

Course Description: IELTS Exam Preparation

Who is this course for?

This programme is for students over the age of 16 and is suitable for students who wish to prepare for an internationally recognised IELTS Test.

The lessons cover both examination skills and techniques and work on improving all aspects of the students' English: speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

There are 28 lessons (21 hours) of classes. The IELTS Exam Preparation course is normally combined with General English classes.

What level are the classes?

IELTS Preparation classes are for students between Intermediate (CEFR B1) and Advanced (CEFR C1).

Intermediate (CEFR Independent User B1) Can communicate effectively in most situations but may still have problems with accuracy, fluency, appropriacy and organisation. Sometimes has to work hard to communicate effectively.

Upper Intermediate (CEFR Independent User B2) Can communicate effectively in most situations. May still have problems with accuracy, fluency, appropriacy and organisation but usually can easily re-phrase in order to be understood.

Advanced (CEFR Proficient User C1) Can communicate effectively in all but the most difficult situations. May still have some problems with accuracy, fluency, appropriacy and organisation but these only interfere with communication at a more sophisticated level.

Students' levels will be assessed prior to entry onto the course and only those students who

are ready for IELTS Exam Preparation classes will be admitted.

Course Objectives

The primary objective of the course is to help students to achieve a good result in the IELTS Test. This is done by:

1. Training students in the skills and techniques they will need to perform well in the different parts of the exam
2. Helping students to improve the level of their English through a combination of language input and practice activities in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing

Our courses aim to increase students' understanding of and sensitivity towards other cultures.

They also aim to help students develop the study skills that will enable them to continue to learn English after their course as part of a broader educational process that equips students for lifelong learning.

Teaching Methods:

Examination skills practice involves looking at all the tasks in the different exam papers, training students in the techniques needed to accomplish these tasks and giving them extensive practice.

To help students improve the level of their English, we use the Communicative Approach to teaching. Students *use* English during the lessons to *learn* English. Students are expected to work together and participate in class activities. They are asked to work out rules for themselves and encouraged to become active learners. In general, more time is given to spoken English than written English, although all skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening are practised in the class.

Teachers choose the classroom activity to suit the needs of students and the aims of the student. As a result, lessons may include audio-visual materials, lessons, role plays and drama, letter and report writing, individual and group presentations, language games and competitions and practice tests.

Assessment of Progress:

There will be homework set two or three times per week in the morning classes. Students are expected to complete this in their free time, in the school or at home.

Teachers use regular informal progress tests to check and confirm students' learning and progress throughout the course. More formal skills tests assess their progress every month. Students also have monthly tutorials at which progress is discussed and targets set.

Certification and Reports:

All students receive an LTC certificate and leaver's report when they finish their programme, provided they have attended 80% or more of their lessons.

For students under 18 we are able to send progress reports and end-of-course reports to parents.

Books and Learning Materials:

The schools loan the students a General English coursebook for their morning classes. LTC's self-study facilities have a range of student books, practice materials, graded readers and audio and audio-visual resources for students.

IELTS Exam Preparation classes will help students prepare for:

Paper 1: Listening Multiple choice, short answer questions, sentence completion, summary completion, labelling, matching, identification of writer's views, yes/no/not given questions

Paper 2: Reading Multiple choice, short answer questions, sentence completion, summary completion, labelling, matching, identification of writer's views, yes/no/not given questions, dealing with extensive texts

Paper 3: Writing Transferring data from graphs, tables etc into prose (150 words), discursive essays (250 words)

Paper 4: Speaking Talking about familiar topics, short talks, discussion of more abstract topics

In terms of language improvement, Intermediate (B1) classes will help students:

Listen and respond to spoken language, including straightforward information and narratives, and follow straightforward explanations and instructions, both face-to-face and on the telephone.

Speak to communicate information, feelings and opinions on familiar topics, using appropriate formality, both face-to-face and on the telephone.

Engage in discussion with one or more people, making relevant points and responding to what others say to reach an understanding about familiar topics.

Read and understand short, straightforward texts on familiar topics accurately and without help.

Read and obtain information

from a variety of everyday sources.

Write to communicate information and opinions with some adaptation to the intended audience.

In terms of language improvement, Upper Intermediate (B2) classes will help students:

Listen and respond to spoken language, including information and narratives, and follow explanations and instructions of varying lengths. Responses are adapted to speaker, and to context.

Speak to communicate information, ideas and opinions, adapting speech and content for the listener(s) and medium.

Engage in discussion with one or more people in familiar and unfamiliar situations, making clear and relevant contributions that respond to what others say and produce a shared understanding about different topics.

Read and understand straightforward texts of varying length on a variety of topics accurately and independently.

Read and obtain information from a wide variety of different sources.

Write to communicate information, ideas and opinions clearly using appropriate length, format and style for the purpose and audience.

(We also offer exam preparation classes for Cambridge First Certificate and for IELTS at this level)

In terms of language improvement, Advanced (C1) classes will aim to help students:

Read and understand a range of texts of varying complexity accurately and independently.

Read and obtain information of varying length and detail from different sources.

Write to communicate information, ideas and opinions clearly and effectively, using length, format, register and style appropriate to purpose, content and audience.

Listen and respond to spoken language, including extended information and narratives, and follow detailed explanations and multi-step instructions of varying length, adapting response to speaker, medium and context.

Speak to communicate straightforward and detailed information, ideas and opinions clearly, adapting speech and content to take account of the listener(s), medium, purpose and situation.

Engage in discussion with one or more people in a variety of different situations, making clear and effective contributions that produce outcomes appropriate to purpose and topic.

Further Information:

Further information on the fees, application procedures and the schools can be found on our website at <http://www.ltc-english.com>