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|  | **ISTITUTO DI ISTRUZIONE SECONDARIA “DANIELE CRESPI”** ***Liceo Internazionale Classico e Linguistico VAPC02701R*** ***Liceo delle Scienze Umane VAPM027011***Via G. Carducci 4 – 21052 BUSTO ARSIZIO (VA) [**www.liceocrespi.it**](http://www.liceocrespi.it/)**-*Tel. 0331 633256 - Fax 0331 674770 - E-mail:*** ***lccrespi@tin.it***C.F. 81009350125 – Cod.Min. VAIS02700D | **CertINT® 2012** |

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 WEB

 Ai Sigg. Studenti

 Ai Sigg. Docenti

**Oggetto: Indicazioni su IELTS – sportello internazionalizzazione**

**Ielts, an overview**

Ielts (International English Language Testing System) is a Cambridge exam created 25 years ago to test the language level for UK universities admission (Academic version) and to test the language for immigrants to an English Speaking country (General version).

It belongs to British Council, IDP Australia and Cambridge University. The first two bodies administer and mark it, Cambridge university write and mark it.

It is reliable, valid, practical, fit for purpose and has a positive impact.

It is a “vertical” test, there is no pass or fail results and what the student presents is valued according to a band score from 0 to 9, with an average overall of 6.5 for UK universities.

It tests all the 4 language skills, listening, reading, writing and speaking, with grammar and vocabulary in particular tested all along the test.

The English used for the listening is international, US, UK and Australian.

It is pen and paper based only, with the speaking still face to face.

It is number one exam in the world with 2 million people a year, recognized everywhere, also in Italy and the US.

It is no good for young students because it will not raise their language level. 18+ is the best. The main suite exams (Ket, Pet, Fce, Cae) provide a steady path.

British Council offers 48 possible dates a year in different cities, 2 a month in Milan 1 on Thursday and 1 on Saturday. Registration is up to 14 days in advance, the earlier you enroll the better it is because some dates are closed in advance when too many students take part.

Results are available on line after 13 days. You can receive the test report form by post or going to through the British Council in Milan. What you receive is a document and not a certificate.

Ielts is recognized by 6.000 institution worldwide. 75% of students choose di Academic version.

One the day of the exam you have to be at a selected place by 8am, when registration (including photo) starts. At 9am there is the listening, which lasts 30 minutes plus 10 minutes transfer time onto the separate answer sheet. Then, at 10am there is the reading, which lasts 60 minutes and at 11am the writing part, 60 minutes.

By the time you finish this first section, you will know what time you have the speaking, which lasts between 11 and 14 minutes and it is one to one.

Cambridge exams do not expire, universities decide who “old” they have to be to admit you. Validity in Italy has now be extended to 3 years. An updating is recommended if you don't use the language for some time.

Listening

It has 40 questions which increase in difficulty. The first and second part are about general and social topic, while the third and fourth are more study oriented, but not too specialist. The 40 questions are divided in different kind of exercises, single multiple choice, double multiple choice, fill in, matching. 40 questions, 40 marks, spelling and grammar have to be correct. The listening is not repeated a second time, but you always have time to look at the questions, which are 3 or 4 according to the exercise, and time to check after every single listening. At the end of the listening, you have 10 minutes to copy your answers on a separate answer sheet. Pencil and rubber only.

Reading

Pencil and rubber or pen and rubber, the student choose. There is no extra time for answers transferring, you have to complete the task in 60 minutes. There are 3 texts and the 40 questions become more and more difficult. The questions are divided in different exercises, multiple choice, fill in, match.

Writing

Also here, pencil and rubber or pen and rubber, the student choose. There are 2 tasks in this part. The first is a description of statistical information. The student has to write a minimum of 150 words and it has 1/3 of the mark. Formal English is required, no contraction. Handwriting has to be legible, student can write in capitals. For this part marks are assessed according to cohesion and coherence; grammar and accuracy; lexical resource. The student is required to use all the known language. A recommended structure is: a first paragraph of introduction in which the topic is stated; a second paragraph for a general description of the task with examples; a third paragraph with the conclusion, restating what already written. The student has to pay attention to the time and tenses required. It is important to look at the task. In deciding what to select, the student should consider how it might be possible to describe the information to a colleague over the phone; the student should highlight all the data which must be included; important for the last paragraph a beginning like....in conclusion, to summarize, overall, then, the diagram, to conclude. Personal opinions are not required in this writing. Very useful all the words for describing graphs, charts, pies and linking words.

Common mistakes are: selection of the wrong information; expression of personal opinion, putting all the data or not enough data.

Task 2 instead is an argument, a discussion or a report with a minimum of 250 words. It is important the ability to crearly present the topic, the organisation of the paragraphs and the decision for or against what requested. Opinion are welcome, and the layout is essential, no paragraphs means loosing marks. The body of this second writing should have an introduction, 2/3 paragraphs with examples, and another one for the conclusion, summarizing and restating what above mentioned.

On ielts.org/pdf you can find examples of band score description reguarding the marking.

For both writing tasks you have 60 minutes at disposal.

Speaking

The speaking is one to one with a live examiner and it is based on real life communication skills, with a realistic interactive communication. It is divided in 3 parts: the first is about general personal questions. The second instead is short talk based on a prom, which can be, e.g. Talk about the best book you have ever read. You should say which book is that, something about the plot or the author, when you read it and why you like it so much. The third and final part is a discussion based on part 2 topic.

Recommended books for self study preparation:

Grammar for Ielts and Vocabulary for Ielts (purple cover book) both by Cambridge University Press, available on Amazon.

Check your vocabulary for Ielts by Bloomsbury publication.

Useful websites:

[www.ielts-exam.net](http://www.ielts-exam.net/)

www.ielts.org/

[www.examenglish.com/IELTS/](http://www.examenglish.com/IELTS/)

Pay attention in searching for other websites, sometimes they are language schools trying to convince you to book a course at their place.

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