

An introduction to IELTS preparation resources for candidates

Objective

To ensure test takers are aware of a range of IELTS prep materials developed and published by ClarityEnglish and the British Council. Target resources are:

- IELTS Study Guides (sign up at www.ieltspractice.com)
- IELTS [blog](#)
- Road to IELTS [Facebook page](#)
- [Road to IELTS](#)

This session works well in an institution which is using Road to IELTS. It lasts 30 – 45 minutes.

Method

1. Put students in pairs. Hand out the Quiz. Give them five minutes to answer the questions.
2. Feedback. Start with the last question: "Tell me two different ways you are preparing for the IELTS test". Students report to the group.
3. Then give them an **overview of the free resources**:
 - a The (free) Study Guides are full of useful FAQs, e.g. the answer to qn 3 in the Quiz (What should you do if you can't hear the audio?) is in the Listening Study Guide. Encourage them to sign up.
 - b The blog includes a wealth of posts on IELTS prep. Starting from the Home page, show how to navigate straight to each skills page: Reading, Writing, Speaking or Listening.
 - c The Road to IELTS Facebook page provides sample questions, candidate and teacher tips etc.
4. Then show them how to access Road to IELTS in their institution. Explain how it works, focusing on:
Starting out (eBooks introduce task types and explain what the examiner is looking for)
Advice videos from British Council experts
Practice zone (with more than 350 focused activities)
Test practice (nine full mock tests in each of Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking Part 2. Note that they can try out the Reading, Listening and Writing on paper or on computer.)
5. End by displaying a sample Speaking Part 2 practice test. Tell them that they will have one minute to prepare. Then click into the test card (with the audio switched on). Ask them to practice giving the talk with their partner. If time allows you can ask for volunteers to give their talk to the group.
6. Finally, go through any outstanding questions from the Quiz.

Quiz answers: (1) 40 each (2) 150 / 250 (3) Put up your hand and tell the invigilator (4) 1 min (5) 3 / No. 3 (6) Put up your hand to ask (7) False (8) Try a Practice Test and put your result into the IELTS Score Calculator

How well do you know the IELTS test? Answer the questions below.

1. How many questions are there in the Listening and Reading tests?

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2. How many words should you write in each of the Writing tasks?

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3. What should you do if you can't hear the Listening audio?

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4. How long do you have to prepare your short talk in the Speaking test?

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5. How many Reading texts are there? Which is the most difficult?

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6. If you need to go to the bathroom, what should you do?

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7. Bringing your own general knowledge into Writing Task 1 is a good way of getting more marks.
True or false?

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8. How can you find out your current Reading and Listening band score level, right now?

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Now write TWO different ways you are preparing for the IELTS test and ONE thing you are worried about.

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