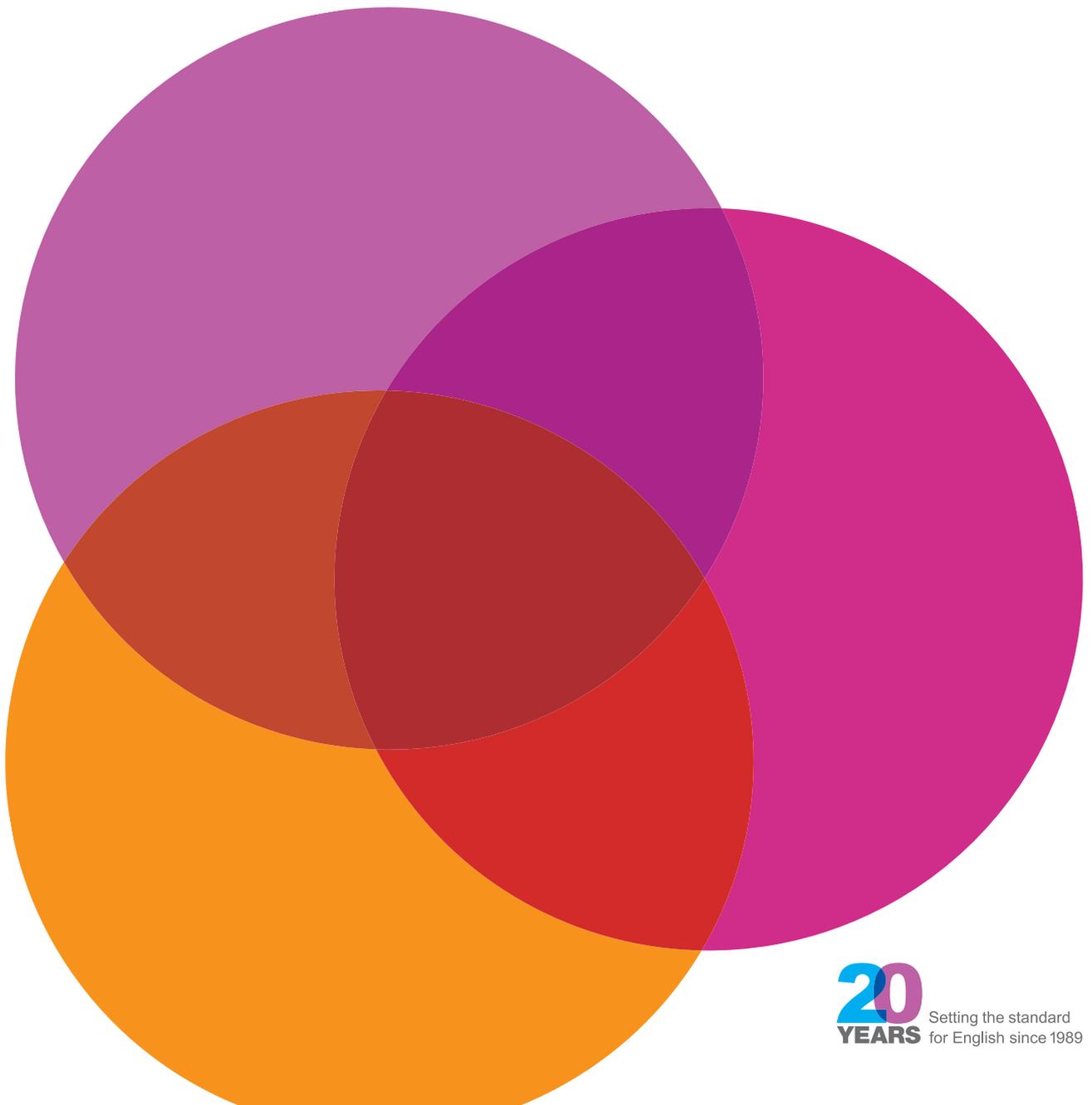


International English Language Testing System

A guide for agents

Information for education, training and immigration
recruitment agents around the world



IELTS is the test that proves people's English skills wherever they go. It is accepted by over 6,000 institutions worldwide. Whether you are recruiting for the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the UK or beyond it could be the only English test your applicants need.

Why encourage your customers to take the IELTS test?

- One single test provides your customers with access to a world of opportunities, so your role as an agent is more straightforward.
- IELTS is one of the most widely available English language tests in the world, making it easily accessible for your customers.
- IELTS ensures the right level of English to succeed in study, training or life in a new country, so you can count on the long-term satisfaction of your customers.

Visit **www.ielts.org** for a list of organisations around the world that accept IELTS scores.

Global recognition

IELTS is accepted by over 6,000 institutions worldwide, including universities, employers, professional bodies and immigration authorities.

It is the test that sets the standard around the world.

- Almost all universities in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK accept IELTS.

- In the USA, IELTS is accepted by over 2,000 universities, colleges and faculties, including Ivy League and other top institutions.

- IELTS is used for immigration to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK.

- Employers in English-speaking countries and beyond accept IELTS scores.

- Professional bodies and training bodies in areas such as law and medicine use IELTS.

Accessible and convenient

IELTS is one of the most widely available English language tests in the world. It is offered up to four times a month in more than 125 countries. Our test centres have a greater testing capacity than most other tests. For a full list of IELTS centres worldwide, visit www.ielts.org

The cost of taking the test is set locally, payable in local currency. This makes IELTS accessible to all candidates, wherever they take the test.

The international test

The test content is internationally focused, thanks to our network of test materials writers in North America, Australia, New Zealand and the UK. We use a range of native-speaker accents in the Listening component (North American, Australian, New Zealand and British English), and all the standard varieties of English are accepted in candidates' responses.

The truly international nature of IELTS makes it the preferred choice of candidates and institutions worldwide.

What does the test involve?

The Academic module is for candidates wishing to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels, and for those seeking professional registration.

The General Training module is for candidates wishing to migrate to an English-speaking country (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK), and for those wishing to train or study at below degree level.

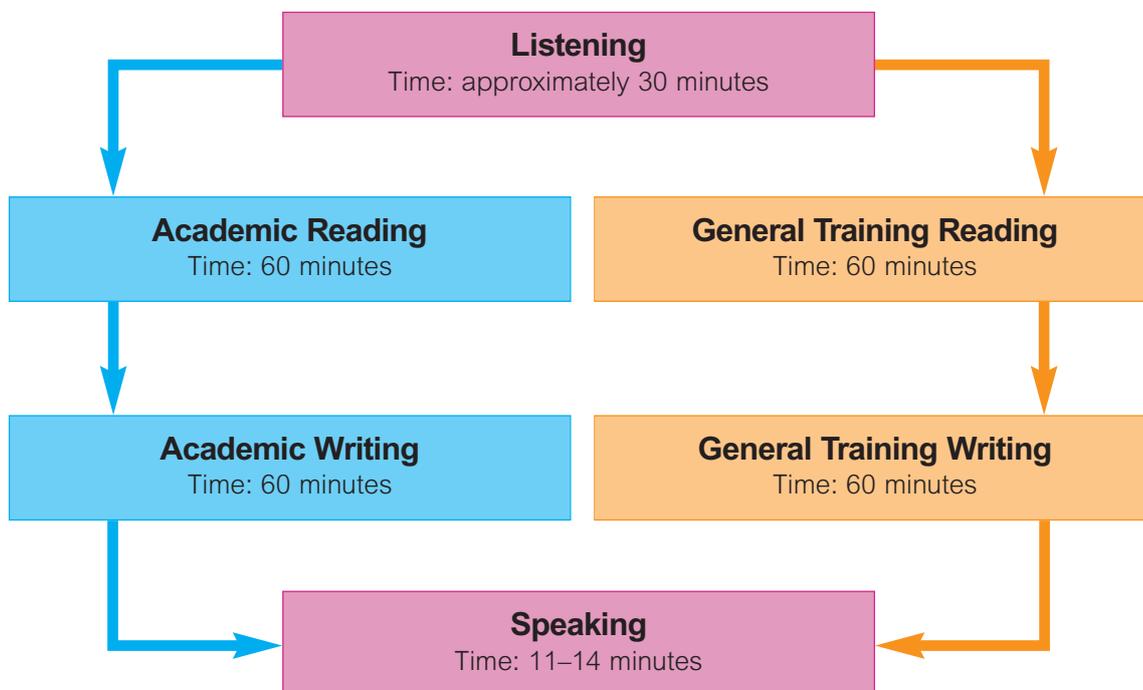
IELTS comes in two modules – *Academic* and *General Training*. Candidates can choose which module they take, depending on their specific needs. This makes the test relevant to everyone, whether they plan to study, migrate or work.

Both modules are graded using exactly the same criteria, so there is no difference in the level of English. The distinction lies in the subject matter and type of vocabulary used. The General Training module is not designed to test the full range of formal language skills required for academic purposes.

If candidates are unsure which module to take, they should contact the organisation they are applying to.

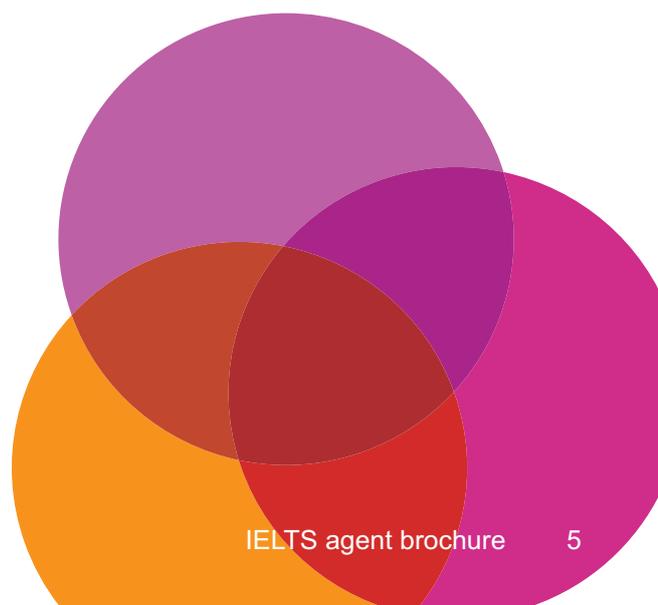
The original four-skills test

Both the Academic and General Training modules cover the four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking. All candidates take the same Listening and Speaking components. There are different Reading and Writing components for the Academic and General Training modules.



Face-to-face speaking assessment

The most effective way to assess speaking skills is through direct interaction with the test taker. It is essential to judge ability to communicate in a real-life situation, not just respond to recorded prompts. That is why trained examiners conduct a face-to-face assessment with each individual IELTS candidate.



Test scores

IELTS provides a profile of a candidate's ability to use English. It is designed to test English at all levels, so there is no such thing as a pass or fail.

Results are reported as band scores, on a scale from 1 (the lowest) to 9 (the highest), as shown below.

Candidates receive an overall band score as well as individual scores for each test component (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking).

The level of English needed for a candidate to perform effectively in study, work or training varies from one situation to another. That is why each individual organisation sets its own minimum IELTS score for applicants, depending on specific requirements. Visit www.ielts.org for details of organisations that recognise IELTS and the minimum scores they require.

IELTS Band Scores	
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

How are results provided?

Results are issued just 13 days after the test on a Test Report Form. Copies can be sent free of charge to up to five different receiving institutions by post or electronically.

The Test Report Form (TRF) includes a number of security features. It is printed on security-enhanced paper and is authenticated by a centre stamp, an IELTS validation stamp and a photograph of the candidate. Institutions receiving Test Report Forms can also check their validity by using the free TRF Online Verification Service. See www.ielts.org/trf for further details.

The image shows a sample IELTS Test Report Form (TRF) with the following details:

- Centre Number:** 08029
- Date:** 30OCT2004
- Candidate Number:** 00001
- Family Name:** JONES
- First Name:** JAMES
- Candidate ID:** 00000000000000000000
- Date of Birth:** 24/10/1988
- Country of Origin:** France
- Sex (M/F):** M
- Height (cm):** 175
- Weight (kg):** 70
- Previous Test Date:** 15/05/2004
- Previous Test Centre:** 08029
- Test Results:**
 - Listening: 6.5
 - Reading: 6.5
 - Writing: 6.5
 - Speaking: 6.5
 - Overall Band Score: 6.5
- Administrator Comments:** (Blank)
- Writing Examiner Number:** 04019
- Speaking Examiner Number:** 04019
- Centre stamp:** (Present)
- Validation stamp:** (Present)
- Administrators' Signature:** (Present)
- Date:** 02/11/2004
- Test Report Form Number:** 00000000000000000000

How long are IELTS scores valid?

The IELTS test provides an accurate picture of a candidate's language skills at a given moment. For this reason, the validity of a score as a precise representation of a candidate's abilities will inevitably diminish in time. Institutions will not normally accept a Test Report Form which is more than two years old unless it is accompanied by proof that a candidate has actively maintained or tried to improve their English.

Further information on test content, understanding minimum band scores, and samples of test material are provided on the 'IELTS Scores Explained' DVD (available from www.ielts.org). The DVD also includes samples of candidates' writing and examiner comments.

Helping candidates succeed

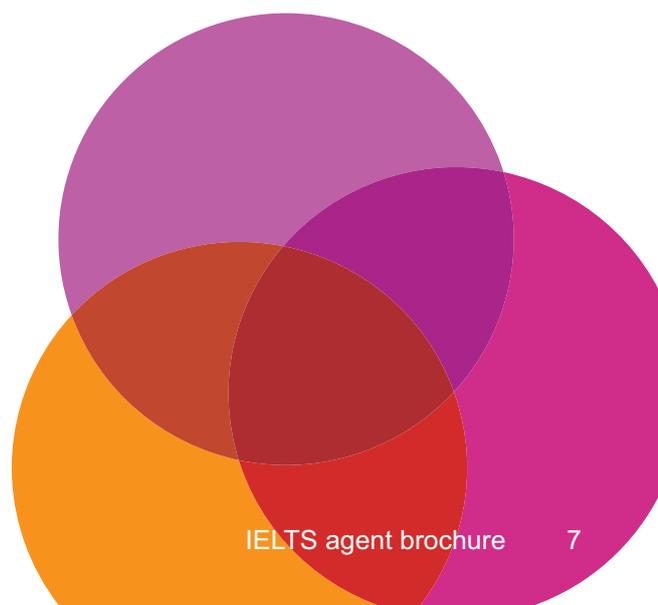
It is not a requirement for candidates to attend a preparation course, but any training they do will increase their chances of a better score. IELTS centres and language schools around the world offer IELTS preparation courses at local fees. This can create opportunities for you to collaborate with local language training providers.

Official practice materials are available to help candidates familiarise themselves with the test format. These can be ordered online at www.ielts.org or from local test centres.

Many publishers also produce a range of books and other materials to help candidates prepare for IELTS.

Retaking the test

There are no restrictions on retaking the test. If the required score is not achieved, candidates can register for another test as soon as they feel they are ready. Candidates should be advised, however, that they are unlikely to gain a better score unless they make a significant effort to improve their English first.



The world speaks IELTS

Over one million people take the IELTS test each year. Recruiting applicants with the right level of English has never been easier.

www.ielts.org

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UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

IELTS is jointly managed by British Council, University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL) and IDP: IELTS Australia. The IELTS test is designed and set by some of the world's leading experts in language assessment to give a true picture of a candidate's language skills.

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