Open Mind

IELTS Academic

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE B2

Please note as there are no specific grammatical areas nor lexis specified by IELTS these sections of the book have not been mapped.

For more information about the listening and reading question types, please refer to the table at the end of the maps.

Unit 1 Who do you think you are?

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Reading for different purposes p.12	Multiple choice (QT1)
Listening: Listening to a podcast interview p.10	For the Matching (QT2) candidates need to be able to follow a conversation between two people, which is the skill being practised here.
Speaking: Agreeing and disagreeing p.10	Being able to express agreement and disagreement are functions that are assessed in part three of the speaking component of the IELTS exam.
Writing: Contributing to a question-and-answer page p.15	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.

Unit 2 Global views

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Reading a magazine article p.26	Being able to identify specific information, which is being practised here, is a very useful skill for many of the question types in the reading component of the IELTS exam. It is particularly helpful for the identifying information (QT2) and matching information (QT4).
Listening: Understanding discourse markers p.22	Matching (QT2) Form, note, table, flow-chart, summary (QT4)
Speaking: Talking about social media p.24	Being able to talk about social media is an area which often comes up in parts two and three of the speaking component of the IELTS exam.
Writing: Writing a formal email p.27	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.

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Unit 3 Fame and fortune

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Reading for different purposes p.36	This is an excellent activity for drawing students' attention to the different reading skills they will need to draw on in the reading component of the IELTS exam. The reading questions in the exam test a range of reading skills including the four different skills in this exercise: • skimming • scanning • reading in detail • general reading
Listening: Listening to a gossip columnist p.35	Short-answer questions (QT6)
Speaking: Clarifying misunderstandings p.39	Being able to clarify misunderstandings is a useful skill in part three of the speaking component of the IELTS exam.
Writing: Writing a website post p.37	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Writing workshop: Writing a short essay p.43	Being able to write a well-structured effective essay is a key skill for task two of the writing component of the IELTS paper.

Unit 4 Ups and downs

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Reading a magazine article p.48	Identifying information (QT2) Identifying writer's views/claims (QT3)
Listening: Understanding discourse markers p.46	Form, note, table, flow-chart, summary (QT4)
Speaking: Talking about having a positive attitude p.51	This speaking activity practises general speaking skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Speaking workshop: Expressing personal preference p.55	Being able to express a personal preference is a skill that candidates are often required to do in part one of the speaking component of the IELTS exam.
Writing: Writing a thank-you note p.50	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.

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Unit 5 Something in the water

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Inferring opinion p.59	Being able to identify and recognise opinions, which is being practised here, is a very useful skill for many of the question types in the reading component of the IELTS exam. It is particularly helpful for the identifying writer's views/claims (QT3) and matching features (QT6).
Listening: Listening to an interview p.62	Form, note, table, flow-chart, summary (QT4) Short-answer questions (QT6)
Speaking: Suggesting alternatives p.63	This speaking activity practises general speaking skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Writing: Contributing to an online debate p.60	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Writing workshop: Interpreting data p.67	The activities on these pages provide excellent practice for task one of the writing component of the IELTS paper. Candidates very often are required to understand and interpret data presented in tables for task one.

Unit 6 Living traditions

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Reading a book excerpt p.72	Being able to identify and recognise specific information, which is being practised here, is a very useful skill for many of the question types in the reading component of the IELTS exam.
Listening: Listening for main ideas p.71	For the multiple choice (QT1) and form, note, table, flow-chart, summary (QT4) candidates need to understand the main ideas in the listening, which is the skill being practised here.
Speaking: Talking about personal rituals p.74	This speaking activity practises general speaking skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Writing: Avoiding run-on sentences p.75	Being able to correctly punctuate a sentence and avoid run-ons are key skills for both writing tasks in the writing component of the IELTS paper.

Unit 7 Designed to please

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Inference factual information p.82	Being able to infer factual information, which is being practised here, is a very useful skill for many of the question types in the reading component of the IELTS exam. It is particularly helpful for the identifying information (QT2).
Listening: Listening to a radio phone-in show p.84	For the matching (QT2) candidates need to be able to follow a conversation between two people, which is the skill being practised here.
Speaking: Distancing language p.86	This speaking activity practises general speaking skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Writing: Writing a biography p.87	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.

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Unit 8 A fair deal?

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Reading biographical profiles p.94	Being able to identify and recognise specific information, which is being practised here, is a very useful skill for many of the question types in the reading component of the IELTS exam.
Listening: Listening for main ideas p.96	Multiple choice (QT1)
Speaking: Talking about social justice p.97	This speaking activity practises general speaking skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Writing: Sentence variety p.99	Being able to write with good sentence variety is a key skill for both writing tasks in the writing component of the IELTS paper.

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Unit 9 Competitive edge

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Understanding text organisation p.110	Being able to identify and recognise specific information, which is being practised here, is a very useful skill for many of the question types in the reading component of the IELTS exam.
Listening: Listening to experts' opinions p.107	For the multiple choice (QT1) and form, note, table, flow-chart, summary (QT4) candidates need to understand the main ideas in the listening, which is the skill being practised here.
Speaking: Paraphrasing p.108	This speaking activity practises general speaking skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Writing: Writing a description p.111	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Writing workshop: Writing a discursive essay p.115	Being able to write a discursive essay is a key skill for task two of the writing component of the IELTS paper.

Unit 10 Risky business

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Reading an opinion article p.118	Being able to recognise opinions, which is being practised here, is a very useful skill for many of the question types in the reading component of the IELTS exam. It is particularly helpful for the matching features (QT6).
Listening: Rapid speech p.122	For the matching (QT2) candidates need to be able to follow a conversation between two people, which is the skill being practised here.
Speaking: Speculating about events p.123	Being able to speculate is one of the functions that is assessed in part three of the speaking component of the IELTS exam.
Writing: Requesting action p.120	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.

Unit 11 Through the lens

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Understanding text organisation p.134	Being able to understand text organisation, which is being practised here, is a very useful skill for many of the question types in the reading component of the IELTS exam. It is particularly helpful for the matching headings (QT5) where candidates need to recognise the difference between the main idea and supporting ideas. Exercise C questions are similar to those found in the multiple choice (QT1).
Listening: Listening to a podcast p.131	Form, note, table, flow-chart, summary (QT4)
Speaking: Making comparisons p.132	Being able to make comparisons is a useful skill for part one of the speaking component of the IELTS exam and is one of the functions that is assessed in part three of the speaking component of the IELTS exam.
Writing: Writing a memo p.135	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.

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Unit 12 Bright lights, big city

Section	Practice for IELTS Academic
Reading: Reading a guidebook p.144	This reading activity practises general reading skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.
Listening: Rapid speech p.145	Being able to follow and understand rapid speech, which is being practised here, is a useful skill for all parts of the listening component of the IELTS exam.
Speaking: Talking about cities of the future p.147	Being able to talk about cities in the future is an area which could come up in part three of the speaking component of the IELTS exam.
Writing: Writing a letter of complaint p.143	This writing activity practises general writing skills very useful for preparing students for the IELTS exam.

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Reading Question Types		
	Question Type	Sub-skills assessed
QT1	Multiple choice	This type of question tests many different reading skills including: detailed understanding of specific points or general understanding of the main points of the text.
QT2	Identifying information (True / False / Not given)	This type of question tests your ability to recognise specific information given in the text.
QT3	Identifying writer's views/claims (Yes / No / Not given)	This type of question tests your ability to recognise opinions or ideas.
QT4	Matching information	This type of question assesses your ability to scan a text in order to find specific information. Unlike Question Type 5 (Matching headings), it focuses on specific information rather than the main idea. You may have to find: specific details, an example, reason, description, comparison, summary or explanation.
QT5	Matching headings	This type of question tests your ability to identify the general topic of a paragraph (or section) and to recognise the difference between the main idea and a supporting idea.
QT6	Matching features	This type of question tests your ability to recognise relationships and connections between facts in the text and your ability to recognise opinions and theories. You need to be able to skim and scan the text to find the information quickly so that you can then read that part more carefully for detail.
QT7	Matching sentence endings	This type of question tests your ability to understand the main ideas in the text.
QT8	Sentence completion	This type of question tests your ability to find detail/specific information in a text.

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	Question Type	Sub-skills assessed
QT9	Summary, note, table, flow-chart completion	This type of question tests your ability to understand details and/or the main ideas of a part of the text. When completing this type of question, you will need to think about the type of word(s) that will fit into a gap (for example, whether a noun is needed, or a verb, etc.).
QT10	Diagram label completion	This type of question tests your ability to understand a detailed description in the text, and then relate that description to information given in a diagram.
QT11	Short-answer questions	This type of question tests your ability to find and understand specific information in the text.
		Adapted from the Cambridge English website

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Listening Question Types		
	Question Type	Sub-skills assessed
QT1	Multiple choice	This type of question tests many listening skills, e.g. a detailed understanding of specific points, or general understanding of the main points of the recording.
QT2	Matching	This type of question tests your ability to: • listen for detailed information. For example, whether you can understand information about the type of hotel or guest house accommodation in an everyday conversation • follow a conversation between two people. • recognise how facts in the recording are connected to each other.
QT3	Plan, map, diagram labelling	This type of question tests your ability to understand, for example, a description of a place, and how this description relates to the visual. It may also test your ability to understand explanations of where things are and follow directions (e.g. straight on/through the far door).
QT4	Form, note, table, flow-chart, summary completion	This type of question focuses on the main points the person listening would naturally write down.
QT5	Sentence completion	This type of question focuses on your ability to identify the important information in a recording. You may also need to understand relationships between ideas/facts/events, such as cause and effect.
QT6	Short-answer questions	This type of question focuses on your ability to listen for facts, such as places, prices or times, heard in the recording.
		Adapted from the Cambridge English website

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