



Specialist Language Courses



IELTS and OET

What's the difference and how to achieve a high score

Chris Moore
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Specialist Language Courses

- ✓ Founded 2012
- ✓ Publish online IELTS and OET subscription courses used by learners around the world
- ✓ First accredited OET Premium Preparation Provider in Europe
- ✓ Teachers include ex IELTS examiners, OET test writers, and highly experienced exam teachers
- ✓ Provide multiple online IELTS and OET preparation courses to Hong Kong (BNO) communities across the UK – East of England, Yorkshire, West Midlands

The similarities



- ✓ 4 papers – Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking
- ✓ Takes place on 1 day in an authorised test centre
- ✓ No pass / fail – you get scores or bands*
- ✓ Part-owned by Cambridge Assessment
- ✓ Not easy!

Achievement levels

	CEFR	IELTS	OET
advanced	C2	9	A 450 – 500
	C1	8	B 350 - 440
intermediate	B2	7.5	C+ 300 - 340
		7	
	B1	6.5	C 200 - 290
		6	
basic	A2	5.5	D 100 - 190
		5	
	A1	4.5	
		4	

What is IELTS?



3 versions

Academic

Used by universities worldwide and many professional regulators, including GMC, NMC, HCPC, Social Work England

General Training

Immigration, some vocational training courses across English-speaking countries

Life Skills

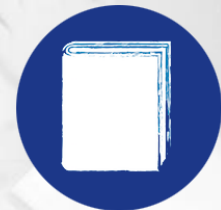
Used by UK Visas and Immigration for different visa application types, including citizenship and indefinite leave to remain – 3 levels (A1, A2, B1) – *pass/fail

Academic IELTS

IELTS is an academic English exam used mostly by universities to see if your English is good enough to join a under- or postgraduate course.



- ✓ **Listening:** 2 x everyday conversations/talks, 2 x academic conversations/lectures
 - 30 minutes, 40 questions, different task types, 1 listening only
- ✓ **Reading:** 3 x articles on academic topics, e.g. science, society, the environment
 - 1 hour, 40 questions, 700-800 words per article, different task types



Academic IELTS



- ✓ **Writing:** (1) 1 report on a set of data (150 words), (2) 1 essay in response to an opinion, argument or problem (250 words)
 - 1 hour, scored on task response, grammar, vocabulary, coherence/cohesion
- ✓ **Speaking:** intro questions, 2-minute presentation on a topic, wide-ranging discussion
 - 11-14 minutes, scored on fluency, coherence, vocabulary, grammar



What is academic English

Academic English

- ✓ Complex – grammar, vocabulary, connecting ideas
- ✓ Formal – style, choice of language
- ✓ Structured – language follows predictable conventions
- ✓ Study-focused – lectures, essays, research articles
- ✓ Wide-ranging topics, from global warming to agriculture to education

Note:

- You have to use a level of language in English that you may never do in your own language
- Thousands of British 'native speakers' would not score band 7 in all 4 papers without significant taught input and strategy training

Here's an example

“Everyone knows that the world needs to find something different from oil to run its cars on.”

VS

“It is generally accepted that mankind urgently requires an alternative fuel source to power vehicles and reduce its dependence on fossil-derived fuel.”

What you need to study

1. Large amounts of vocabulary on a wide range of academic subjects
2. Read and understand many academic texts, lectures and discussions
3. How to write reports on a variety of data
4. How to write different essays, to include complex structures and grammar
5. How to talk about abstract questions and give opinions in detail
6. Key exam techniques and strategies



Common IELTS Subjects

Work and careers
Education
Environmental change
The natural world
Social trends
Weather
Travel and tourism
Home life
Leisure activities, trends
Energy
Money

Health and healthcare systems
Food and eating habits
Media
Books, reading and libraries
Technology
Consumerism
Families and family structures
Urban vs rural living
Migration
Success and happiness
Communication

What is OET?

The OET is a healthcare English test used by healthcare regulators to see if your English is good enough to provide safe and effective care to patients. It tests your Healthcare English knowledge and skills. There are 12 versions:

- Dentistry
- Dietetics
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Radiography
- Speech Pathology
- Veterinary Science

What is OET?

Listening

Reading

Writing

Speaking

Same for the 12 professions

Profession-specific

What is OET?



General healthcare

- ✓ **Listening:** (1) 2 x consultations (2) 6 x workplace conversations
(3) 2 x presentations on healthcare topic – 50 minutes
- ✓ **Reading:** (1) 4 x texts on 1 topic (2) 6 x workplace texts
(3) 2 x general healthcare texts – 1 hour



What is OET?

Profession-specific

- ✓ **Writing:** read a set of medical case notes and then write referral or discharge letter based on the relevant parts – 1 hour
 - Scored on purpose, content, conciseness/clarity, style, organization, language
- ✓ **Speaking:** play your role (e.g. nurse or doctor) in 2 role-plays with interlocutor as patient or family member – 20 minutes
 - Scored on both language and clinical communication



Examples of clinical communication



What you need to study

1. A wide range of healthcare-related and profession-specific language with their everyday equivalents
2. A wide range of clinical communication scenarios, medical texts and talks so you can understand them quickly and answer questions about them
3. How to write a healthcare-related letter at an advanced level
4. How to engage in dialogues with patients and their families
5. Key exam techniques and strategies





How to prepare for the IELTS and OET exams

How to prepare

*Learn about the
format of the exam*

*Learn exam
strategies and
practice using them*

Timed practice

*Improve the
accuracy and range
of your grammar*

*Develop your
vocabulary*

*Improve your
study skills*

Resources to use

*Preparation book or
online study course*

Live lessons

Practice tests

*IELTS and OET
websites*

YouTube

*Websites to improve
your language and skills*

Taking courses

Some things to look out for

- Teacher profiles...
- Course design – does it make sense?
 - paper by paper
 - question by question
 - sections on techniques and strategies
 - practice test questions
- Build exam skills
 - skimming, scanning, finding detail, reading at speed
 - planning – writing, speaking
 - using time effectively
 - Understanding task / instructions

Taking courses

Some more things to look out for

- Build independent study skills
 - developing listening and reading routines
 - recording new language
 - structured writing assignments
 - develop peer support to help each other
- Language development – how targeted is this?
 - introducing ideas, connecting ideas, expressing ideas clearly
 - sequencing, emphasising, exemplifying
- Marking criteria – what are the examiners looking for?
- Does it overpromise – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is

Using practice tests

Get to know the test

Implement exam strategies and skills

Timed practice in exam conditions

Skills building and language development

Understand strengths and weaknesses

Target C1 level – how long to get there?

C1 *“Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.”*

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>

Common European Framework Guided Learning Hours

CEFR Level	Guided Learning Hours
A1: Beginner	90-100
A2: Elementary	180-200
B1: Intermediate	350-400
B2: Upper-Intermediate	500-600
C1: Advanced	700-800
C2: Proficient	1000-1200

Plus!

Exam techniques

- Paper formats
- Question types
- Marking criteria
- Timing
- Preparing for test day

SLC courses



- <https://specialistlanguagecourses.com/ielts-preparation-courses/reach-ielts/>
- <https://specialistlanguagecourses.com/oet-preparation-courses/reach-oet-b-medicine/>
- <https://specialistlanguagecourses.com/oet-preparation-courses/reach-oet-b-nursing/>

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The background of the slide is white and features a pattern of question marks in various shades of gray. Some question marks are large and prominent, while others are smaller and more faded, creating a sense of depth and repetition. The text "Any questions?" is centered in a blue font with a subtle drop shadow.

Any questions?



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Chris Moore



chris@specialistlanguagecourses.com



www.specialistlanguagecourses.com