

Trial Test

(formerly Pretest)



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What is Trial Testing (formerly Pretesting)?

Testing materials before they are used in tests allows us to make certain our tests are accurate and fair. As part of our commitment to quality and fairness, we subject all the materials in our tests to a number of procedures to ensure they are accurate and reliable. One of these quality procedures is Trial Testing.



How can they help teachers and learners?

Trial Tests give learners a chance to practise taking IELTS tests using genuine English questions under test conditions.

After taking the Reading and Listening tests, test takers are given scores. Writing tests are marked by trained Cambridge English Examiners, and test takers receive an indicative Band Score.

This helps learners to know which areas they need most practice in, and gives them experience and confidence in taking tests. For teachers, it helps highlight areas where their learners might need more help.

YOUR TRIAL TEST



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How do they help IELTS?

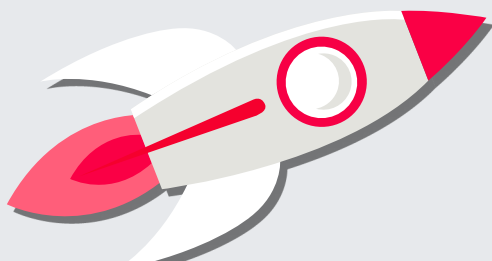
Trial Tests are an essential part of the test production process. Statistical data is obtained for each task, which allows us to construct our tests to a prescribed level of difficulty. Trial Testing also allows us to evaluate the validity and reliability of tasks before they become live content.



When can Trial Tests be taken?

IELTS Trial Tests can be taken within any of the three Trial Testing windows throughout the year and you can administer multiple sittings within a given window. The Trial Test calendar gives the Trial Test dates available for this year as well as information about the length of the Trial Test.

It is advised that test takers take their Trial Test six to eight weeks before their live test. This helps to identify test takers' current English language level and assists in their preparation for the live test. It also means that teachers will get the scores back in time to focus on any particular language areas in need of improvement.



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What else should I know?



1

Trial Tests are marked in Cambridge and scores for all components (Reading, Listening and Writing) are returned to schools within three weeks of receipt of materials.

2

Trial Test administration simulates the real test, so that students not only experience the kind of questions they will face in their live test, but also complete the answer sheets in a 'test-like' environment. We ask for your help in ensuring that as far as possible students take the Trial Tests under test conditions.

3

After the Trial Test, all completed materials must be returned to Cambridge for processing. Once scores are received, all materials must be securely destroyed after the end of the window as materials are strictly confidential and cannot be kept for classroom practice.

4

The number of Trial Tests available may be limited and while we try to supply the requested number of tests it is not always possible to guarantee this. To ensure the fairness of the sample we also restrict the proportion of test takers for each Trial Test from each first language.

5

Please note that Trial Tests are not available for Speaking tests.

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How can we become involved?

To take part in IELTS Trial Testing, your school must either be an active IELTS test centre or have test takers who are preparing for IELTS tests. You can apply to become an IELTS Trial Testing centre by completing the IELTS Trial Testing Request Form on **our website**.

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Testimonials from test centres who have taken part in IELTS Trial Testing

Our students really value the feedback received from Trial Testing as it gives them the confidence while taking the test.

This is an excellent service you provide for learners and is highly appreciated.

Easy and clear instructions made the administration organised and well done.

Previous feedback has reinforced teachers' own assessment of test takers' strengths and weaknesses, who then focus on improving those areas.



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How can I find out more?

You can find more information about the purpose and practice of Trial Testing from our IELTS CentreNet link **website**.

Live centres and approved Trial Test institutions can request Trial Tests online and on the Cambridge English Support site.

For more information on Trial Testing windows, as well as information about the length of Trial Tests, see the **Trial Testing Window page on CentreNet** and on the Cambridge English Support site.

If you have any further questions about participation in IELTS Trial Testing, please contact us:

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