

Comparing TOEFL® iBT and IELTS

TOEFL Internet-based Test (iBT)		IELTS
Recognition		
Recognizing institutions	6,000 institutions and organizations in 110 countries	1,300 institutions and organizations in 65 countries
Top recognizing countries	United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore, Netherlands	United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Ireland, United States
Reach		
Test-taker volumes in 2005	~825,000	~409,000 Academic, ~142,000 General
Top countries in 2005 (outside English-speaking countries)	Korea, Japan, China, India, Taiwan, Turkey, Germany, Italy, France, Thailand	India, China, Pakistan, Philippines, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, Spain
Accessibility		
Test centers	3085 test centers in 169 countries by end of 2006. 3000 of these centers will be for TOEFL iBT.	313 centers in 122 countries
Testing frequency	30–40 administrations/year, depending on volume and location. Examinees may take the TOEFL iBT test only once in any seven day period. All 4 sections (Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing) always taken in one day.	48 fixed administrations. No restrictions on frequency of retesting. The first 3 modules (Listening, Reading and Writing) must be completed in one day. Test takers may take the Speaking module in a 7-day window before or after they take the other modules. The exact date of the Speaking module is determined by the test center.
Price	Fee ranges from AUD\$184 to 223. Includes sending score reports to 4 institutions.	Fee ranges from AUD\$170 to 286. Includes sending score reports to 5 institutions.
Test Delivery		
	Internet-based testing supplemented by paper-based testing and the <i>Test of Spoken English™</i> (TSE®) in areas where Internet-based testing is not yet available.	Paper-based testing available. Computer-based version introduced in 2005 and available in 10 cities for Academic module only.
Test Content		
Skills tested	Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing	Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing
Formats available	Academic only	Academic (75% test takers) and General Training (25% test takers)
Integrated skills	Yes	No
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses academic and campus-based listening using authentic university material. 4–6 lectures (some with classroom discussion); 2 campus-based conversations between 2–3 people; each is heard only once. 34–51 questions in 60–90 minutes. Question types: chart completion and multiple choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses general English using social, educational, and training contexts. Monologues and dialogues between 2–3 people; each is heard only once. 40 items in 30 minutes. Question types: multiple choice, short answer, notes/summary/flow chart completion, sentence completion, labeling a diagram, and matching. Includes a variety of native English accents.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses academic reading skills using authentic university material. 3–5 passages appropriate for those who are entering undergraduate or graduate courses. 36–60 questions in 60–100 minutes. Question types: prose summary completion, table completion, and multiple choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses either academic or general reading skills, depending on which module the test taker chooses. Academic module: 3 reading passages appropriate for those who are entering undergraduate or graduate courses. 40 items in 60 minutes. Question types: multiple choice, sentence or prose summary completion, short-answer questions, and matching lists or phrases.
Speaking	<p>Assesses the academic speaking skills needed to succeed by using authentic university material and tasks. 2 independent tasks and 4 integrated tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated tasks: Test takers read a short passage, listen to related material, and then orally integrate the information in their own words. Independent tasks: Test takers respond to familiar topic based on own experience. <p>20 minutes</p>	<p>Assesses interactive speaking skills using a structured interview conducted by an examiner and recorded on a cassette tape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1: Introduction and interview based on selected, familiar topics. Part 2: Individual long turn in which test takers respond to a selected task card. Part 3: Two-way discussion linked to the Part 2 topic. <p>11–14 minutes</p>

Test Content (continued)		
Writing	<p>Assesses the academic writing skills needed to succeed by using authentic university materials and tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task 1, Integrated task: Test takers read a short passage, listen to related material, and then describe how the information in the two sources relate. (20 minutes) • Task 2, Independent task: Test takers write an essay on a given topic using their own experience. (30 minutes) <p>50 minutes total</p>	<p>Assesses either academic or general writing skills, depending on which format the test taker chooses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task 1: Test takers review diagram, table, or data and write about the information in their own words. (20 minutes) • Task 2: Test takers write an essay on a given topic using their own experience. (40 minutes) <p>60 minutes total</p>
Total test time	4 hours	3 hours
Scores and Scoring Procedures		
Scores	<p>0–30 section score scale 0–120 total score scale</p> <p>The total score is calculated by adding the four section scores. Total scores reported in 1-point increments on a 0–120 scale for finer distinctions among ability. Section scores are also reported in 1-point increments.</p>	<p>0–9 band scale for both skill module scores and overall score. The overall score is calculated by taking the mean of the total of the four module scores.</p> <p>Overall scores are reported in .5 increments on a 0–9 scale. Listening and Reading scores are reported in .5 increments. Writing and Speaking scores are currently reported in 1-point increments.</p>
Scoring procedures for Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses are spoken into a headset with a microphone, recorded digitally, and sent to ETS® for scoring. • Scoring is done by human raters via the ETS Online Scoring Network (OSN). Three to six different raters score responses blindly for maximum score objectivity and reliability. • 0–4 rating for each response, converted to scaled score: 0–30. 	Scoring is done in-country by one rater, the examiner who also conducts the interview.
Scoring procedures for Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses typed and sent digitally to ETS for scoring. • Scoring done by human raters via the ETS Online Scoring Network (OSN). Four to six different raters blindly score responses for maximum score objectivity and reliability. • 0–5 rating for each response, converted to scaled score: 0–30 	Responses handwritten and scoring is done in-country by human raters at the test center.
Quality control of rating	Raters must pass a calibration test every time they rate. Scoring leaders monitor raters throughout each scoring session to ensure maximum quality control.	All examiners must undergo a retraining and recertification process every two years. Monitoring of the reliability of the Writing and Speaking responses is achieved through a sample monitoring process.
Services		
Registration procedures	Online registration; phone and mail registration also available.	Application form can be downloaded from IELTS site and sent or taken to test center. Online registration is currently available only in China, India, Hong Kong, and Korea.
Institutional electronic score delivery	Yes	Yes
Online score reporting	Online score reporting for test takers in 2005; available for institutions in late 2006.	Online score reporting for institutions available. No online scores for test takers.
Paper score reports	Sent from ETS to test taker and institution.	Sent from test center to test taker and institution.
Score reporting time	Reported online and sent from ETS within 15 business days of testing.	Sent out from each test center 13 calendar days after testing.
Security		
Test security measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ID specified by ETS must contain a recent photograph and signature. Photo of test taker taken at test center, displayed on computer terminal during the test and printed on score report. Signature of test taker collected at test center and compared to the one on the official ID. • Official and examinee score reports are printed on security-enhanced paper. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test takers provide passport or national ID card at registration, at the test center, and before the interview. • Score report is printed on security-enhanced paper and authenticated by a center stamp, IELTS stamp, a photo of the test taker, and the IELTS administrator's signature.
Practice Resources		
Test practice	Free TOEFL iBT Sampler with registration. Right/wrong information for Reading and Listening questions. Sample responses provided for Speaking and Writing. Complete practice test with scaled scores on TOEFL Practice Online www.ets.org/toeflpractice .	Test specimen set for sale; no scoring provided.

Sources: IELTS Web site (www.ielts.org), British Council Web site (www.britishcouncil.org), IELTS Handbook 2005, IELTS presentations given at various conferences in 2006.