reading* texts are more complex, focusing on academic or scientific topics. The texts are long, contain complex ideas, and are often taken from journals, textbooks, or scientific studies.

In *General Training Reading* The texts are simpler, covering everyday topics such as work, social life and general interests. The texts can be from newspapers, advertisements, instructions or popular articles.

Since *Academic Reading* more difficult, you will need *fewer* correct answers to get the same score. Accordingly, in *GT Reading,* To get the same score, you will need *more correct answers.* For comparison:

For *Academic Reading:* To get Band 7, you usually need 30 out of 40 correct answers; for Band 8, you need about 35 out of 40 correct answers.

For *General Training Reading:* To get Band 7, you typically need 34 out of 40 correct answers; Band 8 requires about 38 out of 40 correct answers.

This means that in General Training you need to give more correct answers to get the same score as *in Academic,* because the texts in GT are simpler.

You are given 60 minutes and three texts.

You can answer questions about the texts in any order convenient for you.

Texts for *Academic:*

- They are all of the same level of difficulty.

- They are all long and cover scientific topics like history, biology, etc.

- The topics are specific, varied and unpredictable.

- They may suggest opinion, research or description.

Texts for level *GT:*

- The level of each subsequent text becomes more difficult.

* Text 1 is usually related to social life.
* Text 2 is related to work and study.
* Text 3 is similar *to Academic,* but simpler.

Tips for IELTS Reading

*Skim the text first. -* Skim the text quickly to get a general idea of the topic. Don't read every word, but pay attention to the main ideas and key points. This will help you understand what the text is about before you start answering questions.

*Focus on keywords -* When you read the questions, look for keywords or phrases that stand out. Then go back to the text and look for these keywords or synonyms to find the right answers.

*Understand different types of questions -* Familiarize yourself with different types of questions such as *True/False/Not Given, Matching Information* or *Multiple Choice.* Each type requires a different approach, so practice to be able to handle them without spending a lot of time.

*As with any exam, it's important to manage your time wisely. -* You have 60 minutes to answer 40 questions. Don't spend too much time on one question. If you get stuck, move on and come back to it later.

*Practice on real tests. -* The more you practice, the better you will get. Use official IELTS practice tests (see previous sections) to get used to the format and difficulty level of the texts.

*Develop your vocabulary. -* A large and varied vocabulary is important for understanding texts. When you encounter new words, try to determine their meaning from the context. Get into the habit of learning and repeating new words regularly.

Question types for   
IELTS reading section

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

You are given several answer options and you must choose the correct one. Sometimes you must choose more than one answer.

True/False/Not Given (TFNG)

You must decide whether the statement is:

**- True** (if the statement matches the information in the text).

**- False** (if the statement contradicts the text),

**- Not Given** (if the information is not mentioned in the text).

Yes/No/Not Given (YNNG)

Similar to TFNG, but used to express opinions:

**- Yes** (if the statement corresponds to the author’s opinion).

**- No** (if the statement contradicts the author’s opinion).

**- Not Given** (if the information is not mentioned).

Comparison of information

It is necessary to compare the information from the questions

with specific paragraphs or sections of text.

Header Matching

You need to match the headings (main ideas) with the correct paragraphs or sections of the text.

Comparison of characteristics

You need to match specific details (such as names or events) with the correct people, places, or things mentioned in the text.

Matching the ends of sentences

You are given the first half of a sentence and you must choose the correct ending from a list.

Complementing sentences

Fill in the gaps in the sentences with words from the text. You may need to complete the sentences without exceeding the given number of words.

Filling out a resume, notes, table or flow chart

Complete your summaries, notes, tables, or flow charts with words from the text, within the word limit.

Filling in the diagram caption

You are given a diagram and you need to label its parts using words from the text.

Short answers to questions

Answer the questions using no more than the specified number of words, based on the information from the text.

Examples of texts and tasks

in the IELTS Reading exam

IELTS General Training Level

Section 1 - Social Survival

Here you will find simple texts from everyday life. Usually these are advertising texts, brochures, notes, root guides, etc.

*Example text (Advertisement):*

Local Fitness Club - Join Today! Looking for a way to stay fit?

Join our fitness club and enjoy:

-24/7 access to state-of-the-art gym equipment

- Group fitness classes (yoga, pilates, spinning, etc.)

- Personal trainers available for one-on-one sessions

- Sign up before October 31st to receive a 20% discount on

your first three months!

- Contact us at (555) 123—4567 or visit our website at

www.localfitness.com.

- Special Offer for Families: Get 50% off for every family

member who joins with you!

*Example question:*

What discount is available if you sign up before October 31st?

1. 50% off for families
2. 20% off the first three months
3. Free access to fitness classes

*Correct answer:* b

Section 2 - Workplace Survival

Here you will find texts on the topic of work, instructions, training materials, etc.

*Example text (Workplace Policy):*

Employee Internet Usage Policy

All employees are required to adhere to the following guidelines when using the company's internet facilities:

- Internet access is provided for work-related activities only.

- Personal use of the internet during working hours is prohibited, except during designated break times.

- Any downloads must be approved by IT management.

Failure to comply with these rules may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

*Example question:*

When can employees use the internet for personal reasons?

1. During working hours
2. During break times
3. With IT approval

Correct answer: b

Section 3 - General Reading

Here you can find texts of their journals, essays, etc. on topics of common interest such as health, history, travel, science, etc.

*Example text (Magazine Article):*

The Benefits of Walking

Walking is one of the easiest and most effective forms of exercise. It not only helps to improve cardiovascular health but also reduces stress and improves mood. Recent studies show that walking for just 30 minutes a day can significantly lower the risk of heart disease and high blood pressure.

Additionally, walking can be a social activity, allowing people to enjoy time outdoors with friends or family. Whether it's in the park or around the neighborhood, walking offers numerous health benefits with minimal effort.

*Example question:*

What is one health benefit of walking, according to the article?

1. It helps people sleep better.
2. It lowers the risk of heart disease.
3. It increases strength quickly.

*Correct answer:* b

IELTS Academic Level

Here you may be offered texts from professional journals, books or newspapers on topics of science, history, social studies or technology.

Example 1: *Scientific Article*

The Importance of Bees in Pollination

Bees play a crucial role in pollination, which is the process of transferring pollen from the male part of a flower (the anther) to the female part (the stigma). This allows plants to reproduce. In fact, nearly 75% of the world's flowering plants rely on pollinators like bees. Without bees, many fruits, nuts, and vegetables would struggle to reproduce, potentially leading to a dramatic decline in food production. Bees not only pollinate crops but also contribute to the health of ecosystems by aiding in the reproduction of wild plants. Unfortunately, bee populations have been declining in recent years due to habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change. Conservation efforts are urgently needed to protect these vital pollinators.

*Example question:*

Why are important for ecosystems?

1. They produce honey.
2. They help wild plants reproduce.
3. They prevent habitat loss.

*Right answer:* b

Example 2: *Historical Passage*

The Rise of the Roman Empire

The Roman Empire, one of the greatest civilizations in history, began with the expansion of Rome in the 1st century BCE. Through military conquest and strategic alliances, Rome grew from a small city-state into a powerful empire controlling much of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The empire's success was largely due to its advanced infrastructure, including roads, aqueducts, and military outposts, which allowed for efficient administration and defense. However, the empire was also known for its complex political system and cultural achievements, such as Roman law, which became the foundation for many modern legal systems. Despite its strengths, the empire eventually fell in 476 CE, primarily due to internal conflicts and invasions by barbarian tribes.

*Example question:*

What contributed to the efficient administration of the Roman Empire?

1. Military conquests
2. Political alliances
3. Advanced infrastructure

*Correct answer:* c

Example 3: *Social Science Passage*

The Impact of Urbanization on Mental Health

Urbanization, the process of people moving from rural areas to cities, has been a defining trend of the 21st century. While cities offer better employment opportunities, healthcare, and education, they can also negatively affect mental health. Studies show that individuals living in urban areas are more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression, and stress compared to those living in rural environments. This may be due to factors like overcrowding, noise pollution, and lack of green spaces. Additionally, the fast-paced nature of city life can create a sense of isolation and social pressure. As urban populations continue to grow, it is important to address these challenges through better urban planning, such as the creation of parks and community spaces.

*Example question:*

According to the passage, what is one reason city life can negatively impact mental health?

1. Limited healthcare services
2. Noise pollution
3. Social isolation in rural areas

*Correct answer:* b

Example 4: *Technology and Innovation*

The Future of Renewable Energy

Renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, are becoming increasingly important as the world seeks to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. Solar energy, in particular, has seen tremendous growth due to advances in technology that have made solar panels more efficient and affordable. Wind energy is also gaining popularity, especially in countries with large coastal areas where offshore wind farms can generate significant power. The benefits of renewable energy are clear: it reduces greenhouse gas emissions, decreases air pollution, and creates sustainable jobs. However, there are still challenges, such as the high initial cost of installation and the need for energy storage solutions to address the intermittent nature of renewable sources.

*Example question:*

What is one challenge associated with renewable energy mentioned in the passage?

1. Lack of technological advances
2. High initial installation costs
3. Limited job creation

*Correct answer:* b

We pass the written IELTS -

Academic level —

Task 1

You have 60 minutes for both tasks, the first task "weighs" only a third of your grade for the written exam, so it is usually not recommended to spend more than 20 minutes on it.

It's your time, so if you want, you can start with task 2, or with task 1, you can split the time equally, but I would focus on the idea laid out in the previous point. Order (unless it's "new world") is better than chaos.

The assignment will say that you must write *at least 150* words. In this case, it means "more than 150".

Your level is assessed by four criteria: task completion (25%), coherence

and the sequence of your thoughts (25%), knowledge of words and expressions (25%) and grammar (25%).

Tasks are divided into descriptive, generalizing or explanatory. There are usually 7 types of tasks.

Types of tasks   
Bah Chart

This is a "bar chart". It often compares different categories overlaid at different points in time.

Bar Chart Example :

The bar chart below shows the number of students who studied in different faculties at a university in 2010.

Example of a task:

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Faculty Number of Students

1200

Science

Humanities 900

Engineering 800

1100

400

Business

Law

Example answer:

The bar chart illustrates the number of students enrolled in five different faculties at a university in 2010. The faculty with the highest number of students was Science, with 1200 students, followed by Business with 1100 students. The lowest enrollment was in the Law faculty, which had just 400 students. Overall, the faculties of Science and Business were the most popular, while Law attracted the fewest students.

Line Graph

This is a graph in the form of a broken line. It shows the change of some indicator over time.

Example Line Graph:

The line graph below shows the percentage of people using the Internet in three different countries between 2000 and 2020.

Example of a task:

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Chart data:

- USA: 50% (2000), 70% (2005), 85% (2010), 90% (2020)

- UK: 40% (2000), 65% (2005), 80% (2010), 85% (2020)

- Australia: 30% (2000), 60% (2005), 75% (2010), 95%(2020)

Example answer:

The line graph illustrates the percentage of Internet users in the USA, UK, and Australia between 2000 and 2020. In all three countries, there was a steady increase in Internet usage over the 20-year period. By 2020, Australia had the highest percentage of users (95%), while the UK had the lowest (85%). The USA experienced a rapid rise in Internet usage in the early 2000s, reaching 90% by 2020.

Pie Chart

This is a chart. It shows proportions or percentages of a whole.

Pie Chart Example :

The pie chart below shows the distribution of household expenses in a country in 2020.

Example of a task:

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Diagram data:

* Housing: 35%
* Food: 25%
* Transport: 15%
* - Entertainment: io% - Other: 15%

Example answer:

The pie chart represents the distribution of household expenses in a county in 2020. The largest portion of spending was on housing, which was accounted for 35%, followed by food at 25%. Transport and other expenses each represented 15%, while only 10% was spent on entertainment. Overall, housing and food were the two largest categories of household spending.

Table

A table is just that - a table. It is a structure in which data of various formats is presented.

Table example :

The table below shows the average annual income of different professions in a particular country in 2019.

Example of a task:

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Profession Average Income (USD)

Doctor

Teacher

Engineer

Nurse

Lawyer

80,000

40,000

60,000

45,000

75,000

Example answer:

The table shows the average annual income of five professions in 2019. Doctors earned the highest income at $80,000 per year, closely followed by lawyers with $75,000. Engineers and nurses had incomes of $60,000 and $45,000, respectively, while teachers earned the least, with an average income of $40,000. Overall, medical and legal professionals were the highest earners, while education professionals earned the lowest.

Process Diagram

A process diagram typically shows how something works or is done in several steps.

Example of Process Diagram

The diagram below shows the process of recycling plastic bottles.

Example of a task:

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Diagram data:

- Collection of plastic bottles from recycling bins.

- Bottles are sorted and cleaned at a recycling plant.

- Shredding the bottles into small pieces.

- Heating the plastic to form new material.

- Molding the plastic into new bottles or products.

Example answer:

The diagram illustrates the process of recycling plastic bottles, which involves five main steps. First, plastic bottles are collected from recycling bins and transported to a recycling plant where they are sorted and cleaned. Next, the bottles are shredded into small pieces before being heated to form new plastic material. Finally, this material is molded into new bottles or other products.

Map

The map is waiting for you to compare places, how they have changed over time, or plan for future developments.

Example Map

The maps below show the changes to a town over a 20-year period.

Example of a task:

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Example of map data description:

In 1990, the town had a small residential area in the north and a park in the center. By 2010, the residential area had expanded to cover the west, and a shopping mall replaced the park. New roads were also constructed to accommodate the growing population.

Example answer:

The maps illustrate changes to a town between 1990 and 2010. Over the 20-year period, the town underwent significant development. In 1990, a small residential area was located in the north, with a park in the center. By 2010, the residential area had expanded westward, and the park had been replaced by a shopping mall. Additionally, new roads were built to support the larger population.

Combination of Charts

This is the last, seventh variant *of Task 1 Academic* that you may encounter in the exam. Nothing special, you will simply be offered a combination of the types described above and asked to compare them.

For example:

The bar below chart shows the average working hours per week for different professions, and the pie chart shows the proportion of male and female employees in each profession.

Example of a task:

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Example answer:

The bar chart shows the average working hours per week in various professions, while the pie chart illustrates the proportion of male and female workers in those professions. Doctors worked the longest hours, averaging 50 hours per week, while teachers worked the shortest, at 35 hours per week. The pie reveals chart that the majority of nurses were female, whereas the majority of engineers were male.

Taking the written IELTS —

KJ

Academic level —

Task 2

At the Academic level , the second writing task requires you to write an essay in response to a particular point of view, controversial statement or problem. You will have to express your own thoughts on the matter, support them with examples and explain why you think so. There are as many as 5 types of essays in IELTS Writing Task 2, and each has its own special format. Let's compare.

1. Opinion   
   Essay ( Agree or Disagree)

You are given a statement and you must express your opinion about it. You can agree or disagree, but in any case you must explain the reasons for your decision.

Example question:

Some people believe that university education should he free for all students, regardless of their financial background. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Sample answer (consider this the first paragraph of your future essay):

In this essay, I will argue that university education should be free for all students because it promotes equal opportunities and can lead to a more educated and productive society. However, I also believe that government funding limitations make it challenging to offer free education universally.

1. Discussion   
   Essay (you discuss both points of view)

In the essay, you discuss both points of view and at some point express your own opinion.

Example question:

Some people think that the government should invest more money in public transportation, while others believe that more funding should be directed towards the construction of new roads.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Example answer:

Some argue that improving public transportation should be the government’s top priority as it reduces traffic congestion and pollution. On the other hand, many believe that building new roads is essential to accommodate the growing number of vehicles. I believe that a balance between both approaches is necessary for effective urban planning.

1. Advantages  
   and Disadvantages   
   Essay

In this essay, you will be asked to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a particular situation or event. Sometimes you will be asked to express your own opinion. Always pay attention to the specific task and do not rush to give your opinion if, on the contrary, it is not required.

Example question:

In many countries, tourism is a major source of income, but it can also cause problems in the local environment and culture. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of tourism in modern society. Do you think the benefits of tourism outweigh the drawbacks? (See *do you think,* it means they want to hear your opinion)

Example answer:

Tourism brings significant economic benefits, creating jobs and supporting local businesses. However, it can also lead to environmental degradation and cultural erosion. In my opinion, the benefits of tourism outweigh the disadvantages if managed sustainably, as it can provide vital revenue for developing countries.

1. Problem and Solution   
   Essay

In this type of essay, you are usually asked to describe a problem and propose a solution.

Example question:

In many cities, the increasing number of cars on the roads causes major problems, including air pollution and traffic congestion. What are the possible solutions to these problems?

Example answer:

The rise in car ownership has led to severe air pollution and traffic jams. One solution is to Invest in public transportation systems to reduce reliance on cars. Additionally, promoting carpooling and cycling can help alleviate these issues and reduce environmental impact.

1. Double Question

(or Two-Part Question)

In this type of essay, you will have to answer two different but related questions.

Example question:

More and more people are choosing to live alone. Why is this the case? Is it a positive or negative trend?

Example answer:

Many people choose to live alone because of increased financial independence and changing social values that prioritize individualism. While living alone can promote personal growth and autonomy, it may also lead to social isolation, making it a negative trend for some individuals.

The key difference in requirements

*Opinion Essay:* express your agreement or disagreement with this statement.

*Discussion Essay:* discuss both points of view and offer a balanced argument.

*Advantages and Disadvantages Essay:* consider the pros and cons of a situation, sometimes, if asked, express your own opinion about which arguments seem more correct to you.

*Problem-Solution Essay:* focus on identifying the problem and offering a possible solution.

*Double Question Essay:* answer two different questions and find their common causes and consequences or advantages and disadvantages.

Structure of Writing Task 2

It is the same for all types of questions. Therefore, you can approach the essay by following the general algorithm:

*Paragraph 1 - Introduction:*

- Rephrase the question.

- Write your thesis, that is, briefly describe your position or idea.

Paragraphs 2-3 - essence:

- Each paragraph describes a separate idea.

- Give supporting examples and explanations.

Paragraph 4 - Conclusion:

- Summarize your main ideas presented in the paragraphs of the guide.

- Repeat your position and idea from the introduction.

Opinion Essay Structure

Question:

*Some people believe that modern technology is making people more sociable, while others think it is making them less sociable. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

Encounter:

*- Technology has greatly influenced the way people interact with each other.*

*- Some argue that it has made people more sociable, while others believe it has caused isolation.*

*- In this essay, I will discuss both viewpoints and argue that modern technology has indeed made people less sociable.*

Paragraph 1 (in support of communication):

*- Technology enables people to connect across great distances.*

*- Social media allows friends and family to stay in touch, even if they live far away.*

*- For example, platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp allow people to communicate instantly.*

Paragraph 2 (on the reason for isolation):

* *On the other hand, technology can create superficial relationships.*
* *Many people spend more time on their phones than interacting face-to-face.*
* *This leads to a decrease in real-life social skills, which affects deeper human connections.*

Conclusion:

* *In conclusion, while technology has some positive effects on social interaction, its overuse is leading to isolation.*
* *I believe that people need to balance their use of technology to maintain meaningful relationships.*

We pass the written IELTS -

General Training Level -

Task 1

IELTS Writing Task at level GT you will be asked to write a letter in response to a situational task. The letter may be formal, semi-formal or informal depending on the context. The task will be based on a scenario and you will be asked to explain the situation, make a request or provide information.

So, there are 3 types of letters. Let's look at them in order:

Formal letter

* This style is used when writing to someone you don't know, or when the situation is professional or official.
* It is usually addressed to a company, organization or official person.

Example of a task:

You *recently attended a seminar at a local college. However, you are not satisfied with the event because of some problems. Write a letter to the college principal and explain:*

- What *the seminar was about*

*- What the problems were*

*- What you would like the principal to do about it*

Sample answer *(Formal Letter):*

*Dear Sir/Madam,*

*I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with a seminar I attended at your college on October 10th, 2023, which focused on digital marketing strategies. While the topic was informative, I encountered several issues that detracted from the experience.*

*Firstly, the seminar was poorly organized. The schedule was not followed, with delays in each session. Additionally, the projector equipment malfunctioned multiple times, making it difficult to follow the presentation. Many of the attendees expressed frustration as they were expecting a more professional event.*

*I kindly request that you review the feedback from the attendees and take steps to ensure that future events are better organized and that all technical equipment is in working order before the seminar begins.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*John Smith*

Semi-formal letter

- You write this letter to someone you know, say, a neighbor or colleague, but at the same time you maintain a certain level of professionalism.

- Usually this style implies a mixture of personal and formal.

Example of a task:

*Your neighbor has recently written to you to complain about noise coming from your house. Write a letter to your neighbor. In your letter:*

*- Explain the reason for the noise*

*-Apologize for the inconvenience*

*- Tell your neighbor what steps you will take to reduce the noise*

Sample Answer *(Semi-Formal Letter):*

*Dear Mr. Johnson,*

*I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to apologize for the noise coming from my house over the past few days.*

*I understand how frustrating this must have been for you, and I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused.*

*The noise was due to some home renovation work we have been undertaking, which involved drilling and hammering. I had not anticipated that it would be so disruptive to our neighbors. Moving forward, I will ensure that all work is done during the daytime when it is least likely to disturb anyone, and I will ask the workers to keep the noise to a minimum.*

*Thank you for your understanding, and I appreciate your patience during this time.*

*Kind regards,*

*Emily Davis*

Informal letter

- You write such a letter to someone you know personally, i.e. a friend or relative.

- The tone of the letter is friendly and almost conversational.

Example of a task:

*You have recently moved to a new city and are planning to invite a friend to visit. Write a letter to your friend. In your letter:*

*- Describe your new city*

*- Explain why you think they should visit*

*- Suggest some activities you can do together when they come*

Sample answer *(Informal Letter):*

*Dear Jessie,*

*I hope you're doing well! I wanted to let you know that I've just moved to a new city, and it's amazing! I've settled in here in Brighton, and I think you would love it too.*

*Brighton has beautiful beaches, lots of great cafes, and a really cool, artistic vibe. There are also plenty of street markets where you can find unique handmade crafts. I think you'd really enjoy exploring the city with me - especially the pier and the seaside walks!*

*It would be great if you could come visit me soon. We can spend time on the beach, check out the local art galleries, and maybe even have a barbecue in my backyard. Let me know when you're free, and I’ll make sure to clear my schedule!*

*Take care,*

*Anna*

Let's sum it up

*- Formal letter:* to someone you don't know or with whom you communicate on professional matters.

* *Semi-formal letter:* to someone you know but keep at a distance, such as a colleague or neighbor.
* *Informal letter:* to a close friend or relative with whom you have a warm relationship.

Each type of letter requires a certain tone and structure (see above) depending on the relationship between the writer and the recipient and the specific situation. Try to maintain the appropriate language and style whenever possible. I hope you have noticed that the abbreviations – I’ll, *can't* etc. - you can afford it only in an informal letter.

We pass the written IELTS -

General Training Level -

Task 2

In the second writing task at GT level , you will be asked to write an essay in response to a given statement or argument. The essay should state your point of view and include supporting arguments and examples. The essay types here are exactly the same as at *Academic level,* However, the topics are usually closer to everyday life rather than scientific or technical.

Below I will list the main types of essay tasks that you may encounter in the IELTS General *Training writing section,* and answer options:

Opinion Essay

(agree or disagree with the statement)

In this type of essay, you will be asked to express your opinion on a particular statement. You need to say whether you agree with it or not, and provide reasoning and examples to support your point of view.

Example of a task:

*Some people believe that teenagers should have part-time jobs while they are still in school.*

*Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.*

Example of an essay:

Introduction - *In today's world, it is common for teenagers to take up part-time jobs while still in school. Some people argue that this can provide them with valuable skills and experience, while others believe it might negatively impact their academic performance. In my opinion, I believe that part-time jobs are beneficial for teenagers, provided that they maintain a balance between work and school.*

Paragraph 1 - *One of the main advantages of having a part-time job as a teenager is the opportunity to develop essential life skills. Working at a young age teaches teenagers responsibility, time management, and how to handle money. For example, working at a retail store requires young people to be punctual, interact with customers, and manage their schedules around school. These skills will not only help them in their future careers but also in their personal lives.*

Paragraph 2 *- Additionally, a part-time job can give teenagers a sense of independence and financial responsibility. Earning their own money allows them to make personal decisions about how to spend or save, which can teach them the value of hard work and financial planning. For instance, many teenagers use their earnings to save for college or contribute to their family's expenses, which makes them more conscious about the cost of living and the importance of saving.*

Paragraph 3 (it may not exist) - *However, it is important that teenagers do not let their part-time jobs interfere with their education. If a student works too many hours, it may lead to fatigue, stress, and poor academic performance. Therefore, it is crucial for teenagers to maintain a balance between work and study by limiting the number of hours they work each week. Parents and employers should also play a role* in *ensuring that the job does not negatively impact the student's academic success.*

Conclusion - *In* *conclusion, I agree that teenagers should be encouraged to take up part-time jobs, as they can learn valuable skills and gain independence. However, it is essential that they do not compromise their education in the process. With proper time management and support, part ­time work can be a positive experience for teenagers.*

Discussion Essay

(discuss both points of view)

You are asked to discuss two opposing points of view on a particular issue. Sometimes you may be asked to express your own opinion.

Example of a task:

*Some people think that parents should teach their children how to be good members of society, while others believe that school is the best place to learn this. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

Example of an essay:

Introduction - *Raising children to become responsible members of society is a crucial task, and there are differing views on who should take the lead in this process. Some argue that parents play the most important role in teaching their children how to behave well in society, while others believe that schools are better equipped for this responsibility. In my opinion, both parents and schools have important roles to play, and a combination of both can provide the best outcomes.*

*Paragraph 1 - On the one hand, parents are the first and most influential teachers in a child's life. From a very young age, children learn behavior and values by observing their parents. For example, parents can teach their children the importance of respect, honesty, and kindness through daily interactions and by setting a good example. Furthermore, parents understand their children's personalities and can provide guidance tailored to their individual needs. Since children spend a significant amount of time at home, parents have numerous opportunities to shape their behavior and instill core values that contribute to society.*

Paragraph 2 - *On the other hand, schools play a vital role in teaching children how to function as part of a community. Schools provide a structured environment where children are exposed to different social situations, such as teamwork, competition, and conflict resolution. For example, through group projects, sports, and extracurricular activities, children learn how to cooperate with others, follow rules, and handle disagreements. Additionally, schools often have formal programs that focus on citizenship, ethics, and social responsibility, ensuring that all students receive a consistent education on how to be good members of society.*

Paragraph 3 (if required) - *First view, both parents and schools must work together to raise well-rounded and socially responsible individuals. Parents lay the foundation for moral behavior, but schools provide the social environment where these values are put into practice. Children benefit when they receive consistent messages at home and at school about what is acceptable behavior. For example, if parents teach their children to respect others and schools reinforce this message through group activities and discussions, the child is more likely to adopt these values.*

Conclusion - *In conclusion, while parents play a fundamental role in shaping their children's character, schools are equally important in helping children apply these lessons in a broader social context. A combination of strong parental guidance and supportive school programs can ensure that children grow into responsible and respectful members of society.*

Advantages and Disadvantages   
Essay

In this type of essay, you will be asked to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a particular situation. Sometimes you may be asked whether you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Read the assignment carefully.

Example of a task:

*In some countries, many people prefer to rent their homes rather than buy them. What are the advantages and disadvantages of renting a home?*

Example of an essay:

Introduction - *In many parts of the world, people are increasingly choosing to rent homes instead of purchasing them.* *While* *renting offers several advantages such as flexibility and lower upfront costs, it also has some drawbacks, particularly the lack of long-term financial security. In this essay, I will discuss both the benefits and disadvantages of renting a home.*

Paragraph 1 (Advantages) - *One of the key advantages of renting a home is flexibility. Renters can easily move from one place to another without the complications of selling a property. This is particularly beneficial for people with jobs that require frequent relocation or for those who enjoy experiencing different neighborhoods or cities. Another advantage is that renting generally requires lower upfront costs. Purchasing a home often involves a large down payment, while renting only requires a deposit and the first month's rent. Additionally, renters are not responsible for property maintenance, as this is typically the landlord's responsibility. For example, if a renter's heating system breaks down, the landlord is usually obligated to cover the repair costs.*

Paragraph 2 (Disadvantages) — *However, there are also significant disadvantages to renting. One of the main drawbacks is the lack of ownership. Renters do not build equity in the property they live in, meaning that their monthly payments do not contribute to long-term financial stability. Over time, renting can be more expensive than buying, as homeowners eventually pay off their mortgage and own their property outright, whereas renters must continue to make payments indefinitely. Furthermore, renters have less control over their living situation. For example, a landlord may decide to increase the rent or sell the property, forcing the renter to move out unexpectedly.*

Conclusion - *In conclusion, while renting offers advantages such as flexibility and reduced maintenance responsibilities, it also has disadvantages, particularly the lack of long-term financial benefits and security. Ultimately, whether to rent or buy depends on an individual's financial situation, lifestyle, and future plans. For those seeking stability and investment, homeownership may be the better option, while renting may suit those who prioritize flexibility and lower initial costs.*

Problem-Solution Essay

In this type of essay, you will have to describe a problem and offer a possible solution. You need to explain what the problem is and come up with a realistic way out of the situation.

Example of a task:

*In many cities around the world, the number of cars is increasing, leading to traffic congestion.*

*What are the main causes of this problem, and what solutions do you suggest?*

Example of an essay:

Introduction - *In recent years, the rising number of cars on the road has become a significant issue in cities across the globe. This has led to serious traffic congestion, which affects both the environment and people's quality of life. In this essay, I will discuss the main causes of traffic congestion and suggest some practical solutions to address this growing problem.*

Paragraph 1 (reasons) - *One of the primary reasons for the increase in traffic congestion is the affordability and accessibility of cars. Over the years, the cost of purchasing a vehicle has decreased, making it easier for more people to own a car. Additionally, car loans and financing options have made it possible for individuals to buy vehicles even if they do not have the full amount upfront. Another cause is poor public transportation systems. In many cities, public transport is either insufficient* or *unreliable, which forces people to rely on their own cars to commute. For instance, in cities with limited bus or train routes, people often have no choice but to drive, which increases the number of vehicles on the road.*

Paragraph 2 (solution) - *One solution to this problem is to improve public transportation systems. Governments should invest in building efficient and reliable public transport networks, such as buses, trains, and subways. This would encourage people more to leave their cars at home and use public transport instead. For example, cities like Tokyo and Singapore have world-class transportation systems that help reduce traffic congestion significantly. Another effective solution is to introduce congestion charges in crowded city centers. By charging drivers a fee to enter congested areas during peak hours, cities can discourage unnecessary car use and reduce the number of vehicles on the road. This has been successfully implemented in cities like London, where traffic congestion has decreased after the introduction of a congestion charge.*

Conclusion - *In conclusion, the increasing number of cars on the road is primarily caused by the affordability of vehicles and inadequate public transport systems.*

*To address this issue, cities must focus on improving public transportation and implementing policies such as congestion charges. By taking these steps, we can reduce traffic congestion and make our cities more livable for everyone.*

Double Question

(Two-Part Question)

In this essay, you will be asked to answer two different but related questions. You will have to give a structured answer to both.

Example of a task:

*More and more people are choosing to work from home. Why is this happening? Do you think this is a positive or negative development?*

Example of an essay:

Introduction - *In recent years, there has been a growing trend of people working from home, a shift that has been greatly facilitated by advancements in technology and changing attitudes towards work-life balance. There are several reasons for this change, and while working from home offers many benefits, it also has its drawbacks. In this essay, I will explore why more people are choosing to work from home and discuss whether I believe this is a positive or negative development.*

Paragraph 1 (answer to the 1st question) - *One of the main reasons more people are working from home is the advancement of technology. The widespread availability of high-speed internet, video conferencing tools, and cloud-based software has made it possible for people to perform their tasks remotely, without the need to be physically present in an office. Furthermore, many companies are recognizing the cost savings associated with allowing employees to work from home, such as reduced office space and utility expenses. Another reason is the desire for a better work-life balance. Working from home allows employees to have more flexibility in their schedules, helping them manage family responsibilities and reduce the time spent commuting.*

Paragraph 2 (answer to the 2nd question) - *In that opinion, working from home is a positive development for several reasons. First, it can lead to increased productivity. Without the distractions of an office environment and the time-consuming commute, employees сan focus more on their work and complete tasks more efficiently. Second, working from home can greatly improve an individual's quality of life. For example, they can spend more time with their families and pursue personal interests, which contribute to overall well ­being. However, it is important to note that there are some potential downsides to remote work, such as feelings of isolation or the lack of a clear boundary between work and home life. To address this, it is essential for companies to offer support, such as regular virtual meetings or occasional in ­office days.*

Conclusion - *In conclusion, the shift towards working from home is largely driven by technological advancements and the desire for greater flexibility. While there are some challenges associated with remote work, I believe it is a positive development overall, as it improves productivity and enhances work-life balance for many people.*

Structure of the essay

Whichever of the above essays you write, stick to the same structure that you already understand:

Entry:

- Rephrase the task.

- Put forward your thesis (describe your position or idea)

Paragraphs:

- Each paragraph should include one main idea.

- Give examples and provide explanations.

Conclusion:

- Summarize the main points of the above.

- Repeat your thesis or opinion.

Distinctive features of a   
General Training essay

* The topics in GT are more practical in nature and involve everyday situations such as work, education, family and society.
* The level of "formality" is usually lower than in the *Academic essay.*
* The language of the essay is usually simpler and less specialized.

In any case, it is important to present balanced and well-reasoned arguments using clear logic and specific examples.

Taking the speaking IELTS

Tips for IELTS Speaking Test

Be confident and

speak up smoothly

The most important thing in an oral exam is to speak fluently, that is, fluently, without long pauses. Don't worry too much about being perfect. It's better to keep speaking even if you make small mistakes than to stop and correct yourself.

Expand your answers

Don't give short, one-word or very brief answers. Always try to add more details or explain your thoughts. For example, if the examiner asks, "Do you like reading?", instead of just saying, "Yes," say, "Yes, I like reading because it helps me relax and I like to learn new things."

Use variety vocabulary

Try to show that you know different words and expressions. Instead of constantly repeating the same word, use synonyms and more descriptive expressions. For example, instead of *I like,* you can say *I enjoy* or *I’m fond of.*

Practice pronunciation

Pronunciation is important, but you don't have to sound like a native speaker. Focus on speaking clearly so the examiner can understand you. Also, practice English intonation and stress so that your speech sounds more natural. There are millions of films and videos for this. Forget about laziness for a while.

Be prepared for all parts

IELTS speaking test consists of three parts:

Part I: Personal questions on familiar topics (work, study, family).

Part 2: Long Speech (you will be asked to speak for 2 minutes on a given topic).

Part 3: Discussion (more complex questions related to the topic in Part 2).

Practice answers for all three parts to feel confident in the exam. Details below.

Don't memorize the answers.

It's easy to give in to the temptation to memorise answers to common topics, but examiners can spot memorised answers quite quickly. Instead, practise speaking naturally about a variety of topics so you can answer confidently in the exam.

Ask for clarification if   
necessary

If you don't understand the question, it's okay, you can ask the examiner to repeat or explain it. It's better to clarify the question than to answer something you don't understand.

Stay calm and positive

It's normal to be nervous, but try to stay calm and smile. This will help you feel more confident and improve your speech. Remember that an exam is just a conversation with a person.

Between *IELTS Speaking* *There is no difference in format, content or assessment between the* Academic and General Training levels . The oral portion of the exam is the same for both test versions. This means that regardless of whether you take the Academic or General Training version, the oral exam will include the same types of questions and tasks.

General Features of IELTS   
Speaking

**Duration:** about 11-14 min.

**Structure:** consists of three parts.

*- Part 1:* The examiner asks questions about topics related to your everyday life, such as work, study, family, hobbies and interests.

* *Part 2:* You are given a card with a topic and you have to speak on it for 1-2 minutes. You have one minute to prepare.
* *Part 3:* The examiner asks more complex questions related to the topic in Part 2. This discussion requires more detailed answers and analysis.

Evaluation

The assessment is carried out according to four main criteria:

* *Fluency and Coherence :* How easily you can express your thoughts and how logically your speech is structured.
* *Lexical Resource:* how varied and precise your use of words.
* *Grammatical Range and Accuracy :* how correctly you use grammatical structures.
* *Pronunciation :* how clear and understandable your pronunciation is.

Dry residue

IELTS Speaking is the same for both the Academic and General Training versions of the test. In both cases, the examiner will assess your communication skills using the same criteria and the questions will be about everyday topics.

Examples of oral tasks

and answers

Below are examples of dialogues from all three parts of the IELTS Speaking Test - variations of questions you might come across and examples of correct answers to them.

Part I: Introduction and Interview

(4-5 minutes)

In this part you will be asked about your personal life, work, studies, hobbies, etc.

*Examiner:* Can you tell me your full name, please?

*Candidate:* My name is Maria Ivanova.

*Examiner:* Where are you from?

*Candidate:* I’m from Moscow, the capital city of Russia. It's a large and vibrant city with a rich history and a lot of cultural landmarks.

*Examiner:* Do you work or study?

*Candidate:* Currently, I'm working as a software engineer. I've been in this field for about five years now, and I really enjoy the problem-solving aspect of my job.

*Examiner:* What do you like to do in your free time?

*Candidate:* In my free time, I enjoy reading books, especially novels. I also like going for walks in the park and trying out new recipes at home. Cooking helps me relax after a long day.

Part 2: Long Turn (1-2 minutes)

In this part you will be given a topic and 1 minute to prepare. After finishing it you will have to speak continuously on the given topic for 1-2 minutes.

Subject:

Describe a city you have visited that you would like to go back to. You should say:

- Where the city is

- When you visited it

- What you did there

1. And explain why you would like to go back

*Candidate:*

One city I visited and would love to return to is Paris, the capital of France. I went there about three years ago during a vacation. While I was there, I visited many famous landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre Museum. I also enjoyed walking along the Seine River and exploring the charming streets filled with cafes and boutiques.

The reason I want to go back is that Paris has so much more to offer. During my last visit, I didn't have enough time to visit all the museums or explore the local neighborhoods fully. I'd love to spend more time discovering the art galleries, trying more French cuisine, and even visiting some places outside the city, like Versailles.

Part 3: Discussion (4-5 minutes)

In this part, the examiner will ask more detailed questions related to the topic that you covered in ­Part 2.

*Examiner:* What are the advantages of living in a large city like Paris?

*Candidate:* Living in a large city like Paris comes with many advantages. First, there are numerous opportunities for education and employment. Big cities tend to have better schools, universities, and a ^vide range of job opportunities. Additionally, large cities offer more entertainment options, such as theaters, museums, restaurants, and cultural events, which makes life more exciting. Finally, public transport in big cities is often more developed, making it easier to get around withoirt a car.

*Examiner:* Do you think more people will move to cities in the future? Why or why not?

*Candidate:* Yes, I believe more people will continue to move to cities in the future. As economies grow and technology advances, cities often provide more jobs and a higher standard of living, which attracts people fi'om rural areas. Also, cities offer better healthcare, education, and services that many people find appealing. However, I do think there will be challenges related to overpopulation, such as housing shortages and traffic congestion, which need to be addressed.

*Examiner.* How can governments make living in big cities more comfortable?

*Candidate:* Governments can make big cities more comfortable by improving public seivices and infrastructure. For instance, investing in efficient public transportation systems can reduce traffic congestion and make commuting easier. Governments should also focus on creating more affordable housing to accommodate the growing population. Additionally, increasing green spaces like parks can enhance the quality of life by providing residents with places to relax and exercise.

Useful words

and expressions for usneiinoi

IETLS passing

Written part

These words and expressions will help you structure your writing tasks and set the polished, formal tone favoured in this part of IELTS. They will help you convey different ideas, support them with arguments and link several ideas with common logic.

1. General Academic Vocabulary

- Accumulate - accumulate

**- Affect -** to influence

**- Analyze -** analyze

- Argue - to argue

**- Assume -** to suppose

**- Claim -** to assert

- Clarify - clarify

- Conclude - to conclude

- Consequence - consequence

- Consist of - consist of

**- Demonstrate -** to demonstrate

- Discuss - discuss

- Emphasize - to emphasize

- Enhance - to strengthen

**- Establish -** to install

- Evaluate - to evaluate

**- Evidence -** proof

- Expand - expand

- Explain - to explain

- Factor - factor

- Hypothesis - hypothesis

**- Illustrate -** to illustrate

**- Imply -** to imply

- Indicate - to indicate

**- Infer -** to make a conclusion

**- Justify -** to justify

**- Maintain -** support

- Mention - to mention

- Propose - to offer

**- Prove -** to prove

**- Recommend -** recommend

- Require - to demand

- Result in - lead to

- Significant - significant

- State - to declare

1. Describing Trends

* **Increase -** to increase
* Decrease - to decrease
* **Rise -** to rise
* Fall - to fall
* Fluctuate - to fluctuate
* **Stabilize -** stabilize
* **Peak -** to reach the peak
* **Plummet -** to fall sharply
* **Surge -** to increase sharply
* Decline - decrease
* **Steady -** stable
* **Gradual -** gradual
* Sharp - sharp
* **Dramatic -** significant
* **Slight -** insignificant
* Significant - essential
* Cause and Effect

**- Lead to** - lead to

**- Result from -** to be a result

- Cause - to cause

- Contribute to - to contribute

- Due to - because of

- Owing to - thanks

- As a result of - as a result of

- Consequently - therefore

- Therefore - therefore

- Trigger - to call

- Be responsible for - be responsible for

**- Stem from -** to come from

* . Comparison and Contrast

- Similar to - similar to

- Different from - different from

- In contrast to - in contrast to

- Compared to - no comparison with

- On the one hand - on one side

- On the other hand - on the other hand

- Whereas - whereas

- However - however

- Nevertheless - nevertheless

- Although - although

**- Even though -** despite the fact that

* . Expressing Opinions

- In my opinion - in my opinion

- I believe that - I believe that

- It seems to me that - it seems to me that

- From my point of view - from my point of view

- As far as I am concerned - as far as I know

- I am convinced that - I am convinced that

- I tend to think that - I tend to think that

* . Concluding

- In conclusion - in conclusion

**-To sum up -** summing up

**- Overall -** in general and on the whole

- All in all - as a whole

**- Ultimately -** ultimately

- In summary - in general

- Taking everything into account

- On the whole - as a whole

* .Introducing Examples

- For example - for example

- For instance - for example

- Such as - such as

- Namely - namely

- In particular - in particular

**- To illustrate -** to illustrate

**- As an example -** as an example

* . Formal Linking Words

- Furthermore - besides

- Moreover - moreover

- In addition - in addition

- Besides - besides

- Consequently - therefore

- As a result - as a result

**- Despite -** despite

- In spite of - despite

- Although - although

**- Even though -** despite the fact that

Oral part

These IELTS Speaking words and phrases , divided into relevant topics, will help you to give coherent, fluent and confident answers. You can use these phrases to express your thoughts, share your opinions or describe events.

1. General Vocabulary for   
   Expressing Opinions

- I think - I think

- In my opinion - In my opinion

- To be honest - To be honest

- As far as I know - As far as I know

- It seems to me that - It seems to me that

- I believe - I believe

- From my point of view - From my point of view

**-Asi see it -** How I see it

**- I guess -** I guess

- I'm not sure, but - I'm not sure, but

- Personally - Personally

- I tend to think that

- In my experience - In my experience

1. Describing Likes and Dislikes

**- I really like -** I really like

- I'm fond of - I love

**- I'm keen on** - I'm keen on

**- I enjoy -** I like it

* I'm crazy about - I'm crazy about
* **I can't stand -** I can't stand
* I'm not a fan of - I'm not a fan of
* I don't really like - I don't really like
* **I prefer -** I prefer
* I would rather - I would prefer
* I'm into - I'm into
* I'm interested in - I'm interested in

3. Talking about the Past

- I used to - I used to

1. When I was younger - When I was younger
2. Back then - At that time
3. In the past - In the past
4. **A few years ago -** Several years ago
5. When I was a child - When I was a child
6. **As a teenager -** Being a teenager
7. I remember when - I remember when
8. It was a long time ago - It was a long time ago
9. Talking about the Future

I 'm going to - I 'm planning to -1 hope to - In the future - I 'd like to -1 will probably -1 think I'll - One day I will -1 expect to -1 imagine that

1. Giving Examples

- For example - For instance - Such as - Like - Let me give you an example - To give you an idea - A good example would be - A good example would be

1. Agreeing and Disagreeing

- I agree - I agree

- I totally agree - I totally agree

-1 see what you mean - I see what you mean

- You're absolutely right - You're absolutely right

- That's a good point .

- I couldn't agree more - I can't disagree

- I 'm not sure I agree with you

-1 disagree - I don't agree

- I don't think so - I don't think so

- That's not how I see it - I see it differently

- I'm afraid I have to disagree - I'm afraid I can't agree

1. Talking about Preferences

- I prefer - I prefer

- I'd rather - I would prefer

-1 like... better than... - I like... better than...

- I'd choose - I would choose

- Given the choice - If there was a choice

**- If I had to choose -** If I had to choose

- I have a preference for - I prefer

- I lean towards - I lean towards

1. Expressing Certainty and   
   Uncertainty

- I 'm certain that

**- I'm positive that -** I'm absolutely sure that

**-** I **have no doubt that**

- I 'm sure that

- There's no doubt that - There's no doubt that

- I'm not sure - I'm not moderate

- It's possible that - It's possible that

- I might be wrong, but - I might be wrong, but

- It's hard to say - It's hard to say

- I'm in two minds about it .

1. Expression Frequency

- Always - Always

- Usually - Usually

- Often - Often

- Sometimes - Sometimes

- Rarely - Rarely

**- Hardly ever** - Almost never

- Never - Never

- Every now and then - From time to time

- Once in a while - Occasionally

- From time to time - From time to time

1. Talking about Advantages and Disadvantages

- The main advantage is - The main advantage is

- The biggest disadvantage is - The biggest disadvantage is

**- One benefit of -** One of the advantages

**- One drawback is -** One drawback is

**- On the plus side -** On the positive side

**- On the downside -** On the downside

- The pros and cons - Pros and cons

**- A positive aspect is -** A positive aspect is

- A negative aspect is - A negative aspect is

1. Describing Places

- It's located in - It's located in

**- It's famous for -** It's famous for

**- It's a smaU/big city -** It's a small/big city

- It has a population of - The population is

- It 's a great place to

- It's known for its - It's known for its

**- There 's a lot to** do.

**- It's a quiet/** busy area

- It 's a touristy place .

1. Describing People

**-** He/She **is very friendly**

- He/She has a great sense of humor

- He/She is kind

- He/She is reliable

- He/She is outgoing

- He/She is hardworking

- He/She is intelligent - He/She is smart

- He/She is creative - He/She is creative

**- He/ She is helpful -** He/She is ready to help

Advice from an experienced person for

successful passing of IELTS

1. Don't overload yourself the night before

exam

The day before the exam, you shouldn't study anything new or review too much material. It's important to get enough sleep, rest, and prepare yourself psychologically. Fatigue can negatively affect your ability to concentrate.

Tip: *Get some rest before the exam so you arrive at the test feeling refreshed and energized.*

1. Be confident in yourself

There may be anxiety during the exam, but it is important to remain calm and moderate in your abilities. Try to focus on the questions and do not worry about the results during the test.

Advice: *Believe in your knowledge and abilities.*

*Confidence is half the battle.*

1. Manage your time clearly

Time is limited in the exam, especially in the Reading and Writing sections. Plan your time carefully: if you get stuck on one question, move on to the next one and come back to it later.

Tip: *Time management is the key to success in the exam.*

1. Follow the instructions carefully

Pay attention to the wording of the questions. For example, if you are asked to write an answer in 3 words, do not exceed this number. Small mistakes can cost you points.

Tip: *Please read the instructions carefully to avoid unnecessary loss of points.*

1. Practice Spontaneous Speaking   
   for Speaking

In the Speaking section , it is important to speak confidently, even if you are not sure of your answer. Do not pause for long periods of time and try to express your thoughts clearly, using a variety of vocabulary.

Tip: *Practice speaking spontaneously by discussing different topics - this will increase your confidence and fluency.*

1. Use variety

vocabulary

Try not to repeat words, especially in Writing and Speaking. Use synonyms and show that you have a wide range of vocabulary.

Tip: *Work on expanding your vocabulary and being able to use it in practice.*

1. Pay attention to detail   
   in Listening and Reading

These sections often contain "catchphrases" - similar words or phrases that can be confusing. Pay attention to detail and try to interpret the context correctly.

Advice: *Analyze carefully what you hear*

*and read it so as not to miss important details.*

1. Don't make your introduction   
   and conclusion too long in Writing

In an essay, you shouldn't write a very long introduction or conclusion. Focus on the main part where you develop your arguments, and try to be brief and to the point.

Tip: *In Writing , focus on argumentation and logic, avoiding unnecessary digressions.*

1. Use linking words   
   and phrases

In Writing and Speaking, coherence is important. Use phrases such as “in addition,” “on the other hand,” “therefore,” to connect your ideas clearly and logically.

Tip: *Coherent words make your speech or text more logical and structured.*

1. Stay positive

and flexible

If you feel like something went wrong in one section, don't worry or panic. Each section of the exam is a separate opportunity to earn points. Focus on the task at hand.

Advice: *If something doesn't go according to plan, keep fighting for every point - a positive attitude is very important.*

By following these tips, you will be able to approach the IELTS exam as prepared and confident as possible.

Good luck with IELTS!

By the same author

Fantasy

*"Masters of the Flat Earth" "War of the Virtual Worlds" "Doomed to Play" "African Tyrant"*

Fantasy

*"Torlon"*

*"Torlon. The war is raging"*

*"Torlon. Winter Heat"*

*"The Many-Faced Wanderer"*

Translations

*"The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet"* (Shakespeare)

*"Hamlet"* (Shakespeare)

*"Is Shakespeare Dead?"* (Mark Twain)

"Vi/right/ *sorcerer from the country of Gr"* (L. F. Bohm)

*"All roads lead to Calvary"* (Jerome K. Jerome)

Travel diaries

*"Sunny Albion"* (England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland)

*"Autumn-Autumn"* (Japan)

English language manuals

*"English in Miniatures"*

*"Rules and Exceptions" "Unexpected English. A Tutor's Thoughts" (in 3 volumes) "A Successful Interview... in English" "Ironic English" "English Football Slang" "The Difference Between" "The Difference Between 2.0" "American Hockey Slang" "Basketball English" "How to Say It in British" "Be Able to Express Yourself in English"*

Research

*"Hamlet": a literary detective story*

About the author

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