ROAD TO IELTS

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Listening

The basics

The test lasts 40 minutes, includes 40 questions and each correct answer is worth one mark, making a total of 40 marks.

The four sections

- A conversation in a social situation, such as buying theatre tickets
- One person speaking in a social situation, such as giving an overview of the facilities in a sports centre
- A conversation in an educational context, such as a seminar
- A lecture on an academic subject, such as climate change

Timing

You will listen for approximately 30 minutes, and you have 10 minutes to transfer your answers from the question booklet to your answer sheet. The audio is played once only.

Two key elements in your preparation for the Listening test

1 Improve your listening skills with materials online.

www.ted.com

1. Choose a lecture and listen.
2. Listen again. It doesn't matter if you don't understand every word: can you pick out the main ideas?
3. Listen a third time, if you need to, and click on *Show transcript* beneath the video screen.

2 Make sure you understand the question types.

This is essential. You need to know exactly what is expected of you in advance; you won't have time to figure it out during the test. Do you understand these question types: form completion, multiple selection, classification? If you are not 100% confident, consider subscribing to **Road To IELTS**, which includes both explanations and practice activities.

In the test room

Before listening

After the audio introduction, you will have 30 seconds to read the task. Use this time to read the instructions, and make sure you know what to do. Look at the situation (e.g. a library) and predict the vocabulary you will hear (*loan period*, *library catalogue*, *digital resources*). For each question, predict the type of word you are listening for. Is it a number, a place, a noun, a verb or an adjective?

As you listen

Note down key words, but don't try to write everything you hear. You won't be able to, and you will miss important information. Listen for signpost words and phrases such as *firstly...*, *now I want to talk about...* to help you structure the information in your mind. Be aware of synonyms: if you hear *a game of football*, the answer could be *football match*.

After listening

Remember that you have 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

- **Make sure you don't write more than the maximum number of words allowed**. E.g. the question might ask you to WRITE NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS.
- **Check your spelling and grammar**. Make sure you write the plural forms of nouns when needed.
- **If in doubt, guess**. You do not lose marks for a wrong answer, so there is nothing to be gained from leaving an answer blank.

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