



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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HOW TO PREPARE FOR READING TEST

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

EXAM FORMAT

- 60 minutes and 40 questions
- Academic and general exams
- For academic test, there will be three sections with one long passage per section.
- For general training, usually two passages in the first two sections and one passage in the third section.
- Overall, questions for general training exam is easier compared to academic exam.

IELTS Academic Correct Answers	IELTS Score*
39 - 40	9
37 - 38	8.5
35 - 36	8
33 - 34	7.5
30 - 32	7
27 - 29	6.5
23 - 26	6
19 - 22	5.5
15 - 18	5
13 - 14	4.5
10 - 12	4
8 - 9	3.5
6 - 7	3
4 - 5	2.5

IELTS General Correct Answers	IELTS Score*
40	9
39	8.5
37 - 38	8
36	7.5
34 - 35	7
32 - 33	6.5
30 - 31	6
27 - 29	5.5
23 - 26	5
19 - 22	4.5
15 - 18	4
12 - 14	3.5
9 - 11	3
6 - 8	2.5

BAND SCORE AND THE
NUMBER OF CORRECT
ANSWERS

STRATEGIES

- Reading section progresses from simple questions to difficult questions. The further you go, the more difficult the questions become. Go through the easy questions quite quickly to save more time to find answers to the more difficult ones.
- 15 minutes on Section 1 (easy), 20 minutes on section 2 and 25 minutes on section 3 (tough).
- Don't spend too much time on any single question. Mark them to review and come back to them if you have extra time.
- Never read the whole passage in one go. Many questions come in order. Read the first question, then quickly scan and read the passage until you find where the answer is. Then you must slow down, re-read the question/sentence and you find the answer. Then read the second question and repeat the process. This method saves a lot of time.

STRATEGIES

- There are two types of questions : the ones that come in order and the ones that don't come in order.
 - a) Missing words (ordered)
 - b) True/False & Yes/No/Not given type of questions (ordered)
 - c) Yes/No/Not given type of questions in section 3 (not ordered)
 - d) Multiple choice questions (not ordered)
 - e) Match the following (para number will be given)
 - f) Matching paragraphs – which para contains the following information (not in order)
 - g) Sentence completion (not ordered)
 - h) Questions in section 3 (not ordered) – Most difficult ones

STRATEGIES

- Take a lot of practise tests before taking the exam. Accustom yourself with the exam format and question types.
- Identify keywords: While reading a question, identify the keywords. That will help you keep concentrated on what you are looking for. Highlight those keywords. You may also highlight key information like dates and names. Answers to most questions lie in several words. You don't need to understand everything. You just need to find those words.
- The correct answers and the words in the key phrase will be paraphrased. They will not be repeated. But the meaning will be the same. Sometimes you may find words in the text and the same words in one of the options. Most likely that is a trap and is not the correct option. So, check the meaning.