

IELTS Exam Format

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) tests your ability in English across four skills. The total test time is 2 hours 45 minutes.

Listening (30 minutes)

- 4 sections
- 40 questions
- Includes conversations and monologues
- You listen to recordings only once

Question types:

- **Multiple Choice** – Choose the correct answer from given options.
- **Matching** – Match items (names, places, dates) with options.
- **Plan/Map/Diagram Labelling** – Label parts using given words.
- **Form/Note/Table/Flow** – chart Completion – Fill in missing words or numbers.
- **Sentence Completion** – Complete sentences using words from the recording.
- **Short Answer Questions** – Write short answers (usually 1–3 words).

Extra 10 minutes to transfer answers (Paper-based test)

Reading (60 minutes)

- Different texts based on the test type:
- Academic: Books, journals, articles
- General Training: Advertisements, notices, workplace texts

Question types:

- **IELTS Reading** – Question Types
- **Multiple Choice** – Select the correct answer(s).
- **True / False / Not Given** – Decide if the statement agrees with the text.
- **Yes / No / Not Given** – Same as above, but for writer's opinions.
- **Matching Headings** – Match headings to paragraphs.
- **Matching Information** – Match statements to paragraphs.
- **Matching Features** – Match details to people, places, or things.
- **Matching Sentence Endings** – Complete sentences by matching endings.
- **Sentence Completion** – Complete sentences using words from the text.
- **Summary / Note / Table / Diagram Completion** – Fill gaps in summaries or diagrams.
- **Short Answer Questions** – Answer questions in a few words.

No extra time for answer transfer

Writing (60 minutes)

- Task 1 (20 minutes)
- Academic: Describe a graph, chart, map, or diagram (150 words)
- General Training: Write a letter (formal / semi-formal / informal)

Question types:

Task 1 (Academic)

- **Line Graph** – Describe trends over time.
- **Bar Chart** – Compare data.
- **Pie Chart** – Show proportions.
- **Table** – Compare numerical data.
- **Process Diagram** – Explain how something works.
- **Map** – Describe changes in places.

Task 1 (General Training)

- **Formal Letter** – To companies or officials.
- **Semi-formal Letter** – To someone you know professionally.
- **Informal Letter** – To friends or family.

Task 2 (Both) Essay Writing (min 250 words)

- **Opinion Essay** – Give your opinion.
- **Discussion Essay** – Discuss both views.
- **Problem–Solution Essay** – Describe problems and solutions.
- **Advantages–Disadvantages Essay** – Discuss pros and cons.
- **Two–part Question Essay** – Answer two direct questions.

IELTS Speaking (11–14 minutes)

- Face-to-face interview with an examiner
- Recorded for assessment

Part 1: Introduction & Interview (4–5 minutes)

- Personal questions (home, work, hobbies)

Part 2: Long Turn (3–4 minutes)

- Cue card topic
- 1 minute to prepare
- Speak for 1–2 minutes

Part 3: Discussion (4–5 minutes)

- In-depth questions related to Part 2

IELTS Scoring

- Each skill scored from **Band 0 to 9**
- Final score = average of all four skills
- Half bands possible (**e.g., 6.5, 7.5**)

Types of IELTS

- **IELTS Academic** – For university study
- **IELTS General Training** – For migration or work
- **IELTS UKVI** – For UK visa purposes



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