

IELTS: HOW TO PASS EXAM?

Aliyev Alan,

Student bachelor of third course,

Supervisor: Yuliya Safronova,

Master of Pedagogical Sciences, Senior Lecturer, M. Auezov SKU, Kazakhstan.

The pain of studying is only temporary.

But the pain of not knowing

– ignorance— is forever...

“Unknown Harvard student”

Annotation: *The craving to reach something difficult is only seems like that. And for many students one of the difficulties is passing exams. Exam is only design to create kind of challenge on the student’s way. If we only could think of possibilities which students can to achieve, we would sick of to count. So, this article provides a detailed description of the structure of one of the most well-known IELTS exam.*

Аннотация: *Тяга к чему-то сложному только кажется таковой. И для многих студентов одной из сложностей является сдача экзаменов. Экзамен предназначен только для того, чтобы создать своего рода вызов на пути студента. Если бы мы только могли думать о возможностях, которых могут достичь студенты, нам бы надоело считать. Итак, в этой статье приведено подробное описание структуры одного из самых известных экзаменов IELTS.*

Annotatsiya: *Murakkab narsaga intilish faqat shunday bo'lib ko'rinadi. Ko'plab talabalar uchun esa qiyinchiliklardan biri imtihonlardan o'tishdir. Imtihon faqat o'quvchining safarida bir xil qiyinchilik tug'dirish uchun mo'ljallangan. Agar biz faqat talabalar erishishi mumkin bo'lgan imkoniyatlar haqida o'ylay olsak, sanab o'tishdan charchagan bo'lardik. Shunday qilib, ushbu maqolada eng mashhur IELTS imtihonlaridan birining tuzilishi haqida batafsil ma'lumot berilgan.*

Key words: *IELTS, IELTS preparation, IELTS tips, listening, reading, writing, speaking.*

Ключевые слова: *IELTS, подготовка к IELTS, советы IELTS, аудирование, чтение, письмо, говорение.*

Asosiy so‘zlar: *IELTS, IELTS tayyorgarligi, IELTS maslahatlari, tinglash, o‘qish, yozish, gapirish.*

Exam Background

IELTS was created in 1990 with the participation of the British Council (British Council), Cambridge examination service UCLES (University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate) and IDP Education Australia. Soon, IELTS overtook TOEFL in popularity and breadth of distribution in civilized countries of the world. This happened because the project began to develop rapidly, attracting the best international specialists to develop the accuracy and quality of assessments. [1]

Methods

It was based on an excellent demonstration of oneself within the TOEFL four-part testing structure, the candidate’s evaluative listening comprehension of Russian-language speech, the ability to understand complex and abstract texts, and the ability to express one’s thoughts orally and in writing.

The IELTS exam consists of two modules: Academic and General. Typically, individuals opt for the Academic module when applying to foreign universities, while the General module is commonly chosen for purposes such as secondary education, employment overseas, or immigration. It is crucial to always confirm with the specific organization where you plan to submit your IELTS certificate to determine which module is required.

Academic Module:

1. Study at undergraduate or postgraduate programs almost anywhere in the world.
2. Applying for a student visa in the UK
3. Working in an English-speaking country.

General Module:

1. Study in programs not leading to a degree (secondary education).
2. Work or training related to work in an English-speaking country.

3. Immigration to an English-speaking country.

4. Placement abroad.

My experience

When I was sophomore, I came up with idea to find a job, and in the same time I wanted go study abroad even though my schedule in university was a bit complicated. I study after afternoon and lessons are over at 7 o'clock. I wouldn't say that I had lack of money, however make yourself financially independent always in priority. My knowledge of foreign language was enough to teach someone who only started to learn. Then, I called my first student with whom I still communicate. Together with him, of course, for a fee, I gained experience, and he gained useful knowledge. Now he has entered the university in Almaty. His major is “International Relations”. After acquiring some experience, my decision was to start teaching English courses. Moreover, most courses are looking for young teachers and students are also considered. But there was one condition. After some time of work, the student must present some official certificates such as (IELTS, SAT, and so one). And recently I achieved one, with great endeavors, but I did. I gained 5.5 band score, I could do best, but the speaking part was tricky. Unfortunately, I missed the chance to use an exchange program cause of currently I'm junior, and exchange program is allowed only for second-year students. Nevertheless, I made one my dream come true and I work on courses with a big pleasant.

Exam Structure

IELTS tips

To begin, in worth to mention that know something in advance and mental self-preparation is key to reach the dream score on IELTS exam especially in the speaking part. These humble advices would be helpful for shy people. Forewarned is for armed. An only in speaking part you will communicate with examiner and in other parts you will take an exam alone or with other students who registered in the same day as you.

Grasp the Test Structure: Make sure you understand the layout of the IELTS test, which includes sections like Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

Consistent Practice: Regularly engage in practice sessions for each part of the exam to enhance your skills.

Expand Vocabulary: Work on broadening your word bank, especially with formal and academic terms, which will be beneficial for both Writing and Speaking sections.

Boost Reading Ability: Improve your comprehension skills by reading academic texts and articles, focusing on grasping main ideas, supporting details, and new vocabulary.

Listen to English Content: Listen to various English audio sources such as podcasts, news, and lectures to sharpen your listening skills, paying attention to detail and context.

Hone Writing Skills: Practice writing essays, reports, and letters within the exam's time constraints, ensuring coherence, cohesion, and grammatical accuracy.

Practice Speaking Fluency: Work on speaking fluently by engaging in conversations with others, focusing on pronunciation, grammar, and fluidity. Recording yourself can help pinpoint areas for improvement.

Be confident: Examiner is an average person just like you, so keep an eye contact and speak without hesitation.

Pay attention on the way you express your idea: Don't go too far, answer clearly and to the point.

Use idioms: It defiantly will boost your score especially in second part of the test.

Listening

Now, let's consider this area which makes difficulties for people who prepare to IELTS exam. Starting from the beginning, in this exam are included 4 sections with different duration of time. In **Listening** section you will experience with 40 questions which you need to answer with periods and in the same time listen audio

record. It's will take 30 minutes. And keep in mind that you have choice before registration; you can select the type of passing exam (Paper Based, Computer Delivered). Strongly recommend choosing the Computer Delivered, because you will be given headphones, which make you more concentrate, whereas in Paper Based exam the recording will be played on speaker in a large auditory. In addition to practice your listening skills, on YouTube there are plethora of tasters which you can do and get acquainted with that awaits you.

This part subdivided into 4 parts:

Part 1: The first part contains a conversation between two people. The conversation is about a social context where two people can discuss the previous day's match or make plans for the weekend.

Part 2: This part has a monologue and contains a social context. You may hear a person giving a speech about a common topic.

Part 3: The third part of the IELTS listening exam is also a conversation between two people, but the topic is academic and more related to the candidate's training.

Part 4: The last part is a monologue on an academic subject.

To significantly boost your skills - practice with different accents, it will make you to adjust to changes in speech of different people who possess English language. Then, pay attention for every type of questions. It can be inserting words or even collocations while recording is playing or define the place which is speaker talking about and choose the correct letter on the map (see picture 1). Improving your vocabulary is also big deal. The ability to understand or catch the necessary word will be useful. Practice listening and writing answers which is you can find in official IELTS preparation book Cambridge Academic IELTS 18 (see picture 2). And defiantly train your concentration. It is big dilemma for most people, and to struggle with that you need use kind of approaches such as try to listen speech with open window next to you and so on.

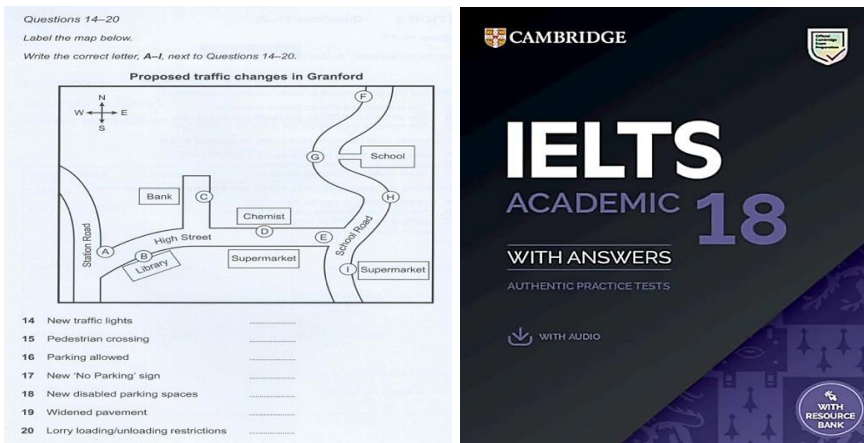


Figure 1: sample of listening map. Figure 2: IELTS ACADEMIC book

Taken from: yourielts.ru

Reading

To begin with, in this section you will be given 3 texts in turn on the left side of the screen, and on the right side tasks related to this text will be given. For this task you have 1 hour. The tasks will be different, starting from selecting the correct title, to inserting the correct word into a sentence from the text. All tasks are very tricky and to complete it well, you shouldn't read whole text. Instead, take a look on the first task on the right part of screen and only then read text in order, cause of all places where you need to insert a word always go from the beginning of the text and continue to the end. In other words, you should go in order, there is no need to look for the answer to the first question in the middle of the text. Moreover exist two terms in reading preparation which is come in handy during taking this part. It's called scanning and skimming.

Scanning - involves quickly browsing through text to grasp its overall content, akin to snorkeling, while scanning is akin to pearl diving, focusing on finding specific details amidst the text. [2]

Skimming - involves seeking out the main ideas or general concepts, typically most effective with non-fiction or factual content. This method often leads to a reduced overall understanding as it entails reading selectively for relevance to one's purpose rather than comprehensively.

In addition, it's better to read different types of texts, including general and academic texts, and not just in your subject area. In general interest articles, the main point may come in a different place than you expect. In academic texts there will be fewer opinions, or they may be harder to spot. On the other hand, they can be dense with information. Be aware of the differences, and adjust the reading strategies you use depending on the text you're reading. Decide when to read carefully and when to read quickly. In any case, you may want to give yourself a set amount of time, so that even your careful reading is done more quickly and efficiently.

Of course, in the internet you can find out a lot of testers to practice this part!

Writing

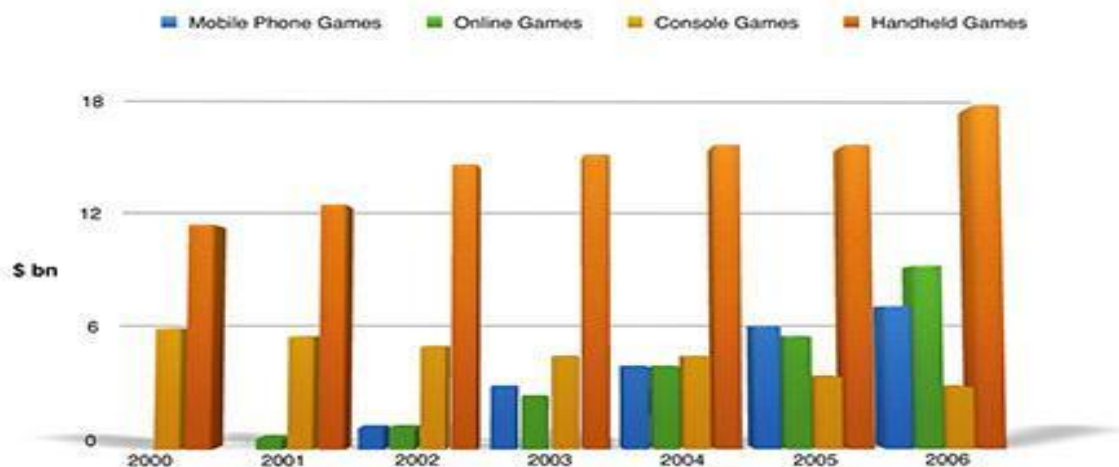
In the most difficult part of exam you will have 2 task and 1 hour to complete. You will need to describe 1 of 6 types of graphs in the first task and write an essay in the second one. Here in the task 1 you will have 6 varieties of task one (bar chart, line graph, table, pie chart, process, maps). And according to different advices of professional tutors you need to spend at least 20 minutes for the proper describing of this first task. Tutorials how to describe graphs and much more exist in internet, or you can purchase kind of books for preparations. Success in the IELTS writing section hinges on consistent practice, a thorough grasp of the task objectives, and the adept communication of your ideas in a lucid and cohesive fashion.

1. Bar Chart

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The bar chart shows the global sales (in billions of dollars) of different types of digital games between 2000 and 2006. Summarises the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. Write at least 150 words. [4]

Figure 1



Taken from: yourielts.ru

2. Table

The table below shows the proportion of different categories of families living in poverty in Australia in 1999. [4]

Family type	Proportion of people from each household type living in poverty
single aged person	6% (54,000)
aged couple	4% (48,000)
single, no children	19% (359,000)
couple, no children	7% (211,000)
sole parent	21% (232,000)
couple with children	12% (933,000)
all households	11% (1,837,000)

Table 1

Taken from: yourielts.ru

[https://yourielts.ru/prepare-for-ielts/ielts-writing/graphs-ielts-writing-academic-part-](https://yourielts.ru/prepare-for-ielts/ielts-writing/graphs-ielts-writing-academic-part-one)

one

Table 2

Sales of Fairtrade-labelled coffee and bananas (1999 & 2004)

Coffee	1999 (millions of euros)	2004 (millions of euros)
UK	1.5	20
Switzerland	3	6
Denmark	1.8	2
Belgium	1	1.7
Sweden	0.8	1

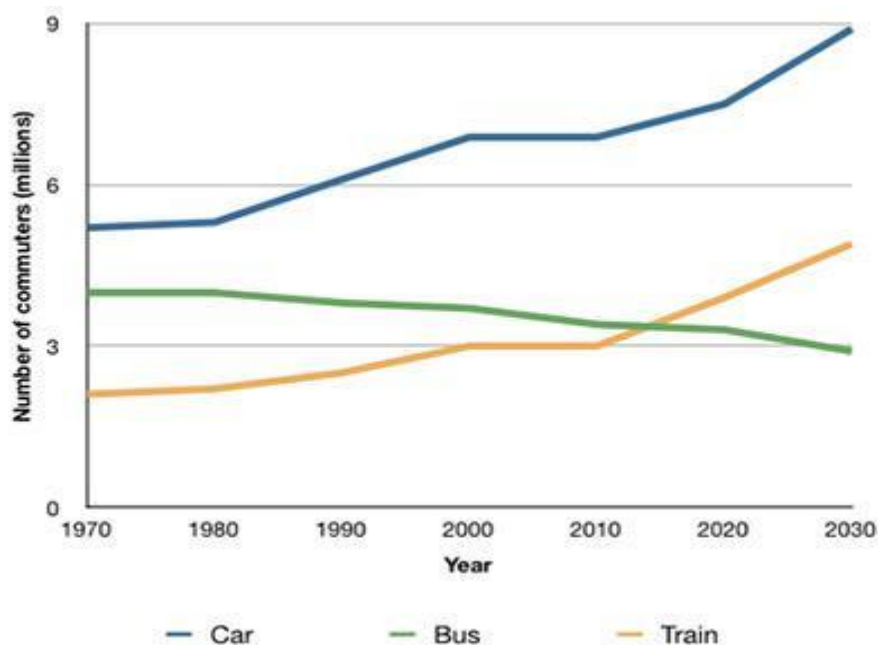
Bananas	1999 (millions of euros)	2004 (millions of euros)
UK	15	47
Switzerland	1	5.5
Denmark	0.6	4
Belgium	1.8	1
Sweden	2	0.9

Taken from: yourielts.ru

3. Line Graph

The graph below shows the average number of UK commuters travelling each day by car, bus or train between 1970 and 2030. [4]

Figure 2

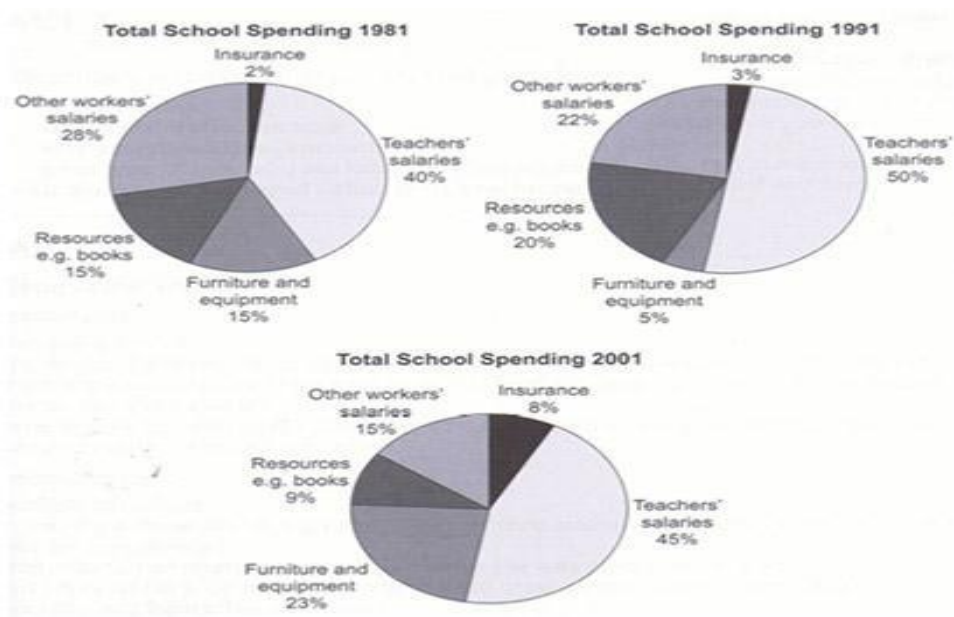


Taken from: yourielts.ru

4. Pie Chart

The pie charts compare the expenditure of a school in the UK in three different years over a 20-year period. [4]

Figure 3



Taken from: yourielts.ru

The structured of answer is:

First we write about the largest countries (40%, 50%, 45%), then about those that are slightly smaller (28%, 22%, 23%), etc. 8% and 9% - one might say.

We do not write about each chart separately. We are pregnant in one position on the first chart and compare it with other charts - what is the same and what is different.

5. Process

Sometimes you come across a description of the process OR life cycle of an animal or insect; and you must be prepared for this. The structure is similar to other tasks: [4]

- Introduction (we paraphrase the task)

- Main part (Here we write about the stages/steps of the process and use the passive voice (water is evaporated))

- Conclusion (give an overview, i.e. something general about the process). Overall, there are eight stages in the process, beginning with the digging up of clay and culminating in delivery. [3]

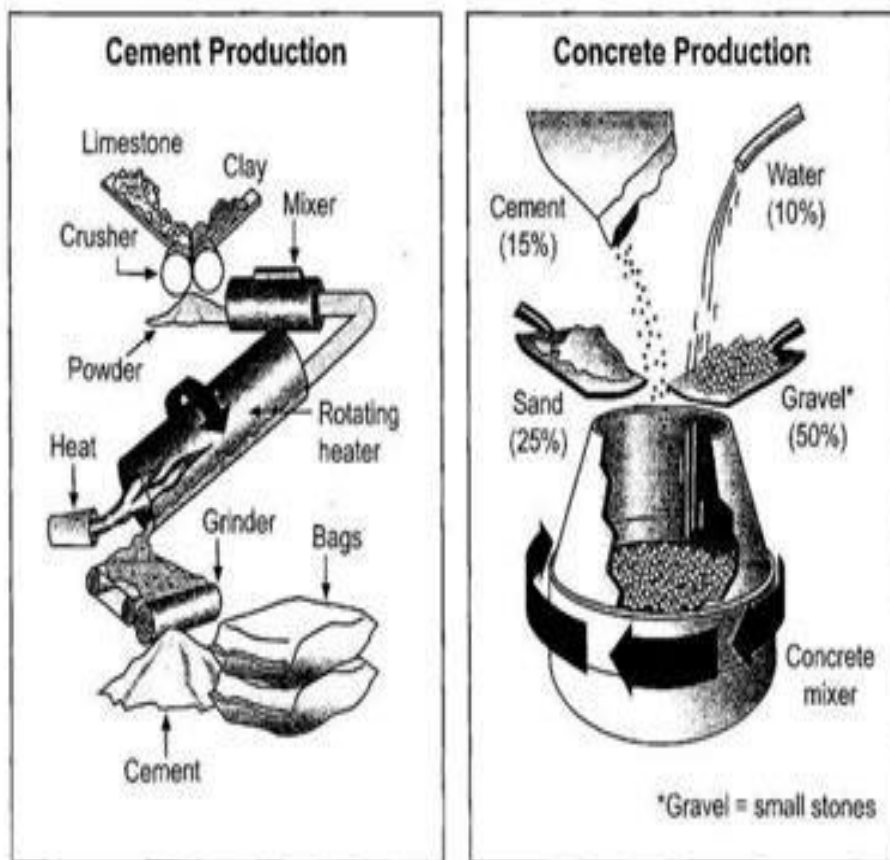
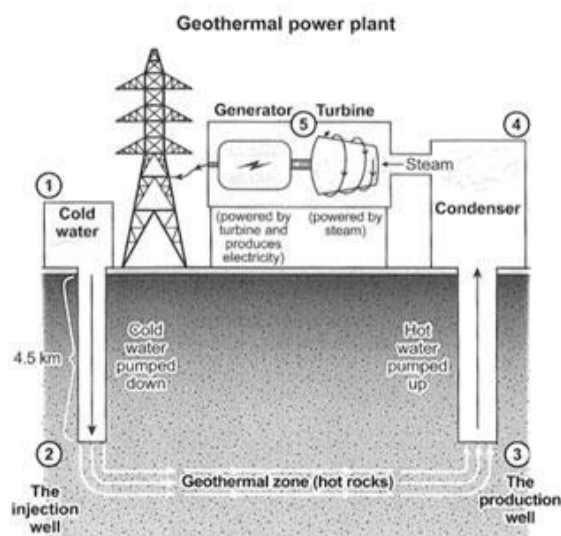


Figure 4

Taken from: yourielts.ru

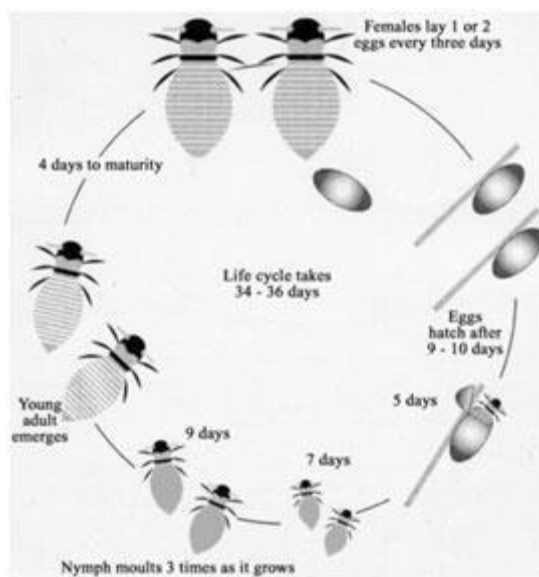
Figure 5



Source: Cambridge IELTS academic 12

Taken from: yourielts.ru

Figure 6

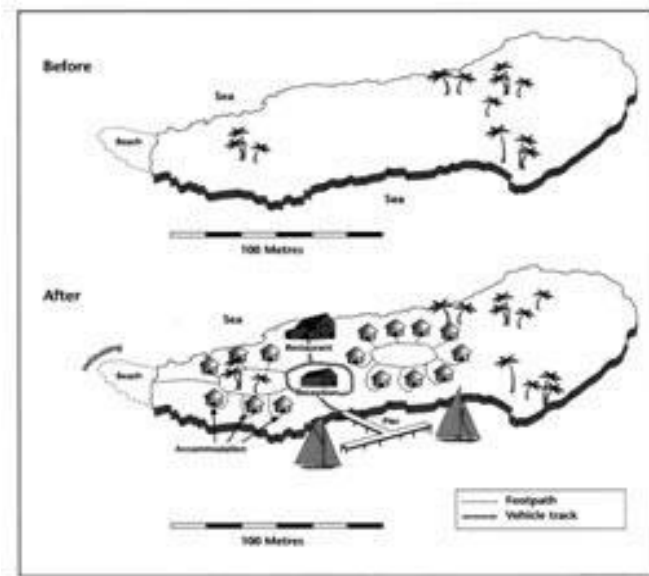


Taken from: yourielts.ru

6. Maps

The examiners say that the answers on the cards are weaker than the graphs because, apparently, everyone is diligently preparing for the graphs and ignoring the cards, according to the logic: if they don't come across very often, then there is no need to prepare. Here in the main part we write about the main changes that have occurred: what was built + where. You can add why this was built. To provide more details, we add: what was/wasn't there before. [4]

Figure 7



Taken from: yourielts.ru

Writing task 2

In the task 2 you will need to spend 40 minutes to write an essay and for task 1 you should spend 20 minutes and 1 hour in total. It's difficult, challenge yourself and train as much as it possible. You can choose which part you would like to start first. _

By the way, I didn't have time to finish my essay due to the fact that I spent 30 minutes for describing the graph, which significantly reduced the grade for the writing part 2

You will need to determine the structure of the essay. This could be an opinion essay, a discussion essay, a comparison essay, and so on. And for the most part, it all depends on your imagination and erudition because you can come across issues related to culture, economy, life hood of people and others. Here you will need to determine the structure of the essay. This could be an opinion essay, a discussion essay, a comparison essay, and so on. So, be careful with your thoughts.

Types of essay structures

Argumentative Essay Structure:

Introduction:

- Introduce the topic and provide background information.
- Present a thesis statement by outlining your main argument.

Body Paragraphs:

- Present supporting points or arguments with evidence and examples.
- Each paragraph should focus on a single supporting point.
- Counterargument (optional):
- Admitting opposing viewpoints if applicable.
- Refute counterarguments or explain why they are less valid.

Conclusion:

- Summarize your main points.
- Restate your thesis statement.
- Offer a final thought or recommendation.

Opinion Essay Structure:

Introduction:

- Introduce the topic and state your opinion or viewpoint.
- Provide a thesis statement summarizing your opinion.

Body Paragraphs:

- Develop your opinion with supporting details and examples.
- Each paragraph should focus on a single supporting point.

Conclusion:

- Summarize your opinion.
- Restate your thesis statement or main points.
- Offer a final thought or recommendation.

Advantages/Disadvantages Essay Structure:

Introduction:

- Introduce the topic and state whether you will discuss advantages or disadvantages.
- Provide a thesis statement outlining the points you will cover.

Body Paragraphs:

- Present advantages or disadvantages with supporting details and examples.
- Each paragraph should focus on a single advantage or disadvantage.

Conclusion:

- Summarize the main advantages or disadvantages.
- Restate your thesis statement.
- Offer a final thought or recommendation.

Problem/Solution Essay Structure:

Introduction:

- Introduce the problem and its significance.
- Provide a thesis statement outlining the problem and possible solutions.

Body Paragraphs:

- Present the problem in detail with supporting evidence.
- Offer one or more solutions with supporting details and examples.

Conclusion:

- Summarize the problem and proposed solutions.
- Restate your thesis statement.
- Emphasize the importance of implementing the solutions.

Speaking

After all 3 sections there will be the last one part of an exam which called **Speaking**. No matter whether you choose the Academic or General module, the Speaking test evaluates your English communication skills. This segment involves a personal interview with an accredited examiner, lasting approximately 11-14 minutes. Throughout the Speaking test, you'll tackle various tasks, including conversing about familiar topics, sharing viewpoints, and responding to inquiries. Achieving success in this section demands more than just linguistic ability; it necessitates confidence, coherence, and fluency in articulating thoughts. Consequently, comprehensive preparation and practice are essential to excel in this aspect and attain your target score in the IELTS examination.

It will divide into 3 parts. First part is general questions. Second part is speaking on the given topic 2 minutes. Third part is questions related to the part 2.

In general, a good idea will be to think of topics you don't know about, including some abstract ones, and learn as many English words related to them as you can. Then talk about one of the topics using as many of the words as you can. When you speak, try to group words that go together in 'chunks' of meaning. This will make your delivery sound better. Notice words you find hard to pronounce and repeat these until you get them right. After you have finished speaking, try again, but this time talking longer and saying things in a different way. If you can, find other English speakers you can speak with. Talk about the topics you have worked on, ask each other questions, and have a discussion. While discussing, if you don't know words or grammar structures for something, try to say it in a different way using different words. Afterwards, note the words and structures you don't know so you know what to learn next. Listen to English programmes to help improve your pronunciation.

Conclusion

To be honest, the greatest misunderstanding in IELTS exam is speaking part. And I consider it a bit awkward. In the speaking section you can witness with question which you even could never think of, and probably won't know what to speak about examiner question. Obviously, you can have training, but anyway, if you get the question about you never think of, you wouldn't know what to talk about. And it doesn't mean that you do not speak foreign language. You can speak about many others topics, and very fluently and clearly. On the other side, this exam stands as a vital benchmark for individuals aiming to demonstrate their proficiency in the English language. Whether pursuing academic endeavors, seeking career opportunities, or navigating immigration processes, a strong performance in the IELTS opens doors to a world of possibilities. It serves as a testament to one's linguistic capabilities and readiness to thrive in English-speaking environments, paving the way for success in various educational, professional, and personal endeavors. As it was mentioned IELTS exam offers two modules: Academic and General. The Academic module is typically selected for admission to foreign

universities, while the General module is often chosen for secondary education, employment abroad, or immigration purposes. It is essential to verify which module is required by the organization where you intend to submit your IELTS certificate. Ultimately, proper preparation and choosing the appropriate module can significantly contribute to achieving your desired academic, professional, or immigration goals. The IELTS examination holds immense significance for individuals navigating various academic, professional, and immigration pathways. Success in the test not only validates their English language proficiency but also opens doors to a multitude of opportunities for personal and professional growth on a global scale. So, being ready for everything is good, however no one is perfect and do an attempt one more time is one of the way to become greater than you was. With preparation and full luggage of knowledge go ahead and pass successfully the IELTS exam.

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