

**IELTS™**



**Guide to taking your  
IELTS test in Bergen,  
Hamar and Stavanger**

[www.ielts-norway.com](http://www.ielts-norway.com)

[www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

# Your 'Step by Step Guide to IELTS'

1. IELTS Test Fees & Test Dates
2. What is IELTS?
3. Registration
4. Test Centres & Test Day
5. Test Preparation
6. Post Test

## IELTS Test fees

2019

Bergen, Hamar, Haugesund, Stavanger & Trondheim

**2950NOK**

### Contact:

Bergen, Hamar & Stavanger:

**Post address:** IELTS Administrator, Folkeuniversitetet Bergen, Jonas Reins Gt. 4, 5008 Bergen  
**Telephone:** 55 55 36 10  
**E-mail:** [ielts.bergen@folkeuniversitetet.no](mailto:ielts.bergen@folkeuniversitetet.no)  
**Website:** [www.ielts-norway.com](http://www.ielts-norway.com)

# IELTS Test Dates

**N.B. For UKVI IELTS tests: Oslo is the ONLY approved centre in Norway to sit this test. For more information about UKVI, [click here](#).**

## 2019

Results are released 13 days after the test date

Month	Test centre	Test Dates	Academic or General Training Modules
<b>January</b>	Bergen	05.01.2019	Academic & General Training
	Hamar	19.01.2019	Academic & General Training
<b>February</b>	Bergen	02.02.2019	Academic
	Stavanger	09.02.2019	Academic & General Training
<b>March</b>	Bergen	09.03.2019	Academic
	Hamar	23.03.2019	Academic & General Training
<b>April</b>	Bergen	06.04.2019	Academic & General Training
	Bergen	27.04.2019	Academic & General Training
<b>May</b>	Stavanger	04.05.2019	Academic
<b>June</b>	Bergen	01.06.2019	Academic & General Training
<b>August</b>	Bergen	17.08.2019	Academic & General Training
	Hamar	24.08.2019	Academic
<b>September</b>	Stavanger	07.09.2019	Academic & General Training
	Bergen	28.09.2019	Academic & General Training
<b>October</b>	Bergen	26.10.2019	Academic & General Training
<b>November</b>	Stavanger	07.11.2019	Academic & General Training
	Hamar	23.11.2019	Academic & General Training
<b>December</b>	Bergen	07.12.2019	Academic & General Training

\* Tests taking place in Hamar and Stavanger are administered by the centre in Bergen.

In order to register online please click [here](#).

# The test that opens doors around the world

This booklet contains important information to help you prepare for your IELTS test.

IELTS, the International English Language Testing System, is designed to assess the language ability of people who want to study or work where English is the language of communication.

IELTS is recognised and accepted by over 9,000 organisations worldwide, including universities, employers, professional bodies, immigration authorities and other government agencies. For a list of organisations that accept IELTS scores, visit [www.ielts.org/recognition](http://www.ielts.org/recognition).

## Accessible and convenient

IELTS is offered up to four times a month in more than 140 countries. Tests are held on Saturdays and Thursdays. To find out test dates in your area, please contact your nearest IELTS test centre. A list of all IELTS test locations worldwide is available at [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org).

## The international test

IELTS is internationally focused in its content. For example, texts and tasks are sourced from publications from all over the English-speaking world; a range of native-speaker accents (North American, Australian, New Zealand, British etc.) are used in the Listening test; and all standard varieties of English are accepted in test takers' written and spoken responses.

## The test that's tried and trusted

IELTS has been developed by some of the world's leading experts in language assessment, and is supported by an extensive programme of research, validation and test development.

## The level of the test

IELTS is designed to assess English language skills across a wide range of levels. There is no such thing as a pass or fail in IELTS. Results are reported as band scores on a scale from 1 (the lowest) to 9 (the highest).

The IELTS band score scale	
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

## IELTS for UK Visas and Immigration

Find out how you can use an IELTS result for this purpose at [www.ielts.org/uk](http://www.ielts.org/uk). For more information on going to or staying in the UK, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

# Registration

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

- For online application go to:  
<https://ielts.britishcouncil.org/folkeuniversitetet>
- NOTE: Online application automatically closes after the deadline – contact the IELTS office to check if spaces are available after this time.
- Our IELTS offices are open for enquiries between the following times:

### Bergen

**August 15<sup>th</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup>:** Monday to Friday, 08.15 – 16.00

**April 15<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup>:** Monday to Friday, 08.15 – 15.00

## I.D.:

- IELTS will **ONLY** accept Passports or National ID Cards (EU, EEA and Swiss citizens **ONLY**) as valid forms of ID.

## CANCELLATION, DATE CHANGE OR ABSENCE:

Please note that application for IELTS is **binding**. You may only cancel by **written notification** to the test centre: [ielts.bergen@folkeuniversitetet.no](mailto:ielts.bergen@folkeuniversitetet.no) - before the respective deadline.

- If cancellation or date change occurs before the application deadline, you will be entitled to a refund or credit, less administration fee of **250kr**
- Any cancellation or request for date change **AFTER** the application deadline will incur a cancellation fee - (details will be provided by your test centre)
- If cancellation, date change or absence is due to medical reasons, a statement from a registered medical practitioner is required. A refund or credit will be given – less an administration fee of **250kr**.

# Folkeuniversitetet Test Day Centres:

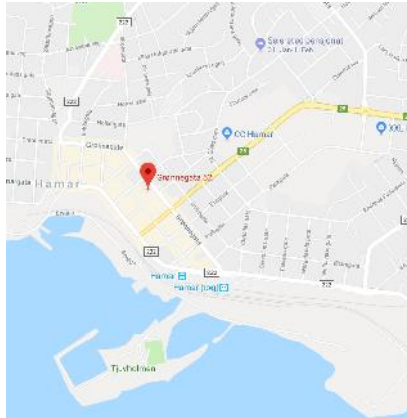
## Bergen

Jonas Reins Gate 4, 5008 Bergen  
Tlf: 55 55 36 10



## Hamar

Grønnegata 52, 2317 Hamar  
Tlf: 55 55 36 10



## Stavanger

Sverdrups Gate 23, 4007 Stavanger  
Tlf: 55 55 36 10



# Test day

## BRING TO THE TEST:

- The same identification that you stated in your online application - **ONLY this will be accepted as identification on the test day.** If you are unable to bring this, please contact us immediately.
- **Water in a transparent bottle.** No other food or drinks will be allowed in the test room.

## PLEASE LEAVE AT HOME:

- **Dictionaries, thesaurus and any other test aids.** These are not allowed.
- **Your pencil case.** All stationery you need - pencils, erasers and sharpeners - will be provided.
- **Valuable items.** Personal belongings will be locked away in a room during the test. **NB: Watches, Mobile phones, MP3 players and all other electronic equipment must be turned off and stored in our secure baggage room prior to the exam.**

## TEST SCHEDULE:

Registration		08:15
Listening	30 mins	Test Day Start approx: 09:00 Finish approx: 12:00
Reading	60 mins	
Writing	60 mins	
Speaking	10-15 mins	See separate email (will be sent approx. 10 days before test)

## SPEAKING TEST:

- **The speaking test will also be held at our test centres at the addresses above.**
- Applications for specific speaking times will be considered if a request is received in writing (email) at least 10 days prior to the test.
- **Once a speaking time is allocated we are not obliged to change it.**
- All speaking tests will be recorded.
- You must bring your ID to the speaking test AND the written tests.
- Please note that speaking examiners are not allowed to comment on or discuss your performance during the speaking test nor give any indication as to your grades.

# Test Preparation

IELTS preparation books are available for purchase from the Cambridge University Press.



[Buy Here](#)

[Buy Here](#)

**THE IELTS E-LEARNING COURSE IS 100% ONLINE.** It is aimed specifically at people wanting to prepare for the IELTS.

All participants are sent a free copy of the Official IELTS Practice Materials along with their username and password once full payment has been received. We recommend that you use at least 4 weeks on the course, but you can complete it in as little or as much time as you want (maximum 3 months).

The IELTS e-learning course aims to raise student awareness of the IELTS test through a range of web-based learning activities. This course will develop your understanding of the IELTS test, and increase your chances of getting the score you need on the test.

This course focuses on the four skills assessed in the IELTS test: reading, writing, listening and speaking, through a range of activities and practice tests. It includes 6 written assignments posted on our online learning platform. These are completed and sent to your course tutor, who will then post or email you individualised feedback. This will help you focus on the areas you need to improve on and prepare for the test. There is also one 45 min speaking session conducted on Skype or over the telephone, in preparation for the speaking segment of the test.

## Road to IELTS

is the British Council's popular online preparation course that will help you also improve English language skills. It will give you the best possible preparation for your IELTS test. When you register for your IELTS test, you will have access to **30 hours** of online practice materials.

With [Road to IELTS](#) you get:

- Online resources for **both the Academic and General Training** modules of IELTS
- Practice zones with **e-books** to prepare you for the Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking tests
- **Teacher tutorials** highlighting what to do, and what not to do, in your test
- Sample **videos** with tips from previous candidates
- Timed practice **tests**
- A "My Progress" section to help you **compare your performance** with that of other students worldwide
- "My Profile" section to remind you of **your test date**

## Road to IELTS helps you in some important ways:

- Instant feedback on your performance to monitor your personal progress
- Access to the correct answers for practice exercises so you can understand your mistakes
- Hints and tips to help improve your test performance
- Exercises based on real IELTS test tasks to help you develop confidence before your test

## [Free IELTS practice tests](#)

## Preparing for your test

### Make sure you are ready to demonstrate your English

1. Familiarise yourself with the format of the test by reading this booklet. For more information about the format of the test and the question types:  
<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-test/understand-test-format>
2. Practice using [sample questions](#).
3. Consider doing a practice test. Two volumes of *Official IELTS Practice Materials* are available for purchase from test centres. These materials include a full practice test with answers, and sample Writing and Speaking performances with examiner comments.
4. Consider enrolling in a preparation course to improve your performance in the test. IELTS test centres and language schools around the world offer IELTS preparation courses.

More information is available from:

[www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)  
[www.britishcouncil.org/takeielts](http://www.britishcouncil.org/takeielts)  
[www.ieltsessentials.com/prepare](http://www.ieltsessentials.com/prepare)  
[www.cambridgeenglish.org/ielts](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/ielts)  
[www.ielts.org/usa](http://www.ielts.org/usa)

### Know the IELTS rules and regulations

It's important to familiarise yourself with the IELTS rules and regulations. These are laid out in the **Notice to Candidates** and **Declaration** which are included in the application form. When you sign the application form declaration, or agree to the terms online, you are confirming that you have read and understood the IELTS rules and regulations and agree to abide by them.

### Register as soon as possible

When you feel you are ready to take the test, you need to register for a test date with an IELTS centre. Contact the centre as soon as possible, as the number of test takers who can take the test on a particular date may be limited. You will need to pay the test fee when you register.

### Tell your centre if you have special requirements

In order to ensure that the language ability of all test takers is assessed fairly and objectively, IELTS provides a comprehensive service for test takers who have special requirements, including specific learning difficulties, hearing difficulties and visual difficulties.

If you require a modified version of the test, for example a Large Print or Braille version, you must give the test centre three months' notice. This notice period is necessary for the modified test version to be prepared. If your circumstances require special administrative arrangements to be made, for example if you need extra time or you need to use access technology such as a screen reader, you must give the test centre six weeks' notice. Please contact your test centre to discuss your requirements. Any special arrangements agreed are in accordance with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).

### Special arrangements include the following

- Enlarged print and Brailled test papers, an amanuensis to write answers, a Braille word-processor – for those with visual difficulties.
- Special amplification equipment, lip-reading version of the Listening component – for those with hearing difficulties.
- Extra time for the Reading and Writing components, use of a word processor – for those with learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia).

If you have indicated that you have special requirements, please include the medical evidence for this, along with any recommendations from your doctor about special provisions to be made during exams, when submitting your documentation. Please note that Medical Certification must be **less than 2 years old**. Contact your centre if you have questions regarding this.

## Test format

There are two modules to choose from – Academic and General Training.

### IELTS Academic

IELTS Academic is for test takers wishing to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels, and for those seeking professional registration.

### IELTS General Training

IELTS General Training is for test takers 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.

Each organisation sets its own entry requirements. In some cases both Academic or General Training may be accepted. If you are in doubt as to which to take, you should contact the organisation you are applying to in order to check their requirements.

You are tested on all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking, unless you have an exemption due to a disability (see section on special requirements). Everyone takes the same Listening and Speaking tests. There are different Reading and Writing tests for IELTS Academic and General Training.

The Listening, Reading and Writing tests must be completed on the same day. The order in which these tests are taken may vary. There are no breaks between these three tests. The Speaking test may be taken up to seven days before or after the other three tests.



**IELTS 1001 Ways**  
IELTS App

[Android Download](#)

[iPhone Download](#)



**And one fun way to explore it.**  
Test your listening skills and become an accent expert!

# The four components of the IELTS test

## Listening

### Timing

Approximately 30 minutes (plus 10 minutes' transfer time).

### Questions

There are 40 questions. A variety of question types are used, chosen from the following: multiple choice, matching, plan/map/diagram labelling, form completion, note completion, table completion, flow-chart completion, summary completion, sentence completion, short-answer questions.

### Test Parts

There are 4 sections:

Section 1 is a conversation between two people set in an everyday social context (e.g. a conversation in an accommodation agency).

Section 2 is a monologue set in an everyday social context (e.g. a speech about local facilities or a talk about the arrangements for meals during a conference).

Section 3 is 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, or a group of students planning a research project).

Section 4 is a monologue on an academic subject (e.g. a university lecture).

Each section is heard once only.

A variety of voices and native-speaker accents are used.

### Skills assessed

A wide range of listening skills are assessed, including:

- understanding of main ideas
- understanding of specific factual information
- recognising opinions, attitudes and purpose of a speaker
- following the development of an argument.

### Marking

Each correct answer receives 1 mark. Scores out of 40 are converted to the IELTS 9-band scale.

Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

## Reading

### Timing

60 minutes (no extra transfer time).

### Questions

There are 40 questions. A variety of question types are used, chosen from the following: multiple choice, identifying information (True/False/Not Given), identifying a writer's views/claims (Yes/No/Not Given), matching information, matching headings, matching features, matching sentence endings, sentence completion, summary completion, note completion, table completion, flow-chart completion, diagram label completion, short-answer questions.

### Test Parts

There are 3 sections. The total text length is 2,150-2,750 words.

### Academic Reading

Each section contains one long text. Texts are authentic and are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers. They have been written for a non-specialist audience and are on academic topics of general interest. Texts are appropriate to, and accessible to, test takers entering undergraduate or postgraduate courses or seeking professional registration. Texts range from the descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical. Texts may contain non-verbal materials such as diagrams, graphs or illustrations. If texts contain technical terms, then a simple glossary is provided.

### General Training Reading

Section 1 contains two or three short factual texts, one of which may be composite (consisting of 6-8 short texts related by topic, e.g. hotel advertisements). Topics are relevant to everyday life in an English-speaking country.

Section 2 contains two short factual texts focusing on work-related issues (e.g. applying for jobs, company policies, pay and conditions, workplace facilities, staff development and training).

Section 3 contains one longer, more complex text on a topic of general interest.

Texts are authentic and are taken from notices, advertisements, company handbooks, official documents, books, magazines and newspapers.

### Skills assessed

A wide range of reading skills are assessed, including:

- reading for gist
- reading for main ideas
- reading for detail
- understanding inferences and implied meaning
- recognising writer's opinions, attitudes and purpose
- following the development of an argument.

### Marking

Each correct answer receives 1 mark. Scores out of 40 are converted to the IELTS 9-band scale.

Scores are reported in whole and half bands



For test specifications visit: [www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format-in-detail](http://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format-in-detail)

For marking information visit: [www.ielts.org/criteria](http://www.ielts.org/criteria)

For sample questions visit:

<https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/sample-test-questions>

### IELTS for UK Visas and Immigration

Find out how you can use an IELTS result for this purpose at [www.ielts.org/uk](http://www.ielts.org/uk). For more information on going to or staying in the UK, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).





---

## Writing

### Timing

60 minutes

### Tasks

There are 2 tasks. You are required to write at least 150 words for Task 1 and at least 250 words for Task 2.

### Test Parts

There are 2 parts.

#### Academic Writing

In Task 1, you are presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and are asked to describe, summarise or explain the information in your own words. You may be asked to describe and explain data, describe the stages of a process, how something works or describe an object or event.

In Task 2, you are asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem.

The issues raised are of general interest to, suitable for and easily understood by test takers entering undergraduate or postgraduate studies or seeking professional registration. Responses to Task 1 and Task 2 should be written in an academic, semi-formal/neutral style.

#### General Training Writing

In Task 1, you are presented with a situation and are asked to write a letter requesting information or explaining the situation. The letter may be personal or semi-formal/neutral in style.

In Task 2, you are asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. The essay can be slightly more personal in style than the Academic Writing Task 2 essay.

Topics are of general interest.

### Skills assessed

In both tasks, you are assessed on your ability to write a response which is appropriate in terms of:

- content
- the organisation of ideas
- the accuracy and range of vocabulary and grammar.

#### Academic Writing

In Task 1, depending on the task type, you are assessed on your ability to organise, present and possibly compare data; to describe the stages of a process or procedure; to describe an object or event or sequence of events; to explain how something works.

In Task 2, depending on the task type, you are assessed on your ability to present a solution to a problem; to present and justify an opinion; to compare and contrast evidence, opinions and implications; to evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or an argument.

#### General Training Writing

In Task 1, depending on the task type, you are assessed on your ability to engage in personal correspondence in order to: elicit and provide general factual information; express needs, wants, likes and dislikes; express opinions (views, complaints etc.).

In Task 2, you are assessed on your ability to provide general factual information; to outline a problem and present a solution; to present and possibly justify an opinion; to evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or an argument.

### Marking

You are assessed on your performance on each task by certificated IELTS examiners according to the IELTS Writing test assessment criteria (Task Achievement/Response, Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource, Grammatical Range and Accuracy). The public version of the assessment criteria can be found at [www.ielts.org/criteria](http://www.ielts.org/criteria).

Task 2 contributes twice as much as Task 1 to the Writing score.

Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

---

## Speaking

### Timing

11-14 minutes

### Test Parts

There are 3 parts.

#### Part 1 Introduction and interview (4-5 minutes)

The examiner introduces him/herself and asks you to introduce yourself and confirm your identity. The examiner asks you general questions on familiar topics, e.g. home, family, work, studies and interests.

#### Part 2 Individual long turn (3-4 minutes)

The examiner gives you a task card which asks you to talk about a particular topic and which includes points you can cover in your talk. You are given 1 minute to prepare your talk, and are given a pencil and paper to make notes. You talk for 1-2 minutes on the topic. The examiner may then ask you one or two questions on the same topic.

#### Part 3 Two-way discussion (4-5 minutes)

The examiner asks further questions which are connected to the topic of Part 2. These questions give you an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas.

### Skills assessed

A wide range of speaking skills are assessed, including:

- the ability to communicate opinions and information on everyday topics and common experiences and situations by answering a range of questions
- the ability to speak at length on a given topic using appropriate language and organising ideas coherently
- the ability to express and justify opinions and to analyse, discuss and speculate about issues.

### Marking

You are assessed on your performance throughout the test by certificated IELTS examiners according to the IELTS Speaking test assessment criteria (Fluency and Coherence, Lexical Resource, Grammatical Range and Accuracy, Pronunciation). The public version of the assessment criteria can be found at [www.ielts.org/criteria](http://www.ielts.org/criteria).

Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

## Test tips

### Listening

- Each recording in the Listening test is heard once only.
- You will be given time to read through the questions before you listen.
- As you listen, write your answers on the question paper. At the end of the test, you will have 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. It is essential that you transfer your answers to the answer sheet as nothing you write on the question paper will be marked.
- You must write your answers in pencil.
- An example of a completed Listening answer sheet is given on the next page.
- 'Completion' question types (e.g. note completion):
  - Pay attention to the word limit. For example, if you are asked to complete a sentence using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**, and the correct answer is 'leather coat', the answer 'coat made of leather' would be incorrect.
  - Transfer only the missing word(s) to the answer sheet. For example, if you have to complete the note 'in the ...', and the correct answer is 'morning', the answer 'in the morning' would be incorrect.
  - You will hear the word(s) you need to use in the recording. You will not need to change the form of the word(s) you hear.
  - Pay attention to spelling and grammar: you will lose marks for mistakes.
  - You may write your answers in lower case or in capitals.

### Reading

- You may write your answers directly on the answer sheet or you may write them on the question paper and transfer them to the answer sheet before the end of the test. You will not be given extra time to transfer answers at the end of the test. Nothing you write on the question paper will be marked.
- You must write your answers in pencil.
- An example of a completed Reading answer sheet is given on the next page.
- 'Completion' question types (e.g. note completion):
  - The same rules apply to 'completion' question types as in Listening (see above).
  - The word(s) you use must be taken from the Reading text. You will not need to change the form of the word(s) in the text.

### Writing

- You may write your answers in pencil or pen.
- Pay attention to the number of words required for each task. You will lose marks if you do not write at least 150 words for Task 1 and at least 250 words for Task 2.
- You should spend approximately 20 minutes on Task 1 and approximately 40 minutes on Task 2.
- You must write your answers in full; answers written in note form or in bullet points will lose marks.
- Pay attention to spelling, grammar and punctuation; you will lose marks for mistakes.
- You may write your answers entirely in capitals if you wish.
- You may make notes on the question paper but nothing you write on the question paper will be marked.

## IELTS scoring in detail

IELTS Academic and General Training versions are marked using the same 9-band scale

### 1. Calculating the overall band score

IELTS test takers receive a Test Report Form setting out their overall band score and their scores on each of the four components: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Each of the component scores is weighted equally.

The overall band score is calculated by taking the average of the total of the four individual component scores.

Overall band scores are reported to the nearest whole or half band.

The following rounding convention applies: if the average across the four skills ends in .25, it is rounded up to the next half band, and if it ends in .75, it is rounded up to the next whole band.

#### Some examples:

	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Average score*	Band score
<b>Test taker A</b>	6.5	6.5	5	7	6.25	6.5
<b>Test taker B</b>	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.875	4.0
<b>Test taker C</b>	6.5	6.5	5.5	6.0	6.125	6.0

\*Average score = total of the four individual component scores divided by four.

## 2. Calculating the component band scores

<b>IELTS scoring summary</b>			
<p><b>Listening</b></p> <p>The IELTS Listening test contains 40 questions. Each correct item is awarded one mark. Band scores, ranging from Band 1 to Band 9, are awarded to test takers on the basis of their raw scores.</p>	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <p>The IELTS Reading test contains 40 questions. Each correct item is awarded one mark. Band scores, ranging from Band 1 to Band 9, are awarded to test takers on the basis of their raw scores.</p>	<p><b>Writing</b></p> <p>Examiners use detailed assessment criteria (known as '<b>band descriptors</b>') to award a band score for each of the four assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Achievement (for Task 1), Task Response (for Task 2) – 25%</li> <li>• Coherence and Cohesion – 25%</li> <li>• Lexical Resource – 25%</li> <li>• Grammatical Range and Accuracy – 25%</li> </ul>	<p><b>Speaking</b></p> <p>Examiners use detailed assessment criteria (known as '<b>band descriptors</b>') to award a band for each of the four assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluency and Coherence – 25%</li> <li>• Lexical Resource – 25%</li> <li>• Grammatical Range and Accuracy – 25%</li> <li>• Pronunciation – 25%</li> </ul>
<p><b>Differences between IELTS Academic and General Training:</b></p> <p>There is no difference. This is because the more socially oriented language skills of listening and speaking are equally important in an academic study or workplace context.</p>	<p><b>Differences between IELTS Academic and General Training:</b></p> <p>The Reading component of IELTS Academic and General Training is differentiated* by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The texts (topic, genre, discourse type, length, number, etc.). Academic papers may contain source texts featuring more difficult vocabulary or greater complexity of style.</li> <li>• To secure a given band score, a greater number of questions must therefore be answered correctly on a General Training Reading test.</li> <li>• The range of item difficulties.</li> <li>• The Academic Reading component has more items pitched at bands 5–8, whereas IELTS General Training has more items pitched at bands 3–6. This is a reflection of the different demands of Academic and General Training discourse for language learners.</li> </ul> <p>*This is because the distinction between 'academic' and 'general' literacy has usually been seen as most marked in reading and writing skills.</p>	<p><b>Differences between IELTS Academic and General Training:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Writing component of IELTS Academic and General Training are differentiated* by the tasks (topic and genre).</li> </ul> <p>*This is because the distinction between 'academic' and 'general' literacy has usually been seen as most marked in reading and writing skills.</p>	<p><b>Differences between IELTS Academic and General Training:</b></p> <p>There is no difference. This is because the more socially oriented language skills of listening and speaking are equally important in an academic study or workplace context.</p>

## Band score boundaries

Although all IELTS test materials are pretested and standards fixed before being released as live tests, there are inevitably minor differences in the difficulty level across tests. To equate different test versions, the band score boundaries are set so that all test takers' results relate to the same scale of achievement. This means, for example, that the Band 6 boundary may be set at a slightly different raw score across individual test versions.

### 3. Scoring: Listening and Reading

Listening	
Band score	Raw score out of 40
5	16
6	23
7	30
8	35

IELTS Listening and Reading papers contain 40 items and each correct item is awarded one mark; the maximum raw score a test taker can achieve on a paper is 40. Band scores ranging from Band 1 to Band 9 are awarded to test takers on the basis of their raw scores.

The tables below indicate the mean raw scores achieved by test takers at various levels in each of the Listening, Academic Reading and General Training Reading tests. They provide an indication of the number of marks required to achieve a particular band score.

The Academic and General Training papers are graded to the same scale. The distinction between the two modules is one of genre or discourse type. Academic papers may contain source texts featuring more difficult vocabulary or greater complexity of style. It is usual that, to secure a given band score, a greater number of questions must be answered correctly on a General Training Reading paper.

General Training Reading	
Band score	Raw score out of 40
4	15
5	23
6	30
7	34

Academic Reading	
Band score	Raw score out of 40
5	15
6	23
7	30
8	35

### 4. Scoring: Writing and Speaking

When marking the Writing and Speaking tests, examiners use detailed performance descriptors which describe written and spoken performance at each of the nine IELTS bands.

Versions of the assessment criteria for Writing and Speaking have been developed to help stakeholders better understand the level of performance required to attain a particular band score in each of the criterion areas:

- [Download Writing task 1 assessment criteria](#) (PDF, 124KB)
- [Download Writing task 2 assessment criteria](#) (PDF, 68KB)
- [Download Speaking assessment criteria](#) (PDF, 120KB)

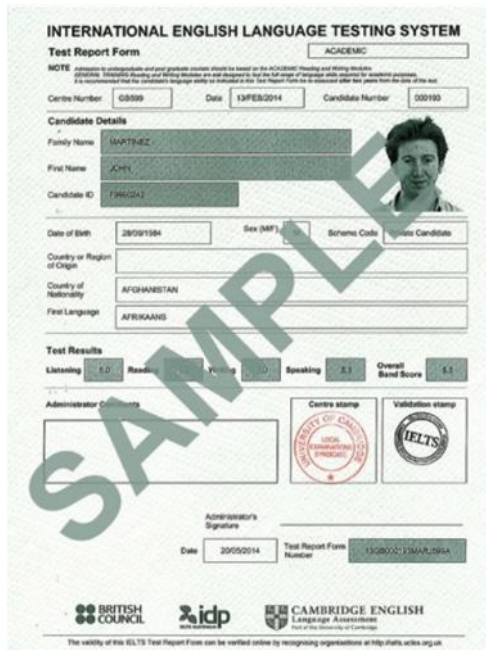
# After your test

## Test results

### The Test Report Form

You will receive a Test Report Form which reports a score for each of the four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking), as well as an overall band score. Half band scores may be awarded to indicate a strong performance within a particular band. You can find more information on score processing and score interpretation at [www.ielts.org/criteria](http://www.ielts.org/criteria).

Results are available 13 calendar days after the test. At some test centres test takers may collect their results on the 13th day; at others, results are mailed on the 13th day. Test centres are not permitted to give results over the phone or by fax or email.



The image shows a sample IELTS Test Report Form. It is titled 'INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM Test Report Form' and is for an 'ACADEMIC' test. The form includes fields for Centre Number (0359), Date (13 FEB 2014), and Candidate Number (00195). Candidate details include Family Name (MARTINEZ), First Name (JOHN), Candidate ID (1960243), Date of Birth (28/01/1984), Sex (M), and Scheme Code (Regular Candidate). Test results are shown for Listening (5.0), Reading (5.5), Writing (5.0), and Speaking (5.5), with an Overall Band Score of 5.1. The form also features a 'SAMPLE' watermark, a signature line for the administrator, and logos for the British Council, IDP, and Cambridge English Language Assessment.

You will receive only one copy of the Test Report Form. It's important that you keep it safe as replacement Test Report Forms cannot be issued. Test centres will send copies of your Test Report Form to up to five organisations free of charge.

Find out more at [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

Join the conversation at [www.facebook.com/IELTSofficial](https://www.facebook.com/IELTSofficial)

Watch our videos at [www.youtube.com/IELTSofficial](https://www.youtube.com/IELTSofficial)

### Preview your results online

You can preview your results online 13 calendar days after the test. Results remain online for 28 days. Please note that the online preview of results should not be used as an official confirmation of your performance.

### Results validity period

Organisations will not usually accept a Test Report Form that is more than two years old unless you provide evidence that you have actively maintained or tried to improve your English since taking the test. The IELTS Test Partners cannot confirm the validity of test results that are more than two years old.

## Re-taking IELTS

There are no restrictions on re-taking IELTS. You can register for a test as soon as you feel you are ready to do so. Please note that your score is unlikely to increase unless you make a significant effort to improve your English before re-taking the test. More information is available from [www.ielts.org/resitting](http://www.ielts.org/resitting).

## Enquiries on results

If you are unhappy with your test result, you can apply for a re-mark (Enquiry on Results) at the centre where you took the test. You must make the application no later than six weeks after the test date. You can choose which test components are re-marked. There is a fee for this service which will be refunded if your score on any component is increased. Enquiries on Results take six to eight weeks to complete.

### IELTS for UK Visas and Immigration

Find out how you can use an IELTS result for this purpose at [www.ielts.org/uk](http://www.ielts.org/uk). For more information on going to or staying in the UK, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

### IELTS for UK, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand visas and immigration

Find out how you can use an IELTS result for these purposes at:

[www.ielts.org/uk](http://www.ielts.org/uk)  
[www.ielts.org/australia](http://www.ielts.org/australia)  
[www.ielts.org/canada](http://www.ielts.org/canada)  
[www.ielts.org/](http://www.ielts.org/)

### Your privacy

The IELTS Test Partners recognise and support the right of genuine IELTS test candidates to privacy. For more information visit [www.ielts.org/privacy](http://www.ielts.org/privacy).

IELTS is jointly owned by the British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge English Language Assessment. The IELTS test is designed and set by the world's leading experts in language assessment to give a true picture of a test taker's language skills. IELTS Bands 4-9 (NQF levels Entry 3 to Level 3) are accredited by Ofqual, England's Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation.