

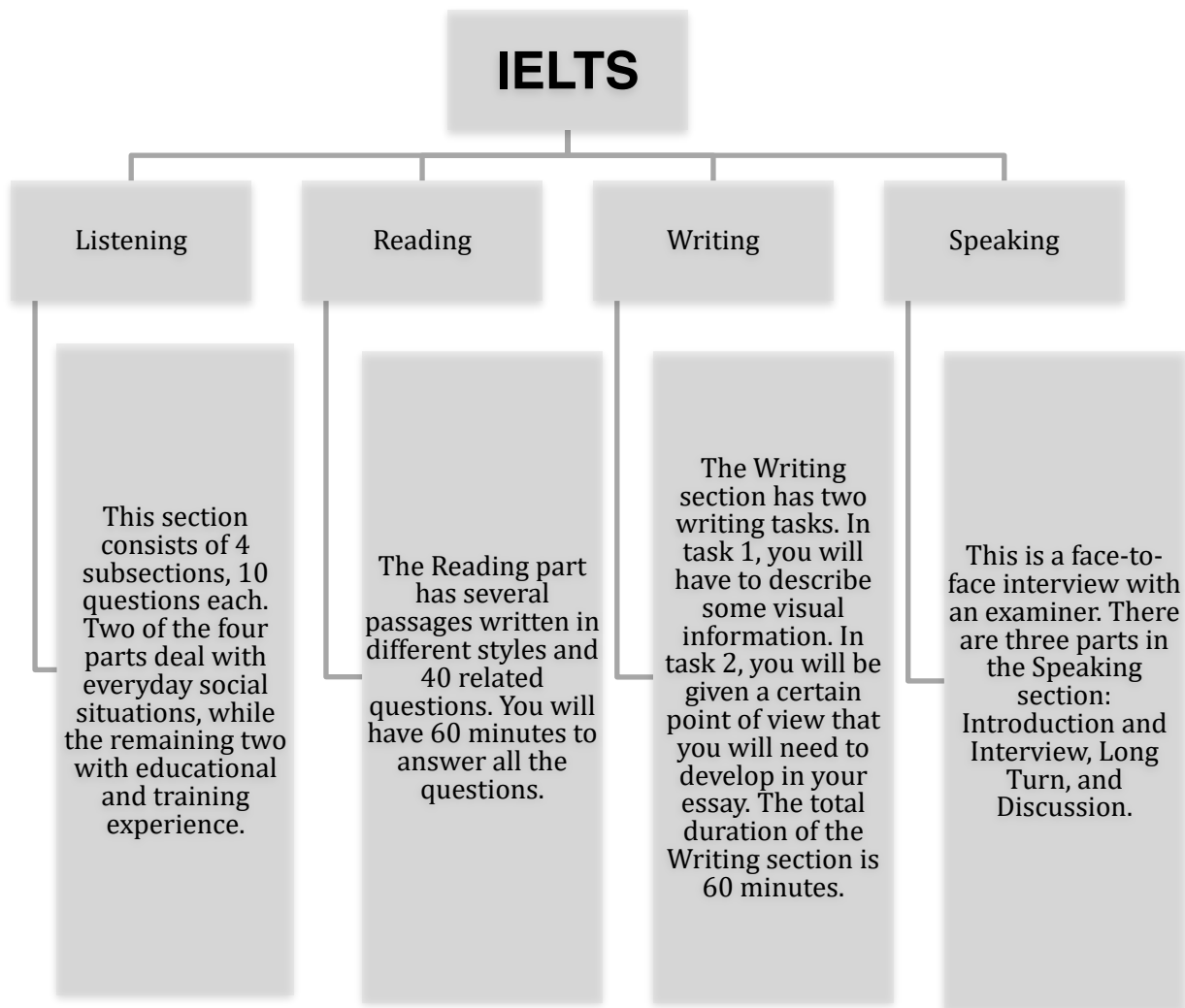
# IELTS

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# Structure

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IELTS® stands for the International Language English Testing System®. The test has been designed to help you work, study, or migrate to a country where English is spoken as the native language. The exam assesses your abilities to speak, write, read, and listen in English. IELTS is graded on a scale of 1 to 9. Below is the schematical representation of the four IELTS sections



### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

1. The IELTS exam can be taken in two different modules: Academic Module and General Training Module. Academic IELTS has been designed to evaluate the level of English of those who wish to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels. General Training Module has been designed for those who wish to migrate to an English-speaking country.

2. IELTS has no specific preference as to using American, British, or Australian English. It basically covers all major varieties of English.

3. Although the IELTS exam covers many topics, no specialized

knowledge is required to cope with any of the IELTS sections.

4. The Listening Section is the same for Academic Module and General Training Module.

5. In the Listening Section, you will have the opportunity to familiarize yourself with practice questions before you start listening.

6. The questions in the Listening Part of the exam are arranged in the same order as the information in the recording.

*For your notes:*

# Listening

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**The IELTS Listening section** has four parts each containing 10 questions. The questions appear in the same order as the information in the recording. In **part 1**, you will hear a conversation between two speakers. In **part 2**, you will listen to only one person speaking. In **part 3**, two persons will be talking on some academic issue (for example, two university students or a lecturer and a student). In **part 4**, only one person speaks on an academic subject. Each correct answer receives one mark.



- Listen carefully to the introduction of each Listening part
- Before the start of each section, use your time to go through the questions and think about the topic
- Check the maximum number of words allowed for each question
- Write your answers as you listen because you will hear the recording only once
- Answer all the questions even if you are not sure
- Write clearly when you transfer your answers



- Do not worry if you have to cross out your answer and write another one
- Do not panic if you have missed one question. Go further and keep focused on the remaining questions
- Do not write more than the allowed number of words
- Do not write more than one answer when only one is required
- Do not copy the words that were printed before or after the gaps in the question paper

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Before starting the section, what information will I get?**

Before starting each section, you will hear a short description of the situation you are going to hear. This may include who the speakers are, where they are and what topic they are going to discuss.

### **Will I have time to go through the questions before the start?**

Yes.

### **Will there be an example at the beginning?**

Yes.

### **How many times will I hear the recording?**

You will hear the recording only once.

### **Will there be a break between recordings?**

Yes. There is a pause between each of the sections and within sections one, two, and three.

### **Will I hear an American accent?**

Not necessarily. There is a range of accents in the Listening part of the exam.

### **Is spelling important?**

Yes. Incorrectly spelled answers will be counted as incorrect.

# Reading

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**The IELTS Reading section** has three parts and a total of 40 questions. Reading passages have from 2,150 to 2,750 words each. Texts may belong to different styles (narrative, descriptive, argumentative, etc.). Unlike in the Listening Part, in the Reading part you will be given no extra time to transfer your answers.



- Watch the time
- Try to answer as many questions as you can
- If you are stuck on a question, leave it now and go further.  
You will be able to return to it later
- Carefully read the title of the text and any related subtitles as they may give you a quick idea of what the text is about
- Read instructions and do what you are asked to do
- Understand the text structure and make a skeleton of the text
- Keep to the word limit



- Do not reread the whole passage each time for each set of questions
- Do not reread the text from the very beginning to answer each question when you know that questions appear in the order of the information in the text
- Do not worry if you cannot understand all of the words. Often, it is more important to understand verbs than nouns
- Do not write more than one answer when only one is required



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How do I record my answers?**

You will have no extra time to copy your answers to the answer sheet. So make sure to do it during the 60 minutes of the Reading section.

### **Will I lose marks if I write more words than required by the question?**

Yes. Such answer will be counted as incorrect.

### **How important is spelling?**

Extremely important. You will lose marks for poor spelling.

### **What is the recommended time to spend on each of the texts?**

You will have to spend about 20 minutes on each passage.

### **How is the Reading Section assessed?**

Your final score for the section is a band score from 1 to 9.

# Writing

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**The Writing section** has two tasks to be completed. The first task will require you to describe some visual information (a graph, a chart, a table, etc.). The second task will require you to share your thoughts on some specific topic. Your responses will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Task achievement
- Coherence and cohesion
- Lexical resource
- Grammatical range and accuracy



- Carefully read what is required and respond appropriately
- Check the number of words you have used
- Spend no more than 20 minutes on Task 1 to allow yourself more time to cope with Task 2
- Take time to organize your ideas
- Supply supporting evidence for every of your view points in Task 2
- Check your writing
- Use relevant ideas
- Avoid repetitions
- Link your paragraphs and sentences within each paragraph by using transitional words



- Do not write less than needed
- Do not use bullet points
- Do not write sentences just to fill up the space
- Do not diverge from the main topic
- Do not leave out any required information
- Do not simply copy words from the passage
- Do not use colloquial language
- Do not overuse self-references

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I write in pen?**

You can write in either pen or pencil. Whatever you choose, it is important to write clearly.

### **Where do I write my answers?**

You will have your writing answer sheet.

### **Can I take notes?**

Although you will not be given any extra paper to take notes on, you can write on the question paper.

### **Should I write in lower case or upper case?**

Both are acceptable. However, the examiner must clearly see where your sentences begin and end.

### **Is there any penalty for writing fewer words than necessary?**

Yes. You must write at least 150 words for Task 1 and 250 words for Task 2.

### **Are the two tasks equally valuable?**

No. The Task 2 is twice more valuable than Task 1

# Speaking

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**The Speaking section** consists of three parts, each followed by a specific pattern of tasks. Your speaking ability will be evaluated in accordance with the following capacities

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



- Talk to the examiner to feel more involved
- Practice ways of delaying answers to allow yourself more time to think in Part 3
- Use the preparation time in Part 2 to contemplate what is written in the card
- Practice speaking for 2 minutes for the long turn in Part 2
- Accurately respond to the examiner's questions
- Avoid long pauses while speaking
- Support your opinions by relevant examples



- Do not try to memorize answers
- Do not give short answers except for the Part 2
- Do not go beyond the scope of what is asked
- Do not worry when you are stopped by the examiner
- Do not ask the examiner whether what you have said is correct
- Do not hesitate to correct yourself if you realize that you have made a mistake

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Will the examiner inform me whether I have done well?**

No.

### **How long should I talk for in Part 2?**

Up to 2 minutes.

### **Do I have to take notes in Part 2?**

You *may* do it but you do not *have* to do it.

### **Can I start speaking before the preparation time runs out?**

Yes.

### **Why does the examiner record my speech?**

He will need this recording in case your performance on the test has to be remarked.

### **Do I need to take a pen and paper with me?**

No. You will need to have your ID with you. The examiner will give you everything you may need for the test.

