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IELTS: Putting People First

QS Latin American University Rankings Launch

www.ielts.org

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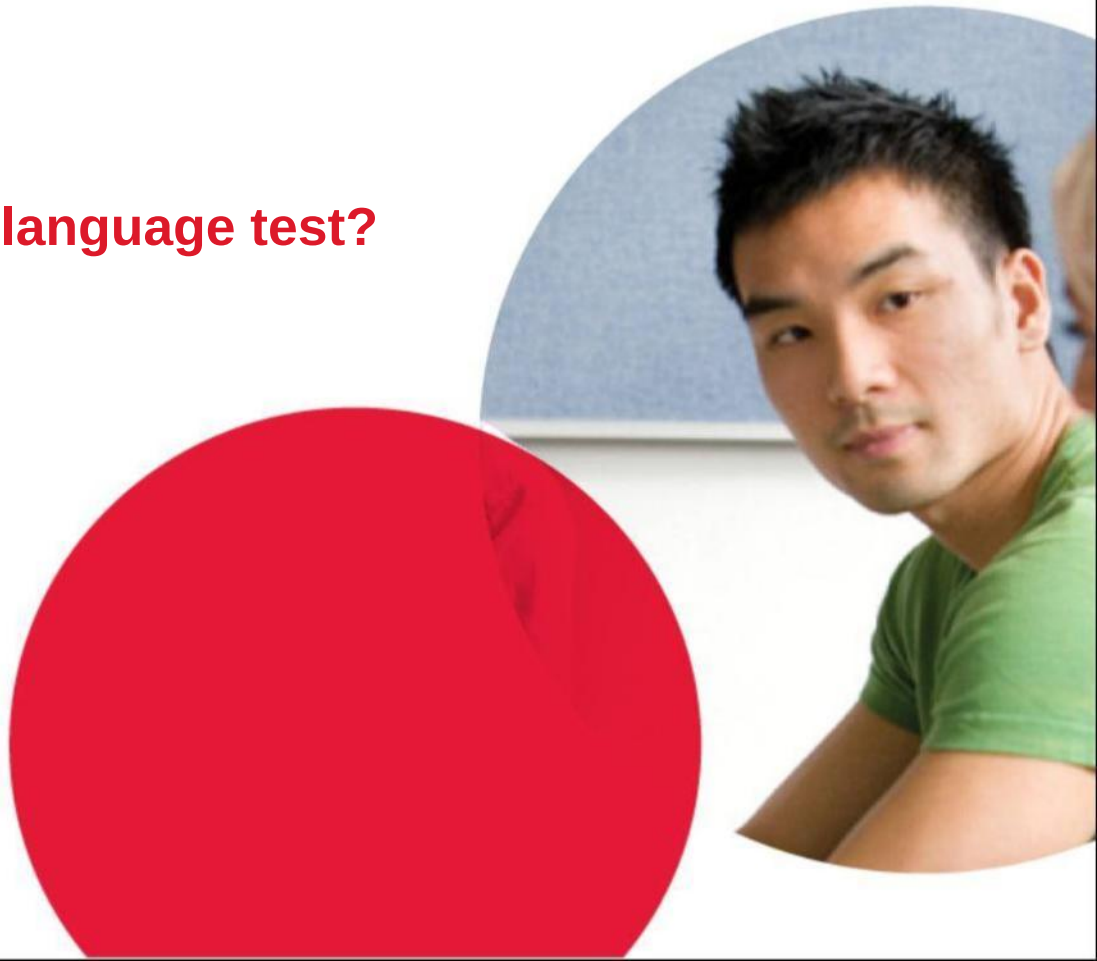
Today:

- What is IELTS?
- Test Format
- What makes a good English language test?
- Results & scoring
- Increasing popularity



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What is IELTS?

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A test of English as an international language designed...

- *to assess the English language ability of non-native speakers* who intend to study at undergraduate, graduate and professional schools where English is the language of communication.
  - Also used for professional certification, work and immigration.
- *to test communicative language proficiency*
- *as a 4-skills test* including listening, reading, writing, and a live, face-to-face speaking test performed by a trained, certified and monitored ESL professional

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What is IELTS?

- The ‘International English Language Testing System’
- Jointly managed by 3 partners:

BRITISH COUNCIL

idp IELTS AUSTRALIA

UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE ESOL Examinations

- Experts in English language testing internationally

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Test format

Total test time

2 hours 44 minutes

Academic Module

Listening
30 minutes,
4 sections, 40 items

Reading
60 minutes,
3 sections, 40 items

Writing
60 minutes, 2 tasks

Speaking
11 - 14 minutes,
3 parts

General Training Module

Listening
30 minutes,
4 sections, 40 items

Reading
60 minutes,
3 sections, 40 items

Writing
60 minutes, 2 tasks

Speaking
11 - 14 minutes,
3 parts

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What are the characteristics of a good English language proficiency test?

- Validity (content and construct)
- Reliability
- Impact (stakeholders, test takers)
- Practicality

Test qualities

Validity	Reliability
the extent to which scores can be considered a true reflection of underlying ability	*the extent to which test results are consistent and accurate, and therefore dependable*
Impact	**Practicality**
the effect which a test has on stakeholders	*the extent to which a test is practicable in terms of resources needed, sustainability of format, replicability of tasks …etc.*

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Validity

- Ongoing research and continuing development – one of the world's most researched tests (see *Research Notes*)

- Test content matched to test taker and stakeholder needs
    - Task-based items using multiple task types (geared to learning and test taking styles)
    - Integrated skills
    - Face-to-face speaking
    - Pen and paper delivery

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Reliability

- Standardised Speaking test delivery
- Professional Support Network (PSN)
  - Recruitment
  - Training and Certification
  - Monitoring
  - Standardisation and Recertification
- Targeted Sample Monitoring
- Double-marking
- Enquiry on Results

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Examiners: the people behind the world's best test

- Rigorous selection
- Training—intensive, 4-day, face-to-face training
- Certification—conducted under examination conditions and all certification attempts are forwarded to test delivery partners for assessment.
- Technology is used to process results
- Monitoring—consistent, on-going monitoring to ensure continuous accuracy and procedures

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Impact

- Over 6,000 institutions worldwide accept IELTS scores
- The top 25 US universities taking foreign students accept IELTS scores
  - **The preferred test of some US schools:**

"I think the environment for the test is a little more comfortable for people because there is the person-to-person. We feel it is reliable, it's valid, and they're very responsive to our needs."

Dr. Kristin Williams

Assistant Vice President for Graduate and Special Enrollment Management ,The George Washington University

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Practicality

- 48 test dates annually – Saturdays and Thursdays
- Registrations accepted close to test day
- Results available in 13 calendar days
- Special needs candidates
- “Enquiry on Results”
- Security

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- **IELTS result**

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How is IELTS Scored? Band Scores

IELTS uses a 9-point scoring system to measure and report test scores (See www.ielts.org and *Guide*)

9	Expert User
8	***Very Good User***
7	***Good User***
6	***Competent User***
5	***Modest User***
4	Limited User
3	Extremely Limited User
2	Intermittent User
1	Non User
0	Did Not Attempt the Test

Most frequently used scores for US admissions

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Overall Band Scores accepted by most US institutions

8	Very good user	Has fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.
7	Good user	Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.
6	Competent user	Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
5	Modest user	Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field.

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Test results notification

Test takers receive one personal copy of the Test Report Form (TRF)

Five additional copies can be sent for the original fee by mail, messenger service or electronically directly from test centres to institutions

- Additional copies can sent for a small administration fee up to two years following the test date

Never accept a test taker's personal copy or a copy/fax/unofficial copy of a TRF

TRFs are available up to two years following the test date

On-line TRF Verification Service (TRFVS)

- Log in at www.ielts.org/TRF and click on “TRF Query”
- Sign up online or pick up the TRFVS brochure

Centre Number:	10294
Centre Name:	International House, London
Candidate Number:	001234
Candidate ID:	A1234
Family Name:	Moulding
First Name:	Carly
Date of Birth:	1980-01-01
Sex (M/F):	F
Repeating IELTS:	N
Previous Test Date:	
Previous Test Centre:	

Test Results	**Overall Band 6.5** Band Scores Explained

Date of Examination:	2007-08-16
TRF Number:	0710001234SAMJ294A
Listening	Band 7.5
Reading	Band 5.5
Writing	Band 6.5
Speaking	Band 6.5

Test Report Form Verification Service (TRFVS)

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No match found?

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English for International Opportunity

TRF Results Details:

Logout

- Home
- TRF Query
- Manage My RO Users
- Update My Profile
- FAQs
- IELTS.org

No Match Found

No match was found for the Test Report Form (TRF) number which you entered. Please enter the TRF Number again. Be very careful to make sure that you enter the correct details from the TRF.

If you are certain that you have entered the TRF number correctly and there is still no match, then currently the system is unable to provide verification for this TRF. Please contact IELTS TRF Verification to confirm the result.

Please provide the following information in the email: Test Report Form Number, centre number, name of candidate, candidate number, ID/passport number, test scores and date of test.

Please note, we will be unable to verify a result that you cannot find on the site that is more than two years old. More information regarding this can be found in the Information for Candidates Booklet located on www.ielts.org

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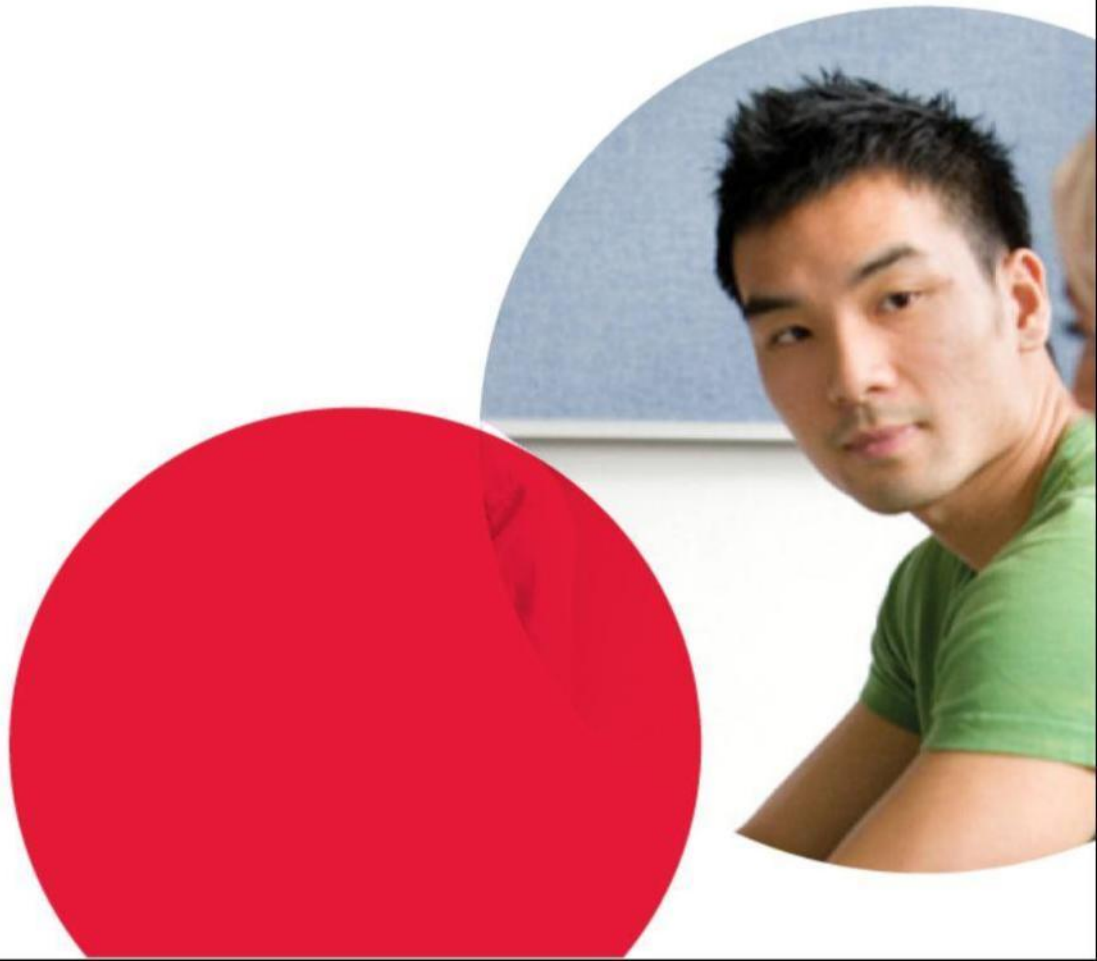
Increased popularity



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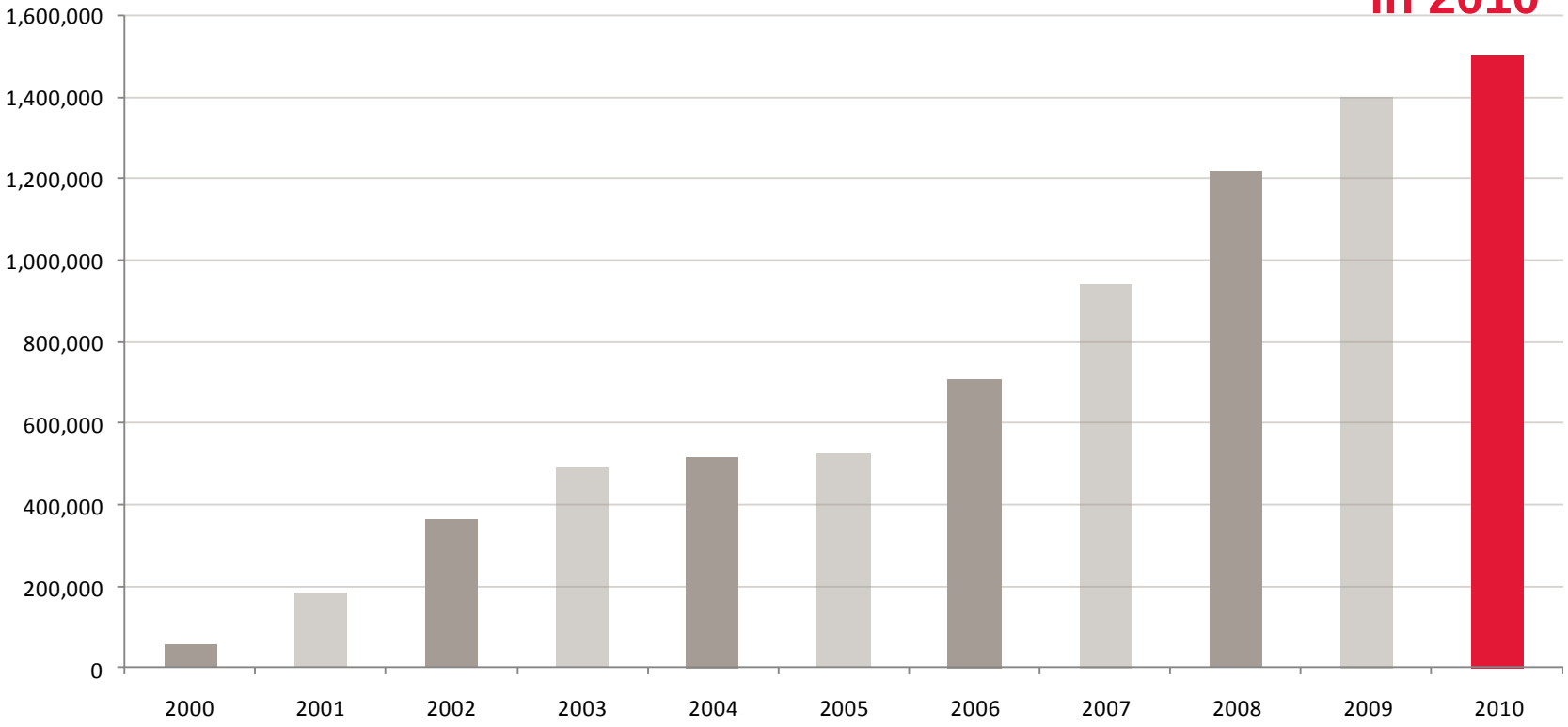
Increasing popularity of IELTS

1.5 million tests taken in 2010



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Thank you, and please contact us
We want to hear from you!

Stephen Carey: stephen.carey@britishcouncil.org

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