

Focusing on
IELTS

Academic Practice Tests

with answer key


RAHNAMA
P R E S S
@RAHNAMAPRESS
WWW.RAHNAMAPRESS.COM

Second
edition



Philip Gould
Michael Clutterbuck

Contents

How to use this book	vii		
Acknowledgments	viii		
Listening	1	Speaking	95
What is in the listening module?	2	What is in the speaking module?	96
Question types	3	Tips for doing the Speaking Test	97
Tips for doing the Listening Test	3	Sample speaking tests	99
Listening Test 1	4	Speaking Test 1	114
Listening Test 2	10	Speaking Test 2	116
Listening Test 3	18	Speaking Test 3	118
Listening Test 4	24	Speaking Test 4	120
Listening answer sheet	31	Speaking Test 5	122
		Speaking Test 6	124
Reading	33	Transcripts	127
What is in the reading module?	34	Listening Test 1	128
Question types	35	Listening Test 2	134
Tips for doing the Reading Test	36	Listening Test 3	141
Reading Test 1	37	Listening Test 4	148
Reading Test 2	47		
Reading Test 3	58	Answer key	155
Reading Test 4	69	Listening	156
Reading answer sheet	79	Reading	158
		Writing	164
Writing	81	Speaking	168
What is in the writing module?	82		
Tips for doing the Writing Test	83		
Writing Test 1	86		
Writing Test 2	88		
Writing Test 3	90		
Writing Test 4	92		

How to use this book

There are no magic formulas or secret keys that guarantee a good score in the IELTS test. The best way to prepare for the exam is to gradually improve your overall English listening, reading, writing and speaking abilities.

It is useful to train for the kinds of texts and questions you will face in an IELTS exam. *Focusing on IELTS: Academic Practice Tests* contains complete Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking practice tests for you to try out. Each test in this book is identical in format to the Academic IELTS tests themselves. You should work through these under test conditions, which means working in a room where you won't be disturbed and only spending an hour on each Reading and Writing Test. There are sample answer sheets at the end of the Listening and Reading units for you to photocopy and use each time you do a practice Listening or Reading Test. This book also contains three recorded Speaking Tests for you to listen to. You can read the transcripts of these Speaking Tests along with an analysis of each of the three candidates' performances. At the back of the book, there are transcripts for the Listening Tests and an answer key for the Listening and Reading Tests. There are sample answers for the Writing Tests.

You can use this book individually as an independent study guide to prepare for the Academic IELTS test or as practice materials for an IELTS preparation course with a teacher.

You may also want to work more intensively on the skills needed in the different sections of the test. For this reason *Focusing on IELTS: Academic Practice Tests* has been written to accompany *Focusing on IELTS: Reading and Writing Skills* by Jeremy Lindeck, Jannette Greenwood and Kerry O'Sullivan (Macmillan 2011) and *Focusing on IELTS: Listening and Speaking Skills* by Steven Thurlow and Kerry O'Sullivan (Macmillan 2011). These two books thoroughly examine the skills you need and teach useful strategies to help you perform well in the test.

Listening

What is in the listening module?

This test is the same for Academic and General Training candidates.

Time allowed	Approximately 30 minutes, plus 10 minutes to transfer answers to answer sheet			
Procedure	<p>The listening module is the first part of the test you will do.</p> <p>The listening module is recorded using a range of accents of standard English. The recording is played once only.</p> <p>Candidates are given a question booklet. Time is given to read the questions before each section is heard. As you listen to the recording of each section, write your answers in the question booklet.</p> <p>At the end of the fourth section, you are given 10 minutes to transfer your answers to an answer sheet.</p>			
Number of questions	40 questions (10 questions per section) 1 mark per question			
Structure of the test	<p>Section 1: a conversation between two speakers in a normal life situation, e.g. buying a ticket</p> <p>Section 2: a monologue (i.e. spoken by one speaker) about a social (non-academic) topic, e.g. joining a club</p> <p>Section 3: a conversation between two to four speakers about an educational or training topic, e.g. what the students are studying</p> <p>Section 4: a presentation by one speaker in a situation related to educational or training contexts</p>			
Summary of the structure	Easier	Section 1	Dialogue	Social topics
	↓	Section 2	Monologue	
		Section 3	Dialogue	Education and training topics
		Section 4	Monologue	
Harder				
Listening strategies and skills	See detailed guidelines in 'Listening strategies and skills', <i>Focusing on IELTS: Listening and Speaking Skills</i> (Thurlow and O'Sullivan 2011), pages 13–47.			

Question types

The following question types are used in the listening module:

- ▼ *Multiple choice* – you have to choose one answer from three alternatives or two answers from five alternatives.
- ▼ *Short answer* – you have to answer a question. You will be given a maximum number of words and/or numbers for your answer.
- ▼ *Sentence completion* – you have to find words that correctly complete a sentence.
- ▼ *Form/note/summary/flow-chart/table completion* – you have to complete a form, set of notes, summary, flow-chart or table. You will be given a maximum number of words for your answer.
- ▼ *Labelling a diagram/plan/map* – you have to identify features of a diagram, plan or map.
- ▼ *Matching* – you have to choose answers from a box containing possible answers.

For detailed explanation, see *Focusing on IELTS: Listening and Speaking Skills* (Thurlow and O’Sullivan 2011) pages 6–12.

Tips for doing the Listening Test

- ▼ Make sure you are familiar with each question type before you do the test so you know how to respond.
- ▼ Use the time given to read the questions before each section.
- ▼ Remember to look at all the sets of questions in each section, not just the first set.
- ▼ Follow the instructions exactly; for example, regarding the maximum number of words your response should have.
- ▼ Use the questions to identify the topic of each section and predict what vocabulary you might hear.
- ▼ Listen with attention to the overall topic so that what you hear makes sense.
- ▼ Anticipate the type of information needed to answer each question.
- ▼ Remember that you may hear synonyms and paraphrases of words and ideas in the questions.
- ▼ Be aware of the question following the one you are answering and move on if you hear the next answer.
- ▼ Stay focused on the test; don’t be distracted or let your attention wander.
- ▼ If you miss a question, guess an answer in the time given to review your responses.
- ▼ Be very careful to copy your answers correctly onto the answer sheet.
- ▼ Be careful with spelling as incorrect spelling is penalised.



Listening Test 1

TIME ALLOWED: APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES, PLUS 10 MINUTES TO TRANSFER ANSWERS

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: 40

This test has been written to simulate the IELTS test in its style, format, level of difficulty, question types and length. You should do this test under IELTS test conditions. This means playing the recording only once without pausing or stopping.

Instructions

You will hear four different recordings and you will have to answer questions on what you hear.

There will be time for you to read the instructions and questions before the recording is played. You will also have the opportunity to check your answers.

The recording will be played **ONCE** only.

The test is in four sections. Write your answers on the question sheet as you listen. At the end of Section 4 you have 10 minutes to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet, which is on page 31. When you finish, check the answer key at the back of the book.

Now turn to Section 1 on the next page.



SECTION 1

Questions 1–10

Questions 1–5

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Change of address	
Customer number:	Example: 5062 7840
Name:	1
Date of birth:	2
New address:	18 King Street, 3
New telephone number:	4
Billing period:	5

Questions 6–10

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.

- 6 The contract the customer has now is
 - A Economy Saver.
 - B Flexible Bundle.
 - C Home Plus.
- 7 The contract the customer will have in the future is
 - A Economy Saver.
 - B Home Plus.
 - C Three-In-One.
- 8 There are no limits on Internet downloads in the period from
 - A 10 pm to 6 am.
 - B 1 am to 6 am.
 - C 11 pm to 2 am.
- 9 Most of the phone calls this customer makes are
 - A to friends.
 - B to relatives.
 - C for work.
- 10 Overall, the customer finds that the service of the telephone company is
 - A satisfactory.
 - B excellent.
 - C very good.



CD 1 • Track 3

SECTION 2

Questions 11–17

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

- ▼ Always wear **11** inside the hotel.
- ▼ Hire beach items at the **12**
- ▼ Reception opening hours **13**
- ▼ Linen and towels are changed **14**
- ▼ Smoking allowed only **15**
- ▼ Do not feed the **16** and the
- ▼ Be quiet after **17**

Questions 18–20

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

- 18** Which **TWO** types of rubbish are *not* recycled?
- A food scraps
 - B glass
 - C metal
 - D newspaper
 - E plastic
- 19** Which **TWO** types of facilities in the hotel do you have to pay to use?
- A gym
 - B spa
 - C billiards
 - D Internet
 - E DVDs
- 20** What are **TWO** places for evening entertainment within walking distance of the hotel?
- A café
 - B Restaurant
 - C cinema
 - D karaoke club
 - E theater



SECTION 3

Questions 21–30

Questions 21–26

When patients have the following problems, who does the nurse need to contact first?

Choose your answers from the box and write the correct letters, *A–F*, next to questions 21–26.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A confusion | D poor eyesight |
| B instability when walking | E refusal to accept help |
| C pets as a risk factor | F weakness |

- 21 physiotherapist
- 22 doctor
- 23 occupational therapist
- 24 aged care team
- 25 dietitian
- 26 falls clinic

Questions 27–30

Choose the correct letter, *A, B* or *C*.

- 27 In which of the following medical problems can the damage be reversed?
- A** long-term, excessive alcohol consumption
- B** Pick's disease
- C** a brain tumour
- 28 Anxiety is a common symptom among people with dementia due to
- A** side effects of medication.
- B** frustration and suspicion.
- C** fear of the future.
- 29 People with dementia tend to enjoy food that is
- A** sweet.
- B** easy to chew.
- C** salty.
- 30 Recent research has shown people with dementia often benefit from
- A** singing.
- B** listening to music.
- C** exercise.

Questions 31–40



CD 1 • Track 5

SECTION 4

Questions 31–36

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

The Tuareg

- ▼ Difficult to count Tuareg population due to **31**
- ▼ Tuareg people's skin often looks blue because of colour of their **32**

Diet

- ▼ Dry season: grains and fruit.
- ▼ Wet season: **33** and

Occupations of Tuareg in countryside

- ▼ Breeding animals.
- ▼ Trade and **34**

Camel caravans

- ▼ For trade between Sahel and Mediterranean.
- ▼ Maximum load per camel: 300 kilograms plus rider.
- ▼ Travel south slowly at first so camels can **35**

Trade partners

- ▼ Hausa people trade cloth and millet for **36** and dates.

Questions 37–40

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

- 37** The main work of Tuareg women in growing crops is
- A planting.
 - B irrigating.
 - C harvesting.
- 38** Tuareg women mainly look after
- A camels and cattle.
 - B cattle and sheep.
 - C goats and donkeys.
- 39** Salt prices are highest in the hotter weather because at that time of year
- A animals need more salt.
 - B the quality of the salt is best.
 - C transport by camel is more difficult.
- 40** Craftsmen had low status in traditional Tuareg society because
- A they did not work as farmers.
 - B they did not live as nomads.
 - C they had a different attitude to education.



CD 1 • Track 6

Listening Test 2

TIME ALLOWED: APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES, PLUS 10 MINUTES TO TRANSFER ANSWERS

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: 40

This test has been written to simulate the IELTS test in its style, format, level of difficulty, question types and length. You should do this test under IELTS test conditions. This means playing the recording only once without pausing or stopping.

Instructions

You will hear four different recordings and you will have to answer questions on what you hear.

There will be time for you to read the instructions and questions before the recording is played. You will also have the opportunity to check your answers.

The recording will be played **ONCE** only.

The test is in four sections. Write your answers on the question sheet as you listen. At the end of Section 4 you have 10 minutes to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet, which is on page 31. When you finish, check the answer key at the back of the book.

Now turn to Section 1 on the next page.



SECTION 1

Questions 1–5

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Application for driving licence	
Name:	Example: <i>Theresa Collins</i>
Class of licence:	1
Date of birth:	17 March 1994
Address:	2 Street, Bentley
Phone number:	3
Identification:	4
Method of payment:	5

Questions 6–10

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.

- 6 In the test of road rules, you are allowed to make no more than
 - A one mistake.
 - B two mistakes.
 - C four mistakes.
- 7 A person who has a learner's licence can only drive with a person
 - A who has a provisional licence.
 - B who has a full licence.
 - C who is an authorised driving instructor.
- 8 A provisional licence is valid for
 - A 9 months.
 - B 18 months.
 - C 6 months.
- 9 The maximum speed for a person who has a learner's licence is
 - A 60 km per hour.
 - B 100 km per hour.
 - C 80 km per hour.
- 10 While driving, a person is
 - A not allowed to use a mobile phone.
 - B only allowed to use a mobile phone if they are not holding it.
 - C allowed to send an SMS.



SECTION 2

QUESTIONS 11–20

Questions 11–15

What is stated about the following means of transport from the airport?

Choose your answers from the box below and write the correct letters, A–G, next to questions 11–15.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| A cheapest | E most popular |
| B fastest | F most reliable |
| C most comfortable | G safest |
| D most environmentally friendly | |

- 11 trains
- 12 minibuses
- 13 buses
- 14 cars
- 15 taxis

Focusing on IELTS: Academic Practice Tests, second edition, provides useful Practice Tests for students as they prepare for the IELTS Academic Module exam. The tests are organised into four distinct sections: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. This enables students and teachers to access the tests they need quickly and easily. The book is ideal for independent study or class use.

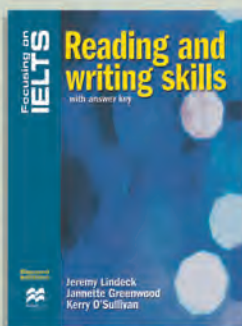
Key features

- practical tips for taking the IELTS tests
- four new Listening Practice Tests
- four new Reading Practice Tests
- four new Writing Practice Tests
- three recorded sample Speaking interviews, with transcripts and detailed assessments
- complete sets of questions for six new Speaking Tests
- complete Listening transcripts with answers identified
- full answer key, including sample answers to Writing tests and accompanying notes
- a MP3 CD containing new recordings for Listening and Speaking
- a range of international accents on the MP3 CD
- student-friendly design and page layout for ease of use.

Titles in the series



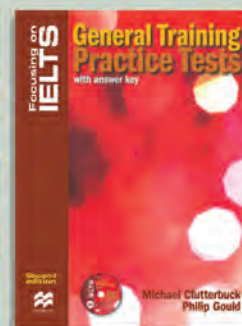
978 1 4202 3019 2
with MP3 CD



978 1 4202 3020 8



978 1 4202 3022 2
with MP3 CD



978 1 4202 3021 5
with MP3 CD

