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IELTS General Training Reading Test

The General Training Reading test is 60 minutes long

There are three sections of increasing difficulty.

Section 1 may contain two or three short texts or several shorter texts. Topics are texts that a person would need to understand when living everyday life in an English speaking country. You will need to pick out important information (from notices, advertisements and timetables.)

Section 2 contains two texts focussing on work related issues (job descriptions, company pay and conditions, workplace policy)

Section 3 is generally descriptive (containing detailed information) and instructive (telling you how to do something). This Section 3 text is longer and more complex than the texts in Sections 1 and 2.

- ✂ 3 sections (total text length is 2150-2750 words)
- ✂ 40 questions
- ✂ each correct answer receives 1 mark
- ✂ final score is given as a band score from 1–9 in whole or half bands (5, 6.5)

Question Types and Practice

Multiple Choice

The answers are in the same order as the information in the text (the answer to the first question will be before the answer to the second question and so on)

tests many reading skills including detailed understanding of specific points or general understanding of the main points of the text

[Click here for General Training Reading Multiple Choice Sample Task](#)

Identifying writer's views/claims (Yes/No/Not given)

You are given a number of statements and asked

Do the following statements agree with the views (claims) of the writer?

You have to choose True if the statement supports the writers claim, False if the statement contradicts the writers claim and Not Given if the statement neither agrees nor contradicts the writers view/claim.

tests your ability to recognise opinions or ideas



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Identifying Information (T/F/NG)

You are given a number of statements and asked

Do the following statements agree with the information in the text?

You have to choose True (the information in the statement agrees with the text), False (the information in the statement contradicts the information in the text) or Not Given (the information in the statement neither agrees with nor contradicts the information in the text).

tests your ability to recognise specific information given in the text

[Click here for General Training Reading T/F/NG Sample Task](#)

Matching Headings

There is a list of headings identified by Roman numerals (i, ii, iii) summarising the main idea of a paragraph or text. You must match the heading to the correct paragraph or section (identified by letters A, B, C...). There will always be more headings than paragraphs or sections—so some headings will not be used or some of the paragraphs or sections may not be included in the task. No heading can be used more than once.

recognising the general topic of a paragraph and the difference between a main idea and a supporting idea

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Matching Sentence Endings

You are given the first half of a sentence based on information given in the text and you have to choose the best way to complete the sentence by choosing from a list of possible endings (identified by A, B, C) there will be more sentence endings than beginnings, so you will not use all of them. The sentence beginnings are in the same order as the information in the text

tests your ability to understand the main ideas in a text

Sentence Completion

You have to fill in a gap in each sentence by choosing words from the text. Read the instructions carefully as the number of words/numbers you can use to fill the gaps may change. You will lose the mark for writing more than the word limit.

Complete the sentences below. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text for each answer.

12 The dance outside the hive points in the direction of the.....

12 food source

12 main food source

(only the first 2 words will be counted)

Contracted words (can't) will not be tested. Hyphenated words such as left-handed will count as single words. The questions are in the same order as the information in the text.

tests your ability to find detail/specific information in a text

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Summary/note/table/flow chart completion

You are given a summary of a part of the text, and have to complete it using words from the text and could be in the form of: a summary of text, several notes, a table with some parts of it left empty or partially empty or a series of boxes or steps linked by arrows to show the order of events, with some of the boxes or steps empty or partially empty

The answers may not come in the same order as in the text. However, they will usually come from one part of the text rather than the whole text.

tests your ability to understand details and/or the main ideas of a part of the text. When completing this type of question, you will need to think about the type of word(s) that will fit into a gap--for example, whether a noun is needed, or a verb...

[Click here for General Training Reading Flow Chart Completion Sample Task](#)

Matching Features

Match a set of statements or pieces of information to a list of options, the options are features from the text and the letters (A, B, C) are used to identify them. It is possible that some options will not be used and others may be used more than once (when this is possible, the instructions will say-you may use any option more than once)

skimming and scanning to find the information quickly so that you can choose the part you want to focus on to read for detail

[Click here for General Training Reading Matching Information Sample Task](#)

[Click here for General Training Reading Matching Features Sample Task](#)



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Short Answer Questions

Answer questions about factual details in the text. You must write your answers in words or numbers on the answer sheet.

Answers must be taken from words in the text.

tests your ability to find and understand specific information in the text

[Click here for General Training Reading Short Answer Sample Task](#)

Diagram Label Completion

Complete the labels on a diagram based on a description given in the text. The diagram may be a type of machine, part of a building or of other information in the text that can be shown through pictures. Write the words that fit into the gap on the answer sheet.

The answers may not come in the same order as in the text. However, they will usually come from one part of the text rather than the whole text.

tests your ability to understand a detailed description in the text, and then relate that description to information given in a diagram

[Click here for Full General Training Reading Practice Test with Answers](#)