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IELTS General

Test Format



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The IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test comprises four parts: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. The first three parts (Listening, Reading, and Writing) are taken on the same day consecutively, without breaks between them. The Speaking test is scheduled either on the same day as the first three parts or within a seven-day window before or after, depending on local arrangements. The test employs a variety of accents, including British, Australian, New Zealand, and North American, and it is scored on a scale 0-9.

You have the option to take the IELTS test either on paper or on a computer at IELTS official test centers.

Source: [IELTS - British Council](#)

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Listening Section

Duration: approximately 40 minutes

Number of Questions: 40

The listening section is divided into four parts, with a total of 40 questions. It includes conversations and monologues recorded in English, and you must answer questions based on what you hear.

Recording 1: A conversation between two people set in an everyday social context

Recording 2: A monologue set in an everyday social context

Recording 3: A conversation between up to four people set in an educational or training context.

Recording 4: A monologue on an academic subject

Question types include:

- Multiple choice
- Matching
- Plan/map/diagram labelling
- Form/note/table/flow-chart
- Summary completion
- Sentence completion

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Reading Section

Duration: Approximately 60 minutes

Number of Questions: 40

The Reading section typically consists of three passages, each increasing in difficulty, with a total of 40 questions. These passages may be sourced from various text types such as advertisements, notices, company handbooks, newspapers, magazines, and books, among others.

Question types include:

- Multiple choice
- Identifying information
- Matching headings
- Matching features
- Matching sentence endings
- Sentence completion
- Summary completion
- Note completion
- Table completion
- Flow-chart completion
- Diagram label completion

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Writing Section

Duration: 60 minutes

Number of Questions: 2

The writing section consists of two tasks. Task 1 requires you to write a letter based on a given situation, and Task 2 requires you to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument, or problem.

Task 1: Write a letter

- Word Count: Minimum of 150 words
- Timing: 20 minutes

Task 2: Write an essay

- Word Count: Minimum of 250 words
- Timing: 40 minutes

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Speaking Section
Duration: 11-14 minutes

The speaking section is a face-to-face interview with an examiner. It lasts 11-14 minutes and simulates real-life conversations. It consists of three sections:

Section 1: Involves answering questions about yourself, your interests, your home, and your family. The examiner initiates the discussion with a series of questions, typically lasting 4 to 5 minutes.

Section 2: Requires speaking about a topic provided by the examiner. You have approximately 1 minute to prepare once given the topic, followed by speaking about it for 2 minutes.

Section 3: Entails a more extensive discussion about the topic from Part 2. This segment involves a two-way conversation with the examiner and lasts for around 4 to 5 minutes.

Every test is recorded.

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