

Steve Liu IELTS

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IELTS

Class Notes

Notes

Introduction

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is an English proficiency exam for study, work, and migration.

There are two types of IELTS:

- Academic: for university and higher education
- General Training: for work and immigration

The test has four sections:

- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking

LISTENING

- Duration: 30 minutes + 10 minutes to transfer answers
- Four sections, increasing in difficulty
- Each recording is played once
- Different English accents are used

Common question types:

- Multiple choice
- Form, note, or table completion
- Sentence completion
- Map and diagram labeling

Listening tips:

- Read questions before listening
- Predict the type of answer needed
- Listen for keywords and synonyms
- Check spelling, numbers, and plural forms
- If you miss an answer, move on and stay focused

READING

- Duration: 60 minutes
- Three reading passages
- Academic: long and complex texts
- General Training: everyday and workplace texts

Common question types:

- True / False / Not Given
- Matching information
- Sentence completion
- Multiple choice

Reading strategies:

- Skim the passage for the main idea
 - Scan for specific information
 - Do not read every word
 - Manage time carefully (about 20 minutes per passage)
 - “Not Given” means the information is not mentioned
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WRITING

- Duration: 60 minutes
- Two tasks

Writing Task 1 Academic:

- Describe graphs, charts, maps, or processes
- Write at least 150 words
- Do not give opinions
- Include an overview of main trends

Writing Task 1 General Training:

- Write a letter
- Use formal, semi-formal, or informal tone depending on the situation

Writing Task 2 (Academic and General):

- Write an essay
- Write at least 250 words
- Worth more marks than Task 1
- Answer the question clearly
- Support ideas with examples

Essay structure:

- Introduction
- Body paragraph 1

- Body paragraph 2
 - Conclusion
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SPEAKING

- Face-to-face interview
- Duration: 11–14 minutes

Part 1:

- Short questions about familiar topics
- Examples: work, studies, hobbies, daily life

Part 2:

- Cue card topic
- 1 minute to prepare
- Speak for 1–2 minutes

Part 3:

- Discussion related to Part 2
- More abstract and opinion-based questions

Speaking tips:

- Speak naturally
 - Do not memorize answers
 - Extend answers with reasons and examples
 - Small mistakes are acceptable
 - Fluency is more important than perfection
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BAND SCORES

- Band 5: basic user
 - Band 6: competent user
 - Band 7: good user
 - Band 8–9: very good to expert user
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COMMON PROBLEMS

- Poor time management
 - Limited vocabulary
 - Grammar mistakes under pressure
 - Memorized writing answers
 - Very short speaking responses
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STUDY TIPS

- Practice English daily
- Learn vocabulary in phrases and collocations
- Review mistakes regularly
- Take timed practice tests
- Use English outside the classroom