

IELTS practice test

Listening

- 1 C I saw a notice about a photography club
- 2 B I'm going back to pick up a book I ordered.
- 3 Tuesday On Tuesday evening there's a storytelling workshop
- 4 £1.50 and that's only £1.50
- 5 Internet on Thursday at two p.m there's an Internet club
- 6 Thursday on Thursday evening there's a film club
- 7 £8.50 look at the price – £8.50 a week
- 8 7.45 That's at seven forty-five too
- 9 Website on Saturday mornings there's a course in website design
- 10 £2.75 It's cheaper too – only £2.75
- 11 A your interview is actually on Monday
- 12 A When you arrive at the college, go to the main reception
- 13 B Howard Green ... will be interviewing you
- 14 B / F we do need to check your identity.
- 15 F / B a photograph ... if you could bring one with you, that would be useful
- 16 photocopying There is some photocopying to do
- 17 (tele)phone calls and there will be telephone calls to deal with
- 18 10 / ten ten hours a week
- 19 £8.00 The basic rate of pay is £8.00 per hour.
- 20 22 days Twenty-two days a year
- 21 C most of the world's rabbits ... live in North America
- 22 B but ten to twelve years is more normal
- 23 one hour it's going to take one hour every day
- 24 clean It is necessary to clean the place where they live
- 25 health you need to check their basic health every single day
- 26 £50 having microchips fitted will cost another £50
- 27 £250 A good rabbit house costs £250 to buy
- 28 Equipment Then you need to buy equipment to go inside the house
- 29 £12 one for food costs £12
- 30 month £10 per month
- 31 C what is important is to spend a fixed period of time each day
- 32 B a relaxed type of activity
- 33 A you don't have to give up the football training
- 34 B The local park is fine and jogging on grass is much better for your feet.
- 35 eight weeks the programme lasts for eight weeks
- 36 cyclists the type that you see cyclists wearing
- 37 socks You should buy ... special socks.
- 38 cotton don't wear clothes made out of cotton as they will make you feel too hot
- 39 drink this probably means that you need something to drink ...
- 40 cold If ... you've caught a cold, then you should stop training until you feel better.

Reading

- 1 C six days a week
- 2 C £5.50 per hour
- 3 E weekly bus ticket to the city centre provided
- 4 B free meals when on duty
- 5 B uniform provided
- 6 A supermarket cashier
- 7 C ability to speak French or Spanish an advantage
- 8 F temporary contract (six weeks)
- 9 D possibility of extra hours next month
- 10 C you have to work in a team
- 11 TRUE carried out a survey ... as part of their course
- 12 TRUE city residents ... a sample of local inhabitants
- 13 FALSE asked them all the same questions
- 14 NOT GIVEN
- 15 FALSE About 12% of the people they asked
- 16 TRUE In second place in the list was swimming ... and in third place came keep-fit exercises
- 17 FALSE a few very keen walkers who go for long walks in the countryside
- 18 TRUE walking holidays are the most popular of all
- 19 FALSE There were an equal number of men and women going on walking holidays
- 20 FALSE Boating holidays ... are the ones where you find the largest number of single people
- 21 viii Cycling holidays are much greener than holidays by car, train or plane
- 22 ix a company which makes all the arrangements in advance
- 23 v It's up to you what distance you want to cover every day
- 24 i It isn't necessary to be very strong to ride a bike, but you should be in good health.
- 25 ii a range of options when it comes to how long to stay away and how to make sure you have a bed for the night
- 26 iv Holiday companies sometimes arrange for your suitcases to be sent on ... This means that you only need to carry a few things
- 27 iii How much your holiday costs will depend on which type you choose.
- 28 Scotland Cycling in Scotland, for instance, where there are lots of hills, will give you a good physical workout. But if that sounds too much like hard work
- 29 centre-based where you return to the same hotel every evening and can have a good meal and a shower
- 30 March March is the typical month for the birds to arrive.
- 31 July back again ... normally in July
- 32 C The young cuckoos are born in England.
- 33 C all spent the winter in the Congo region of central Africa
- 34 A Lyster flew across France, Spain and Morocco before crossing the Sahara desert
- 35 B Lyster flew back to England via Algeria ... Chris also crossed the Algerian desert
- 36 C They put a tiny satellite tag on each bird's back to see where they went when they left England.
- 37 B The three other birds did not return to England and the scientists think they died on their return journey.
- 38 C the five tagged birds all travelled about 10,000 miles that summer
- 39 C Algeria were countries that the other three birds flew over ... Chris/Lyster flew back ... via Algeria
- 40 A Lyster flew across Spain ... flew back via Algeria ... but this time didn't fly over Spain

How to mark the Writing Test

Task 1

There are four criteria for marking the Part One tasks, which are equally weighted.

Task achievement

This is an assessment of how well the student has fulfilled the task.

A successful task will:

- include at least the minimum number of words
- have a text structure appropriate to a letter
- be relevant to the context established in the input material
- achieve the writer's intended purpose
- cover the functions indicated in the bullet points

Coherence and cohesion

This is an assessment of how clear and fluent the writing is.

A successful task will:

- be appropriately organised
- successfully link information and ideas
- contain logical sequencing
- make effective use of cohesive devices

Lexical resource

This is an assessment of the use of vocabulary.

A successful task will:

- include a range of relevant vocabulary
- use vocabulary accurately
- use vocabulary in an appropriate way

Grammatical resource

This is an assessment of the use of grammar.

A successful task will:

- use an appropriate range of grammatical forms at sentence level
- use grammatical forms accurately

Task 2

There are four criteria for marking the Part Two tasks, which are equally weighted.

Task response

This is an assessment of how well the student has responded to the task.

A successful task will:

- make clear the writer's position on the issues raised in a question or statement
- develop arguments to support that position
- support the arguments with evidence and examples
- include at least the minimum number of words

Coherence and cohesion

This is an assessment of how clear and fluent the writing is.

A successful task will:

- be appropriately organised
- successfully link information and ideas
- contain logical sequencing
- make effective use of cohesive devices

Lexical resource

This is an assessment of the use of vocabulary.

A successful task will:

- include a range of relevant vocabulary
- use vocabulary accurately
- use vocabulary in an appropriate way

Grammatical resource

This is an assessment of the use of grammar.

A successful task will:

- use an appropriate range of grammatical forms at sentence level
- use grammatical forms accurately

How to mark the Speaking Test

The speaking test is an assessment of how effectively students can communicate in English.

There are four criteria for marking the Speaking Test, which are equally weighted.

Fluency and coherence

This is the ability to:

- talk at a consistently normal speed
- link ideas and language together in logical sequences
- use the language features which create coherent, connected speech

Lexical resource

This is the ability to:

- use a range of relevant vocabulary
- use words appropriately to convey meaning
- use paraphrase strategies when required

Grammatical range and accuracy

This is the ability to:

- use a range of grammatical forms appropriately
- use grammatical forms accurately

Pronunciation

This is the ability to:

- use a range of phonological features to convey meaning
- produce intelligible individual sounds
- use stress, rhythm and intonation effectively

IELTS practice test [2.42]

PRESENTER: IELTS practice test. In this test, you'll hear a number of different recordings and you'll have to answer questions on what you hear. There will be time for you to read the instructions and questions, and you will have a chance to check your work. The recording will be played once only. The test is in four sections.

Now turn to Section 1 on page 100 of your book. You will hear a student called Ian telling his friend about the public library. First you have time to look at questions 1 and 2. You will see that there is also an example which has been done for you.

Now we shall begin. You should answer the questions as you listen because you will not hear the recording a second time. Listen carefully and answer questions 1 and 2.

WOMAN: Hi Ian. I was looking for you. Where have you been?

IAN: I went to the public library in the town centre. There's a book I need for my science project. They haven't got it at the college library, so I went to see if they had it in the public library instead. It's much bigger than the college library and I soon found what I was looking for. But they've got a really good sports section and so I decided to have a look round. I found a really good book on the history of cricket.

WOMAN: Gosh. I never thought of going in there. What else have they got?

IAN: Well, not just books actually. There's online access, of course, but also newspapers and magazines you can read, and a noticeboard with lots of information about local events. Actually, I saw a notice about a photography club that meets there every week – sounds interesting. There's a room there where they have lectures and meetings and stuff.

WOMAN: Right. I didn't know that. I'll have to go in one day.

IAN: Come with me tomorrow if you like. I'm going back to pick up a book I ordered. If they haven't got the one you want, they can get it from another library in 48 hours. So, I ordered one I need to read for my course.

WOMAN: Wow. That's brilliant! So, are you going to join the photography club?

IAN: I haven't decided yet. I want to ask how much it costs. So, are you going to come tomorrow?

WOMAN: Yeah, why not!

PRESENTER: Before you listen to the rest of the conversation, you have some time to read questions 3 to 10. Now listen carefully and answer questions 3 to 10.

IAN: Oh look, here's a leaflet I picked up about events at the library. You see the photography club is on Mondays, at seven thirty in the evening.

WOMAN: Oh, right. And look, it tells you how much you have to pay – £2.50 a week.

IAN: That's not much, is it?

WOMAN: No, in fact all the events are quite cheap. Look. On Tuesday evening there's a storytelling workshop at seven o'clock, and that's only £1.50.

IAN: Oh, I wouldn't be interested in that.

WOMAN: No, but I am. My friend Jane's really into storytelling. I must tell her. And look, on Thursday at two p.m. there's an Internet club, and that's only £1.50.

IAN: But everyone knows how to use the Internet. Who would go to that?

WOMAN: Well, it's in the afternoon, so it's probably for old people.

IAN: Yeah, you're right. Look, on Thursday evening there's a film club. It starts at quarter to eight. That sounds more like our sort of thing.

WOMAN: But look at the price – £8.50 a week. The college film club's only £5.00 and I expect they have the same films.

IAN: Yeah, you're right.

WOMAN: But look, on Friday, they have a poetry workshop. That's at seven forty-five too, and only £3.00. I think I'd like to go to that.

IAN: OK. And on Saturday mornings there's a course in website design. That sounds more interesting than the Internet one, and it only costs £4.75 a week.

WOMAN: But look, it starts at ten fifteen in the morning. You never get up before lunchtime on Saturdays! Look, there's map reading in the afternoon. That would be better for you. It's cheaper too – only £2.75 – and you'll be awake by then because it doesn't start till a quarter to three.

IAN: Very funny. I can get up early if I need to.

WOMAN: Really?

PRESENTER: Now turn to Section 2 on page 101 of your book. You will hear a woman called Hilary talking on the phone about a job interview she is going to have. First you have some time to look at questions 11 to 15. Now listen carefully and answer questions 11 to 15.

MAN: Hello. Southdown College, personnel department. Jon speaking.

HILARY: Oh, hello. My name's Hilary Brown. I've applied for a job in the accommodation office at the college.

MAN: Ah yes, and we've invited you for interview, haven't we? On Tuesday, I think.

HILARY: That's right. Only in your voicemail message you said it would be on Monday.

MAN: Ah, yes. Here it is. Yes, some people are coming on Tuesday and Wednesday, but your interview is actually on Monday at ten o'clock in the morning.

HILARY: Oh good. I was actually ringing to ask where I should come to. How do I find the personnel department? Is it in the main building?

MAN: Well, the personnel department is in another building actually, but we're not holding the interviews here. When you arrive at the college, go to the main reception and ask for room 341. They will give you directions.

HILARY: I see. Thank you. And will I meet the accommodation officer? Diana Cook is her name, I think.

MAN: Not on Monday, actually. One of her assistants, Howard Green, will be interviewing you, and Wendy Bright will be interviewing the people on the other days. She's the other assistant. Did you particularly want to meet Mrs Cook?

HILARY: No, no, I just wanted to know the name of the person.

MAN: I see.

HILARY: And another question. What should I bring with me to the interview?

MAN: Let me see. Ah yes. I have your application form here.

HILARY: Do I need to bring a copy of the form?

MAN: No, that's not necessary. But I see you haven't attached a photograph. So if you could bring one with you, that would be useful. Just a passport-sized one is enough.

HILARY: Oh yes, of course. Do I need to bring an identity document at all?

MAN: Yes please. We have checked your qualifications online, so we don't need to see certificates or anything, but we do need to check your identity.

HILARY: And written references?

MAN: We have those here on your file already. So I think that's everything. Shall I send you an invitation letter confirming all these details?

HILARY: Oh, yes please. That would be great. Thank you.

MAN: No problem.

PRESENTER: Before you hear the rest of the conversation, you have some time to look at questions 16 to 20. Now listen carefully and answer questions 16 to 20.

HILARY: And could I just ask you one or two questions about the job itself?

MAN: Of course you can. What would you like to know?

HILARY: So the job title is office assistant?

MAN: That's right.

HILARY: And what will I actually have to do each day?

MAN: Well, the office assistant is responsible for entering data onto the computer network. There is some photocopying to do, that's the other main activity, and there will be telephone calls to deal with. But the office assistant does not deal directly with students or with the accommodation providers.

HILARY: I see. And the hours?

MAN: Well, it's only a part-time post. Let me see. We said ten hours a week on the advertisement.

HILARY: Oh yes, that's right. I'd forgotten. And how much per hour would I earn?

MAN: The basic rate of pay is £8.00 per hour. If you work evenings or weekends, it goes up to £8.50, but that doesn't apply to this job, because it's just weekday mornings.

HILARY: And do I get paid holidays?

MAN: Yes. Twenty-two days a year, plus public holidays if they fall on days when you would normally be working.

HILARY: I see. Thank you, you've been very helpful.

MAN: That's OK.

PRESENTER: Now turn to Section 3 on page 102 of your book. You will hear part of a talk about keeping rabbits as pets. First you have some time to look at questions 21 and 22. Now listen carefully and answer questions 21 and 22.

NANCY: Hi there. I'm Nancy Ronson and the subject of my talk this evening is keeping rabbits as pets. Rabbits are very cute animals, and we often think that they make great pets, especially for young children, because they're easy to look after. But actually, they need looking after quite carefully and this takes up quite a bit of time and costs quite a bit of money. So before buying one as a pet for a child, you need to think quite carefully.

First of all, however, a few facts about rabbits. Wild rabbits are very common animals that you can find living in many parts of the world. The rabbit is very common in Europe, and is also found in Asia and Australia, but most of the world's rabbits, around 50% of them, actually live in North America. This is strange because in South America there aren't very many at all!

In the wild, rabbits live for quite a long time. The oldest wild rabbit ever recorded lived to be eighteen years old, but ten to twelve years is more normal. This surprises people. When they buy a pet rabbit, they think it's going to live for maybe five years or so, but actually pet rabbits live just as long as wild ones and so you need to think about this before you buy one.

PRESENTER: Before you hear the rest of the talk, you have some time to look at questions 23 to 30. Now listen carefully and answer questions 23 to 30.

NANCY: So now I want to tell you exactly how much time you need to look after a pet rabbit properly and how much it costs to keep one.

First of all, don't just buy one rabbit. They feel sad and lonely living alone, that's why it's always better to buy two. So, if a child has two rabbits to look after, how long does that take? Well, I would say it's going to take one hour every day, because there are a number of things to do.

Firstly, you have to give the animals their food and water. Then it is necessary to clean the place where they live. This is something you have to do every day if you want the animals to stay well. Indeed, you need to check their basic health every single day, and make sure that they get some exercise in a safe area where they can run up and down.

So what about costs? Actually buying two rabbits in the first place is going to cost you about £50. Then having microchips fitted, to identify them if they get lost or stolen, will cost another £50. The young rabbits will then need vaccinations to protect them against common diseases – the vet has to do these – and those will cost £100.

Then your rabbit will need somewhere to live. A good rabbit house costs £250 to buy, and you do need a good one if you want your pet to be comfortable and secure. Then you need to buy equipment to go inside the house. A bowl for water costs £8 and one for food costs £12. These are the essential things, but if you want to buy other things, like toys or ramps to walk up, you could spend another £20 very easily.

The food that the rabbit eats, a mixture of green vegetables and special pellets, costs £16.36 each week. Fortunately, the water comes free, and so does the newspaper you can put down each day to help keep the house clean.

The other major expense is insurance. You need this in case your rabbit gets ill and needs to go to the vet. An insurance policy will cost £10 per month. But it is worth it because the vet can be very expensive.

Therefore, if your rabbits live for ten years, and you add up all these costs, then buying two rabbits and looking after them for their whole lives will cost you an incredible £16,000! Think about that, and the time needed to look after them properly, before you go down to the pet shop to buy one!

PRESENTER: Now turn to Section 4 on page 103 of your book. You will hear a sports coach giving a lecture to some students about training for a five-mile running race. First you have some time to look at questions 31 to 34. Now listen carefully and answer questions 31 to 34.

MAN: Hi there. Thanks for coming. I know that you're all planning to run the five-mile race for charity that's taking place later this term. I want to give you a training programme that will help you to develop your fitness and stamina gradually. This means running every week, or actually a combination of walking, jogging and running to begin with, so that you can build up to your target distance.

So, what should you do each week? Well, the important thing is the time you spend training. It doesn't matter what distance you run, or how fast you run at the beginning. But what is important is to spend a fixed period of time each day.

Now this doesn't have to be fast running. At the beginning, jogging is much better. So, what do I mean by jogging? Jogging is something you can do alone

or with a partner, and if you do it with a friend you can talk as you jog. If it's difficult to talk, then you're running not jogging – so slow down! Jogging is a relaxed type of activity, it shouldn't make you feel tired or out of breath.

Now at first, you should go jogging every day. People always ask me about other sports training, but my advice is simple. If you do, say, football training one day a week, then you still need to go jogging that day as usual, but you don't have to give up the football training!

And people also ask me about the best place to go jogging. Well, it isn't necessary to run around a sports track. The local park is fine. And jogging on grass is much better for your feet than jogging on hard roads and pavements. It's better to be away from the traffic too!

PRESENTER: Before you hear the rest of the lecture, you have some time to look at questions 35 to 40. Now listen carefully and answer questions 35 to 40.

MAN: So, how does the training programme continue? Basically the programme lasts for eight weeks. Gradually, over that time, you will do more running and less jogging, so that by weeks six and seven you're getting close to running your target distance comfortably.

People often ask me what they should wear for this type of activity, and there are some simple rules to follow. You should wear shorts – the type that you see cyclists wearing are best – rather than the type that footballers usually wear.

You will need good shoes, but the ones you usually wear for sports training are best. You should, however, buy special socks. There are some on the market that are specially designed for runners and they will help you to keep your feet in good condition.

In general, don't wear clothes made out of cotton as they will make you feel too hot. There are suitable clothes for runners made in different types of man-made fibres, and they're not too expensive.

When you're training, you need to look after yourself. For example, if you start to feel hungry this probably means that you need something to drink. Generally speaking, water is the best thing in this situation and it can be a bad idea to eat anything.

If, however, you find that you've caught a cold, then you should stop training until you feel better. If you force yourself to continue, it will be longer before you feel better. You can soon make up for lost time once you're well again.

OK, so before I go on to ...