

8 Week Online IELTS Course from Home English:

For advanced IELTS candidates who need a band 6.5 or above

Lesson times

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am to 12.30pm for 8 consecutive weeks.

Course background

This is an 8-week advanced IELTS course. It is delivered online and is fully interactive - students are expected to take part in all lessons, completing a range of different activities either on their own, in pairs or in small groups. It is NOT a lecture! There will be lots of opportunity to practice and feedback will be provided by your teachers throughout the course. Homework will also be set and marked thoroughly, and this will require an additional 3 to 4 hours of your time per week, on average.

There will be a greater emphasis on Writing Tasks 1 and 2 during the course as these are the papers we find our students want the most help with.

Suitable students

This course is for candidates who are already at upper intermediate level in English (a band 6 approximately) but need to achieve a band 6.5 or above. The majority of students on this course tend to be medical or other professionals or postgraduate university applicants.

What will you need?

To take part in the course, you will need:

- a laptop or tablet with a webcam and microphone (these are often built in with modern devices)
- a reliable internet connection
- a printer so you can print out paper copies of some of the worksheets provided in advance of each class would be useful.

A phone with internet access will not be sufficient.

Course outline

The following course plan may change, depending on the requirements of students in the group. This is only a guide.

Week 1

Writing Task 1

- A look at the marking criteria for Writing Task 1 – achieving a band 7 or above
- Focus on line graphs with a trend (dynamic graphs)
- Breaking down a model report – the importance of a clear paragraph structure
- Writing introductions and overviews
- Vocabulary to describe increases and decreases
- Topic sentence vocabulary

Writing Task 2

- Simplifying the marking criteria – what are examiners really looking for at band 7?
- Improving your vocabulary - a focus on collocations
- Introduction to advantage and disadvantage essays
- Ideas planning and paragraph structure using a model essay
- Linking words and phrases to improve cohesion and coherence

Speaking Task 1

- A brief introduction to this part of the test
- Getting to know you activity in pairs using Speaking Part 1 questions

Reading

- Don't run out of time! An introduction to skimming and scanning skills
- Skills practice - heading matching questions

Week 2

Writing Task 1

- Forming accurate comparative phrases when describing data
- Writing your own comparisons
- Sentence level accuracy when using definite and indefinite articles
- The use of past tense in Task 1

Writing Task 2

- A focus on the environment - input on relevant vocabulary
- Understanding the question
- Writing a perfect Task 2 introduction
- Useful phrases for introductions
- Useful tenses for writing introductions
- Writing your own introductions

Speaking Part 2

- Structuring your answer – paragraphs aren't just for writing!
- Useful vocabulary for speaking – linking phrases
- Practice in pairs

Listening

- Essential pre and post-listening strategies
- Practice of summary completion question types

Week 3

Writing Task 1

- Spotlight on process diagrams
- Analysing sample process diagram reports
- Focus on the passive voice
- Sequential language to provide a structure
- Writing practice with feedback

Writing Task 2

- Problem/solution question types
- Extracting vocabulary and ideas from newspaper and magazine articles
- Planning and sharing ideas
- Structuring an essay of this type
- Topic sentence vocabulary
- Useful language to discuss solutions
- Writing a full essay (homework)

Speaking Part 3

- Useful phrases for Speaking Part 3
- Planning your answers
- Discussions in small groups
- Topic-related vocabulary share
- Recording your Part 3 answers for feedback

Reading

- Putting your skimming and scanning skills into more practice
- Step away from the dictionary! Guessing the meaning of words from the context
- Use of paraphrasing in reading
- True, false, not given questions – introduction and practice

Week 4

Writing Task 1

- Spotlight on map questions
- Structuring your Task 1 answer
- A review of the passive voice, looking at present perfect passive, in particular
- Useful verbs for describing changes in a place
- Putting it all together – writing practice

Writing Task 2

- Discussion essays
- Crime as a topic – ideas and vocabulary
- Planning main and supporting ideas – and sharing them
- Focus on writing body paragraphs
- Linking phrases to introduce main and supporting ideas

Speaking Part 2

- To look at a variety of Part 2 questions to practise deciding on answers quickly
- Checking all parts of question are covered
- To look at strategies for how to continue if you have finished all 4 parts and there is still time left
- Giving feedback to our partners practising a full Part 2 answer

Listening

- A focus on map questions – pre and whilst listening strategies to help
- Listening practice

Week 5

Writing Task 1

- Looking at charts with a future trend
- Don't write about everything! How to select the important information for your report
- Organising information into paragraphs
- Grammar – future tense
- Useful phrases to make predictions

Writing Task 2

- Turning to opinion questions – how do they differ from discussion questions?
- Using a text as a source for vocabulary
- Structuring an opinion essay
- Ideas generation and writing practice
- Using commas effectively

Speaking Part 2

- Descriptive language
- Pair work practice
- Recording answers for feedback

Speaking Part 3

- Helping with fluency
- Writing down answers as practice
- Speed chatting

Week 6

Writing Task 1

- Two diagrams together – where do I start?
- Structuring a report of this type
- Expressing percentages and fractions
- Focus on prepositions in Task 1
- Writing a report (homework)

Writing Task 2

- Planning ideas for different topics – opinion and discussion questions
- Planning in teams – presenting ideas
- Speed writing
- Cohesion – using pronouns, linking phrases and paraphrasing to link ideas and avoid repetition

Listening

- Focus on multiple choice questions
- Prepare for the audio – essential strategies
- Listening practice
- How did we get there? Analysing why certain answers are incorrect
- Use of paraphrase in listening

Reading

- Multiple choice and matching questions
- Time management strategies
- Looking at vocabulary in the reading test

Week 7

Writing Task 1

- More complicated charts and tables
- Selecting the most important information – further practice
- More advanced sentence structures
- Ranking data – essential vocabulary

Writing Task 2

- Education – related questions and vocabulary input
- Discussion on text read for homework
- Using articles correctly
- Writing a conclusion – language used to contrast ideas
- Writing a full essay (homework)

Speaking Parts 1 and 3

- Practice on questions related to education

- Feedback from peers and teacher

Speaking Part 2

- Accuracy practice – the most common grammatical errors
- Time management – the 2 minute feeling

Week 8

Writing Task 1

- Pulling it all together
- Focus on helping students to recognise grammar, vocabulary and to meet the marking criteria for all Task 1 question types

Writing Task 2

- Double question topics – understanding the questions
- Planning and structuring a good answer
- Avoiding generalisations in writing Task 2

Speaking or Listening practice

- Dependent on the requirements of the group

Reading

- Understanding the author’s point of view
- Further practice of question types selected by student group