

Guidelines on the criteria used to mark the tests are provided at the back of the *Life* Teacher's Books and are also available for download along with the tests.

#### Scoring the tests

There is no pass or fail in the IELTS test, but rather, each skill is scored on a band ranging from 1 (non-user) to 9 (expert) for each skill and the average of the scores is the overall IELTS score. This table describes the skill level for each score.

The IELTS Band Score Scale	
9	Expert
8	Very good
7	Good
6	Competent
5	Modest
4	Limited
3	Extremely limited
2	Intermittent
1	Non-user
0	Test not attempted

Score the reading and listening tests out of 40 and then convert them to the IELTS scale as follows:

Correct answers	Band score
38 - 40	9
31 - 35	8
24 - 30	7
16 - 23	6
11 - 15	5
9 - 10	4
6 - 8	3
3 - 5	2
1 - 3	1
0	0

The writing and speaking tests are marked according to the four criteria outlined in the Teacher's book and provided as a PDF in the test centre, along with the answer keys and audio scripts. These four criteria are equally weighted, i.e. they make up 25% each of the total score for each skill.

## Placing students

The tests are provided in two packages:

- Beginner/Elementary/Pre-int for testing the reading, listening, writing and speaking skills of students whom teachers expect to fall into the pre-intermediate and below levels of the Life programme. The language and tasks have been graded to be accessible to these lower-level students, and the test is therefore at a lower level than a typical IELTS test.
- Intermediate/Upper Intermediate/Advanced for testing the reading, listening, writing and speaking skills of students whom teachers expect to fall into the intermediate and above levels of the Life programme.

Select the test you expect to be appropriate for the student. Once you have the average band score for the student across the skills tests you have assigned, you can select the appropriate level of *Life* for the student to follow.

IELTS Band Score	Life Level
9	Pre-int./Advanced
8	Pre-int./Advanced
7	Pre-int./Advanced
6	Elementary/Upper Int.
5	Elementary/Upper Int.
4	Elementary/Upper Int.
3	Beginner/Intermediate
2	Beginner/Intermediate
1	Beginner/Intermediate
0	Beginner/Intermediate