



THE IELTS™ EXAM

* The IELTS™ exam consists of four components: listening, reading, writing and speaking.

* Here is the structure of The IELTS™ exam:

Paper	Part	Task type and format	Task focus	Number of questions
Listening 30 mins.	Task type 1	Multiple choice	Detailed understanding of specific points or an overall understanding of the main points of the listening test.	Usually 40 questions
	Task type 2	Matching	Listen for detail.	
	Task type 3	Plan, map or diagram labelling	Understand and relate.	
	Task type 4	Form, note, table, flow-chart or summary completion in the form of gap filling	This task type focuses on the main points which a listener would naturally record in this type of situation.	
	Task type 4	Sentence completion	Identify the key information.	
	Task type 4	Short-answer questions	Listen for concrete facts given.	
Reading 60 mins.	Task type 1	Multiple choice	Detailed understanding of specific points or an overall understanding of the main points of the text.	40 questions
	Task type 2	Identifying information	Recognise particular points of information conveyed in the text.	
	Task type 3	Identifying writer's views/claims	Recognise opinions or ideas.	
	Task type 4	Matching information	Scan for specific information.	
	Task type 5	Matching headings	Recognise the main idea or theme and distinguish main ideas from supporting ones.	
	Task type 6	Matching features	Recognise relationships and connections between facts in the text and recognise opinions and theories.	
	Task type 7	Matching sentence endings	Understand the main ideas.	
	Task type 8	Sentence completion	Locate detail/specific information.	
	Task type 9	Summary, note, table or flow-chart completion	Understand details and/or the main ideas of a section of the text.	
	Task type 10	Diagram label completion.	Understand detailed description and relate it to information presented in the form of a diagram.	
	Task type 11	Short-answer questions	Locate and understand precise information in the text.	
Writing 60 mins.	1	Describe a diagram or data i.e. a graph, table or chart. 150 words	Identify the most important and relevant information and trends in a graph, chart, table or diagram, and give a well-organised overview using an academic register or style.	1
	2	Express and justify opinion of a point of view, problem etc. or to discuss a problem. 250 words	Present a clear, relevant and well-organised argument, giving evidence or examples to support the ideas and use language accurately.	1
Speaking 11-14 mins.	1	This part of the test focuses on the test takers' ability to communicate opinions and information on everyday topics and common experiences or situations by answering a range of questions.		4-5 mins
	2	This part of the test focuses on the test takers' ability to speak at length on a given topic (without further prompts from the examiner), using appropriate language and organising their ideas coherently. It is likely that the test takers will need to draw on their own experience to complete the long turn.		3-4 mins.
	3	This part of the test focuses on the test takers's ability to express and justify opinions and to analyse, discuss and speculate about issues.		4-5 mins.