

# What Preparations do IELTS Candidates Need to do from the IELTS Global Report?

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**Abstract:** At present, more and more domestic colleges and universities have signed inter-school cooperation agreements with well-known foreign colleges and research institutions. Many colleges and universities also set up scholarships for students to exchange abroad, and subsidize outstanding students to participate in various international exchange and cooperation projects and related activities organized by the university. Through exchange study abroad, you can not only learn about the local customs of other countries, but also exchange and study with foreign partners, enrich your life experience, and add points for future work or study. These overseas exchange programs are required to submit qualified TOEFL/IELTS scores when applying for assessment, which is also an important basis for evaluation.

**Keywords:** IELTS test; Global report; Preparation test

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## 1. Introduction

IELTS (International English Language Testing System), a foreign language name, is jointly managed by the Foreign Language Testing Department of the Cambridge University Examination Commission, the British Cultural Association and the IDP Education Group. It is an English proficiency test for people who plan to study, work or settle in English-speaking countries. The IELTS is divided into academic and training categories, which are aimed at students applying for study abroad and those planning to work or immigrate in English-language countries. The test consists of four parts: listening, speaking, reading and writing, with a total score of 9 points<sup>[1]</sup>. IELTS has been recognized by more than 9000 educational institutions, employers, professional associations and government departments in 135 countries around the world; As the leader of the global English assessment for studying abroad and immigration, IELTS has more than 2 million examinees taking part in IELTS every year<sup>[6]</sup>.

The IELTS test has been 100% recognized by universities in the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, and is also a proof of language ability for skilled immigrant visa applications in these three countries. Among them, IELTS is the only recognized language test in the application of the Chinese and Canadian Student Cooperation Program (SPP) and the Learning Implantation Program (SDS). In Hong Kong, many universities subsidize fresh graduates to take the IELTS test. In the comprehensive recruitment of Hong Kong government civil servants, the IELTS test is used as a proof of English language ability. In addition, the IELTS score is also one of the recruitment conditions of many companies in Hong Kong. IELTS is also the first choice of English language proficiency certification for English teaching programs in some universities in Malaysia, Singapore, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland and other countries<sup>[4]</sup>.

## 2. Present situation

### 2.1 Proportion of examination categories

It can be seen from the figure below that in 2021, the examinees who took the Class A test still accounted for the majority of the IELTS test, accounting for 75.44%; However, the proportion of G candidates was 24.59%, which was not significantly different from 2019<sup>[1]</sup>.

Test	Percentage
Academic	75.44
General Training	24.56

In 2019, class A candidates accounted for 77%, and class G candidates accounted for 23%. It can be seen that IELTS A candidates have always been the primary choice of most candidates.

### 2.2 Gender proportion and performance of candidates

In 2019 and 2021, women were still slightly more than men among all the candidates who took the IELTS test.

Gender	Percentage
Female	51.55
Male	48.45

The figures below show the mean overall and individual band scores achieved by 2021 Academic and General Training test takers according to their gender.

Academic mean performance by gender:

Gender	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall
Female	6.50	6.29	5.96	6.18	6.30
Male	6.50	6.22	5.88	6.10	6.24

### 2.3 Candidates in Chinese Mainland

Class A IELTS

In 2021, the average total score of Chinese Mainland IELTS A (academic) examinees will be 5.97 points, up 0.17 points from 2019.

It can be seen that Chinese examinees have maintained a level of more than 6 points in reading subjects, and have maintained a state of increasing year by year; The listening part will finally break the 6 points mark in 2021. However, oral English and writing have been hovering below 6 points, of which oral English scores are the lowest and the highest is only 5.55 points<sup>[3]</sup>.

Nationality	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall
Bangladesh	6.40	5.94	5.85	6.25	6.18
Brazil	7.09	7.21	6.13	6.90	6.90
Canada	7.27	6.85	6.29	7.21	6.96
China (People's Republic of)	6.04	6.27	5.76	5.55	5.97

Class G IELTS

In the 2021 Class G IELTS test, the average total score of mainland examinees was 6.36, which was higher than the average total score of Class A in 2021 and the average total score of Class G in 2019. Listening is the most obvious improvement, increased by 0.26 points compared with 2019; The average score of both writing and speaking has reached more than 6 points.

## 3. Reasons

The number of IELTS students in China has reached 60w! It far exceeds the number of people studying abroad. For example, IELTS writing, candidates need to express their opinions on the given topic and write a rigorous and standardized academic article. It is not necessary to use a lot of difficult words for those who stress structure and preciseness. In the process of learning IELTS, you will

learn more authentic English. IELTS is similar to “survival English”. Based on daily life, its requirements for examinees are based on English language communication.

### **3.1 It is convenient to study in Britain, America, Canada, Australia, Europe, Southeast Asia and other countries**

Language is the basis of any overseas study, so overseas study needs to have a certain language ability. Take the study in the UK as an example, the minimum IELTS requirements for undergraduate and master students in the UK are 6 to 6.5, and some universities and majors require 7 to 7.5 points. For some countries, in addition to IELTS, most schools also accept applications for TOEFL scores. However, IELTS, as a famous international standardized high-level English test, has a strong credibility<sup>[5]</sup>.

### **3.2 Conducive to national migration**

If you want to immigrate, language ability is also essential, and IELTS scores are proof of your language ability. Take New Zealand as an example. If you want to immigrate to New Zealand, in addition to the corresponding management experience, comprehensive score and investment funds, you also need to meet the basic English requirements, that is, the average score of IELTS should be above 4 points. In addition to New Zealand, Canada also requires an average IELTS score of more than 5 points, of which reading can be lowered to 4 points, and listening, speaking and writing can not be lower than 5 points. There are many such countries, and we can also see the importance of IELTS for immigrants.

### **3.3 IELTS is also very helpful for domestic work and life**

First of all, you can improve the interviewer’s impression of you during the interview. A high IELTS level means your English level is good. Now both state-owned enterprises and foreign enterprises will conduct business with foreign countries, which requires a high level of English for many people. For example, when working in foreign enterprises, foreign enterprises often have foreign-related affairs, which greatly tests their English ability. IELTS is practical and professional, and will have more advantages when applying for enterprises<sup>[4]</sup>.

## **4. How do we do it?**

### **4.1 Listening**

The listening recording is only played once, which is still a little difficult for most examinees, especially when there is a recording with a non-authentic accent in the recording. This requires us to do a good job in listening.

First, listen and practice more, and combine intensive listening, extensive listening and point listening. For children with relatively weak English foundation, the Cambridge truth questions section 1 and section 2 can be selected for intensive listening, and the content of section 3 and section 4 can be selected for those with good English foundation; It is suggested that you can listen to the BBC and VOA’s audio with story lines to practice extensive listening, while click listening is suggested that you only listen to the Cambridge real question. If time is tight, you can also listen carefully to the sentences that appear in the answer, and extensive listening is not the content that appears in the answer. Whether it is intensive listening, extensive listening or point listening, do not look at the written materials at first. Extensive listening can be repeated and the general meaning can be understood. Don’t stop and think about new words in the process of listening.

Third, be familiar with the structure of spoken sentences. Proficiency in common daily expressions and sentence patterns, combined with the preparation of the grammar part, and the formation of a certain degree of conditional reflection will help to improve the sensitivity of conversation and speech language.

Fourth, insist on practicing dictation, because dictation can not only exercise students’ ability to recognize sounds and distinguish sounds, but also exercise everyone’s memory and reaction. The most important thing is that the IELTS listening test needs to be conducted simultaneously with listening and writing<sup>[1]</sup>.

### **4.2 Reading**

Reading is not difficult for Chinese examinees who have mastered the examination-oriented ability. It is not difficult for them to master some reading skills after they have reserved a certain vocabulary and understood more types of test questions.

First, skip and scan so that you can quickly find keywords related to the topic in the article fragments. Underline the key words and phrases, and pay attention to the relationship between the key words in the title and the key words in the text. Key words are relatively obvious nouns, such as people’s names, place names, time, proper nouns and some professional terms (so don’t worry about some strange words in IELTS reading, because these words are the most unlikely to be replaced and can be used as key words to solve

the problem). Let's take one of the blank filling questions in the second article of the Cambridge True Question 10 test 2 to experience: we can search for metacognition in the original text by scanning, and lock the source of the answer in the second sentence by skipping. These reading skills need to be constantly trained in combination with the type of article title, and then improve the reading speed<sup>[6]</sup>.

Second, be familiar with synonyms and words with generalization function, which can help you find relevant information. Practice how to express the same meaning and information in different ways, and think about the similarities and differences between certain information. Be careful not to rely too much on finding keywords from the text to answer. We should practice how to paraphrase, find the content of paraphrase in the text, and improve our understanding, instead of blindly memorizing key words.

The third is to be familiar with all IELTS reading (academic) question types, the possible forms of answers under each question type, and different styles, and to practice how to better understand these styles. In addition to understanding the test questions, young partners also need to read more articles in magazines and periodicals at ordinary times. On the one hand, they need to consolidate and improve their vocabulary, on the other hand, they need to exercise their sensitivity to English sentence groups and meaning groups<sup>[3]</sup>.

Fourth, we should pay attention to more than one method of reading. The way that is suitable for others is not necessarily suitable for you, and the main task of the exam is to find the answer to the question, so the reading skills used in the exam should be selected in combination with your own habits. Don't worry too much about the new words appearing in the exam. At the same time, you should practice how to guess the meaning of the new words according to the semantics of the context, and try not to form the habit of "looking up new words when you meet them", which not only interrupts the coherence of reading, but also is not conducive to the response to the pressure of the exam room.

### 4.3 Writing

Writing is the module that can best reflect the examinee's English proficiency, which is also a headache for Chinese examinees. Therefore, in order to ensure clear and accurate writing within the prescribed time of the exam, it is necessary to be familiar with the type of questions and writing requirements of large and small compositions. The IELTS essay is mainly about chart questions, data analysis (pie, column, table), flow chart, map questions, and the ability to analyze and process data; The big composition test questions can be roughly divided into 14 categories according to the theme, with the frequency from high to low (education, culture and society, commerce, urban and rural areas, science and technology, media, environment, government, globalization, crime, tourism, family, sports and entertainment, health). The main types of articles are argumentation and report (so these topics can be familiar with and accumulated in advance at ordinary times).

We should pay special attention to the following points when preparing for the exam:

First, writing is the process of output, which requires written language. Both IELTS big composition and small composition have certain fixed routines, that is, the structural framework of the article. Mastering the routines sets up the skeleton of the article, which can make the logic of the article clear and the structure reasonable. On the whole, this is what the examiner wants to see.

Second, in terms of writing content, prepare positive and negative views and relevant examples for each type of writing topic, which is also to fill the skeleton with blood, enrich the content of the article, give play to the usual critical thinking, and read more and more reviews and other accumulated materials. This is a big project, and it also needs to slowly accumulate its own material library at ordinary times<sup>[1]</sup>.

In terms of expression, the most basic thing is to ensure the correctness of grammar (because only if the grammar is correct can others understand the sentences you write and achieve the purpose of communication). On this basis, use some advanced vocabulary. Remember not to use advanced vocabulary for the purpose of using advanced vocabulary, because improper use of words is also a penalty criterion. You can accumulate the grammatical points and agreed substitutions you encounter in your daily reading, and then flexibly apply them to your writing.

Understand the topic of the regular exam. The official IELTS composition gives 14 topics, but the four most frequently tested topics are education, social culture, business and urban and rural areas.

### 4.4 Speaking

Speaking IELTS is more difficult for Chinese students than writing to a certain extent, but we can prepare pertinently according to the four scoring criteria of speaking test.

First, fluency and coherence: This can be practiced by frequently following and imitating some APP audio. Read it out loud and imitate BBC, VOA and other audio. There are so many English learning APPs on the market now. Find one that can be followed, and then follow and imitate every day. So dare to speak and practice, avoid over-thinking during the exam, which makes the answer too

complex and difficult to describe, and always hesitate and self-correct in oral expression;

Second, lexical diversity: we should pay attention to the accumulation of synonyms at ordinary times. Especially in reading, when you encounter synonyms, you can accumulate them together, review more and improve your sensitivity; You can also download some English-English electronic dictionaries, which will accumulate some synonyms or agreed expressions when searching for new words. If the time for preparing for the test is urgent, it is not necessary to excessively pursue the mastery of advanced vocabulary, but to skillfully master the general life vocabulary and its various synonymous substitution, and try to talk about topics with rich and life-like vocabulary accurately and freely<sup>[4]</sup>.

The third is the diversity and accuracy of grammar: it is accumulated from reading and writing at ordinary times. The students can make some sentences by themselves to practice the grammar knowledge learned from the reading and writing classes; If conditions permit, you can ask others to correct your grammar mistakes, or go directly to Grammarly to check the grammar points that are easy to make mistakes in your text, and summarize and practice more. On the basis of accurate use of basic sentence patterns, try to use more complex grammatical structures, fully understand the exchange of clauses and non-predicate verbs, the conversion of active voice and passive voice, and train yourself in the accuracy of grammar in oral expression, especially pay attention to the problem of tense voice.

Fourth, pronunciation: in addition to following and imitating more, there are also many English learning APPs on the market, many of which have audio and video, which are good materials for following and imitating; Conditional partners can find a person with good English to listen to your English and help you correct it; One way to “make your own living” is to listen to your own recordings, find out the pronunciation mistakes, and then record them down. Correct the pronunciation dozens of times, which is absolutely effective. I think a better app is Coco English. It has the function of following and reading, and it can also score the user’s following and recording (this function can be experienced twice for free, and then you have to become a member if you want to use it again). Children can experience it. For words with uncertain pronunciation, be sure to check them in time and don’t read them casually. To ensure the accuracy of the pronunciation of vowel consonants, follow the pronunciation and intonation on the basis of accurate pronunciation<sup>[1]</sup>.

## 5. Conclusion

Broadly speaking, in the process of preparing for the test, we should first know what the IELTS test is, how to take the test, and the scoring criteria, so that the kids can know what the IELTS “wants”, and what they like, and then prepare carefully according to the above preparation methods and precautions according to the actual situation of different subjects, and finally we can get the ideal score.

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