

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

ACADEMIC IELTS PREPARATION 2010

Course intensity

Minimum enrolment term: four-weeks (15 hours/20 x 45 minute lessons per week)

Minimum age: 17

Maximum class size: 12 students

Level: Good intermediate

Course type

A special preparation course for the Academic IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam, focusing on weaker areas of students' English, building academic vocabulary and developing the skills and confidence needed to take and pass the exam.

The Test

The Academic test is for those who want to study or train in an English-speaking university or Institutions of Higher and Further Education. Admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses is based on the results of the Academic test. IELTS results are graded on the unique IELTS 9-band scale from non-user (0) to expert user (9).

The test is made up of four parts – Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

Reading Test

Time: 60 minutes

Three passages on general interest topics from journals, magazines, books and newspapers with 40 questions.

Writing Test

Time: 60 minutes

Task 1 - A descriptive report based on some graphic or pictorial information (at least 150 words).

Task 2 - A written argument on a given topic, giving some examples to support the main points (at least 250 words).

Listening Test

Time: 30 minutes

Four sections, in order of increasing difficulty, dialogue or monologue. The test is played once only, and the questions for each section must be answered while listening, although time is given for students to check their answers.

Speaking Test

Time: 11 to 14 minutes

Task 1 - Simple 'getting-to-know-you' questions, eg about your family, where you come from and what your interests are.

Task 2 – Speaking for between 1 and 2 minutes on a set topic based on information on a card provided by the examiner. Candidates are allowed one minute to prepare.

Task 3 - A discussion with the examiner based on the topic in Part 2.

Course aims and objectives

This course aims to provide students who are aiming to achieve a good score in an Academic IELTS exam, with the skills required to approach each individual paper and with small group support to improve their weaker areas of English before the exam, and to build their academic vocabulary. This course runs for 4 weeks in the afternoon and can be taken as a stand-alone course, or as an addition to a morning General English course.

The course uses past papers to give students practice in tackling the exam format and teachers will advise on exam techniques, in addition to working on grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary (both general and academic) in relation to class needs. All skills will be practised throughout the course, both through coursebook activities and through past papers given under exam conditions.

In order to enrol on this course, participants should complete a pre-test at the appropriate level, to confirm that they have the appropriate standard of English to be able to study for the exam. An EAC Certificate will be awarded to students who complete the course.

Course Content

The course will be teacher-led, with a focus on class needs.

Course materials

The course will be based on an up-to-date IELTS coursebook and supplemented by other IELTS material, such as past papers and online practice activities. All course materials are provided. Course participants will be expected to buy an A4 ring-binder file.

Example timetable – week one

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14.00-15.30	Introductions and welcome to the course	Listening techniques	Key words, discourse markers and associated activities	Familiarisation with websites for self-study	Approaching the Reading paper
15.30-16.00	B R E A K				
16.00-17.30	Familiarisation with the test format and any specific class needs.	Listening past paper, correction and feedback	Writing practice activity using discourse markers	Computer based activities	Reading techniques and setting weekend homework

Leisure time

Course participants will have the opportunity to join in with the social programme that may be organised for students at the school during their stay.