**IELTS General**

IELTS, the International English Language Testing System, is designed to assess the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is used as the language of communication. IELTS is required for entry to university in the UK and other countries.

**What is the IELTS General test like?**

The General version of IELTS is easier than the academic version. All candidates do the same [Listening](https://www.examenglish.com/IELTS/IELTS_listening.html) and [speaking](https://www.examenglish.com/IELTS/IELTS_Speaking.htm) sections.  
The test has four sections:

**Listening**

4 sections, 40 questions, 30 minutes  
Section 1: a conversation between two people   
Section 2: a monologue set in an everyday social context  
Section 3: a conversation between up to four people set in an educational or training context  
Section 4: a monologue on an academic subject (e.g. a university lecture)  
Each section is heard once only

**Speaking**

An interview, 15 minutes  
Part 1 Introduction and interview   
Part 2 Individual long turn (you have to talk about a topic)  
Part 3 Two-way discussion (The examiner asks further questions which are connected to the topic of Part 2.)

**Reading**

3 sections, 40 questions, 60 minutes  
Section 1: two or three short factual texts  
Section 2: contains two short factual texts focusing on work-related issues  
Sectin 3: one longer, more complex text

**Writing**

Part 1: write a letter requesting information or explaining a situation.  
Part 2: write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem