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IELTS

VANESSA JAKEMAN CLARE McDOWELL

**SELF-STUDY
EDITION**

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Cambridge Practice Tests for IELTS

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Vanessa Jakeman

Clare McDowell



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Contents

Acknowledgements iv

Introduction 1

Practice Test 1 12

Practice Test 2 34

Practice Test 3 54

Practice Test 4 75

General Training Reading and Writing Modules 94

Tapescripts 107

Answer keys 130

Sample answer sheets 153

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Introduction

TO THE STUDENT

About the book

This book has been written for candidates preparing for the revised version of the International English Language Testing System, known as IELTS. This is a test designed to assess the English language skills of non-English speaking students seeking to study in an English speaking country.

Aims of the book

- to prepare you for the test by familiarising you with the types of texts and tasks that you will meet in the IELTS test, and the level and style of language used in the test.
- to help you prepare for your studies at university or college by introducing you to the types of communication tasks which you are likely to meet in English speaking study environment.

Content of the book

The book contains four complete sample IELTS tests, each comprising Listening and Speaking modules and Academic Reading and Writing modules. In addition there is one set of the General Training Reading and Writing modules. (NB all candidates do the same Listening and Speaking modules.) To accompany the tests there is an answer key at the back of the book and you should refer to this after you have attempted each of the practice tests. Also included is an annotated copy of the listening tapescripts with the appropriate sections highlighted to help you to check your answers. In addition, you will find one model answer for each type of writing task to guide you with your writing. There is a comprehensive key for the Reading and Listening sections, but if you are in any doubt about your answers, talk to a teacher or an English speaking friend. Where you are required to answer in your own words, the answer must be accurate in both meaning as well as grammar in order to be scored correct.

Benefits of studying for IELTS

By studying for IELTS you will not only be preparing for the test but also for your future as a student in an English speaking environment. The test is designed to assess your ability to understand and produce written and spoken language in an educational context. The book makes reference to the ways in which university study is organised in many English speaking countries and the types of academic tasks you will be expected to perform.

Introduction

These include:

- Reading and understanding written academic or training language
- Writing assignments in an appropriate style for university study or within a training context
- Listening to and comprehending spoken language in both lecture format as well as formal and informal conversational style
- Speaking to colleagues and lecturers on general and given topics in formal and informal situations

Description of the test

There are two versions of the IELTS test:

Academic Module for students seeking entry to a university or institution of higher education offering degree and diploma courses	General Training Module for students seeking entry to a secondary school or to vocational training courses
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***Note:** All candidates must take a test for each of the four skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. All candidates take the same Listening and Speaking modules but may choose between the Academic or General Training versions of the Reading and Writing sections of the test. You should seek advice from a teacher or a student adviser if you are in any doubt about whether to sit for the Academic modules or the General Training modules. The two do not carry the same weight and are not interchangeable.*

Test format

Listening 4 sections, around 40 questions 30 minutes + transfer time

Academic Reading 3 sections, around 40 questions 60 minutes OR **General Training Reading** 3 sections, around 40 questions 60 minutes

Academic Writing 2 tasks 60 minutes OR **General Training Writing** 2 tasks 60 minutes

Speaking 10 to 15 minutes

Total test time 2 hours 45 minutes

WHAT DOES THE TEST CONSIST OF?

The Listening Module

Requirements	Situation types	Question types
<p>You must listen to four separate sections and answer questions as you listen. You will hear the tape <i>once only</i>.</p> <p>There will be between 38 and 42 questions. The test will take about 30 minutes. There will be time to read the questions during the test and time to transfer your answers on to the answer sheet at the end of the test.</p> <p>The level of difficulty of the texts and tasks increases through the paper.</p>	<p>The first two sections are based on social situations. There will be a conversation between two speakers and then a monologue.</p> <p>The second two sections are related to an educational or training context. There will be a conversation with up to four speakers and a lecture or talk of general academic interest.</p>	<p>You will meet a variety of question types which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · multiple choice · short answer questions · sentence completion · notes/summary/flow chart/table completion · labelling a diagram which has numbered parts · matching

Academic Reading Module

Requirements	Types of material	Question types
<p>You must read three reading passages with a total of 1 500 to 2 500 words.</p> <p>There will be between 38 and 42 questions. You will have 60 minutes to answer all the questions.</p> <p>The level of difficulty of the texts and tasks increases through the paper.</p>	<p>Magazines, journals, textbooks and newspapers.</p> <p>Topics are not discipline specific but all are in a style appropriate and accessible to candidates entering postgraduate and undergraduate courses.</p>	<p>You will meet a variety of question types which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple choice • short answer questions • sentence completion • notes/summary/flow chart/table completion • choosing from a bank of headings • identification of writer`s views or attitudes (Yes/ No/ Not given) • classification • matching lists • matching phrases

Requirements	Task types
<p>You must complete two writing tasks. You will have 60 minutes to complete both tasks.</p> <p>You should spend about 20 minutes on Task 1 and write at least 150 words.</p> <p>You should spend about 40 minutes on Task 2 and write at least 250 words.</p>	<p><i>Task 1</i></p> <p>You will have to look at a diagram, a table or short piece of text and then present the information in your own words.</p> <p>Your writing will be assessed on your ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• organise, present and compare data• describe the stages of a process• describe an object or event• explain how something works <p>You will also be judged on your ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• answer the question without straying from the topic• write in a way which allows your reader to follow your ideas• use English grammar and syntax accurately• use appropriate language in terms of register, style and content <p><i>Task 2</i></p> <p>You will have to present an argument or discuss a problem.</p> <p>Your writing will be assessed on your ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• present the solution to a problem• present and justify an opinion• compare and contrast evidence and opinions• evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or an argument <p>You will also be judged on your ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• communicate an idea to the reader in an appropriate style• address the problem without straying from the topic• use English grammar and syntax accurately• use appropriate language in terms of register, style and content