

## ALL ABOUT IELTS. EXAM PROCEDURES AND PREPARATION METHODS FOR THE STUDENTS

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**Abstract:** *This article describes general information about the IELTS exam, the procedure for the exam, and the main requirements for students. In addition, some auxiliary techniques and methods that are necessary for performing tasks are mentioned.*

**Keywords:** *IELTS, Cambridge, Makkar, reading skills, listening, speaking practice, techniques, review, scanning, skimming, keywords, time management.*

Nowadays, people's interest in foreign languages is increasing day by day. In this era, when fluency in at least one or more foreign languages is required to acquire modern knowledge and experiences, demands are increasing for widely spoken languages such as English, Spanish, Chinese, etc. Besides learning foreign languages, students are participating in international exams to test their skills and achieve goals with the help of their results. These days, most people are choosing IELTS (International English Language Test System) to test their knowledge. IELTS is an international test system that is widely spread all over the world at the present time. This language exam is considered very popular around the world, and with the help of gained scores and certificates, learners have the opportunity to study in the top educational institutions or create their careers in the workplaces that consist of qualified specialists.

IELTS (International English Language Test System)—the international system of testing the English language—was created in 1980 by the Cambridge English Language Assessment and the British Council. A few years later, IDP was added to the practice in 1989 as a result of the cooperation of Australian colleges and universities. Until now, the design of IELTS has been changed three times (in 1995, 2001, and 2005), and its current form was created as a result of the change after 2005.

The IELTS exam is divided into academic and general according to the type of applicant, and they are almost the same. In the IELTS exam, students test their skills in four sections, which are considered the main parts of the language. They include listening, reading, writing, and speaking. While the tests for listening and speaking skills are the same in the academic and general tests mentioned above, the exams for the other two sections, like writing and reading abilities, are different. In addition, many young people choose academic IELTS to apply to foreign universities in order to improve their knowledge, while others who intend to develop their professional skills prefer to take general IELTS exams.

After taking the IELTS exams, each candidate is graded based on their scores. These levels are from 1 to 9, and according to these band scores, the knowledge of the applicants is qualified from A1 to C2. In order to get a high amount of scholarship at the world's leading educational institutions or to be offered additional opportunities by employing companies, candidates are required to have an average B2 or C1 level certificate.

Test processes are divided into two parts, and in most cases, they are held for two days. The speaking skills of the candidates will be tested on the first day of the test. During this test, they will be interviewed in three parts, and the answers given in all parts will be counted, and a total score will be given. On the other day of the test, the remaining knowledge of students in three sections will be checked. Tasks will consist of four parts for listening skills (40 questions in total), three parts for reading skills (a total of forty questions), and the rest of them will include two parts to check writing skills. A certain amount of time is set for the reading and writing tests, and candidates will have an hour for each to solve the questions in these sections. When calculating the final results, the scores of the four parts are added, and their average value is determined as the total score.

The most important IELTS exam procedures are explained above, and they will be organized to check the knowledge of students who have prepared thoroughly for a certain period of time. But what is required of the candidates before this test? The answers to the questions about how they will prepare for each section can be found in the following places:

As previously stated, in order to enhance knowledge of the English language and obtain the IELTS certificate, it is necessary to prepare lucidly in accordance with the requirements of this test system. Particularly, students should work on themselves in order to improve the four sections with the help of special manuals. One of the most widely used and accessible IELTS preparation resources around the world today is the Cambridge IELTS book. This guide is very well known and popular among the candidates, and they can prepare exhaustively for the questions and tasks in all sections with the help of these books. For learners, four parts of this book have been referenced so far, and they contain tasks that are very close to the tests that will be taken in the real exam. In addition, Kiranpreet Makkar's IELTS preparation books and guides are a convenient source for developing the four skills, which many teachers and students have rated as easy to learn. There are so many examples that can be given. Most importantly, today's IELTS test takers can easily find the books and information they need.

If we focus on the four parts, which are the basics of IELTS, we can see that they test candidates ability to quickly and easily concentrate their thoughts on one point, besides their knowledge level. This situation is especially evident in listening tests. When candidates are solving these tests, which consist of four unrelated parts, they may not be able to complete the entire task as a result of their attention being distracted. Since they did not pay enough attention to the audio given in the

first test, they cannot complete the tasks that come later in that part. In the second part of the test, the dialogues or monologues will be completely different from the first part and will not help at all to complete the questions and tasks that were not answered in the first part. In this regard, they cannot collect the points they need. For this reason, in the listening comprehension test, it is important not only to be able to hear and write words correctly but also to concentrate.

Many methods are recommended for learners to develop their listening skills. For example, the method of specifying different keywords. With the help of this technique, it is possible to find omitted words while the audio is being played. As such, it is appropriate to use words and phrases that appear only once during these conversations or monologues or are rarely used in everyday life. In addition, it is also effective to use the words and phrases that come before the omitted or paraphrased word or their synonyms as keywords. With the help of this method, it will be possible to complete the task without any defects.

And tests that check reading skills require a large amount of vocabulary. The reason is that the words in the text are less likely to be found in the questions and tasks; instead, their synonyms are given. Therefore, learners' vocabulary and ability to use words and phrases in an academic style are checked with the help of reading skills.

As mentioned, vocabulary is the main aspect to which attention should be paid to develop reading skills. However, besides vocabulary wealth, several techniques are used to get a higher result in the reading part. Educators advise their students to read more English literature and daily articles and analyze them in order to enhance this part. They use some texts that are close to the material on the real exam and review them together using the method of scanning and skimming. In the method of skimming, the text is read once, from beginning to end. It is necessary to understand the meaning of the given text and what it is about. In the scanning technique, the students are instructed to mark the capitalized words, names, numbers, and, in many cases, words that are unfamiliar to them. With the help of these strategies, students will be able to create an idea about the given text and easily determine from which part of the text the questions and assignments are taken. There are many examples of such techniques.

Writing skills tests are considered to be relatively complex, and they require the candidate to have creativity and a broad outlook. This part of the test is divided into two parts: in the first part, the students give a definition for the given picture; in the second part, they have to find solutions to various problems, show the advantages and disadvantages of certain things, or prove their opinions with evidence in their assignments. In the exam on writing skills, it is necessary not only to write correctly but also to prove why their opinion is correct.

One of the main conditions for the development of writing skills is constant training. Candidates will need to write more essays and texts, learn not to repeat their mistakes, and use more academic vocabulary to achieve a high score. In

addition, when writing an essay on a certain topic, students must use special words and phrases to connect ideas, and using complex sentences that are more extended than simple sentences is also important for achieving high results. When describing the various tables and diagrams that are presented in the first part, it is appropriate to compare the changes over time and to describe them in a certain order. It is much easier and more useful to write at least 250 words in the second part based on your own thinking. Therefore, plagiarism in essays, not being able to fully explain the idea, and not giving a conclusion to them will lead to a loss of points. If the candidate cites the words of famous people—scientists, historical figures, poets, and writers—in their texts, of course, they must refer to the source and author. Otherwise, it will be evaluated as plagiarism by the examiners and will serve to lose points, not increase them. It should be added that correct time management during the writing exams is very important. In the twenty minutes given for the first part, the student should describe only the most important parts of the below tables and diagrams, not in full. It is also possible to write about all the time data, but this often leads to a loss of time. For the second part, forty minutes will be given, and it is required to write a coherent essay of at least 250 words. Making clear and evidence-based points in this essay will help make it perfect.

The last section is a speaking section, where candidates are tested on various topics. The speaking test is divided into three parts, and in the first part, the examiner will ask general questions. These questions can be about what candidates do in their daily lives, whether with family or friends. When answering these types of questions, it is recommended to use short and precise answers. The reason is that the first part serves to give the examiner an idea of the person taking the test. In the second and third parts, the candidate's vocabulary, how he communicates with others, and how well he understands the subject of the interview are checked. It is advisable to answer the questions clearly and completely in these parts. Repeated use of the same word, deviating from the topic, stopping, hesitating, etc. will cause the score to drop. Excitement during the interview and giving the answers as if they had memorized them will not create a good impression on him and cause awkward situations. Most teachers give their students the advice to do more practice and communicate not only with friends or acquaintances but also with strangers. This will help them overcome their fear and excitement and lead a conversation without mistakes.

In conclusion, it can be said that the IELTS exam opens the door to a wide range of opportunities for students and provides great benefits for learning the English language. Developing skills in the process of studying helps to get high band scores.

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