

The IELTS Exam

What's Included

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Total Score: 0-9, scored in .25 increments

Total Testing Time: ~2 hours and 45 minutes

Sections and Timing

Section	Questions & Time Limit	Types of Questions
Listening	40 questions Approximately 30 minutes (plus 10 minutes' transfer time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four option multiple choice • Matching • Diagram labeling • Fill-in-the-blank • Open response
Reading	40 questions 60 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four option multiple choice • True/False • Matching • Diagram labeling • Fill-in-the-blank • Open response
Writing	2 tasks 60 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe an object/photo/graph (150 words minimum) • Write about a topic (250 words minimum)
Speaking	3 parts 11-14 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and interview • Respond to a specific topic • Respond to said topic more broadly

Scoring Details

- Each one of the sections is scored on a scale of 0-9 in .25 increments. 9 represents complete mastery of the English language and 0 represents leaving all answers blank.
- The reported score is an average of the four different scores, rounded to the nearest half or whole number (ex., both a 7.25 and a 6.75 will register as a 7, but a 6.50 will register as a 6.50).
- Points are gained for correct answers, but not lost for incorrect answers or blanks more than simply receiving no credit.
- For more information on what each number means specifically in terms of proficiency or with other scales for language (ex., A1 vs B1), go [here](#).

FAQs

- **How often can a person take the test?**
 - Students are able to take the exam as frequently as they are able to schedule it.
- **How long does it take to get the scores back?**
 - 13-14 days after test date for the paper IELTS
 - 3-5 days after test date for the computer IELTS
 - 6-8 days after test date for the online IELTS
- **For how long are the scores valid?** Two years from the exam date.
- **Is the exam all done in one sitting?** It depends.
 - The listening, reading, and writing sections will always take place on the same day regardless of format, back-to-back, in that order. The speaking section, depending on the local conditions of where the student has registered for their exam, could take place up to seven (7) days before or two (2) days after the other sections. It can also take place on the same day.
- **Can the student improve their score for one section?** Yes, so long as it takes place within 60 days of the initial exam.
 - The IELTS One Skill Retake is a shortened version of the exam available for IELTS on computer exams. It contains only one section and must be taken within 60 days of the original test date. For information on how to book this, go [here](#).