

# IELTS™

English for International Opportunity

AN EXCLUSIVE GUIDE BY



International English Language Testing System or IELTS is an English language proficiency exam that measures the language ability of candidates willing to study or work in a country where English is the language of communication. The exam mainly assesses the ability of test-takers to communicate in the four basic language skills – listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Available world-wide in more than 110 countries including Australia, Canada, UK and the US, IELTS is jointly owned and administered by the University of Cambridge – Local Examination

Syndicate, The British Council and the IDP Education Australia. Apart from the academic purposes, many government agencies, scholarship programs, and certification agencies use IELTS scores to evaluate English proficiency. You can take IELTS with the British Council up to once a week (four times a month). The British Council Global Schedule for global test dates is 48 days per year. However, if a candidate is not satisfied with his scores he can take the exam again after three months from the date of the first exam.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

IELTS is open for all and there are no specific eligibility criteria. The only minimum requirement is that a candidate should have passed 10+2 level of recognised board exams. The respective institutes may have a different eligibility criteria but the IELTS has no specific selection criteria. IELTS is recommended for candidates who are 16 years and above.

## ACCEPTING INSTITUTES ACCEPTING IELTS

A lot of top universities of English speaking nations accept IELTS to measure the language abilities of the probable international candidates. Universities like Harvard, Stanford, Yale, Oxford, and Cambridge – all accept IELTS scores. [Click here](#) to see the list of all the institutes across the world that accept IELTS scores for different courses. Apart from universities, schools and training colleges, government departments and agencies, Australian and British Visa, professional and industry bodies and multinational companies and employers accept IELTS score.

## HOW TO REGISTER

The candidates have the liberty of giving the exam anytime in the year as per their convenience.

Online – you need to [Click here](#) and create an online profile. Then you'll be required to pay the exam fee. Online [registration](#) on the IELTS IDP India website is the fastest and easiest method. Through the online method, you can register anytime and on any day. You will be required to pay with a credit/debit card.

In person – You can register in person at an IDP Education India Pvt Ltd office. To see the complete list of offices, [Click here](#). You may

download the online form or fill in a paper application at the office. You will be required to pay the fee through credit card/debit card, demand draft or ICICI bank deposit slip. You will receive an instant confirmation of your reservation.

By mail – [Download](#) and print the registration form, then fill it out. Send the form with your payment to the address on the form or to the Gurgaon centre address, mentioned below. Forms must be received at least four weeks before your test date.

IDP Education India Pvt. Ltd.  
61, 2nd Floor, Chimes Building,  
Sector 44,  
Gurgaon – 122003, (Haryana),  
India

### IELTS FEE

The application fee in India for IELTS would be approximately Rs 10,600.

### ADMIT CARD

The registration number you receive will act like a kind of admit card. Registration number is on your Registration Confirmation. Go to your online profile a day before the test. You will need to print the Registration Confirmation and bring it along to the test centre. You need to carry your passport as an identity proof.

## TEST CENTRES

The IELTS exam is conducted and offered on demand round the year at the following 17 GMAT test centres in India:

Ahmedabad	Coimbatore	Kottayam	Ranchi
Aizwal	Dehradun	Lucknow	Siliguri
Amritsar	Goa	Ludhiana	Surat
Anand	Gurgaon	Madurai	Thimphu
Angamaly	Guwahati	Mangalore	Thrissur
Bangalore	Hyderabad	Moga	Trichur
Baroda	Indore	Mumbai	Trichy
Bhatinda	Jaipur	New Delhi	Trivandrum
Bhopal	Jalandhar	Patiala	Vadodara
Bhubaneswar	Jammu	Patna	Vijayawada
Calicut	Jamshedpur	Pondicherry	Visakhapatnam
Chandigarh	Karnal	Pune	Vizag
Chennai	Kochi	Raipur	
Cochin	Kolkata	Rajkot	

## TEST PATTERN & FORMAT

The IELTS test provides scores in four skill areas — Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing — along with the total score. The total score is the sum of the scores in the four skill areas. IELTS is available in two test formats: Academic or General. Students need to take the Academic test and other applicants who need IELTS results for Visa or scholarship purposes need to take General test. Here we cover the Academic test pattern.

The total test duration covering all four sections of the test is 2 hours and 45 minutes, as shown in the table here:

TEST SECTIONS	TIME DURATION	IELTS ACADEMIC
Listening	30 minutes	It encompasses four recorded monologues and conversations
Reading	60 minutes	Three long reading passages with tasks.  Texts range from descriptive and factual to discursive, and analytical includes non-verbal material like diagrams, graphs and illustrations texts are authentic (taken from books, journals and newspapers)
Writing	60 minutes	A writing task of at least 150 words where the candidate must summarise, describe or explain table, graph, chart or diagram, and another short essay task of at least 250 words
Speaking	11 to 14 minutes	Face-to-face interview includes short questions, speaking at length about a familiar topic and a structured discussion

## TEST SCORE/BANDS

IELTS is designed to assess English language skills at all levels. You will receive IELTS scores based on each for the four skills on a scale of 1 – 9, and you will also be awarded an overall band score. You can score whole (example 5.0, 6.0, 7.0) or half (example 5.5, 6.5, 7.5) bands in each part of the test.

## IELTS BAND SCALE

BAND	SKILL LEVEL	MEANING
Band 9	Expert user	Aspirant has fully operational command of the language
Band 8	Very good user	Fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies
Band 7	Good user	Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies and misunderstandings in some situations
Band 6	Competent user	Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations
Band 5	Modest user	Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes
Band 4	Limited user	Have frequent problems in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language
Band 3	Extremely limited user	Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns occur in communication
Band 2	Intermittent user	Has great difficulty understanding spoken and written English
Band 1	Non-user	Essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words
Band 0	Did not attempt the test	No assessable information provided

## IELTS RESULT

You won't have long to wait for your results – IELTS test results are released online 13 calendar days after you sit for the test. You will receive an email when your scores are available. You can log in to your IELTS account on the [IELTS Results](#) website to see your scores. You should select the test date, enter your candidate number, identification number and date of birth for checking your result. The system will not display results for more than 28 days after your test date. Candidates will be sent only one copy of the Test Report Form.

For IELTS, both human raters and automated scoring methods are used. This is done in order to offer a complete and accurate picture of the candidate's ability. While automated scoring method has the advantage of being unbiased, they do not measure the effectiveness of the language and content. Human raters are required to attend to a wider variety of features, such as the quality of ideas and content as well as form.

# IELTS SYLLABUS

## 1.READING:

The reading module consists of three texts of general interest dealing with issues which are appropriate for candidates entering postgraduate or undergraduate courses. Both reading modules consist of three passages or sections with forty questions. Question types include multiple choice, sentence or summary completion, identifying data for short-answer questions, matching lists or phrases and identifying writers' views/attitudes.

Total no. of questions: About 40

Total time: 30 minutes

## 2.WRITING:

Candidates take academic writing module. Responses for the academic writing module are short essays or general reports, addressed to an educated non-specialist audience. There are two compulsory tasks. Task 1 requires 150 words, and candidates are asked to look at a diagram, table or data and to present the information in their own words. Task 2 requires at least 250 words, and all candidates are presented with a point of view, argument or problem and asked to provide general factual information, present a solution, justify an opinion, evaluate ideas and evidence etc.

Total no. of questions: 2

Total time: 60 minutes

**3.LISTENING:** This test is divided into four sections. The first two conversations are concerned with social needs, while the last two are concerned with situations more closely related to education. They will all be around three minutes long. The conversations could be both monologues and dialogues. These conversations can be heard once only. A variety of question types are asked, like multiple choice, short-answer questions, notes completion, sentence completion, labelling a diagram etc.

Total no. of questions: 40+

Total time: 30 minutes

**4.SPEAKING:** The Speaking section is like a structured interview with emphasis on general speaking skills. It assesses whether candidates have the required knowledge and skills to communicate effectively with native speakers of English.

Total no. of questions: 3 parts – Personal Interview, Little Speech and a Discussion

Total time: 11 to 14 minutes

## HOW TO PREPARE

There are two ways students prepare for IELTS: Self study and coaching classes. Both these options have unique benefits and no one method of studying may be considered better than the other. These two methods can't be compared as they both serve different audiences.

If money is a consideration yet one is confident of preparing well without the support of a tutor, then self-study may be the better option. You could save money on personal tuitions and classes, but you need to keep in mind other factors too. To be able to study on your own effectively, you need a good resource of books and study material, along with motivation and self-discipline.

On the other hand, if time is a constraint and you feel you need professional guidance to perform your best in the test, then coaching classes are the better option. You will have access to a better resource of study materials, and will have a team of experts guiding you. Your time will be better managed as being regular to classes will become part of your routine. Moreover, being around other students will increase your motivation levels.

To choose the best method of study you first need to look at your criteria and decide accordingly.

# SAMPLE QUESTIONS

## 1. Academic Reading

Texts for the reading tests are usually taken from books, magazines, journals and newspapers. Questions could be in varied forms: [multiple choice](#), [identifying information](#), [identifying writer's views/claims](#), [matching headings](#), [matching features](#), [table completion](#), [diagram label completion](#), short-answer questions, matching sentence endings, sentence completion, summary completion, note completion, matching information, and flow-chart completion.

## 2. Academic Writing

The academic writing test is 60 minutes long and has two writing tasks – one of 150 words and the other of 250 words. In [Task 1](#) candidates are asked to describe some visual information (graph/table/chart/diagram), and to present the description in their own words and have about 20 minutes to complete the task. In [Task 2](#) candidates are presented with a point of view, argument or problem and have about 40 minutes to complete the task.

## 3. Speaking

In the Speaking test, a certified examiner will have a discussion with you. It is an interactive session and is very close to a real-life interaction. The test is 11 to 14 minutes long with three parts. In [Part 1](#), you answer questions about yourself and your family. In [Part 2](#), you are asked to speak on a topic. In [Part 3](#), you have a longer discussion on the topic. Each part fulfils a specific function in terms of interaction pattern, task input and candidate output.

## 4. Listening

The Listening test is 30 minutes long. Four recorded monologues and conversations are played.

[Recording 1](#) – [Form Completion](#)

[Recording 2](#) – [Multiple choices](#)

[Recording 3](#) – [Short-answer questions](#)

[Recording 4](#) – [Sentence completion](#)

You will require to take IELTS if you are considering:

[MBA](#)

[MS](#)

[B.E./B.Tech](#)

Did you find this guide useful?

We would love to hear from you. Write to us at [studyabroad@shiksha.com](mailto:studyabroad@shiksha.com)