ROAD TO IELTS
IELTS preparation and practice

BRITISH COUNCIL **Clarity**

Introduction

Road to IELTS consists of four sections: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. Each one has four different parts: Starting out, Advice and tutorials, Practice zone and Test practice. This syllabus documents outline content of each sections.

Starting out   1

Whether you are taking the IELTS test for the first time or re-taking the test, it is important to go over the key facts about the modules. Use the eBooks and introduction videos in this section to learn about different task types and kick-start your IELTS preparation.

Advice and tutorials   2

Watch the tutorial videos created by British Council IELTS experts to get an in-dept understanding of the test. Other than the explanation for each task type, you will also find important hints and tips for each paper.

Practice zone   3

This section includes over 300 interactive activities which allow you to put theory into practice. In these activities, you can also make use of the instant feedback function and test tips written by IELTS experts.

Test practice   4

Finally, you can put your IELTS knowledge and English proficiency to the test by taking the 18 complete practice tests found in this section (Reading, Writing and Listening). Record your speech in the simulated Speaking Part 2 practice and improve your next performance with the self-reflection guide.

Organise your preparation

Candidates videos
Watch how other candidates prepare for the different modules in IELTS.

Study Planner
Use this worksheet to plan your IELTS preparation so you can spend your prep time in the most efficient way.

Study Guides
6 downloadable study guides to answer common IELTS FAQs.

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IELTS preparation and practice

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General training syllabus

Reading

Starting out	Content type	eBook, video
Description	Information about the IELTS Reading test, including explanations of question types	

Advice and tutorials	Content type	Video
Description	*Title: IELTS Reading Advice* *Advice on how to improve performance in the IELTS Reading test*	

Practice zone	Content type	Interactive activities with printable reading texts, organised into 12 individual sets.
Description	**Set 1** • Short answer questions • Table completion *Topic: Leisure and entertainment* **Set 3** • Matching headings to paragraphs • Multiple choice *Topic: Travel, tourism and transport* **Set 5** • Matching • Yes, No, Not given *Topic: Art and culture* **Set 7** • Table completion • Short answer questions • Matching *Topic: Health and fitness*	**Set 2** • Matching information to paragraphs • Sentence completion *Topic: Language and communication* **Set 4** • True, False, Not given • Table completion *Topic: Environment* **Set 6** • Multiple selection • Summary completion *Topic: Mass media* **Set 8** • Multiple selection • Classification • Diagram completion *Topic: Work and business*

Page 2

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IELTS preparation and practice

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Description

Set 9
- Matching headings to sections
- True, False, Not given
- Yes, No, Not given
- Summary completion

Topic: Society and social issues

Set 10
- Short answer questions
- Sentence completion
- Multiple choice
- Matching information to paragraphs
- Matching
- Yes, No, Not given

Topic: Education

Set 11
- Matching
- Multiple selection
- Summary completion
- Diagram completion
- True, False, Not given

Topic: Developing world

Set 12
- Matching headings to paragraphs
- True, False, Not given
- Sentence completion
- Table completion
- Classification
- Summary completion

Topic: Science and technology

Test practice	Content type	Printable question paper, timer
Description	6 downloadable mock test papers of the IELTS Reading test, covering all question types; includes model answers	

Listening

Starting out	Content type	eBook, video
Description	Information about the IELTS Listening test, including explanations of question types	

Advice and tutorials	Content type	Video
Description	*Title: IELTS Listening Advice* Advice on how to improve performance in the IELTS Listening test	

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IELTS preparation and practice

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Practice zone	Content type	Interactive activities, organised into 12 individual sets.
Description		

Set 1
- Short answer questions
- Table completion

Topic: Leisure and entertainment

Set 2
- Sentence completion
- Matching

Topic: Language and communication

Set 3
- Multiple choice

Topic: Travel, tourism and transport

Set 4
- Form completion
- Labelling a diagram

Topic: Environment

Set 5
- Form completion
- Classification

Topic: Art and culture

Set 6
- Multiple selection
- Summary completion

Topic: Mass media

Set 7
- Table completion
- Short answer questions
- Labelling a diagram

Topic: Health and fitness

Set 8
- Form completion
- Multiple selection
- Multiple choice
- Sentence completion

Topic: Work and business

Set 9
- Form completion
- Multiple choice
- Classification
- Summary completion

Topic: Society and social issues

Set 10
- Table completion
- Form completion
- Short answer questions
- Sentence completion
- Classification
- Diagram completion

Topic: Education

Set 11
- Multiple choice
- Sentence completion
- Matching
- Labelling a diagram

Topic: Developing world

Set 12
- Form completion
- Multiple selection
- Short answer questions
- Sentence completion
- Classification

Topic: Science and technology

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IELTS preparation and practice

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Test practice	Content type	Printable question paper, audio recordings
Description	6 downloadable mock test papers of the IELTS Listening test, with accompanying audio files and model answers	

Speaking

Starting out	Content type	eBook, video
Description	Information about the IELTS Speaking test, including explanations and tips on delivering the best possible performace	

Advice and tutorials	Content type	Video
Description	*Title: IELTS Speaking Advice* Advice on how to improve performance in the IELTS Speaking test *Title: What the examiner is looking for* IELTS experts provide insight into how examiners assess candidate performance in the speaking test *Title: Advice: What do I talk about?* Advice and tips on how to deal effectively with subjects about which you have insufficient knowledge *Title: Advice: Coping with nerves* IELTS experts provide advice on managing stress on test day *Title: Tutorial: Interview Phase 2* An analysis of the individual long turn phase of an IELTS speaking test, with commentary on the candidate's performance and score *Title: Tutorial: Interview Phase 3* An analysis of the two-way discussion phase of an IELTS speaking test, with commentary on the candidate's performance and score	

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IELTS preparation and practice

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Practice zone	Content type	Interactive activities, organised into 12 individual sets.

Description

Set 1
Video clips and practice exercises for answering general questions about yourself in Phase 1 of the speaking test

Set 2
How to deal with questions about yourself in Phase 2; what to do when you do not have a ready answer; making notes on speaking topics

Set 3
Introduction and tips on Phase 3; video analysis of candidates' performance in Phase 3

Set 4
Review of tenses to use when answering questions about yourself; video analysis of a candidate's performance in Phase 1

Set 5
Advice and strategies on speaking fluently and confidently; video analysis of what to say when you are asked about a topic you do not know much about

Set 6
How to deal with Phase 2 speaking topics; responding effectively to follow-up questions; analysis of ways of stating reasons

Set 7
Preparing effectively for the speaking test; review of how examiners assess candidates; video analysis of how to talk extensively on a topic

Set 8
Strategies on giving reasons during the individual long turn in Phase 2; video analyses on candidates talking about social problems in their countries; comparative forms

Set 9
Techniques for making comparisons; phrases for speculating; video analyses of two candidates making speculations

Set 10
Effective strategies for speaking fluently in each phase of the speaking test; possible problems candidates are likely to face and how to avoid them

Set 11
Techniques for expanding on a topic; video analyses of candidates talking extensively on topics

Set 12
Dos and don'ts in the speaking test; video analyses on two candidates talking about a technological innovation

Test practice	Content type	Task cards, audio instructions, timer

Description | 6 practice Speaking Phase 2 activities, conducted against the clock. Each is followed by a reflection activity where users are given prompts to evaluate their performance.

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IELTS preparation and practice

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Writing

Starting out	Content type	eBook, video
Description	Information about the IELTS Writing test, including explanations of writing task types and strategies for the best possible performance	

Advice and tutorials	Content type	Video
Description	*Title: IELTS Writing Advice* Advice on how to improve performance in the IELTS Writing test *Title: What the examiner is looking for* IELTS experts provide insight into how examiners assess candidate performance in the writing test *Title: Advice: Writing task 2* Advice and strategies on tackling Task 2 of the Writing test. *Title: Tutorial: Writing task 1* An IELTS expert analyses how well a candidate has responded in Task 1 of the General Training Writing test, wilth marks given; PDF download available. *Title: Tutorial: Writing task 2* An IELTS expert analyses how well a candidate has responded in Task 2 of the Writing test, with marks and criteria given; PDF download available.	

Practice zone	Content type	Interactive activities, organised into 12 individual sets.
Description	**Set 1 task 1** Practice exercises for letters of introduction **Set 2 task 2** Practice exercises for compositions discussing arguments for and against **Set 3 task 2** Practice exercises for compositions giving an opinion	**Set 2 task 1** Practice exercises for letters giving advice **Set 3 task 1** Practice exercises for letters asking for information **Set 4 task 1** Practice exercises for letters of complaint

General training syllabus

Description		
	Set 4 task 2 Practice exercises for compositions discussing the causes of a problem and suggesting solutions	**Set 5 task 1** Practice exercises for letters giving information
	Set 5 task 2 Practice exercises for compositions discussing advantages and disadvantages	**Set 6 task 1** Practice exercises for thank-you letters
	Set 6 task 2 Practice exercises for compositions discussing arguments for and against	**Set 7 task 1** Practice exercises for letters of apology
	Set 7 task 2 Practice exercises for compositions giving an opinion	**Set 8 task 1** Practice exercises for letters of application
	Set 8 task 2 Practice exercises for compositions discussing the causes of a problem and suggesting solutions	**Set 9 task 1** Revision exercises for Academic Writing Task 1
	Set 9 task 2 Revision exercises for Writing Task 2	**Set 10** Practice exercises for a letter asking for information, and for a composition discussing arguments for and against
	Set 11 Practice exercises for a letter of advice , and for a composition giving and justifying your opinion	**Set 12** Practice exercises for a letter of praise, and for a composition discussing the causes of a problem and suggesting solutions

Test practice	Content type	Printable question paper, timer
Description	6 downloadable mock test papers of the IELTS Writing test; includes model answers	

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IELTS preparation and practice

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Academic syllabus

Additional resources

Candidate videos	Content type	Video
Description	A number of candidates give advice on how to prepare for the different IELTS papers, on preparartion for test day itself, and on waiting for the results	

Study planner	Content type	PDF
Description	A worksheet test takers can use to diagnose their strengths and weaknesses and schedule their preparation in the most efficient way	

Study guides	Content type	PDF
Description	6 handy downloads giving FAQ-type information on IELTS Preparation, Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening and Test Day	