

INTRODUCTION

IELTS Intensive is a short course in IELTS (academic) training and test practice. It's designed for students aiming to achieve an IELTS band score of between 5.5 and 6.5.

TO THE STUDENT

IELTS Intensive is ideal if you're approaching the standard of academic English you require to achieve your target IELTS band score, but you need a short course to help you become familiar with the tasks in the test and the techniques needed to tackle them. *IELTS Intensive* offers thorough training and realistic practice to give you the confidence and skills you need for the IELTS test.

The IELTS quiz

How well do you know the IELTS test? If you're familiar with the format of IELTS tasks, try the quiz on pages 6–9 before you start. If not, follow the references to this quiz throughout the course (look for the Test check icon ►). They appear at the start of each skill section and help familiarise you with the task types that appear in each unit.

TO THE TEACHER

IELTS Intensive is designed to help you strike a balance between training in test techniques and practice in all four skills areas. For short courses, we recommend using only the main lessons in Units 1–8. This will provide approximately 40 hours of teaching material. The Test files and Writing task bank can then be set for homework. For longer courses, you can incorporate the Test files and Writing task bank into the main lessons. This will provide approximately 20 hours of additional classroom-based materials.

Reading

In each Reading section, the *Skills focus* section introduces a new question type, providing a strategy for each task, and reviews a question type introduced in previous units. Because candidates often find it challenging to complete 40 questions in one hour, each question is accompanied by a target time to help students maintain an adequate reading speed. Students are also given an opportunity to set a target score.

Listening

Each Listening section has a *Prepare to listen* task to help students predict possible answers and avoid some of the most common mistakes. As with the Reading sections, students are asked to set a target score before each task to help them monitor their progress towards their required band level. (See *IELTS quiz: Listening* question 2 for assistance in target setting.)

Speaking

The Speaking sections have a vocabulary task to make students aware of higher-level vocabulary they might exploit. They then study tasks from the test and analyse extracts from two candidates' answers. Students use the *You're the examiner* boxes to help them think about marking criteria. This is then followed by either a *Fluency focus* or a *Pronunciation focus* – important marking criteria that students are often less familiar with. *Boost your band score* boxes provide students with tips to help them apply these skills in the test. The section ends with an opportunity for realistic test practice.

For Part 1 and Part 3 Speaking tasks (in both the main units and the Test files), students have the choice of either using the audio transcripts to work in pairs, asking and answering the questions, or listening to the questions on the audio and replying individually. The latter option is a better simulation of the IELTS Speaking test, but the former is more interactive in the classroom environment. If students are working with the audio, there is a 15-second pause for them to answer each Part 1 question and a 25-second pause for them to answer each Part 3 question.

Writing

Most Writing sections focus on a particular genre of writing task. Students analyse tasks in depth and, as with the Speaking sections, assess sample answers with help from the *You're the examiner* feature. This is followed by a *Language focus* section to help students acquire language that is particularly useful to the task genre. The tips in the *Boost your band score* box suggest how students can use the language to gain higher band scores. Lessons end with an authentic writing task or a reference to a related task in the Writing task bank (see pages 90–97).

Test files

After every two units there's an opportunity to practise the skills that students have developed. The tasks in the Test files are presented in a format that closely reflects the IELTS test, and students are encouraged to attempt them under test conditions.

Writing task bank

In addition to the Task 1 questions from Units 1, 3, 5 and 7 plus the Test files, this provides four further Task 1 questions and eight further Task 2 questions for students to practise. Each of these tasks features a set of questions to help guide students through the stages of task planning.

Sample answers

For each *Over to you* writing task in the main units and the Writing tasks in the Test files, there's a sample answer at the back of the book. Students are encouraged to attempt the task by themselves before comparing the sample answer with their own. The samples are accompanied by questions to help students compare them with their own writing and there's also a tip that may help students increase their band scores.