SYLLABUS
IELTS Academic Test Preparation

COURSE SUMMARY

The IELTSx course aims to provide students with the knowledge and practical skills required to successfully prepare to take the IELTS Academic Tests. IELTS, which stands for International English Language Testing System, is a globally-recognised test of English language proficiency. It is a popular choice for students wishing to study at a university in an English-speaking country. This course will prepare you to take the IELTS Academic Tests with confidence. It has been developed by a team of highly-qualified and experienced language educators from the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education at The University of Queensland (ICTE-UQ), an IELTS test centre and one of the world's leading centres of learning.

The IELTSx course offers a comprehensive introduction to the IELTS test, with over 80 hours of interactive practice materials. Like the test itself, course content is organised into the four main skill areas: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing. Each section of this course includes engaging multimedia presentations reviewing key test-taking skills, strategies and techniques. In each of the four test areas, course participants will be given information about the format of the test, as well as advice about the skills and strategies that will be useful when taking the test. Interactive practice activities are provided so that participants can practise those skills and strategies in order to feel better prepared for the IELTS tests. Realistic IELTS-style practice test materials give course participants the chance to test their skills and get a taste of what it is like to take the IELTS tests. The course features an extensive bank of video and audio resources which are used to support the learning program.

As the course is self-paced, you can complete all of the course units in sequence, or only select the areas you want to focus on to prepare for the IELTS Academic tests. In completing this course, you should feel more prepared to take the IELTS Academic tests.

Students who select Verified enrolment in this course will have access to additional materials provided by the IELTSx course team.
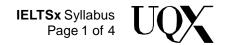
TIME PER WEEK
5-10 hours per week

COURSE DURATION
8 weeks

COURSE TEAM
Iain Mathieson (Course Team Lead)
Martin Dutton (Listening)
Megan Yucel (Reading)
Philippa Coleman (Speaking)
Stephen Walker (Writing)

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

UQX

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course you will:
- learn about the IELTS test procedure and format
- learn useful test-taking strategies and skills for the IELTS Academic Tests
- develop your reading, writing, listening and speaking English skills

COURSE OUTLINE

LISTENING

- Facts about the Listening Test
- What the Listening Test Assesses
- Listening for the Main Idea and Factual Information
- Understanding Speakers' Agreement, Responses and Attitudes
- Following Academic Explanation

- Listening Strategies
- Before Listening: Using Audio Instructions and Predicting
- While Listening: Being Ready to Hear and Listening While Reading
- After Listening: Checking and Transferring Answers

- Conversation – Section 1
- Multiple Choice Questions
- Skills: Listening for Synonyms of Keywords
- Form Completion
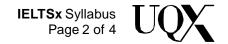- Skills: Predicting the Type of Answer
- Skills: Listening for Numbers

- Matching
- Skills: Identifying Paraphrases

- Talk - Section 2
- Short Answer Questions
- Skills: Understanding the Question
- Labelling a Diagram, Plan or Map
- Skills: Following the Speaker
- Table Completion
- Skills: Money, Numbers and 's'

- Academic Discussion - Section 3
- Sentence Completion
- Classification
- Skills: Recognising Speakers, Opinion and Attitude

- Academic Monologue - Section 4
- Notes Completion
- Listening for Signpost Language

SPEAKING

- Facts about the Speaking Test

- The Interview - Part 1
- Part 1: The Introduction
- Focus on Grammar: Likes and Dislikes
- Focus on Fluency: Extending Your Answer
- Focus on Vocabulary: Showing Range
- Focus on Pronunciation: Essential Aspects

- The Individual Long Turn - Part 2
- Making Notes

- Beginning Your Talk
- Saying More
- Ending Your Talk

- The Discussion - Part 3
- Focus on Fluency: Extending Your Answers
- Focus on Vocabulary: Discussion Topics
- Focus on Grammar: Past, Present, Future
- Focus on Grammar: Comparison
- Focus on Pronunciation: Clarity

READING

- Facts About the Reading Test
- What the Reading Test Assesses
- Distinguishing between Fact and Opinion
- Spelling and Grammar
- Distinguishing Main Ideas from Supporting Details

- Reading Skills and Strategies
- Skimming and Scanning
- Identifying Paraphrase
- Identifying Reference

- Short Answer Questions
- Sentence Completion
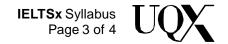
- Headings
- Global Multiple Choice Questions

- Locating Information
- Multiple Choice

- Labelling and Noting
- Labelling a Diagram
- Summary Tasks: Notes/Table/Flow Chart Completion

- Identifying Information, Views, and Claims
- True, False, Not Given
- Yes, No, Not Given

- Classification
- Matching

WRITING

- Facts about the Writing Test

- Task 1 – The Opening
- Introduction to Writing Task 1: Visuals
- Understanding Task 1 Questions
- Introducing the Topic
- Analysing and Describing Key Features
- The Overview
- Assessing Task 1

- Task 1 – The Data Description
- Focus on Language: Describing Data
- Skills Focus: Grouping Information
- Skills Focus: Ordering Paragraphs

- Introduction to Writing Task 2
- Getting Started: Analysing Questions

- Essay Structure
- Essay Task Types
- Assessing the Essay
- Brainstorming and Planning Your Essay

- Task 2 – The Introduction, Body and Conclusion
- Paragraph Structure
- Writing the Introduction
- Grammar Focus: Complex Sentences
- Constructing an Argument
- Cohesion and Coherence
- Writing the Conclusion

- Proofreading My Essay

ASSESSMENT

Opportunities for formative assessment are offered throughout the course, for students to gain feedback on completed tasks and evaluate their ability to use the recommended skills and strategies. These practice tasks are accompanied by feedback tools such as answer keys, advice on wrong answers, and self-evaluation checklists.

As this is a preparation course, we recommend that participants should take a real IELTS test when they feel ready to do so, so that they can receive an IELTS score and gain further information about their English language proficiency.

ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS

As this is an online course, you will need a device with an Internet connection. This course is best viewed with the latest version of common browsers. The edX platform is routinely tested and verified on the current version and the previous version of each of these browsers. We generally encourage the use of, and fully support only, the latest version.

All video materials in this course come with a transcript. Listening practice materials are also accompanied by a transcript. Where possible, images are accompanied by descriptive text.

To get the maximum benefit from IELTSx, we also recommend that you have headphones or speakers, and a microphone.