

LANGUAGE TESTING, EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK: IELTS PRIMARY TESTS

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ABSTRACT

In order to form the ability to read the original literature on the specialty, to participate in oral communication in a foreign language in the process of training future personnel in the system of higher education in the country and finding the necessary information for scientific purposes, English lessons wishing. An expert in his or her field should be able to read original English-language literature related to his or her profession, understand the text read, and apply it in his or her profession. In addition, he should be able to communicate freely in a foreign language with his interlocutor on a given topic. Therefore, a number of tests have been organized to determine the knowledge and skills of a foreign language. For instance, the Cambridge range of exams - FCE, CAE, CPE, as well as IELTS General, IELTS Academic, IELTS Life Skills, TOEFL and PTE and others. In this article, I would like to mention.

KEYWORDS: IELTS, reading, writing, speaking, sample, education, framework, language, knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Today, foreign language skills are becoming an integral part of professional education. Specialists in various fields have a high level of cooperation with foreign partners, so they have a high demand for language learning. In modern society, foreign languages are becoming an important part of vocational education. Such knowledge is first acquired by people in schools, colleges, high schools, and later in institutes, training courses, or by familiarizing themselves with basic information sets that help them learn a foreign language independently. Today there is a large collection of teaching materials for people with different levels of language skills. Success in achieving this goal depends on the practical methods and skills of teachers. Therefore, it is important for everyone to assess their level of knowledge and understand how much they know science or language. If you are faced with the need to take an international test that determines your level of English proficiency, then you are planning to move abroad in the near future to continue your studies or work. Reputable universities and employers set very high requirements for candidates, including the minimum scores obtained for a particular language test.

Also, if you only want to move to live in another country, you will need to take one of the international exams that will determine your level of English. Currently, it is impossible not to pass some tests, in any case you will get at least one point, some have a grade of "No" in the exam grading system - not passed.

Of course, it is better to score maximum points. But you should not forget that your result depends not only on the level of English, but also on the preparation for the exam format. Each of the language tests has its own characteristics, plus there is a certain amount of time allotted for the task, which may not be enough for you if you don't anticipate how many minutes you will spend on which task. For example, IELTS is a good point to start.

IELTS - International English Language Testing System - is one of the most famous systems for testing foreigners in English. IELTS test results are required to obtain a work visa, the right to permanent residence and citizenship of some English-speaking countries. In addition, the results of passing this particular test must be provided by applicants for admission to a bachelor's degree in higher educational institutions in the countries of the British Commonwealth. There are two types of IELTS tests:

General (General Training IELTS) - taken by persons wishing to immigrate to New Zealand, Canada or Australia. The assignments are designed to test knowledge of basic everyday communication skills.

Academic (Academic IELTS) - applicants who enter the university take it, respectively, the tasks are designed to assess a person's readiness to study in English.

Academic testing is carried out 48 times, and general testing - 24 times throughout the year. The structure of the exam remains the same regardless of the variety selected.

To take the test, it is enough to contact one of 900 testing centers located in 130 countries around the world.

Listening - Listening

Listening - checking the skills of listening to English-language information. This part is carried out exactly the same for both the general and academic versions of the test. The test taker is given a special booklet with the test tasks (Listening Question Booklet), as well as the Listening Answer Sheet - an examination sheet, where you will need to clearly rewrite the answers. In 30 minutes, the test taker must listen to the audio recording and answer 40 questions in the booklet. Then another 10 minutes are allocated for filling out the examination sheet (transferring answers from the booklet to it).

The Listening part is assessed by the number of correct answers. Wrong answers are not counted. Moreover, each task has its own "estimated value".

How to prepare for the Listening part?

To successfully cope with listening, you need to be able to analyze information and grasp the main idea of the text. To do this, you need to listen to English speech as much as possible: radio broadcasts, television, your favorite TV shows and films. Also on the Internet there are a lot of materials from past years, on which you can prepare. You can hone your English language comprehension skills with the help of special online simulators offered by the British Council website.

Tip: During the listening process, you should not waste time checking the answers, since you will not be able to recover the text in your head. Better to focus on the next task.

Reading - Reading

Reading - reading. Within 60 minutes, the test taker must answer 40 questions in several texts. This block consists of three parts. If testing is carried out according to the general version, then the texts are selected light, on general topics. The first part of the test includes 2-3 texts with a total volume of up to 1,000 words, the second - 2 texts with a total volume of up to 1,000 words, the third - one text with a total volume of 650 to 1,000 words. When testing the academic version, texts are taken from books, newspapers or scientific journals. In each section, the test taker is offered one text from 650 to 1,000 words. Thus, the total length of all texts that are offered to the test taker, both in the general and in the academic version, is 2150 - 2750 words.

The Reading part is evaluated by the number of correct answers. Wrong answers are not counted. The answer to each question is worth one point.

How do I prepare for the Reading part?

Detailed reading of the texts proposed in the exam will not lead to successful passing of the Reading part. The fact is that the examinee simply does not have enough time to answer all the questions later. Therefore, it is necessary to choose a certain tactic for reading IELTS texts:

Skimming - reading a text in order to determine its main thought or idea. You can quickly run through it with your eyes, without stopping at words or expressions, the meaning of which is incomprehensible. The next way is to view the first and last paragraph of the text (and preferably a summary, if any).

Scanning is a quick text scan that will help you find detailed information. The first step is to familiarize yourself with the questions, and then look for answers by keywords that are associated with them. The next way is to focus on names, numbers and other details, rather than reading and understanding the text.

Writing. One hour is given to complete this section of the test. The block consists of two parts:

In the general version of the test, the test taker must write a letter (formal, informal, or semi-official). If testing is conducted according to the academic version, the test taker should briefly describe any drawing or graph. In both cases, the length of the text must be at least 150 words.

The test taker must write a short essay of at least 250 words (in the general version - on social topics, in the academic version - on scientific topics).

The Writing portion is scored on four criteria, each of which constitutes a quarter of the overall score:

Content: Task Achievement (TA) for the first section and Task Response for the essay. The completeness and correctness of the answer, as well as ideas and the degree of correctness of the presentation of information are evaluated;

- Cohesion and coherence (CC) - the consistency of the text, the correctness of the construction of sentences, the level of coherence of phrases in the text;
- Vocabulary (Lexical Recourse - LR) - richness of vocabulary;

- Grammar (Grammatical Range and Accuracy - GRA) - the correctness and variety of grammatical constructions.

How do I prepare for the Writing part?

Practice and only practice will help to successfully cope with the description of the schedule, table, writing a letter and essay on a given topic. Knowledge of the grammar rules alone does not guarantee a good result. It is important to understand the principle of solving such tasks. To do this, you can view materials from previous years. Another important nuance is the use of academic vocabulary. You can get acquainted with this terminology by reading scientific journals, books and articles on the Internet in English. Especially good in this regard are Scientific American, The Economist, Popular Mechanics, National Geographic and BBC news.

Conversation – Speaking part

Speaking - test your speaking skills. The test is allocated from 11 to 14 minutes. During this time, the subject is alone with the examiner. This test block is divided into three parts:

- ✓ Acquaintance with the examiner and dialogue on general topics;
- ✓ Within one minute, the test taker should compose a monologue on the proposed topic, and then within 1-2 minutes pronounce it;
- ✓ Test-taker must answer the examiner's questions on the topic of the monologue.

Speaking tests can be done on the same day as the three previous tests, or on a different day. The entire testing process is recorded on magnetic media.

The Speaking part is also scored according to four criteria, each of which makes up a quarter of the score

- Coherence and fluency of speech
- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Pronunciation.

How to prepare for the Speaking part?

First, you should think about what questions might be asked in such exams. As a rule, language tests are taken by young people, therefore the appropriate topics are selected - sports, science, recreation, culture, tourism, music, cinema, art, etc. Then it is worth determining your strengths, that is, favorite topics, on which can be easily talked to the interlocutor without any preparation. Perhaps it's jazz, figure skating, or Hitchcock's films. You should keep these topics in your head, at the ready, so at any convenient moment to slightly shift the vector of the dialogue towards the familiar area. This must be done very carefully, since the examiner, along with other speaking skills, assesses the ability to clearly and clearly answer the question posed.

It takes a lot of hard practice to speak freely with the examiner on any topic. It is advisable to start communicating with native speakers, you can find such a friend on special services (paid and free), where users help each other in learning foreign languages. In addition to communicating with the native speaker, you can listen to authentic radio, watch movies and TV shows without translation or subtitling.

The results of passing the IELTS test are evaluated on a scale from 0 to 9 points (assessment step - 0.5 points). Each of the four sections of the test is assessed separately, then the average score is displayed.

The total test score is the arithmetic mean of the sum of the scores of the four sections. The results of this test are considered valid for two years.

Examples of IELTS certificates

After the first two people passed IELTS in 1989 in its modern form, the appearance of the certificate changed several times.

Currently, heavier paper is used, a photograph of the candidate has been added and the scores are displayed in a new format.

Is the exam so terrible?

To successfully pass IELTS, you need to get rid of far-fetched fears and stop believing in rumours about the unpredictability and complexity of tasks. The test is quite simple and has its weaknesses. It is enough to

form the correct tactics for completing tasks and concentrate on real tasks. The main thing is to drop fears, because nothing is impossible.

Getting rid of myths:

IELTS test objectively assesses the level of knowledge of the English language

In fact, the test helps determine how well a person can use the language in real life. Therefore, the test is asked to describe the schedule, write a complaint or express your point of view on any issue. To successfully pass IELTS, you must study the very structure and specifics of the test. Studies have shown that even people who speak English as their first language can pass the test with very low marks. Many people think that it takes a lot of vocabulary to get a high score. In fact, IELTS tests use approximately 760 words. Also, you do not need to surprise anyone with complex grammatical structures in an essay. It is noteworthy that they are rare in IELTS texts.

Need to train more on mock tests

Even with an impressive selection of IELTS examination materials, you may not understand what the "highlight" of the test is, and why you make the same mistakes in it. In textbooks, of course, you can find the comments of the authors on this score, but they will be useless until you independently master the skills of solving basic types of problems.

You need to take IELTS several times to get a high score in the end

Taking the IELTS test again is a very dubious pleasure, expensive and ineffective. In any case, the test taker will know his grade without any comments. It turns out that the errors remain unknown, so the next attempt to conquer IELTS is likely to be no more successful than the first. One more point - you will have to pay for each new exam and spend your time and, of course, nerves on attending the exam. That is why it is important to immediately thoroughly prepare for the test so as not to return to this issue for the next two years, while the certificate is valid.

The IELTS test assesses the level of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. It is these skills that are essential for the learning process in English-speaking countries.

Therefore, the main areas of preparation for the IELTS exams are focused on studying the use of English in everyday life. The use of the language may be different for students who want to study in English-speaking countries and for someone who is going to work in such countries, but this difference does not play a significant role in the assignments given in the IELTS exams. At Azamat.uz, we mainly focus on IELTS preparation for the Academic Test, but it can also be used by those who are learning English to take the General Test.

By the end of the IELTS course, learners should have mastered the following skills:

1. To be able to listen and understand the information conveyed by native speakers of English at medium speed and to be able to recite the received information slowly, with high accuracy (in the form of dictation) without repeating exactly what is heard.
2. Organization of documents (for example, reports, formal and informal letters, representation of information in drawings and diagrams in text, writing abstracts), the ability to correctly fill in the documents in the form of questionnaires. Ability to complete documents should be accurately within a certain time frame and to use English in the required style (formal or informal) when writing documents.
3. To be able to write essays on a variety of socially important topics in a limited amount of time.
4. Proficiency in reading, information retrieval and learning methods. Find information that spoken or written (text) in a limited amount of time.
5. Be able to articulate the main content of a particular topic orally, answer questions that can be asked based on the topic, and do so in an appropriate style in English.
6. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of basic English (eg grammar, vocabulary, spelling, etc.).

LET'S SEE AN EXAMPLE FROM AN ESSAY WRITTEN FOR IELTS. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTION, IT IS APPROPRIATE TO ANSWER SO.

We are becoming increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in business, hospitals, crime detection and even to fly planes. What things will they be used for in the future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits?

In the last two decades cybernetics have experienced a major breakthrough. This led to the utilization of computers in almost all parts of our daily lives, from personal computers to the ones performing complicated

surgeries. Surely the uptake of this technology facilitates a lot of difficult tasks but is this excessive dependence ripping the warmth out of our lives? In this essay, I will outline how the availability of computers affects our lives.

Most of the daily tasks an individual experiences are time and effort consuming. These two fundamental qualities could be tremendously saved by the use of computers. The average period required to prepare a decent meal for a middle-class family is around an hour to an hour and a half when using traditional methods. This time could be literally reduced to half if computerized devices are used instead. Moreover, a busy businessman is enabled to easily close a profitable deal with just a touch on this highly programmed laptop while enjoying his family vacation and not having to exert an extra effort of traveling long distances in order to sign a deal.

On the other hand, new generations are growing remarkably dependent on these modern utilities, which makes them handicapped when it comes to preparing a cup of tea. In addition, psychologists suggest that one of the main reasons for suicidal rate increase is the recent electric inventions. This is due to the fact that humans by nature stay emotionally healthy through socializing, but due to the importance of modern technology to maintain a financially satisfying standard of life they gradually isolate themselves. As time passes by each of these individuals gets stuck in a vicious circle of loneliness that eventually leads to suicidal attempts especially among youngsters.

In conclusion, similarly to every other invention computers have their benefits and drawbacks, I personally think it all depends upon how we use the given tools. Moderation is the key here to keep the balance and allow us to live in harmony.

This is a good essay, nice vocabulary, a little too long (340 words instead of 250), a few grammatical mistakes. The topic is not fully covered (what about the “things will they be used for in the future” part?).

In conclusion, I can say that learning a new language is not an obligation, it is so much easier to learn it as a hobby or a hobby. How much you adapt to the process or create an interesting environment is often up to the student. Discipline, responsibility and patience are the foundation of any success.

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