

IELTS

(INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM)

Types of IELTS

As mentioned earlier, the IELTS exam is of two types:

IELTS Academic

IELTS Academic is for candidates who are interested in applying for higher education or professional registration to countries that use English as their fundamental language of communication. The main purpose of the examination is to judge whether a candidate is ready to begin studying or training in the English language. Countries that widely recognize IELTS for studying are US, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

IELTS General Training

IELTS General Training is for aspirants who are looking to migrate to New Zealand, Australia, Canada, US, and the UK or applying for secondary education, training programs and work experience in an English-speaking environment. Here the examination focusses on the basic survival skills of a candidate in a broad social and workplace environment.

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

IELTS Test Pattern

[IELTS Syllabus](#) includes different sections, Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The complete test duration is 2 hours and 45 minutes.

- Listening: The total length of this section is 30 minutes and it is divided into four parts candidates have to answer different types of 40 questions.
- Reading: The reading section comprises of three texts of general interest that deals with issues which are suitable for candidates going to pursue post-graduate or undergraduate program. The total time for this section is 30 minutes and it comprises almost 40 questions.
- Writing: The duration of this section is 60 minutes and comprises of two questions where candidates are

expected to write a short essay of a minimum of 250 words. In addition to this, students are given data, table, or diagram which the candidates have to explain in their own words.

- Speaking: The total time of this section varies from 11 to 14 minutes and candidates also have to give a face-to-face interview. With the help of this section, the candidates are checked whether they can communicate effectively in the country where they have applied

IELTS Section-wise Syllabus

- Writing syllabus
- Reading syllabus
- Listening syllabus
- Speaking syllabus

IELTS Writing Section

Writing: Candidates take academic writing module. Responses to 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

Writing- IELTS Academic

- It includes two tasks wherein the topics are of general

interest and relatable for candidates applying for an undergraduate or postgraduate program.

- For your first task, you will be handed a paper which would contain either a diagram, table or graph. You will be required to recapitulate and define the given data in your own words. You may be asked to explain a certain data entry, process the given information or a flowchart to logically arrive at a conclusion.
- In the next task, you need to write an essay as a response to your deduction from the given data and support your argument with relevant examples, through the given data. Please note that the writing style should be strictly formal.

IELTS Reading Section

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

Reading- IELTS Academic

This includes three long paragraphs which can be either descriptive, factual or analytical. These paragraphs are basically excerpts taken from newspapers, research works, journals, books, or even magazines. Targeting a non-specialist audience, the texts are ideal for testing higher education aspirants or for professionals seeking work abroad.

IELTS Listening Section

Listening: The Listening module 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, note completion, sentence completion, labeling a diagram, etc.

Total no. of questions: 40+

Total time: 30 minutes

Sections 1 and 2 are about every day, social situations.

- Recording 1: The first recording would have a conversation between two people set in an everyday social context.
- Recording 2 – The second recording would happen to be a monologue set in an everyday social context.

Sections 3 and 4 are about educational and training situations

- Recording 3 – The following recording would be a conversation between four people set in an educational or training context.
- Recording 4 – And the final recording would be a monologue on an academic subject

IELTS Speaking Section

Speaking: The Speaking section is like a structured interview with an 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

Part 1 introduction and interview (4–5 minutes)

For the first five minutes, you will be asked some mundane questions about yourself such as family, home, studies, hobbies and interests, and so on.

Part 2 long turn (2–3 minutes)

Next, the examiner will hand you a flashcard that would contain a certain topic. You will be given a minute or two to familiarize yourself with the topic as you would need to speak on that topic for about two minutes. Post your speech, the examiner might ask a few questions based on your understanding of the topic.

Part 3 discussions (5–6 minutes)

Deeper questions and abstract discussions would take place based on the given topic and your speech. You will get the opportunity to explore your given topic and delve into deeper issues. You can expect this part to last for five-six minutes.