

Collected by Hai Jim

EXPERT ON CAMBRIDGE

IELTS

Practice Tests

1



NHÀ XUẤT BẢN THẾ GIỚI

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EXPERT ON CAMBRIDGE IELTS Practice Tests 1 (kèm CD)

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Introduction

- The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is widely recognised as a reliable means of assessing the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is the language of communication. These Practice Tests are designed to give future IELTS candidates an idea of whether their English is at the required level.
- IELTS is owned by three partners: the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations, the British Council and IDP: Education Australia (through its subsidiary company, IELTS Australia Pty Limited). Further information on IELTS can be found on the IELTS website (www.ielts.org).

• IELTS Fact file

The exam is divided into four modules, taken in the following order:

Listening (30 minutes)

In each section you will hear a recording. The four sections become progressively more difficult and each recording is played once only. There are pauses to divide the recording into smaller parts. For each part you need to answer a series of questions of one type.

Section	Number of items	Text type	Task types
1	10	social or transactional conversation (2 speakers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• completing notes, table, sentences, diagram, flow chart or summary• short-answer questions• various kinds of multiple-choice questions• labelling parts of a diagram• classification matching lists• sentence completion• correcting notes
2	10	talk or speech on social needs (1 speaker)	
3	10	conversation in educational context (2-4 speakers)	
4	10	talk or lecture on topic of general interest (1 speaker)	

Tips and hints

- Read the questions before each section of the recording begins.
- Use the pauses to prepare for the next set of questions.
- Study the instructions to find out what you have to write and where.
- Use the example at the beginning of the first section to familiarize yourself with the sound, the situation, and the speakers.
- Keep listening all the time, looking only at the questions that relate to the part being played.
- Remember that the topics are non-technical and no more difficult for you than for students of other subjects.
- Answer questions in the order they appear on the Question Paper - they normally follow the order of information in the recording.

- You have some time after the tape ends to transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet - check your grammar and spelling as you do so.
- There may be a variety of English accents and dialects, so practise listening to speakers from different places and backgrounds.

Academic Reading (60 minutes)

The three passages contain 2000-2750 words in total and become progressively more difficult, but they are always suitable for non-specialist readers. If any technical terms are used, they will be explained in a glossary. While the number of questions for each passage may vary, there are always forty items in total.

Passage	Number of items	Text type	Task types
1	11-15	topics of general interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • various kinds of multiple-choice questions • short-answer questions • sentence completion • classification
2	11-15	non-specialist articles or extracts from books, journals, magazines and newspapers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • matching headings with paragraphs or sections of text
3	11-15	one, at least, has detailed logical argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completing notes, sentences, tables, summary, diagram or flow chart • matching lists/phrases • matching information with paragraphs • true/false/not given (text information) • yes/no/not given (writer's views)

Tips and hints

- First read each passage quickly and ask yourself questions, e.g. What is the topic? Where is the text probably taken from? What is the writer's main purpose? Who is the intended reader? In what style is it written?
- Don't try to understand the exact meaning of every word. There isn't time, and a particular word or sentence may not be tested anyway.
- Study any example answer and decide why it is correct.
- If you have to choose from alternatives, check how many of them you have to use.
- Check whether you have to use words from the text in your answers or your own words.
- Keep to the stated word limit by avoiding unnecessary words in your answer.

- If a question type uses both unfinished statements and direct questions, decide which are which and check the grammar of your answers.
- After you fill in all the answers on a diagram, chart or table, check that it makes sense overall.

Academic Writing (60 minutes)

There is no choice of task, either in Part 1 or 2, so you must be prepared to write about any topic. However, the topics in the exam are of general interest and you do not need to be an expert to write about them.

Task	Time	Format	Task types
1	20 minutes	150-word report, describing or explaining a table or diagram	presenting information based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data, e.g. bar charts, line graph, table • a process/procedure in various stages • an object, event or series of events
2	40 minutes	250-word essay, responding to a written opinion/problem	presenting and/or discussing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your opinions • solutions to problems • evidence, opinions and implications • ideas or arguments

Tips and hints

- Your answer must be relevant to the task: never write pre-prepared sections of text.
- There are no marks for copying the question in your answer, but if you wish you can rephrase it in your own words.
- There is a minimum number of words, but no maximum. This means that if you write fewer than 150 words you will lose marks.
- Task 2 carries more marks than Task 1, so keep to the suggested timing.
- Always leave some time to check your essay after you have finished.
- Essays are often on topics that are of current interest: read and listen to the news on a wide range of subjects, thinking about the issues involved.

In Task 1, you are tested on:

Task Fulfilment - answer the question, keeping to the topic at all times.

Coherence and Cohesion - organize your writing well, connecting your ideas and sentences with suitable linking expressions.

Vocabulary and Sentence Structure - use a wide range of language both accurately and appropriately.

In Task 2, you are tested on:

Arguments, Ideas and Evidence - show you can discuss these and put forward your own opinions.

Communicative Quality - express your ideas clearly, organizing and linking them logically.

Vocabulary and Sentence Structure - use a wide range of language both accurately and appropriately.

Speaking (11-14 minutes)

You will be interviewed, on your own, by one Examiner, and the conversation will be recorded on audio cassette. The three-part structure of the interview is always the same, although the topics will vary from candidate to candidate.

Part	Time	Format	Task types
1	4-5 minutes	introduction, interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction, ID check• You answer questions about yourself, your home/family, job/studies, interests, other familiar topics.
2	3-4 minutes	independent long turn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are given a topic verbally and on a card. You have a minute to prepare a talk.• You speak for 1 -2 minutes on the topic, e.g. a person, place, object or event.• You answer one or two follow-up questions.
3	4-5 minutes	two-way discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You answer verbal questions, discussing more abstract ideas linked to the topic of Part 2.

Tips and hints

- Do not try to make any kind of prepared speech.
- Add to any 'Yes' or 'No' answers you give, explaining at least one point.
- Remember that it is your ability to communicate effectively that is being assessed, not your general knowledge.
- Speak directly to the Examiner, not to the cassette player.