



Year 12 Syllabus in a nutshell

IELTS





Year 12 Syllabus in a nutshell – IELTS

Overview

IELTS syllabus comprises of four modules – **Reading, Listening, Speaking** and **Writing**. There are two versions of the IELTS examination and taught course – IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training. TS offers **ONLY** the **Academic** examination and taught course.

Key Skills

The skills taught and practised include developing the students' ability to:

- recognize their true level in speaking, reading, listening and writing
- recognize and overcome challenges presented in the IELTS examination
- write different academic essay types
- evaluate and self correct their speaking
- be prepared for the mechanics of the IELTS examination (time, order, format)
- skim, scan and focus on target material in academic reading passages
- interpret and describe statistical data using appropriate language and grammar
- demonstrate enhanced vocabulary in writing and speaking
- formulate, express and defend opinions using appropriate vocabulary
- demonstrate improved listening skills for comprehension and details

The Academic Exam: Format

IELTS Academic. The **IELTS Academic test** is for people applying for higher education or professional registration in an English speaking environment. It reflects some of the features of **academic** language and assesses whether you are ready to begin studying or training.

IELTS Listening Test:

The IELTS listening test will take about **30 minutes**, and you will have an extra 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

You will listen to four recorded texts, monologues and conversations by a range of native speakers, and write their answers to a series of questions. These questions test the student's ability to understand main ideas and detailed factual information; ability to understand the opinions and attitudes of speakers; ability to understand the purpose of what is said, and ability to follow the development of ideas. A variety of voices and 'native-speaker' accents are used. You will hear each section only once.

The IELTS Listening test consists of **4 sections**:

Section 1: A conversation between two people set in an everyday social context, e.g. a conversation in an accommodation agency.



Section 2: A monologue set in an everyday social context, e.g. a speech about local facilities.

Section 3: 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.

Section 4: A monologue on an academic subject, e.g. a university lecture.

IELTS Reading Test:

The IELTS reading test will take about **60 minutes**. It consists of **40 questions**. A variety of question types is used in order to test a wide range of reading skills. These include reading for gist, reading for main ideas, reading for detail, skimming, understanding logical argument, recognising writers' opinions, attitudes and purpose.

The test includes **three long texts which range from the descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical**. The texts are authentic and are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers. These have been selected for a non-specialist audience but are recognisably appropriate for anyone entering undergraduate or postgraduate courses or seeking professional registration.

IELTS Writing Test:

The IELTS Writing test will take **60 minutes**.

The test includes **two tasks**. Topics are of general interest to and suitable for anyone entering undergraduate or postgraduate studies or seeking professional registration.

Task 1: You will be presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and you will be 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.

Task 2: You will be asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. **Responses to both tasks must be written in a formal style.*

The Task 2 essays can generally be described as 5 variations on a basic 3-part structure: Introduction > Main Body > Summary/Conclusion. The essay is also sometimes referred to as having 4 parts, as follows: Introduction > Supporting Paragraph 1 > Supporting Paragraph 2 > Summary/Conclusion.

The essay types can be generally grouped into 5 categories, as follows:

1. **Opinion (Agree or Disagree)**
2. **Advantages and Disadvantages**
3. **Situation and Solution**
4. **Discussion (Discuss both views)**
5. **Two-part Question**

**Refer to your Task 2 essay booklet for more details.*



IELTS Speaking Test

Speaking Skills test will take 11 to 14 minutes (the speaking test is the same for both IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training).

IELTS Speaking test is a face-to-face interview, which will take about **11 to 14 minutes**. The Speaking test is designed to assess your use of spoken English. Every test is recorded.

The Speaking test consists of three parts:

Task 1: You will be asked to answer general questions about yourself and a range of familiar topics, such as your home, family, work, studies and interests. This part lasts **between 4 and 5 minutes**.

Task 2: You will be given a card and you will be asked to talk about a particular topic. You will have one minute to prepare before speaking for **up to two minutes**. The examiner then asks you one or two questions on the same topic to finish this part of the test.

Task 3: You will be asked further questions connected to the topic in Part 2. These questions give you an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas. This part lasts **between four and five minutes**.