

IELTS TEST COMPONENTS

Academic IELTS

Dubai International Private School



The test is composed of 4 parts:

1. Listening

The IELTS Listening test is designed to assess a wide range of listening skills, including how well you

- understand main ideas and specific factual information
- recognize the opinions, attitudes and purpose of a speaker
- follow the development of an argument

Format	<p>You will listen to four recordings of native English speakers and then write your answers to a series of questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Timing	The IELTS Listening test takes approximately 30 minutes, and you are allowed an extra 10 minutes to transfer your answers from your question booklet to your answer sheet.
Number of Questions	40 questions
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.
Marks	Each correct answer receives one mark. Scores out of 40 are converted to the IELTS 9-band scale. Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

2. Reading

You will need to read quickly and efficiently manage your time. You will be asked to read three different passages and respond to related questions in your IELTS Reading test. The content of the Reading test is different for IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training tests.

The IELTS Reading test is designed to assess a wide range of reading skills, including how well you

- read for the general sense of a passage
- read for the main ideas
- read for detail
- understand inferences and implied meaning
- recognize a writer's opinions, attitudes and purpose
- follow the development of an argument

Academic Reading

Format	Three long texts which range from the descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical. These are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers. They have been selected for a non-specialist audience but are appropriate for people entering university courses or seeking professional registration.
Timing	60 minutes including the transfer time
Number of Questions	40 questions

Task Types	Fill gaps in a passage of written text or in a table, match headings to written text to diagrams or charts, complete sentences, give short answers to open questions, answer multiple choice questions
Marks	Each correct answer receives one mark. Scores out of 40 are converted to the IELTS 9-band scale. Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

3. Writing

The IELTS Writing test is designed to assess a wide range of writing skills, including how well you

- write a response appropriately
- organize ideas
- use a range of vocabulary and grammar accurately

Academic Writing

Format	Write in a formal style in the IELTS Academic Writing test. In Task 1 you will be presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram. You will be asked to describe, summarize or explain the information in your own words. This might involve describing and explaining data, describing the stages of a process or how something works, or describing an object or event. In Task 2 you will be asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. You should find the issues interesting and easy to understand.
Timing	The IELTS Writing test takes 60 minutes. Spend 20 minutes on Task 1, and 40 minutes on Task 2. You will need to

manage your own time, so make sure you move on to Task 2 after 20 minutes.

Number of Questions 2 questions

Task Types Two tasks: Task 1 and Task 2. You will be asked to write at least 150 words for Task 1 and at least 250 words for Task 2

Marks Your Writing test will be marked by a certificated IELTS examiner. Task 2 is worth twice as much as Task 1 in the IELTS Writing test. Scores are reported in whole and half bands

4. Speaking

The Speaking test is a face-to-face interview between the candidate and an examiner. The Speaking test is recorded.

There are three parts to the test, and each part follows a specific pattern of tasks in order to test your speaking ability in different ways.

Marking

Certificated IELTS examiners assess your speaking performance throughout the test. There are four assessment criteria (things which the examiner thinks about when deciding what score to give you):

- Fluency and coherence
- Lexical resource
- Grammatical range and accuracy
- Pronunciation.

Fluency and coherence assess how well you can speak at a normal speed without too much hesitation. It also includes putting your sentences and ideas in a logical order and using

cohesive devices (including linking words, pronouns and conjunctions, etc.) appropriately so that what you say is not difficult to follow.

Lexical resource assesses the range of vocabulary you use and how accurately and appropriately you use vocabulary to express meaning. It also includes the ability to express yourself using alternative vocabulary when you don't know a particular word.

Grammatical range and accuracy assess the range of grammar you use and how accurately and appropriately you use it.

Pronunciation assesses your ability to speak in a way which can be understood without too much effort.