



Basic Information

- **What Does 'IELTS' Mean?**

IELTS – International English Language Testing System TM

- **What is IELTS?**

- An English Language Proficiency Assessment for Non-Native English Speakers
- A Common Requirement for many Graduate Studies Programs Across the Globe

- **Where is IELTS Accepted?**

- Europe
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- New Zealand
- United States of America
- Canada

- **What are the Four Components of an IELTS Test?**

- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking

- **What are the Different Categories of IELTS?**

- Academic Module – Required for Graduate Studies
- General Training (GT) Module – Required for the Industry

- **What are the Differences Between These Two Categories?**

- Reading –
 - Academic – 3 Long Reading Passages. Slightly More Difficult.
 - GT – 2 Smaller Texts, and 1 Long Passage. Slightly Easier.
- Writing –
 - Academic Task 1 – Describing a Graph, Chart, or a Diagram
 - GT Task 1 – Writing a Letter
 - Task 2 – Essay Writing for Both Academic and GT
- Listening and Speaking Components are Exactly the Same for Both Academic and GT Modules

- **Who are the IELTS Agents in Sri Lanka?**
 - British Council
 - IDP
- **What are the Two Delivery Methods for the IELTS Test?**
 - Computer-Delivered
 - Paper-Based
- **What are the Differences Between These Two Methods?**

Computer-Delivered	Paper-Based
Listening, Reading, and Writing Components will be Done on Computer	Listening, Reading, and Writing Components will be Done on Paper
Speaking will be a One-on-One Session for Both Types	
Results Available in 5-7 Days	Results Available in 13 Days
300+ Test Dates Per Year	Up to 48 Test Dates Per Year
Highly Recommended for Candidates with Good Typing Ability	Recommended for Candidates with Substandard Typing Ability

Scoring

Band score	Skill level	Description
Band 9	Expert user	You have a full operational command of the language. Your use of English is appropriate, accurate and fluent, and you show complete understanding.
Band 8	Very good user	You have a fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriate usage. You may misunderstand some things in unfamiliar situations. You handle complex detailed argumentation well.
Band 7	Good user	You have an operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriate usage and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally you handle complex language well and understand detailed reasoning.
Band 6	Competent user	Generally you have an effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriate usage and misunderstandings. You can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
Band 5	Modest user	You have a partial command of the language, and cope with overall meaning in most situations, although you are likely to make many mistakes. You should be able to handle basic communication in your own field.
Band 4	Limited user	Your basic competence is limited to familiar situations. You frequently show problems in understanding and expression. You are not able to use complex language.
Band 3	Extremely limited user	You convey and understand only general meaning in very familiar situations. There are frequent breakdowns in communication.
Band 2	Intermittent user	You have great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.
Band 1	Non-user	You have no ability to use the language except a few isolated words.
Band 0	Did not attempt the test	You did not answer the questions.

For Listening and Academic Reading:

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

In Computer-Delivered Tests, Re-correction Possible only for Writing and Speaking Components.

Listening

- **Candidates will have to Listen to Monologues or Conversations and Answer Short Questions**
- **Duration – Approximately 30 Minutes**
- **4 Parts – 10 Questions Each**
- **Recordings will be Played ONCE ONLY**
- **Question Types –**
 - **Fill in the Blank – with One Word Only, or Multiple Words and/ or a Number (This can be Within a Table, a Summary, a Flow Chart, a Form, or Sentences)**
 - **Multiple Choice – 1 Answer out of 3, or 2 Answers out of 5**
 - **Labeling a Map or a Diagram**
 - **Matching**
 - **Short-Answer Questions – with a Word Limit**

Reading (Academic)

- 3 Parts – 40 Questions Total
- Time Limit – 1 Hour
- Question Types –
 - Multiple Choice
 - Identifying Information – True/ False/ Not Given or Yes/ No/ Not Given
 - Matching Information
 - Matching Headings
 - Matching Sentence-Endings
 - Completion of Sentences, Summary, Notes, Flow Chart, Diagram, Table – with a Word Limit
 - Short Answer Questions – with a Word Limit

Writing (Academic)

- Task 1 – Describing a Chart, Table, Graph, or a Diagram (Words > 150)
- Task 2 – Writing an Essay (Words > 250)
- Time Limit – 1 Hour
- Marking Criteria –
 - Task Achievement – 25%
 - Coherence and Cohesion – 25%
 - Vocabulary – 25%
 - Grammar – 25%

Speaking

- **One-on-One Interview with a Certified IELTS Examiner**
- **Duration – 11-14 Minutes**
- **3 Parts –**
 - **Part 1 – Introduction and General Questions About the Candidate (Work, Home, Interests, Pets, Family, etc.)**
 - **Part 2 – 1-2 Minutes Prepared Speech with 1 Minute Preparation Time**
 - **Part 3 – 3-4 Further Questions on the Same Topic as Part 2**

Tips for Preparation...

- **Listening –**

- Filling the Blanks – Read the Word Limit Carefully (One Word Only, One Word and/ or a Number, No More Than Two Words and/ or a Number, etc.)
- Filling the Blanks – All Words must be Exactly the Same as Heard on the Recordings
- Train the Ear, Eyes, and Mind to Work Synchronously – Especially Helpful for MCQs
- Focus is Important – You will not Hear the Recordings a Second Time
- Make Maximum Use of the Time Given to Go Through the Questions Prior to the Recordings

- **Reading –**

- ‘True (Yes)/ False (No)/ Not Given’ Questions – Learn the Difference Between ‘False (No)’ and ‘Not Given’
- Filling the Blanks – All Words must be Exactly the Same as in the Reading Passages

Tips for Preparation...

- **Writing –**

- Use Scientific or Semi-Formal Language. Go Through Research Journal Articles to Familiarize Yourself.
- Avoid Using the Exact Words Given in the Questions as much as Possible. Use Synonyms and Paraphrasing.
- Use a Wide Variety of Vocabulary. Avoid Repeating Words more than 2-3 Times.
- Focus More on Task 2 – It Carries 2/3 of the Total Writing Score.
- Task 1 –
 - Avoid Using Numerical Values Given in the Data as much as Possible. Describe Patterns Instead.
 - Use Comparisons Between Data.
 - Focus only on the Given Data; Avoid Predicting Trends or Using Your Own Knowledge.

- **Speaking –**

- Keep on Speaking; Avoid Providing Short Answers.
- Use Meaningful Pauses in Your Answers.
- Speak in a Medium Pace – Neither too Slow, nor too Fast.

Tips for Preparation...

- **For All Four Components – PRACTICE IS KEY!!**
 - Listening and Reading – Manageable on One's Own
 - Writing – Good to Receive Feedback from an Expert in the Beginning
 - Speaking – Practicing with an Expert is Recommended
- **Useful Links:**
 - To Familiarize Yourself with the Computer-Delivered Interface:
<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/about/computer-delivered-ielts/get-familiar>
 - For More Details on Question Types and the Test Formats:
<https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format>
 - For Tips, Questions, Videos, and Model Answers:
<https://ieltsliz.com/>



**KEEP
CALM
AND
GOOD LUCK
IN YOUR EXAMS**