



The Free School
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IELTS INTERMEDIATE & UPPER INTERMEDIATE:

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE & IMMIGRATION PREPARATION COURSE

- Coordinator:** Dr. Jay Jericho
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- Dates:** 9 January 2017 to 3 April 2017
- Times:** Flexible. Optional one-on-one and group Skype sessions are offered.
- Mode:** Skype (optional); email (optional); Discussion board:
<http://chat.thefreeschool.education/forum86.html>
- Assessments:** No mandatory assessments.
 Participants may submit unlimited IELTS assessments for grading.
- Cohort:** Maximum 40 participants.
- Assumed IELTS:** Reading 5.5, writing 5.5, listening 5.0, speaking 5.0; or:
 Pearson, TOEFL, TOEIC or Cambridge equivalent.
- Admission criteria:** 1. Eligibility for admission into a post-secondary university foundation course at a recognised institution. 2. Submission of a personal mission statement: *circa* 100 words.
- Core resource:** The Free School IELTS Library
<http://www.thefreeschool.education/ielts.html>

Objective

This course aims to prepare participants to undertake an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam. This program provides a brief discussion of the historical context of the IELTS exam so that participants can understand the content, scope, structure and purpose of this test. This program aims to develop participants' academic reading, writing, listening and speaking English language skills. The skill level of this course is designed for those whose current IELTS average skill set is at around band 5.5. This course is suited to those who require an IELTS band of between 6.0 and 7.5. These scores are typical of those set by universities for course admission purposes. The upper IELTS band level is typical of the requirements imposed on those who wish to apply for a professional work visa or skilled migrant work visa.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Commences
1	Understanding the IELTS exam: English for Academic Purposes.	9 January 2017
2	Academic reading: discussion 1	16 January 2017
3	Academic reading: discussion 2	23 January 2017
4	Academic reading: discussion 3	30 January 2017
5	Listening: discussion 1	6 February 2017
6	Listening: discussion 2	13 February 2017
Break	Discussion board remains open	20 February 2017
7	Speaking: discussion 1	27 February 2017
8	Speaking: discussion 2	6 March 2017
9	Academic writing task 1: discussion 1	13 March 2017
10	Academic writing task 1: discussion 2	20 March 2017
11	Academic writing task 2	27 March 2017
12	Preparing for the IELTS exam: general study tips	3 April 2017
13	Course conclusion and summary	10 April 2017

Free official exam preparation materials for the IELTS academic test

Dr. Jay Jericho

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January 2017

Objective

This document provides an inventory of free test preparation resources and exam practice materials that aims to assist IELTS instructors and those who plan to sit the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination.

Discussion

There are three business partners that comprise the IELTS consortium. These are:

The British Council

<https://ielts.britishcouncil.org/>

IDP: IELTS Australia

<https://www.idp.com/australia/ielts>

University of Cambridge

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/ielts/>

Free official exam preparation materials are available at the websites listed above.

This document only lists exam preparation material that has been published by an IELTS business partner or has been endorsed by an IELTS business partner.

Academic versus general

The IELTS academic and IELTS general exams use the same test questions for the speaking and listening components. As stated by IELTS (2017, NP):

“There are two types of the IELTS test: IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training. Listening and Speaking are the same for both tests, but the subject matter of the Reading and Writing components differs depending on which test you take.”

Those who prepare for the IELTS academic examination may use official test preparation materials that are marked ‘IELTS general’ and *vice versa*.

Background

There are thousands of open-access (free) and commercial IELTS exam preparation resources available on the internet and via other outlets such as bookstores. The Free School classifies these materials in four ways, as shown in the table below.

IELTS Exam Preparation Resources

1. <u>IELTS official publications:</u> Free practice materials.	2. <u>IELTS official publications:</u> Commercial practice materials.
3. <u>Non-IELTS sources:</u> Free practice materials.	4. <u>Non-IELTS sources:</u> Commercial practice materials.

This document examines “1. IELTS official publications: Free practice materials”.

This presentation does not discuss or endorse IELTS exam preparation material that has been published by non-IELTS sources. The Free School does not promote these materials as the quality of these resources varies widely. Some of these exam preparation materials

are of excellent quality as they strongly reflect the content, format and standards of the IELTS examination. Some materials are poor to average quality. To varying degrees, they do not accurately reflect the content, format and standards of the IELTS examination.

Those who plan to sit for an IELTS exam should only consult unofficial exam preparation materials if they have access to a qualified and experienced IELTS tutor who can review the suitability of these materials on a case-by-case basis.

Classification

The Free School identifies six types of IELTS exam preparation and exam practice resources. These include materials that offer:

1. Advice about the structure of the IELTS exam
2. Advice about IELTS's scoring system
3. General advice about how to prepare for the IELTS examination
4. Technical advice on how to answer exam questions.
5. Exam question examples
6. Examples of exam answers provided by test-takers.

The remainder of this document provides details about where members of the public can access each of these six official exam preparation materials for free-of-charge.

IELTS Official on YouTube

As at 21 December 2016, IELTS's official YouTube account contains 30 videos. These include examples of all six categories of official materials listed in the previous sub-section. You may preview this menu at the following web address:

IDP Australia on YouTube

As at 21 December 2016, IDP Australia's official YouTube account has 56 videos. These include examples of all six categories of official materials listed in the previous sub-section. You may preview this menu at the following web address:

Cambridge IELTS (Listening)

As at 21 December 2016, Cambridge IELTS's official YouTube account has 129 videos. These resources all relate to the IELTS listening examination component. You may preview this menu at the following web address:

This document does not list the full contents of these three YouTube catalogues. It includes samples of these resources in inventory list below.

Advice about the structure of the IELTS exam

“Test format”

<https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format>

“Test format”

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/ielts/test-format/>

“Understand the IELTS test format: Overview of the IELTS test”

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/testinformation>

Advice about IELTS’s scoring system

“IELTS Scoring in detail”

<https://www.ielts.org/ielts-for-organisations/ielts-scoring-in-detail>

WRITING TASK 1: Band Descriptors (public version)

<https://www.ielts.org/~media/pdfs/writing-band-descriptors-task-1.ashx>

WRITING TASK 2: Band Descriptors (public version)

<https://www.ielts.org/~media/pdfs/writing-band-descriptors-task-2.ashx>

SPEAKING: Band Descriptors (public version)

<https://www.ielts.org/~media/pdfs/speaking-band-descriptors.ashx>

General advice

“Test day tips”

<https://www.ielts.org/book-a-test/on-test-day>

“Advice on preparing for IELTS”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKwp175tQXM>

Technical advice

IDP Australia

Five top tips to improve your IELTS Listening score

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSvEUWsKA7Q>

Cambridge University

“Frequently Asked Questions” (Technical advice)

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/images/269898-ielts-academic-faqs.pdf>

British Council

“Reading test advice”

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-your-test/test-day-advice/reading-test-advice>

“Listening test advice”

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-your-test/test-day-advice/listening-test-advice>

“Writing test advice”

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-your-test/test-day-advice/writing-test-advice>

“Speaking test advice”

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-your-test/test-day-advice/speaking-test-advice>

Exam question examples

IELTS

“Sample test questions”

<https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/sample-test-questions>

IDP Australia

“Free IELTS Practice Tests”

<http://idpielts.me/prepare-ielts/free-ielts-practice-tests/>

“Listening practice tests”

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/freepracticetests/listeningpracticetests>

“IELTS speaking”

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/freepracticetests/speakingpracticetests>

“Listening practice tests”

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/freepracticetests/listeningpracticetests>

“IELTS Academic Reading Practice Tests”

IELTS identify seven types of academic reading tasks:

1. Identifying information
2. Identifying writer's views
3. Matching features
4. Matching headings

5. Multiple choice questions
6. Table completion
7. Diagram label completion

One example of each is found at this web-link:

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/freepracticetests/academicreadingpracticetests>

British Council

“Free IELTS practice Tests”

This webpage provides access to reading, writing, listening and speaking practice exams.

Check the links on the text box on the left of the screen.

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-test/free-practice-tests>

“Free IELTS practice activities and resources”

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-test/british-council-online-resources>

“Listening practice test 1”

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-your-test/free-ielts-practice-tests/listening-practice-test-1>

Cambridge University

“Free paper-based sample tests”

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/ielts/preparation/>

Examples of exam answers provided by test-takers

Multiple examples of speaking tests and grades answers appear at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/IELTsofficial/videos>

IELTS Speaking test sample - Part 3 (Li, Band 6)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzd3sSCLMrg>

IELTS Writing Test Task 1 (Band 9)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wo9adagcwkA>

IELTS Writing Test Task 2 (Band 5)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O50yp4u-yBE>

Official commercial material available for free

Members of the IELTS consortium have authored numerous texts and digital discs that are available for purchase. These materials aim to assist IELTS tutors and those who aim to take the IELTS test. The best known books in this collection are the numbered Cambridge IELTS series books. Copies of these books are freely available at certain public libraries and college libraries. For example, the University of Technology, Sydney maintains a comprehensive inventory of the Cambridge IELTS series. These are archived in the 428.24 Dewey Index range. In some cases, members of the public may view these books and photocopy small sections of these books at libraries that allow members of the public to enter the library.

Conclusion

This document classifies the six different types of open access official IELTS preparation resources that are available on the World Wide Web. This document is not a complete list of all open-access training and exam practice resources published by IDP Australia, Cambridge University and the British Council. These material are available at hundreds of different sub-webpages. The vast majority of official IELTS open-access resources are available via the sub-pages of the web-links that appear in this presentation.

References

International English Language Testing System (2017), *Test format*,

<<https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format>>. Accessed 21 December 2016.

Other resources

“Free IELTS online course”

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-ielts/free-ielts-online-course>

“IELTS 1001 Ways” Cell-phone application (‘app’)

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-ielts/ielts-1001-ways-app>

This presentation was inspired by The Free School IELTS scholar David Bazia

<http://www.thefreeschool.education/scholars-page.html>

