

Listening 40 Questions, all carry 1 mark; Approximately 30 minutes (plus 10 minutes' transfer time)

Paper Format	Task Types	Answering
<p>Four sections, each with ten questions. The questions are designed so that the answers appear in order in the listening. They include a range of accents, including British, Australian, New Zealand and American.</p> <p>The first two sections deal with situations set in everyday social contexts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a conversation between two speakers in Section 1 (for example a conversation about travel arrangements) 2. and a monologue in Section 2 (for example, a speech about local facilities). <p>The final two sections deal with situations set in educational and training contexts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. In Section 3 there is a conversation between two main speakers (for example, two university students in discussion, perhaps guided by a tutor) 4. and Section 4 is a monologue on an academic subject. The recordings are heard once only. 	<p>A variety of questions is used, chosen from the following types:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. multiple choice 2. matching 3. plan/map/diagram labelling 4. form/note/table/flow-chart/summary completion 5. sentence completion 6. short answer 	<p>During the Listening test candidates write their answers on the question paper as they listen and at the end of the test are given 10 minutes to transfer their answers to an answer sheet.</p> <p>Care should be taken when writing answers on the answer sheet as poor spelling and grammar are penalised.</p>

General Training Reading 40 Questions, all carry 1 mark; 60 minutes

Paper Format and Sources	Task Types	Answering
<p>The first section, 'social survival', contains texts relevant to basic linguistic survival in English with tasks mainly about retrieving and providing general factual information, for example, notices, advertisements and timetables.</p> <p>The second section, 'Workplace survival', focuses on the workplace context, for example job descriptions, contracts and staff development and training materials.</p> <p>The third section, 'general reading', involves reading more extended prose with a more complex structure but with the emphasis on descriptive and instructive rather than argumentative texts, in a general context relevant to the wide range of candidates involved, for example, newspapers, magazines and fictional and non-fictional book extracts.</p>	<p>A variety of questions are used, chosen from the following types:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. multiple choice 2. identifying information 3. identifying writer's views/claims 4. matching information 5. matching headings 6. matching features 7. matching sentence endings 8. sentence completion 9. summary, note, table, flow-chart completion 10. diagram label completion 11. short-answer questions. 	<p>Candidates are required to transfer their answers to an answer sheet. Candidates must transfer their answers during the time allowed for the test. No extra time is allowed for transfer.</p> <p>Care should be taken when writing answers on the answer sheet as poor spelling and grammar are penalised.</p>

General Training Writing *2 writing tasks, 60 minutes; Task 2 contributes twice as much to the final writing band score as Task 1*

Task Types	IELTS Academic Writing in Detail	Answering
<p>In Task 1, candidates are asked to respond to a situation, by writing a letter for example, requesting information or explaining a situation. They need to write 150 words in about 20 minutes.</p> <p>In Task 2, candidates write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. They need to write 250 words in about 40 minutes.</p>	<p>In Writing Task 1, candidates are told what kind of information (in the form of three bullet points) they must include in their response. Candidates may be required to request or give information and/or explain a situation. To do this, they may need to do some of the following; ask for and/or provide general factual information, express needs, wants, likes or dislikes, express opinions or complaints, make requests or make suggestions/recommendations. They need to write in a style that is appropriate for their audience and that will help them to achieve their purpose for writing, e.g. writing to a friend (informal) or writing to a manager (semi-formal or formal).</p> <p>In Writing Task 2, candidates are asked to write a semi-formal/neutral discursive essay to give information about a point of view, argument or problem. The instructions then tell candidates how to discuss this, which may involve providing general factual information, outlining and/or presenting a solution, justifying an opinion, evaluating evidence and ideas. Candidates need to write about general interest topics, such as; whether children’s leisure activities should be educational, why families are not so close as they used to be and how they could be brought closer, how environmental problems can be solved, who should pay for the care of old people, whether smoking should be banned in public places.</p>	<p>Answers must be given on the answer sheet and must be written in full. Notes or bullet points in whole or in part are not acceptable as answers.</p> <p>Candidates may write on the question paper but this cannot be taken from the examination room and will not be seen by the examiner.</p>

Speaking *3 speaking parts, 11-14 minutes total*

Task Type	Task Format	Task Focus
<p><u>Part 1</u> Introduction and interview 4-5 minutes</p>	<p>In this part, the examiner introduces him/herself and checks the candidate’s identity. Then the examiner asks the candidate general questions on some familiar topics such as home, family, work, studies, interests. To ensure consistency, questions are taken from a scripted examiner frame.</p>	<p>This part of the test focuses on the candidate’s ability to communicate opinions and information on everyday topics and common experiences or situations by answering a range of questions.</p>
<p><u>Part 2</u> Long turn 3-4 minutes</p>	<p>The examiner gives the candidate a task card which asks the candidate to talk about a particular topic, includes points to cover in their talk and instructs the candidate to explain one aspect of the topic. Candidates are given 1 minute to prepare their talk, and are given a pencil and paper to make notes.</p> <p>The examiner asks the candidate to talk for 1 to 2 minutes, stops the candidate after 2 minutes, and asks one or two questions on the same topic.</p>	<p>This part of the test focuses on the candidate’s ability to speak at length on a given topic (without further prompts from the examiner), using appropriate language and organising their ideas coherently. It is likely that the candidate will need to draw on their own experience to complete the long turn.</p>
<p><u>Part 3</u> Discussion 4-5 minutes</p>	<p>In Part 3, the examiner and the candidate discuss issues related to the topic in Part 2 in a more general and abstract way and – where appropriate – in greater depth.</p>	<p>This part of the test focuses on the candidate’s ability to express and justify opinions and to analyse, discuss and speculate about issues.</p>