This document contains information about the IELTS Exam and its testing criteria.

Link of the Reference :- https://www.ielts.org/

- **IELTS:-** International English Learning Testing System (IELTS) measures the language proficiency of the people who want to study or work where English is used as a language of communication. It uses a 9 band scale to clearly identify the levels of proficiency, from non user(band score 1) through to expert (band score 9).
 - There are 2 types of exams available in the IELTS

 1) Academic and 2) General Training.
 - 1) Academic Training :- Academic for those people who are applying for higher education and professional registration.
 - 2) General Training :-It is for those who are migrating to Australia, Canada and the UK, or applying for secondary education, training programmes and work experience in an English-speaking environment.
 - These both versions will provide the accurate assessment of the four language skills. 1) Listening, 2) Reading, 3) Writing and 4)Speaking.
 - Which test is Suitable for me?
 - → Academic Training or General Training.
 - 1) Academic Training:- The IELTS Academic test is for people applying for higher education or professional registration in an English speaking environment. It reflects some of the features of academic language and assesses whether you are ready to begin studying or training.

This approach is widely supported by the institutions that recognise IELTS.

2) General Training: The IELTS General Training test is for those who are going to English speaking countries for secondary education, work experience or training programs. It is also a requirement for migration to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK.

The test focuses on survival skills in broad social and workplace contexts.

IELTS General Training Test Format.

- → The test will give an accurate result of your abilities of listening, reading, writing, speaking in less than 3 hours.
- → Listening and Speaking are the same for both the tests, but the subject matter of Reading and Writing sections differs depending on which test you take.
- → Listening, Reading and Writing sections of all the IELTS are completed the same day, with no breaks between them.
- → The Speaking section, however, can be completed up to a week before or after the other tests. Your test centre will advise.
- → The total test time is 2 hours and 45 minutes.

Test Format :- Listening:- 30 minutes

You will listen to four recordings of native English speakers and then write your answers to a series of questions.

- Recording 1 a conversation between two people set in an everyday social context.
- Recording 2 a monologue set in an everyday social context, e.g. a speech about local facilities.
- Recording 3 a conversation between up to four people set in an educational or training context, e.g. a university tutor and a student discussing an assignment.
- Recording 4 a monologue on an academic subject, e.g. a university lecture.

The details are provided further.

→ The word 'Sections' was changed to
'Parts' – The paper-based test will now

Paper Format	 be divided into Part 1, 2, 3, 4. → The Part 1 example was removed. → We have also removed the page number references. → There are four parts with ten questions each. → The questions are designed so that the answers appear in the order they are heard in the audio. → The first two parts deal with situations set in everyday social contexts. In Part 1, there is a conversation between two speakers (for example, a conversation about travel arrangements), and in Part 2, there is a monologue in (for example, a speech about local facilities). The final two parts deal with situations set in educational and training contexts. In Part 3, there is a conversation between two main speakers (for example, two university students in discussion, perhaps guided by a tutor), and in Part 4, there is a monologue on an academic subject. → The recordings are heard only once. They include a range of accents, including British, Australian, New Zealand, American and Canadian.
Timing	Approximately 30 minutes (plus 10 minutes transfer time)
No of Questions	40
Task Types	A variety of question types are used, chosen from the following: multiple choice, matching, plan/map/diagram labelling, form/note/table/flow-chart/summary completion, sentence completion.
Answering	Test takers write their answers on the question paper as they listen and at the end of the test are given 10 minutes to transfer their answers to an answer sheet. Care should be taken when writing answers on the answer sheet as poor

	spelling and grammar are penalised.
Marks	Each Question is worth 1 mark.

<u>Task type 1 – Multiple choice</u>

Task Type and Format	→ In multiple choice tasks, there is a question followed by three possible answers, or the beginning of a sentence followed by three possible ways to complete the sentence. Test takers are required to choose the one correct answer - A, B or C.
	→ Sometimes, test takers are given a longer list of possible answers and told that they have to choose more than one. In this case, they should read the question carefully to check how many answers are required.
Task Focus	→ Multiple choice questions are used to test a wide range of skills. The test taker may be required to have a detailed understanding of specific points or an overall understanding of the main points of the listening text.
No. of Questions	→ Variables

Type Task 2 - Matching

Task type and Format	Test takers are required to match a numbered list of items from the listening text to a set of options on the question paper. The set of options may be criteria of some kind.
	Matching assesses the skill of listening for detail and whether a test taker can understand information given in a conversation on an everyday topic, such

Task Focus	as the different types of hotel or guest house accommodation. It also assesses the ability to follow a conversation between two people. It may also be used to assess test takers' ability to recognise relationships and connections between facts in the listening text.
No . of Questions	Variable

Task Type 3 - Plan, map, diagram labelling

Task type and format	Test takers are required to complete labels on a plan (eg of a building), map (eg of part of a town) or diagram (e.g. of a piece of equipment). The answers are usually selected from a list on the question paper.
Task focus	This type of task assesses the ability to understand, for example, a description of a place, and to relate this to a visual representation. This may include being able to follow language expressing spatial relationships and directions
No of Questions	Variable

<u>Task type 4 – Form, note, table, flow-chart, summary completion</u>

Task type and format	 → Test takers are required to fill in the gaps in an outline of part or of all of the listening text. The outline will focus on the main ideas/facts in the text. It may be: → 1. a form: often used to record factual details such as names → 2. a set of notes: used to summarise any type of information using the layout to show how different items relate to one another → 3. a table: used as a way of summarising information which relates to clear categories – e.g. place/time/price, → 4. a flow-chart: used to summarise a process which has clear stages, with
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	the direction of the process shown by arrows. → Test takers may have to select their answers from a list on the question paper or identify the missing words from the recording, keeping to the word limit stated in the instructions. Test takers do not have to change the words from the recording in any way.
Task focus	→ This focuses on the main points which a listener would naturally record in this type of situation.
No of Questions	→ Variable

<u>Task type 5 – Sentence completion</u>

Task type and format	→ Test takers are required to read a set of sentences summarising key information from all the listening text or from one part of it. They then fill a gap in each sentence using information from the listening text.
Task focus	→ Sentence completion focuses on the ability to identify the key information in a listening text. Test takers have to understand functional relationships such as cause and effect.
No of Questions	→ Variable

<u>Task type 6 – Short-answer questions</u>

Task type and format	→ Test takers are required to read a question and then write a short answer using information from the listening
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	text. A word limit is given, for example, 'NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER'. Test takers are penalised for writing more than the stated number of words.
Task focus	→ Sentence completion focuses on the ability to listen for concrete facts, such as places, prices or times, within the listening text.
No of Questions	→ Variable

Test Format - Reading (60 minutes):-

- 1. The Reading section consists of 40 questions, designed to test a wide range of reading skills. These include reading for gist, reading for main ideas, reading for detail, skimming, understanding logical argument and recognising writers' opinions, attitudes and purpose.
- 2. **IELTS General Training test** this includes extracts from books, magazines, newspapers, notices, advertisements, company handbooks and guidelines. These are materials you are likely to encounter on a daily basis in an English-speaking environment.

Paper Format	There are three sections. Section 1 may contain two or three short texts or several shorter texts. Section 2 comprises two texts. In Section 3, there is one long text.
Timing	60 minutes
No of Questions	40
Task Types	A variety of question types are used, chosen from the following: multiple choice, identifying information, identifying writer's views/claims, matching information, matching headings, matching features, matching sentence endings, sentence completion, summary completion, note completion, table completion, flow-chart completion, diagram label completion, short-answer questions.
	The first section, 'social survival', contains texts relevant to basic linguistic survival in English with tasks mainly about retrieving and providing

	general factual information, for example, notices, advertisements and timetables.
Sources	2. The second section, 'Workplace survival', focuses on the workplace context, for example, job descriptions, contracts and staff development and training materials.
	3. The third section, 'general reading', involves reading more extended prose with a more complex structure. Here, the emphasis is on descriptive and instructive rather than argumentative texts, in a general context relevant to the wide range of test takers involved, for example, newspapers, magazines and fictional and non-fictional book extracts.
Answering	Test takers are required to transfer their answers to an answer sheet during the time allowed for the test. No extra time is allowed for transfer. Care should be taken when writing answers on the answer sheet as poor spelling and grammar are penalised.
Marks	Each question is worth 1 mark.

<u>Task type 1 - Multiple Choice</u>

Task type and Format	In this task type, test takers choose the best answer from four alternatives A, B, C or D, or the best two answers from five alternatives (A, B, C, D or E), or the best three answers from seven alternatives (A, B, C, D, E, F or G). They write the letter of the answer they have chosen on the answer sheet.
Task Focus	tests a wide range of reading skills including detailed understanding of specific points or an overall understanding of the main points of the text.

Task type 2 - Identifying information

Task Type and Format	The test taker will be given a number of statements and asked: 'Do the following statements agree with the information in the text?' They then write 'true', 'false' or 'not given' in the boxes on their answer sheets. The questions are in the same order as the information in the text: that is, the answer to the first question in this group will be located in the text before the answer to the second question and so on. Same with the Task 3 in a Yes/No format.
Task Focus	assesses the test takers' ability to recognise particular points of information conveyed in the text. It can thus be used with more factual texts.

Task type 3 - Identifying information

Task type 4 - Matching information

Type and format	Test takers locate specific information in the lettered paragraphs/sections of a text, and write the letters of the correct paragraphs/sections in the boxes on their answer sheet. They may be asked to find; specific details, an example, a reason, a description, a comparison, a summary, an explanation. They will not necessarily need to find information in every paragraph/section of the text, but there may be more than one piece of relevant information in a given paragraph/section. When this is the case, test takers will be told that they can use any letter more than once. The questions do not follow the same order as the information in the text. This task type can be used with any text as it may test a wide range of reading skills, from locating detail to recognising a summary or definition.
Task focus	This task type assesses the test takers' ability to

scan for specific information. Unlike task type 5 (Matching headings), it is concerned with specific information rather than with the main idea.
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Task type 5 - Matching headings

Type and format	Test takers are given a list of headings, usually identified with lower-case Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, etc.), referring to the main idea of the paragraph or section of the text. They must match the heading to the correct paragraphs or sections, which are marked alphabetically, and write the appropriate Roman numerals in the boxes on their answer sheets. There will always be more headings than there are paragraphs or sections, so some headings will not be used. It is also possible that some paragraphs or sections may not be included in the task. One or more paragraphs or sections may already be matched with a heading as an example. No heading may be used more than once. This task type is used with texts that contain paragraphs or sections with clearly defined themes.
Task focus	This task tests the ability to recognise the main idea or theme in the paragraphs or sections of a text, and to distinguish main ideas from supporting ones.

Task type 6 - Matching features

Type and format	Test takers match a set of statements or pieces of information to a list of options. These are a group of features from the text, and are identified by letters. Test takers may, for example, be required to match different characteristics to age groups or events to historical periods, etc. It is possible that some options will not be used, and that others may be used more than once. The instructions will advise whether options may be used more than once. The questions do not follow the same order as the information in the text.
Task focus	This task assesses the ability to recognise relationships and connections between facts in the

	text, and to recognise opinions and theories. It may be used both with texts dealing with factual information, description or narrative. Test takers need to be able to skim and scan the text in order to locate the required information and to read for detail.
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<u>Task type 7 - Matching sentence endings</u>

Type and format	Test takers are given the first half of a sentence based on the text and choose the best way to complete it from a list of possible options. They will have more options to choose from than there are questions. The questions are in the same order as the information in the text: that is, the answer to the first question in this group will be found before the answer to the second question, and so on. This task type may be used with any type of text.
Task focus	This task type assesses the test takers' ability to understand the main ideas.

Task type 8 - Sentence completion

Type and format	Test takers complete sentences in a given number of words taken from the text, writing their answers on the answer sheet. The instructions will make it clear how many words/numbers should be in the answers, e.g. 'NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage', 'ONE WORD ONLY' or 'NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS'. If test takers write more than the number of words asked for, they will lose the mark.
Task focus	This task type assesses the test takers' ability to locate detail/specific information.

Task type 9 - Summary, note, table, flow-chart completion

Type and format	Test takers are given a summary of a section of the text, and are required to complete it with information drawn from the text. Note that the summary will usually be of only one part of the passage rather than the whole. The given information may be in the form of; several connected sentences (referred to as a summary), several notes (referred to as notes), a table with some of its cells empty or partially empty (referred to as a table), a series of boxes or steps linked by arrows to show a sequence of events, with some of the boxes or steps empty or partially empty (referred to as a flow-chart). The answers will not necessarily occur in the same order as in the text. However, they will usually come from one section rather than the entire text. There are two variations of this task type. Test takers may be asked either to select words from the text or to select from a list of answers. Where words have to be selected from the passage, the instructions will make it clear how many words/numbers test takers should use in their answers, e.g. 'NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage', 'ONE WORD ONLY' or 'NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS'. If test takers write more than the number of words asked for, they will lose the mark. Numbers can be written using figures or words. Contracted words are not tested. Hyphenated words count as single words. Where a list of answers is provided, they most frequently consist of a single word, There are always more words or phrases in the box than there are gaps to fill. Because this task type often relates to precise factual information, it is often used with descriptive texts.
Task focus	This task type assesses the test takers' ability to understand details and/or the main ideas of a section of the text. In the variations involving a summary or notes, they need to be aware of the type of word(s) that will fit into a given gap (for example, whether a noun is needed, or a verb, etc.).

Task type 10 - Diagram level completion

Type and format	Test takers complete labels on a diagram which relates to a description contained in the text. The instructions will make it clear how many words/numbers test takers should use in their answers, e.g. 'NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage', 'ONE WORD ONLY' or 'NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS'. If they write more than the number of words asked for, they will lose the mark. Numbers can be written using figures or words. Contracted words will not be tested. Hyphenated words count as single words. The answers do not necessarily occur in order in the passage. However, they will usually come from one section rather than the entire text. The diagram may be of some type of machine, or of parts of a building or of any other element that can be represented pictorially. This task type is often used with texts describing processes or with descriptive texts.
Task focus	This task type assesses the ability to understand a detailed description, and to relate it to information presented in the form of a diagram.

Task type 11 - Short Answer Questions

Type and format	Test takers answer questions about factual details in the text. Test takers must write their answers in words or numbers on the answer sheet. Test takers must write their answers using words from the text. The instructions will make it clear how many words/numbers test takers should use in their answers, e.g. 'NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage', 'ONE WORD ONLY' or 'NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS'. If they write more than the number of words asked for, they will lose the mark. Numbers can be written using figures or words. Contracted words are not tested. Hyphenated words count as
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	single words. The questions are in the same order as the information in the text: that is, the answer to the first question in this group will be located in the test before the answer to the second question, and so on.
Task focus	This task type assesses the ability to locate and understand precise information in the text.

Test - Format :- Academic Writing 60 minutes

Topics are of general interest to, and suitable for, test takers entering undergraduate and postgraduate studies or seeking professional registration. There are two tasks:

- Task 1 you will be presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and asked to describe, summarise or explain the information in your own words. You may be asked to describe and explain data, describe the stages of a process, how something works or describe an object or event.
- Task 2 you will be asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. Responses to both tasks must be in a formal style.

Academic Writing description

Paper Format	There are two Writing tasks and BOTH must be completed.
Timing	60 minutes
No. of Questions	2
Task Types	In Task 1, test takers are asked to describe some visual information (graph/table/chart/diagram) in their own words. They need to write 150 words in about 20 minutes. In Task 2, they respond to a point of view or argument or problem. They need to

	write 250 words in about 40 minutes.
Answering	Answers must be given on the answer sheet and must be written in full. Notes or bullet points are not acceptable as answers. Test takers may write on the question paper but this cannot be taken from the examination room and will not be seen by the examiner.

Task 1

	In Writing Task 1, test takers are presented with a situation and required to write a personal response in the form of an informal, semi-formal or formal letter of at least 150 words in the answer booklet provided. The situations they are asked to write about are common, everyday ones such as: writing to a college accommodation officer about problems with accommodation, writing to a new employer about time management problems they are having, writing to a local newspaper about a plan to
Task type and format	employer about time management

complaints, make requests or make suggestions/recommendations. The style of writing that test takers use depends who they are asked to write to (i.e. the audience) and how well they are supposed to know them. They need to write in a style that is appropriate for their audience and that will help them to achieve their purpose for writing, e.g. writing to a friend (informal) or writing to a manager (semi-formal or formal). Test takers do not need to include any addresses at the head of their letters. Test takers should spend no more than 20 minutes on this task. They are asked to write at least 150 words and will be penalised if their answer is too short. While test takers will not be penalised for writing more than 150 words, they should remember that a longer Task 1 answer may mean that they have less time to spend on Task 2, which contributes twice as much to the Writing band score. Test takers should also note that they will be penalised for irrelevance, if the response is off-topic or is not written as full, connected text (e.g. using bullet points in any part of the response, or note form, etc.). They will be severely penalised for plagiarism (i.e. copying from another source). 1. This task assesses the ability to follow English letter-writing conventions (i.e.

Task Focus	what order to put information in, what style to use, how to start and finish a letter), to use language accurately and appropriately and to organise and link information coherently and cohesively.
No. of Questions	1

Task 2

Task type and format

- 1. In Writing Task 2, test takers write a semi-formal/neutral discursive essay of at least 250 words in the answer book provided.
- 2. The task instructions give information about a point of view, argument or problem. They then tell test takers how to discuss this, which may involve providing general factual information, outlining and/or presenting a solution, justifying an opinion, evaluating evidence and ideas.
- 3. Topics are of general interest, such as: whether children's leisure activities should be educational, why families are not so close as they used to be and how they could be brought closer, how environmental problems can be solved, who should pay for the care of old people, whether smoking should be banned in public places.
- 4. Test takers should make sure that they complete the task carefully and provide a full and relevant response. They should organise their ideas clearly and make sure to support their argument with relevant examples (including from their own experience where relevant) or evidence. For this task, test takers need to be able to communicate more abstract and complex ideas and use a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures. Task 2 contributes twice as much to the final Writing band score as Task 1. Therefore, test takers who fail to attempt to answer this task will greatly reduce their chance of achieving

	a good score.5. Test takers are asked to write at least 250 words and will be penalised if their answer is too short. They should spend
	no more than 40 minutes on this task. 6. Test takers should also note that they will be penalised for irrelevance if the
	response is off-topic or is not written as full, connected text (e.g. using bullet points in any part of the response, or note form, etc.). They will be severely penalised for plagiarism (i.e. copying from another source).
Task Focus	This task assesses the ability to follow English discursive writing conventions (i.e. what order to put information in, what style to use, how to start and finish discursive writing, how to paragraph), to organise and link information coherently and cohesively and to use language accurately and appropriately.
No. of Questions	1

Task 1 & Task 2 responses are assessed on:

- Task achievement
- Coherence and cohesion
- Lexical resource
- Grammatical range and accuracy.

Task 1

Task achievement

This assesses how appropriately, accurately and relevantly the response fulfils the requirements set out in the task, using the minimum of 150 words. General Training Writing Task 1 is a writing task with a largely predictable output in that each task sets out the context and purpose of the letter and the functions the test taker should cover in order to achieve this purpose.

Coherence and cohesion

This assesses the overall clarity and fluency of the message: how the response organises and links information, ideas and language. Coherence refers to the linking of ideas through logical sequencing. Cohesion refers to the varied and appropriate use of cohesive devices (for example, logical connectors, pronouns and conjunctions) to assist in making the conceptual and referential relationships between and within sentences clear.

Lexical resource

This refers to the range of vocabulary the test takers have used and the accuracy and appropriacy of use in terms of the specific task.

Grammatical range and accuracy

This refers to the range and accurate use of grammar, as manifested in the test takers' sentence writing.

Task 2

Task response

In both IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training versions, Task 2 requires test takers to formulate and develop a position in relation to a question or statement. Ideas should be supported by evidence, and examples may be drawn from the test takers' own experience. Responses must be at least 250 words in length. Scripts under the required minimum word limit will be penalised.

The other three assessment criteria (Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource, Grammatical Range and Accuracy) are the same for Task 1 and Task 2.

Test format – Speaking

11–14 minutes

The speaking section assesses your use of spoken English. Every test is recorded.

- Part 1 the examiner will ask you general questions about yourself and a range of familiar topics, such as home, family, work, studies and interests. This part lasts between four and five minutes.
- Part 2 you will be given a card which asks you to talk about a particular topic. You will have one minute to prepare before speaking for up to two minutes. The examiner will then ask one or two questions on the same topic.
- Part 3 you will be asked further questions about the topic in Part 2. These will give you the opportunity to discuss more abstract ideas and issues. This part of the test lasts between four and five minutes.

IELTS Speaking description

Paper format	The Speaking test consists of an oral interview between the test takers' and an examiner. All Speaking tests are recorded.
Timing	11 -14 minutes
Task Types	There are three parts to the test and each part fulfils a specific function in terms of interaction pattern, task input and test takers output.

Part 1 – Introduction and interview

Task Type and Format	In this part, the examiner introduces him/herself and checks the test takers' identity. They then ask the test takers general questions on some familiar topics such as home, family, work, studies and interests. To ensure consistency, questions are taken from a script. Part 1 lasts for 4–5 minutes.
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Task Focus	This part of the test focuses on the ability to communicate opinions and information on everyday topics and common experiences or situations by answering a range of questions.
No. of Question	Variable

Part 2 –Long Turn

Task Type and Format	Part 2 is the individual long turn. The examiner gives the test takers a task card which asks the test takers to talk about a particular topic, includes points to cover in their talk and instructs the test takers to explain one aspect of the topic. Test takers are given one minute to prepare their talk, and are given a pencil and paper to make notes. The examiner asks the test takers to talk for 1 to 2 minutes, stops the test takers after 2 minutes, and asks one or two questions on the same topic. Using the points on the task card effectively, and making notes during the preparation time, will help the test takers think of appropriate things to say, structure their talk, and keep talking for 2 minutes. Part 2 lasts 3–4 minutes, including the preparation time.
Task Focus	This part of the test focuses on the ability to speak at length on a given topic (without further prompts from the examiner), using appropriate language and organising ideas coherently. It is likely that the test takers will need to draw on their own experience to complete the long turn.
No. of Question	Variable

Part 3 – Discussion

Task Type and Format	In Part 3, the examiner and the test takers discuss issues related to the topic in Part 2 in a more general and abstract way and, where appropriate, in greater depth. Part 3 lasts 4–5 minutes.
Task Focus	This part of the test focuses on the ability to express and justify opinions and to analyse, discuss and speculate about issues.
No. of Question	Variable

Fluency and coherence

This refers to the ability to talk with normal levels of continuity, rate and effort and to link ideas and language together to form coherent, connected speech. The key indicators of fluency are speech rate and speech continuity. The key indicators of coherence are logical sequencing of sentences, clear marking of stages in a discussion, narration or argument, and the use of cohesive devices (e.g. connectors, pronouns and conjunctions) within and between sentences.

Lexical resource

This criterion refers to the range of vocabulary used and the precision with which meanings and attitudes can be expressed. The key indicators are the variety of words used, the adequacy and appropriacy of the words used and the ability to circumlocute (get round a vocabulary gap by using other words) with or without noticeable hesitation.

Grammatical range and accuracy

This refers to the range and the accurate and appropriate use of the test takers' grammatical resource. The key indicators of grammatical range are the length and complexity of the spoken sentences, the appropriate use of subordinate clauses, and the range of sentence structures, especially to move elements around for information focus. The key indicators of grammatical accuracy are the number of grammatical errors in a given amount of speech and the communicative effect of error.

Pronunciation

This criterion refers to the ability to produce comprehensible speech to fulfil the Speaking test requirements. The key indicators will be the amount of strain caused to the listener, the amount of the speech which is unintelligible and the noticeability of L1 influence.

For the Sample of the Question Papers follow the link:

https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/sample-test-questions