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IELTS is one of the most popular English language proficiency tests, with over three million exams taken every year. It is also recognized by over 10,000 organizations worldwide. With the growing number of IELTS Tests taken every year, it has become a leader in English language exams in international higher education. Moreover, this popular English language test is accepted by 100% of universities in the United Kingdom and Australia. It is also trusted by over 3,400 institutions in the United States and by thousands of institutions, especially in English-speaking countries worldwide. And if you are looking to study abroad, work, or migrate to other countries, then IELTS can help you with that. In this article, you will learn what the IELTS Exam is, the exam format, how it's scored, and, information on exam dates and locations. The IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is a standardized and widely recognized English language proficiency assessment test for non-native English speakers. It is commonly used for education and global migration requirements. It is considered a structured certification for the English language. Academic institutions accept the certification from the IELTS and companies, private, professional institutions, and government organizations. It was established in 1989 and was created by and jointly owned by the British Council, the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations, and IDP: IELTS Australia. The IELTS is designed to evaluate the individual's English writing, speaking, listening, and reading skills. Moreover, it also assesses one's effectiveness in using the English language. The IELTS can be taken by anyone regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, and such. However, the test is not recommended for those under 16 years old. IELTS test center fees may vary depending on your country and what version of the test you want to take either the IELTS Academic or IELTS General Test. However, the test costs around USD 200 or EUR 190. It may also cost around KRW 304,000 or INR 15,750. To find out more about the different fees applied per location of the IELTS, you may also visit the British Council website. By clicking this link, you support the creation of our content and future posts. As a widely-recognized English exam, there are many benefits to taking the IELTS exam. The IELTS was one of the pioneers of four skills in English language testing 30 years ago. Top universities and employers recognize the IELTS test scores in over 140 countries globally. Moreover, various immigration authorities and government agencies also accept IELTS test scores, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the USA, and more. It is also one of the tests required for professional registration bodies in various fields, including law, engineering, medicine, accounting, nursing, and more. The IELTS test scores are also used for migration purposes. Most governments in countries worldwide prefer IELTS scores to prove your English language proficiency. The IELTS has over 1,200 test center locations worldwide, including 50 test centers in the USA alone. It is also considered one of the best and fairest tests for assessing one's English language proficiency as it offers a one-on-one speaking test with an examiner. Also, it accepts the British and American spellings, which are fair to everyone who is or will take the test. The IELTS has two types of tests. The IELTS Academic Test and IELTS General Test measure the English language proficiency on the following skills: writing, listening, reading, and speaking. Below are the two types of the IELTS Test. The IELTS Academic Test is applicable for those who want to study in International Institutions and Universities. And to those who wish to proceed to any higher education such as doctorate degrees, master's degrees, and graduate schools. Wherein it uses the English language as a medium of instruction. One can also take the IELTS Academic Test for professional registration purposes and the like. This type of IELTS usually measures your readiness to study the English language, and it commonly features advanced English vocabulary that is generally used within an academic setting. The IELTS General Test is generally suitable for applying to study below a degree level. It includes an English-speaking school or local colleges. The IELTS General Test can also be taken to assess one's English language proficiency for work-related requirements and other employment training. Also, the IELTS General Test is one of the requirements for migration to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. It is also taken by those who want to study in an English-speaking country below a degree level. This type of IELTS Test features conversational English language skills usage based in social and workplace type of settings. Here we will discuss more the exam format of the IELTS test. The IELTS test parts are as follows, the three examination parts, which include reading, writing, and listening, are all given on the same day. And while the fourth part, the speaking test, can be taken on a different day wherein it is commonly a few days before the other three parts of the test. Note that the Reading and Writing tests differ depending on whether you take the IELTS Academic or General Test. However, the other parts of the tests, including the Listening and Speaking sections, are all the same for the IELTS Academic and General test types. The total test time takes about 2 hours and 45 minutes. The Four Parts of the IELTS: Reading Writing Listening Speaking In the IELTS Reading section, the test taker needs to identify core ideas and essential information, understand the meaning of passages, identify the writer's opinion, and summarize arguments accurately and effectively. This part of the test usually lasts up to 60 minutes, more or less. IELTS Academic Test (Reading test section) In this part, there are three long texts given about different academic subjects. These texts are original texts taken from newspapers, journals, and the like. Also, these texts may be factual, analytical, or opinion-based. IELTS General Test (Reading test section) This reading part of the IELTS General test has a series of shorter and more factual texts. These short texts are usually related to the living and working environment in an English-speaking country. However, it also includes one long and more complex text of general interest. The texts in this section are also authentic texts taken from notices, newspapers, documents, magazines, and more. Here, in the IELTS Writing test, the test takers are scored in a range of criteria. It includes grammatical accuracy, a range of vocabulary, and the ability to connect ideas, sentences, and paragraphs accurately. Also, it assesses the test taker's ability to use the appropriate English language and organize one's thoughts coherently. The total test time for writing is about 60 minutes. IELTS Academic Test (Writing test section) When taking the IELTS Academic Test, you must write at least two texts in the Writing section. In connection with that, the first writing test requires you to write a report based on some data given or presented, including statistical tables, graphs, and more. The second piece you need to write is an essay, wherein you need to respond or discuss an opinion or statement regarding a particular topic. IELTS General Test (Writing test section) In the IELTS General Test, the test takers are also required to write two texts. The first one is a letter responding to a given specific situation. At the same time, the other is an essay that corresponds to an opinion of a statement. In this writing test, the writing can be more informal compared to the IELTS Academic writing. The IELTS Listening Test consists of four texts, two of which are set based on a social setting or environment. Also, the other two are generally based on a more educational or academic context. The texts given are either conversations, discussions, or a monologue. It is also important to note that different speakers will use various accents in this test. Also, the test-takers will need to listen to specific information, understand the main context, and recognize the speaker's attitude and personal opinion of the conversation. This part of the exam usually lasts up to 40 minutes, more or less. The IELTS Speaking Test is a face-to-face speaking kind of test. In this test, the test taker is scored based on their ability to express themselves clearly and coherently. Also, grammar, vocabulary, intonation, pronunciation, and eloquence in the language are considered. There are three parts to this test. The first one is an introductory conversation, and the second one is where the test taker is given a minute to prepare for a short presentation regarding a specific topic. The third part of the speaking test is where the examiner and the examinee will discuss a couple of questions connected to the topic discussed in the second part. You can schedule the IEFTL Speaking test on a different day. The duration of this part lasts up to 15 minutes. Generally, a good IELTS band score for an undergraduate degree or program requires only a minimum IELTS band score of 6. For a postgraduate level, a minimum of 6.5 band score is required. As for specialist courses like medicine, a band score of 7.0 is needed. However, other universities and courses require a different band score for each program. It is best to know in advance and research the university or colleges you want to apply to regarding their required minimum IELTS score. Band ScoreSkill LevelDescription9Expert UserThe test taker has a fully operational command of the English language. The use of the English language is appropriate, accurate, and fluent and shows complete understanding. 8Very Good UserThe test taker has an operational command of the English language, with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriate usage, and misunderstanding in some situations. Generally, you can handle complex language well and understand detailed reasoning. 7 Good UserYou cannot use the language except for very few isolated words. 6Competent UserWith an adequate command of the English language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriate usage, and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations. 5Modest UserHas partial command of the English language and copes with overall meaning in most situations, although they are likely to make many errors. Able to handle basic communication in their field.4Limited UserThe English language competence is only limited to familiar situations. Frequently shows problems in understanding and expression. Are not able to use complex language. 3Extremely Limited UserConveys and understands the only general meaning in very familiar situations, with frequent breakdowns in communication. 2Intermittent UserHas great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.1Non-userYou have no ability to use the language except for very few isolated words. 0Did not attempt the testYou did not answer the test questions. After taking the IELTS test, you will receive a Test Report Form (TRF) within 13 days after the test date. You will be given one copy of the Test Report Form (TRF). And if, in any case, you need more copies of it, one can request up to five additional TRF, which you can use for your university applications. You can request these additional Test Report Forms (TRF) within one month from the test date. The IELTS exams are available on 48 fixed dates per year or four times a month. Therefore, the test takers can freely choose among the scheduled selected dates of the IELTS exams. To register for the test, one can do so by visiting their official website. Or by visiting the closest IELTS test center in your location but take note that there are only limited slots per schedule. It is best to contact the test centers for the availability of slots. The test taker can register as early as three months before the scheduled IELTS exam date. However, you can also register for the exam a week before. The IELTS test can be taken online via the computer-delivered IELTS and offline, the IELTS paper-based test. The test format of both the IELTS online and offline is the same. However, the writing and reading sections slightly differ for the IELTS Academic and IELTS General tests. Therefore, students should take the IELTS Academic, and those who need IELTS scores for Visa and employment purposes can take the IELTS General Test. If you have taken the IELTS paper-based test, it takes about 13 days to process the test results after the assigned test date, and then you will receive a Test Report Form (TRF) via mail. However, if you have taken the computer-delivered IELTS test, a preview of the test results will be available within 3 to 5 days after the test date. Take note that the preview of the test results you can view in their Test Taker Portal will only be available online for 28 days. A Test Report Form (TRF) will be sent to you via mail to use as an official confirmation or certification of your results. The IELTS test certificate is valid for two years, starting from the day the result is released. If you have failed the IELTS test or did not achieve the score required by the institution of your choice, you can retake the test as soon as you can. Likewise, you can take as many tests as you possibly can. Like any other test, you also need to prepare for the IELTS to achieve a higher score band. Regardless of your knowledge of the English language at hand, it is also essential to familiarize yourself with the test beforehand. There are many available IELTS test preparations for you to utilize. You may also sign up for a free trial of the IELTS Test and practice the entire test for free. They even offer a premium version of the practice test, giving access to more exercises and mock exams. Do your research on the different online practice tests for IELTS. You may also enroll in various programs that focus on basic English language skills. Some test-takers can practice in real exam settings like a mock exam and exercises. You can also try to evaluate yourself and concentrate on specific language skills that need more improvement. The IELTS, known as the International English Language Testing System, is a standardized English language proficiency exam. It measures the individual's language abilities in writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Moreover, this exam is an International English language assessment exam, so it accepts British, American, Australian, and any other English accent. However, you cannot use both or mix up British English and American English when taking the IELTS, and you need to choose only one English language. Updated on Jul 02, 2024, 11:57 The IELTS Listening section assesses your ability to comprehend spoken English across various contexts, ranging from everyday conversations to academic lectures. Lasting approximately 30 minutes, this section consists of four recordings played only once, each with accompanying questions designed to test your listening skills and ability to understand details, main ideas, and specific information accurately.You will listen to four recordings, each around 3-4 minutes long. After each recording, you have time to review and answer questions before moving on to the next section. There is an additional 10 minutes at the end to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.In this audio, you will listen to a recording of a Total Insurance Incident Report, which delves into the details of a specific insurance claim incident. The report outlines the circumstances, findings, and recommendations resulting from the investigation conducted by Total Insurance. II. Làm bài online INCIDENT REPORTIII. INCIDENT REPORT: Đề thi thật IELTS LISTENING Test 16 Section 1 (IELTS Listening Recent Actual Test)Questions 1 – 10Complete the notes below.Write ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.ExampleName: Anna LumleyTelephone: 1 .....Date of arrival: 2 .....Address: 235 3 ..... Road, East seaThe total value of insurance: $ 4 .....Missing items:lamps and chairs (not expensive)furniture and 5 .....a rocking horse, some 6 ..... and fruit bowlsItems ordered:Damaged items:the 8 ..... needs to be replaceda 9 ..... of one of the dining chairs is splitfour 10 ..... were brokenIV. Đáp án INCIDENT REPORT: Đề thi thật IELTS LISTENING Test 16 Section 1 (IELTS Listening Recent Actual Test)1. 0778763452. 27(th) February/Feb.3. Akendale4. 3,4505. books6. paintings7. mirror8. desk9. leg10. plates MN AI CHƯA CÓ ĐÁP ÁN FORECAST QUÝ MỚI PART 1-2-3 NHẬN ZL 0905834420 IELTS TUTOR GỬI FREE HẾT NHA INCIDENT REPORT Example Name: Anna Lumley – Telephone: 1..... – Date of arrival: 2..... – Address: 235 3..... Road, East sea – The total value of insurance: $ 4..... Missing items: – lamps and chairs (not expensive) – furniture and 5..... – a rocking horse, some 6..... and fruit bowls Items ordered: – a clock – a 7..... Damaged items: – the 8.....needs to be replaced – a 9.....of one of the dining chairs is split – four 10..... were broken Answers INCIDENT REPORT IELTS Listening Part 1 IELTS Listening Part 2 IELTS Listening Part 3 IELTS Listening Part 4 Cambridge IELTS Listening 5-18 Explanation Test for learners of English as a second language This article has an unclear citation style. The references used may be made clearer with a different or consistent style of citation and footnoting. (May 2022) (Learn how and when to remove this message) International English Language Testing SystemAcronymIELTSTypeStandardised test (either computer-delivered or paper-based). Available in 2 modules: "Academic" and "General Training". The IELTS test partners also offer IELTS Life Skills, a speaking and listening test used for UK Visas and Immigration.AdministratorBritish Council, IDP Education, Cambridge Assessment English.Skills testedListening, reading, writing, and speaking of the English language.PurposeTo assess the English language proficiency of non-native English speakers.Year started1980; 45 years ago (1980)DurationListening: 40 minutes (including 10-minute transfer time in paper-based test), Reading: 60 minutes, Writing: 60 minutes, Speaking: 10-15 minutes. Total: 2 hours 45 minutesScore range0 to 9, in 0.5 band incrementsScore validity24 MonthsOfferedUp to 4 times a month. Up to 48 times a year.[1]RegionsMore than 4,000 test centres in over 140 countries[2]LanguagesEnglishAnnual number of test takers Over 3.5 million in 2018[3]PrerequisitesNo official prerequisite. Intended for non-native English speakers.FeeAround 250 USD[4]Used byMore than 12,000 colleges, agencies and other institutions in over 140 countries[5]Websiteielts.org International English Language Testing System (IELTS /ˈaɪ.ɛlts/)[6] is an international standardized test of English language proficiency for non-native English language speakers. It is jointly managed by the British Council, IDP and Cambridge English,[6] and was established in 1989. IELTS is one of the major English-language tests in the world. The IELTS test has two modules: Academic and General Training. IELTS One Skill Retake was introduced for computer-delivered tests in 2023, which allows a test taker to retake any one section (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) of the test.[7] IELTS is accepted by most Australian, British, Canadian, European, Irish and New Zealand academic institutions, by over 3,000 academic institutions in the United States, and by various professional organisations across the world. IELTS is approved by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) as a Secure English Language Test for visa applicants only inside the UK.[8] It also meets requirements for immigration to Australia, where Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Pearson Test of English Academic are also accepted,[9] and New Zealand. In Canada, IELTS, TEF, or CELPIP are accepted by the immigration authority.[10] No minimum score is required to pass the test. An IELTS result or Test Report Form is issued to all test takers with a score from "Band 1" ("non-user") to "Band 9" ("expert user") and each institution sets a different threshold. There is also a "Band 0" score for those who did not attempt the test. Institutions are advised not to consider a report older than two years to be valid, unless the user proves that they have worked to maintain their level.[11][12] In 2017, over 3 million tests were taken in more than 140 countries, up from 2 million tests in 2012, 1.7 million tests in 2011 and 1.4 million tests in 2009. In 2007, IELTS administered more than one million tests in a single 12-month period for the first time ever, making it the world's most popular English language test for higher education and immigration.[3] In 2019, over 508,000 international students came to study in the UK, making it the world's most popular UK ELT (English Language Test) destination. Over half (54%) of those students were under 18 years old.[13] The English Language Testing Service (ELTS), as IELTS was then known, was launched in 1980 by Cambridge English Language Assessment (then known as "UCLES") and the British Council. It had an innovative format, which reflected changes in language learning and teaching, including the growth in 'communicative' language learning and 'English for specific purposes'. Test tasks were intended to reflect the use of English language in the 'real world'. During the 1980s, test taker numbers were low (4,000 in 1981 rising to 10,000 in 1985) and there were practical difficulties administering the test. As a result, the IELTS Revision Project was set up to oversee the redesign of the test. In order to have international participation in the redesign, the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges (IDP), now known as IDP: IELTS Australia, joined Cambridge English Language Assessment and the British Council to form the international IELTS partnership which delivers the test to this day. This international partnership was reflected in the new name for the test: The International English Language Testing System (IELTS). IELTS went live in 1989. Test takers took two non-specialised modules, Listening and Speaking, and two specialised modules, Reading and Writing. Test taker numbers rose by approximately 15% per year and by 1995 there were 43,000 test takers in 210 test centres around the world. IELTS was revised again in 1995, with three main changes: There was one Academic Reading Module and one Academic Writing Module (previously there had been a choice of three field-specific Reading and Writing modules) The thematic link between the Reading and Writing tasks was removed to avoid confusing the assessment of reading and writing ability The General Training Reading and Writing modules were brought into line with the Academic Reading and Writing modules (same timing, length of responses, reporting of scores). Further revisions went live in 2001 (revised Speaking Test) and 2005 (new assessment criteria for the Writing test).[14] IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training are designed to cover the full range of abilities from non-user or middle user to expert user. The Academic version is for test takers who want to study at the tertiary level in an English-speaking country or seek professional registration. The General Training version is for test takers who want to work, train, study at a secondary school or migrate to an English-speaking country.[15] The difference between the Academic and General Training versions is the content, context, and purpose of the tasks. All other features, such as timing allocation, length of written responses, and reporting of scores, are the same.[16] IELTS Academic and General Training both incorporate the following features: IELTS tests the ability to listen, read, write and speak in English. The speaking module is a key component of IELTS. It is conducted in the form of a one-to-one interview with an examiner which can occur face to face or even through a video conference. The examiner assesses the test taker as they are speaking. The speaking session is also recorded for monitoring and for re-marking in case of an appeal against the score given. A variety of accents and writing styles have been presented in test materials in order to minimize linguistic bias. The accents in the listening section are generally 80% British, Australian, New Zealander and 20% others (mostly American). IELTS is developed by experts at Cambridge English Language Assessment with input from item writers from around the world. Teams are located in the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other English-speaking nations. Band scores are used for each language sub-skill (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking). They are averaged out to derive the overall band score for each test taker. There are two modules of the IELTS: Academic Module General Training Module There is also a separate test offered by the IELTS test partners, called IELTS Life Skills: IELTS Academic is intended for those who want to enroll in universities and other institutions of higher education and for professionals such as medical doctors, engineers and nurses who want to study or practice in an English-speaking country. Mainly for those who is trying for non-immigrant student visa. IELTS General Training is intended for those planning to undertake non-academic training or to gain work experience, or for immigration purposes. IELTS Life Skills is intended for those who need to prove their English speaking and listening skills at Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRR) levels A1 or B1 and can be used to apply for a 'family of a settled person' visa, indefinite leave to remain or citizenship in the UK.[17] Part Duration Notes Listening 30 minutes including 10 minutes transfer time[18] Reading 60 minutes Writing 60 minutes Speaking 10–15 minutes divided in Part 1, Part 2 (CUE Card) and Part 3. Total Test Time 2 hours and 45 minutes[19] Note 1: Listening, Reading and Writing are completed in one sitting. The Speaking test may be taken on the same day or up to seven days before or after the other tests. Note 2: All test takers take the same Listening and Speaking tests, while the Reading and Writing tests differ depending on whether the test taker is taking the Academic or General Training versions of the test. Note 3: The 10 minutes transfer time is for the paper-based option of the test. For the computer-delivered option, candidates will be given 2 minutes (at the end of the test) to re-check their answers. [20] The module comprises four sections, with ten questions in each section. It takes around 40 (paper-based) or 32 (computer-delivered) minutes: 30 for testing, plus 10 for transferring the answers to an answer sheet (paper-based) or 2 for re-checking the answers (computer-delivered).[21][20] Sections 1 and 2 are about everyday, social situations. Section 1 has a conversation between two speakers (for example, a conversation about travel arrangements) Section 2 has one person speaking (for example, a speech about local facilities). Sections 3 and 4 are about educational and training situations Section 3 is a conversation between two main speakers (for example, a discussion between two university students, perhaps guided by a tutor) Section 4 has one person speaking about an academic subject.[22] Each section begins with a short introduction telling the test taker about the situation and the speakers. Then they have some time to look through the questions. The questions are in the same order as the information in the recording, so the answer to the first question will be before the answer to the second question, and so on.[22] The first three sections have a break in the middle allowing test takers to look at the remaining questions. Each section is heard only once. At the end of the test, candidates are given 10 minutes to transfer their answers to an answer sheet (if they take their test paper-based) or 2 minutes (at the end of the test of course) to re-check the answers (if they do so computer-delivered).[23][20] Test takers will lose marks for incorrect spelling and grammar.[24] The Reading paper has three sections and texts totalling approximately 2,150–3,250 words. There will be a variety of question types, such as multiple-choice, short-answer questions, identifying information, identifying writer's views, labelling diagrams, completing a summary using words taken from the text and matching information/headings/features in the text/sentence endings. Test takers should be careful when writing down their answers as they will lose marks for incorrect spelling and grammar. Texts in IELTS Academic Three reading texts, which come from books, journals, magazines, newspapers and online resources written for non-specialist audiences. All the topics are of general interest to students at undergraduate or postgraduate level.[25] Texts in IELTS General Training Section 1 contains two or three short texts or several shorter texts, which deal with everyday topics. For example, timetables or notices – things a person would need to understand when living in an English-speaking country. Section 2 contains two texts, which deal with work. For example, job descriptions, contracts, training materials. Section 3 contains one long text about a topic of general interest. The text is generally descriptive, longer and more complex than the texts in Sections 1 and 2. The text will be taken from a newspaper, magazine, book or online resource. [26] IELTS Academic Task 1: test takers describe a graph, table, chart, map, process, pie chart or diagram in their own words. Task 2: test takers discuss a point of view, argument, or problem. Depending on the task, test takers may be required to present a solution to a problem, present and justify an opinion, compare and contrast evidence, opinions and implications, and evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or an argument.[27] IELTS General Training Task 1: test takers write a letter in response to a given everyday situation. For example, writing to an accommodation officer about problems with your accommodation, writing to a new employer about problems managing your time, or writing to a local newspaper about a plan to develop a local airport. Task 2: test takers write an essay about a topic of general interest. For example, whether smoking should be banned in public places, whether children's leisure activities should be educational, or how environmental problems can be solved.[28] The speaking test is a face-to-face interview between the test taker and an examiner. The speaking test contains three sections. Section 1: introduction and interview (4–5 minutes). Test takers may be asked about their home, family, work, studies, hobbies, interests, reasons for taking IELTS exam, and other general topics such as clothing, free time, computers, and the Internet. Section 2: long turn (3–4 minutes). Test takers are given a task card about a particular topic. Test takers have one minute to prepare to talk about this topic. The task card states the points that should be included in the talk and one aspect of the topic which must be explained during the talk. Test takers are then expected to talk about the topic for one to two minutes, after which the examiner may ask one or two questions. Section 3: discussions (4–5 minutes). The third section involves a discussion between the examiner and the test taker, generally on questions relating to the theme which they have already spoken about in Section 2.[29] These questions usually consist of two sets of four or five questions. Test takers receive a score for each test component – Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. The individual scores are then averaged and rounded to produce an Overall Band Score.[30] There is no pass or fail.[31] IELTS is scored on a nine-band scale, with each band corresponding to a specified competence in English. Overall Band Scores are reported to the nearest half band. The following rounding convention applies: if the average across the four skills ends in .25, it is rounded up to the next half band, and if it ends in .75, it is rounded up to the next whole band. The nine bands are described as follows: Band Competency Description 9 Expert Has full operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate, and fluent with complete understanding. The individual has a full operational command of the English language. Their use of English is appropriate, accurate, fluent, and shows complete understanding.[32] 8 Very good Has fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well. 7 Good Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriateness and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning. 6 Competent Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies or misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations. 5 Modest Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field. 4 Limited Basic competence is limited to familiar situations. Has frequent problems in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language. 3 Extremely limited Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns in communication occur. 2 Intermittent No real communication is possible except for the most basic information using isolated words or short formulae in familiar situations and to meet immediate needs. Has great difficulty understanding spoken and written English. 1 Non-user Essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words. 0 Did not attempt No assessable information provided at all. IELTS band score CEFR level[33] 9.0 C2 8.5 8.0 C1 7.5 7.0 6.5 B2 6.0 5.5 5.0 B1 4.5 4.0 3.5 Below B1 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 Non-user 1.0 0.5 0.0 Did not attempt the test For a computer-delivered test, results are released between 3–5 days.[34] For a paper-based test, a Test Report Form will be sent to test takers 13 days after their test.[35] It shows: An Overall Band Score (from 1–9) A band score (from 1–9) for each section of the test (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking) The test taker's estimated CEFR level in the English language Whether IELTS Academic or General Training was completed Test date and the date that the certificate was signed Test report form number (15–18 characters as a mixture of numbers and capital letters) The test taker's photo, sex (male/female), nationality, candidate ID, first and last name, first language and date of birth Test takers receive one copy of their Test Report Form, apart from test takers who are applying to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) or UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) who receive two copies. Test Report Forms are valid for two years.[36] Test takers can take IELTS in more than 140 countries and in over 4,000 locations.[2] There are up to 48 test dates available per year. Each test centre offers tests up to four times a month depending on local demand. The Academic version is available on all 48 dates per year and the General Training version is available on 24 dates.[1] There used to be a minimum time limit of 90 days before a person was allowed to retake the test. However this restriction has been withdrawn and currently there is no limit for applicants to retake the test.[37] Just over half (51%) of test takers take IELTS to enter higher education in a foreign country.[38] The IELTS minimum scores required by academic institutions and by course vary. As a general rule, the top ranked universities in the United States tend to require a higher IELTS band (typically 7.0). Most universities accept scores between 6–7 as being suitable for undergraduate study in English. [39] Full details about the organizations which accept IELTS and the scores they require can be found on the IELTS Global Recognition System website. A number of Commonwealth countries use IELTS scores as a proof of prospective immigrants' competence in English.[40] Australia's immigration authorities have used IELTS to assess English proficiency of prospective migrants since May 1998, when this test replaced the 'access:' test that had been previously used.[41] There are different IELTS score requirements for different types of visa.[42] Department of Immigration Level of English Minimum IELTS score (Mar 2019) Visas Functional English 4.5 every subscore Permanent and provisional skilled visas (to avoid paying the English Language Charge) Vocational English 5.0 every subscore 457 visa, ENS and RSMS visas through the Temporary Residence Transitional stream for people who have held a 457 visa for 2 years with the employer Competent English 6.0 every subscore ENS and RSMS visas through the Direct Entry Stream, Skilled migration (6.0 is the minimum threshold, but receives 0 points) Proficient English 7.0 every subscore Points Tested Skilled visas (to obtain 10 points) Superior English 8.0 every subscore Points Tested Skilled visas (to obtain 20 points) New Zealand has used the IELTS test since 1995. There are different IELTS score requirements for different types of visa and type of applicant.[43] Visa category Minimum IELTS score required if the applicant is not demonstrating the minimum standard in another way (May 2015) Skilled Migrant Principal applicant: 6.5. Partners and children aged 16 and over: 5.0 Business categories (Investor, Entrepreneur, Long Term Business Visa, Employees of Relocating Business) Principal applicants: 5.0. Partners and children aged 16 and over: In some cases partners and children are not required to meet the minimum level of English at the time the application is lodged, but can provide evidence at a later stage. Originally, applicants who could not achieve the required score could pay a NZ$20,000 fee instead, which would be fully or partially refunded later if the migrant were able to successfully take the test within a certain period (3 to 12 months) after his or her arrival to the country. A few years later, the policy was changed: the fee was reduced, and, instead of being potentially refundable, it became treated as a "pre-purchase" of post-arrival ESL tuition.[44] Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) uses IELTS and/or TEF as evidence of one's ability to communicate in English and/or French. The CELPIP (Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program) test scores are an alternative to IELTS.[45] The Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) are the national standards used in Canada for describing, measuring and recognizing the English language proficiency of prospective immigrants.[46] The following table shows the IELTS scores needed for each CLB level.[47] Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Reading Writing Listening Speaking 10 8.0 7.5 8.5 7.5 9 7.0 7.0 8.0 7.0 8 6.5 6.5 7.5 6.5 7 6.0 6.0 6.0 6.0 6 5.0 5.5 5.5 5.5 5 4.0 5.0 5.0 5.0 4 3.5 4.0 4.5 4.0 There are different language requirements for different types of immigration program as shown below: Visa category Minimum Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) required (May 2015) The Federal Skilled Worker Program CLB 7[48] The Federal Skilled Trades Program CLB 5 for speaking and listening, CLB 4 for reading and writing[49] The Canadian Experience Class CLB 7 for NOC 0 or A jobs, CLB 5 for NOC B jobs[50] Business start-up visa CLB 5[51] Provincial Nominee Programs CLB 4 for NOC C and D jobs[52] Submitting one's IELTS scores is also one of the several ways to prove one's proficiency in an official language when applying for Canadian citizenship (minimum of CLB level 4 required).[53] On 6 April 2015, UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) changed its English language requirements for UK visa and immigration applications. IELTS assesses all four language skills and is accepted by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) at levels B1 to C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). A new test, IELTS Life Skills, assesses Speaking and Listening at CEFR level A1 and at CEFR Level B1. IELTS Life Skills can be used to meet the English language requirements for some classes of visa application, including 'family of a settled person' visas and indefinite leave and citizenship. To be used for visa and immigration purposes, IELTS and IELTS Life Skills must be taken in test centres approved by the UKVI.[8] Visa Minimum CEFR level required (May 2015) Minimum IELTS score required overall and in each skill (May 2015)[54] Tier 1 (General) visa C1 7.0 overall, and in each of the four skills Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa B1 4.0 overall, and in each of the four skills Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa B1 4.0 overall, and in each of the four skills Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa B1 4.0 overall, and in each of the four skills Tier 2 (General) visa B1 4.0 overall, and in each of the four skills Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa A1 4.0 overall, and in each of the four skills Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) visa B2 5.5 overall, and in each of the four skills Tier 4 (General) student visa - below degree level B1 4.0 overall, and in each of the four skills Tier 4 (General) student visa - degree level and above and including some pre-sessional courses B2 5.5 overall, and in each of the four skills 'Family of a settled person' visa A1 IELTS Life Skills at A1 – Pass, IELTS – 4.0 in Speaking and Listening Indefinite leave to remain (to settle) or citizenship B1 IELTS Life Skills at B1 – Pass, IELTS – 4.0 in Speaking and Listening For UK visa purposes the test is designed to meet certain administrative requirements specified by UKVI. These Test Report Forms are slightly different, to show that the test taker has taken the test at an IELTS UKVI session. The actual test taken is the same – same content, examiners, format, level of difficulty, scoring and so on.[54] One criticism revolves around the accessibility and affordability of the IELTS test. The cost of taking the test, which varies by region but is generally considered expensive, can be a major barrier for test-takers from developing countries.[55] For many, the test is prohibitively expensive, particularly if they need to retake it multiple times to achieve their desired score.[56] In addition to cost, accessibility issues arise from the limited availability of IELTS test centers. These centers are concentrated in urban areas, making it difficult for candidates in rural or remote locations to access testing facilities. This uneven distribution of test centers disproportionately affects individuals from less economically developed regions.[57] AAPPL, ACTFL Assessment of Progress toward Proficiency in Languages Cambridge English Language Assessment CAE, Cambridge English: Advanced Cambridge English: First CPE, Cambridge English: Proficiency CAEL, Canadian Academic English Language Assessment CELPIP, Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program CU-TEP, Chulalongkorn University Test of English Proficiency EF Standard English Test, an open-access standardized English test Duolingo English Test ITEP, International Test of English Proficiency. MUET, Malaysian University English Test OET, English language testing for Healthcare professionals OPI, OPIc Oxford Test of English PTE Academic, The Pearson Test of English STEP, Saudi Standardized Test for English Proficiency[58] STEP Eiken, Test of English TELC, The European Language Certificates TOEFL, Test of English as a Foreign Language TOEIC, Test of English for International Communication TrackTest, English Proficiency Test Online (CEFR-based) Trinity College London ESOL TSE, Test of Spoken English UBELT, University of Bath English Language Test English as a Foreign or Second Language (EFSL) International Student Admissions Test (ISAT) National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) Teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) List of admissions tests ^ a b "How to register". www.ielts.org. Retrieved 8 July 2015. ^ a b "Book a test". www.ielts.org. Retrieved 11 April 2021. ^ a b "IELTS grows to 3.5 million a year". www.ielts.org. 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