

IELTS™

**Computer-Delivered
IELTS**



Computer-delivered IELTS tests

- ❖ **Why?**
- ❖ **How and where?**
- ❖ **Key messages**
- ❖ **FAQs**
- ❖ **Computer-delivered v Paper-based:
similarities and differences**
- ❖ **Useful sites**

Why?

Convenience

- **more frequent test availability**
- **quicker results**
- **later registration**

Test Format: paper-based or computer-delivered

Listening

30 minutes, 4 sections, 40 items

Academic Reading

60 minutes, 3 sections, 40 items

General Training Reading

60 minutes, 3 sections, 40 items

Academic Writing

60 minutes, 2 tasks

General Training Writing

60 minutes, 2 tasks

Speaking

11 - 14 minutes, 3 parts

Key points

- There is **no** difference in the content of the tests.
- There is **no** difference in the value of the results – e.g. a 6.5 is the same whether the test was paper-based or computer-delivered.
- Test takers will be able to **choose** between which mode of delivery they want where both are available.

Some FAQs

1 Do test takers need to have computer skills to take computer-delivered IELTS?

No specific computer skills are needed but it helps if test takers feel confident using a keyboard and can type quite quickly. They should also be aware of the 'Cut', 'Copy' and 'Paste' shortcut functions (i.e. Ctrl X = cut, Ctrl C = copy, Ctrl + V = paste).

2 Can computer-delivered IELTS be taken at home and/or using a test taker's own computer?

No. All IELTS tests are taken at an official test centre, as IELTS remains a high-stakes, secure English language test. Computer-delivered IELTS is taken on computers provided by the test centre.

3 Can test takers select the keyboard language, for example 'QWERTY' or 'AZERTY'?

The default keyboard will be the QWERTY format.

4 Is the speaking test done on a computer?

No, the Speaking test is not changing. It remains a one-to-one, face-to-face interview with a trained IELTS Examiner.

The Listening Test – key points

Paper-based

30 mins + 10 mins to transfer answers

Can make notes on test paper

Can write answers in capital letters

Some centres use headphones, others use speakers

Computer-delivered

30 mins answers typed directly onto test paper. Can be checked and changed anytime. 2 mins at end of test for further changes

Given scrap paper to make notes but can also write ideas in answer boxes and then change them

Can write answers in capital letters

All centres use headphones

The screenshot shows a listening practice interface for IELTS Part 2. At the top, it says "Part 2" and "Listen and answer questions 11 - 20". Below this, "Questions 11 - 15" are listed with the instruction: "Who is responsible for each area? Choose the correct answer and move it into the gap." There are two columns: "People" and "Staff Responsibilities".

People	Staff Responsibilities
Mary Brown	Finance
John Stevens	Food
Alison Jones	Health
Tim Smith	Host/ Counselling
Jerry James	Organisation
	Rooms
	Sport
	Trips

Below this, "Questions 16 - 20" are listed with the instruction: "The map has five gaps. Choose the correct answer and move it into the gap." A partial floor plan is visible with a "Staff Lounge" and a gap labeled "16". To the right, a "List of Rooms" includes "Cookery Room".

At the bottom, a navigation bar shows question numbers for Part 1, Part 2 (11-20), Part 3, and Part 4. The "11" button is highlighted.

The Reading Test – key points

Paper-based

Computer-delivered

Clock visible in room, TDS will announce time left at 40, 20, 10 and 5 mins before end of test

There is a test booklet and separate answer sheet

Clock on computer screen. It will flash red at 10 and 5 mins before the end of test

The text appears on the left of the screen, the questions and boxes for answers on the right.

The Reading Test – key points cont.

Paper-based

Computer-delivered

To change answers use an eraser

To change answers:

- ♦ m/c - just click on new answer
- ♦ drag & drop - just drag new answer into box
- ♦ written answer - just delete answer

Highlighting

Part 1

Read the text below and answer questions 1 – 12.

The life and work of Marie Curie

Marie Curie is probably the most famous woman scientist who has ever lived. Born Maria Sklodowska in Poland in 1867, she is famous for her work on radioactivity, and was twice a winner of the Nobel Prize. With her husband, Pierre Curie, and Henri Becquerel, she was awarded the 1903 Nobel Prize for Physics, and was then sole winner of the 1911 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

From childhood, Marie was remarkable for her prodigious memory, and at the age of 10 won a gold medal on completion of her secondary education. Because her father lost his savings through bad investment, she then had to take work as a teacher. From her earnings she was able to finance her sister Bronia's medical studies in Paris, on the understanding that Bronia would, in turn, later help her to get an education.

In 1891 this promise was fulfilled and Marie went to Paris and began to study at the Sorbonne (the University of Paris). She often worked far into the night and lived on little more than bread and butter and tea. She came first in the examination in the physical sciences in 1893, and in 1894 was placed second in the examination in mathematical sciences. It was not until the spring of that year that she was introduced to Pierre Curie.

Their marriage in 1895 marked the start of a partnership that was soon to achieve results of world significance. Following Henri Becquerel's discovery in 1896 of a new phenomenon, which Marie later called radioactivity, Marie Curie decided to find out if the radioactivity discovered in uranium was to be found in other elements. She discovered that this was true for Bismuth.

Turning her attention to minerals, she found her interest drawn to pitchblende, a mineral whose radioactivity, superior to that of pure uranium, could be explained only by the presence in it of small quantities of an unknown substance of very high activity. Pierre Curie joined her in the work that she had undertaken to resolve the problem, and that led to the discovery of the new elements, polonium and radium. When Pierre Curie devoted himself chiefly to the physical study of the new radionuclides, Marie Curie struggled to obtain pure radium in the metallic state. This was achieved with the help of the chemist Andre-Louis Debierne, a close friend of Marie Curie's.

Questions 1 – 4
Choose **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information given in the text, choose **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information, or choose **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this.

- Marie Curie's husband was a joint winner of both Marie's Nobel Prizes.
 - TRUE
 - FALSE
 - NOT GIVEN
- Marie became interested in science when she was a child.
- Marie was able to attend the Sorbonne because of her sister's financial contribution.
- Marie stopped doing research for several years when her children were born.
- Marie took over the teaching position her husband had held.
- Marie's sister Bronia studied the medical uses of radioactivity.

Questions 7 – 12
Complete the notes. Write **ONE WORD** from the text in each gap.

Marie Curie's research on radioactivity

- When uranium was discovered to be radioactive, Marie Curie found that the element called **7** had the same property.
- Marie and Pierre Curie's research into the radioactivity of the mineral iron

Part 1: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 Part 2: 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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The Writing Test – key points

Paper-based

Computer-delivered

There is a test booklet and two answer sheets

Questions are on screen and answers are typed

Test takers need to estimate how many lines they need to reach the word count

The word count appears on screen

Put a line through things that need changing. Write correction above

Just delete and re-write

Part 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task. Write at least 150 words.

The table below gives information about the underground railway systems in six cities.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Underground Railway Systems

City	Date opened	Kilometres of route	Passengers per year (in millions)
London	1863	204	771
Paris	1900	198	1191
Tokyo	1927	135	1627
Washington DC	1976	126	144
Kyoto	1981	11	45
Los Angeles	2001	24	80

Word count: 7

Part 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task. Write at least 250 words.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think that a sense of competition in children should be encouraged. Others believe that children who are taught to co-operate rather than compete become more useful adults.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Word count: 364

IELTS™

IELTS Preparation Support

Visit IELTS website takeielts.org for various support materials including free practice tests.

When you register for an IELTS test with British Council, you will be free to enjoy access to a set of these materials. Available support materials are listed here:



Free computer-delivered familiarisation test



Road to IELTS - downloadable practice tests, interactive activities, hints and tips on question types



IELTS online preparation course - 3 to 6 weeks course



IELTS Prep App - gives you instant access to free practice tests, grammar tips, exercises, quizzes and more.

IELTS Word Power
British Council



IELTS Word Power App and **WordReady** focus on vocabulary

takeielts.org/teachielts