

IELTS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Contents

<i>What is the IELTS?</i>	2
<i>Which IELTS module do I need to take?</i>	2
<i>Which Level do I need to achieve in IELTS?</i>	2
<i>What do I need to do to achieve the required level in IELTS?</i>	2
<i>How long will it take me to achieve the required level in IELTS?</i>	3
<i>What do the IELTS tests involve?</i>	3
<i>When do I get my IELTS results?</i>	4
<i>Can I combine my IELTS test certificates?</i>	5
<i>How long are my IELTS results valid for?</i>	5
<i>What if I do not achieve the required level in IELTS?</i>	5
<i>Can I send my paper for re-marking?</i>	5

What is the IELTS?

IELTS stands for International English Language Testing System. The IELTS is broken down into four areas: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

Which IELTS module do I need to take?

You must take the **Academic Module**. The IELTS need to be taken at either a British Council or International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges (IDP) test centre. You can find your nearest centre via the links below:

- <http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/book-your-test/book-now>
- <https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/registerforyourtest/findatestcentre>

Which Level do I need to achieve in IELTS?

You must achieve a Level 7 in speaking, listening and reading and a Level 6.5 in writing. Please see the score scale below:

The IELTS Band Score Scale	
9	Expert User
8	Very Good User
7	Good User
6	Competent User
5	Modest User
4	Limited User
3	Extremely Limited User
2	Intermittent User
1	Non-User
0	Did not attempt the test

What do I need to do to achieve the required level in IELTS?

You are strongly advised to enrol in a review centre so that they can support you in achieving the required level in IELTS. There are a number of review centres around the world that you can choose from. We will be able to provide you with recommended review centres.

Prepare by completing mock tests

Once you have enrolled with a review centre, it is important for you to complete mock tests. This is important for you to complete so that you have a good understanding of what level you are currently working at and how much studying you will need to complete to achieve the required level.

How long will it take me to achieve the required level in IELTS?

Obtaining these levels in all areas of IELTS requires intensive study. The more time you have to dedicate to studying, the quicker you will achieve it.

This part of the process is based on your individual circumstances and depends on many things such as, what level you are currently achieving in your mock tests and how many hours a week you are studying.

What do the IELTS tests involve?

There are two types of IELTS: Academic and General Training. All test takers take the same Listening and Speaking tests but different Reading and Writing tests. Make sure that you prepare for the correct test type, which is Academic.

The Listening, Reading and Writing sections of all IELTS tests are completed on the same day, with no breaks in between them.

The Speaking section, however, can be completed up to a week before or after the other tests. The total test time for all 4 sections is 2 hours and 45 minutes.

Test	Content	Time
Speaking	<p>3 parts, comprised of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction and Interview (4-5 Minutes) The examiner will introduce him/herself and you will then be asked to introduce yourself and confirm your identity. You will be asked general questions about home, family, work or general interests. Individual long turn (3-4 minutes) You will be given a card which asks you to talk about a particular topic and this card will include points you can cover in your talk. You will be given 1 minute to prepare your talk and a pen and pencil to make notes. You then talk for 1-2 minutes on the topic. Two-way discussion (4-5 minutes) This part will be on the same topic as part 2 and the examiner may ask further questions in relation to that topic. 	11-14 minutes
Reading	<p>40 questions, in a variety of forms including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Choice Identifying information (True/False/Not Given) Identifying writer's views/claims (Yes/No/Not given) Matching information/headings/ features/sentence endings Sentence completion Summary/note/table/flow chart completion Diagram label completion Short-answer questions 	60 minutes

Listening

4 parts, with 10 questions in each section, so a total of 40 questions. 30-40 minutes

The first two parts deal with everyday social language, and the final two parts are situations set in educational and training settings:

1. A conversation between two people
2. A monologue
3. A conversation between two main speakers, but may include up to 4 speakers
4. A monologue on an academic subject (i.e. university lecture)

Questions will be in a variety of forms including:

- Multiple Choice
- Plan/map/diagram labelling
- Matching information
- Form/note/table/flow chart/ summary completion
- Short-answer questions
- Sentence completion

Writing

2 tasks, comprised of the following: 60 minutes

- Describe visual information in your own words (at least 150 words)
- Write an essay discussing on the point of view, argument or problem provided (at least 250 words)

For more information on the IELTS tests and marking, visit the IELTS Website:

<https://www.ielts.org/for-test-takers/test-format>

When do I get my IELTS results?

Results are available 13 calendar days after the test. You can preview your results online and these results will remain online for 28 days. You will receive only one copy of the test report form so please keep this safe as replacement test forms cannot be issued.

Please ensure you update inform your recruitment contact immediately when you receive your results.

Can I combine my IELTS test certificates?

You can provide 2 IELTS test certificates taken within 6 months of each other to meet the above requirement but must not have scored below 6.5 in any categories in either of the test sittings.

An acceptable example of this would be:

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
Test 1	7.0	6.5	6.5	7.5
Test 2	6.5	7.0	6.5	6.5

How long are my IELTS results valid for?

Your IELTS results are only valid for two years.

What if I do not achieve the required level in IELTS?

You will need to retake the test. We highly recommend taking your time to prepare before taking your test, so it is a good idea to re-book ahead so you will feel ready to re-take. Your score is unlikely to increase unless you make significant effort to improve your English before re-taking the test.

Can I send my paper for re-marking?

If you did not achieve the results you were expecting, you can request to have your results re-checked by an examiner, however, this can be expensive and can take up to 3 months to be re-marked. There are no guarantees of any alterations or improvements to your scores.

If there has been an error and your results are confirmed to be higher than originally stated your money for re-marking will be refunded to you. It is normally recommended only to be considered if you have reached a score of 8 or above in three areas and only one area of a 6.5.