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**IELTS Frequently Asked Questions**

**Where will my test take place?**

All sections of the IELTS test in York will take place at Melton College in York.

**What time will the test start?**

***For Paper-Based tests***

You need to register for the test between 08.30 and 09.30. Registration closes promptly at 09.30. The timetable for the test is as follows –

09.30 – 13.00 – Listening, Reading and Writing papers (no breaks) \*

13.15 – 17.15 – Speaking tests \*

\*These timings are approximate and cannot always be guaranteed

***For Computer-Delivered tests***

There are three different test start times for computer-delivered tests; 09.00/13.00/17.00

You should always arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time of your test. Remember that depending on which sitting you have booked, your speaking test may be before your written sections

**Can you tell me when my speaking test is?**

You can choose the time of your speaking test when booking your exam. Please be aware that if the session is not full, your speaking test may be changed to an earlier slot. You would receive an email notification is this is the case

**Is parking available at Melton College?**

Parking is not provided, the nearest public car park is on Nunnery Lane which is a 10-minute walk from Melton College. You can find directions and further details here - <https://www.york.gov.uk/directory_record/505/nunnery_lane_car_park_-yo23_1aa>

**Is there anywhere I can buy refreshments?**

Melton College has a café in the waiting area. Hot and cold drinks and snacks are available. We also have water fountains throughout the college. We do not have any lunch items available but there is a small supermarket just 2 minutes walk from the college. We can accept cards and cash in the café.

**Paper-based ONLY - Can I write in pen throughout the test?**

Your answers for your listening and reading papers MUST be completed in pencil. You can write in either pen or pencil for your writing exam. Items of stationery will be provided on the test day; you will not be allowed to take your own into the test room

**What can I take into the test room with me?**

You must bring the Passport/National Identity card you used to register for the test into the test room with you. You must leave everything else outside the examination room. Mobile phones and pagers must be switched off and placed with personal belongings in the area designated by the supervisor. If you do not switch off your phone/pager or keep it on you, you will be disqualified. You can also take water in a transparent bottle only. Watches are not permitted in the test room. Medicine can be taken into the test room, but you must speak to the test day staff about this when you arrive for your test

**Where can I leave my belongings?**

We provide a classroom for all test takers to leave their belongings. This room does not have private lockers so please do not bring anything very valuable. Melton College do not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to test takers belongings. All belongings; coats, bags, electronic devices and watches need to be kept in this room

**Can my family member/friend wait for me whilst I complete the test?**

We do not have any facilities for people accompanying test takers and anyone arriving with you will not be allowed to enter the building or wait inside the college for you to finish the test

**What ID can I use to register for the test?**

We currently accept valid passports, valid National Identity Cards (from EU Nationals only) and valid UK Residence Permits. If you do not have a Passport and have applied to the UK Government for registration in the UK, please contact [katie.davis@melton-college.co.uk](mailto:katie.davis@melton-college.co.uk) for further assistance

**Can I make notes during the test?**

No paper is provided for making notes, but you can write on the question booklets/log on sheets if you wish. However, the examiner(s) will not look at these and anything you write on rough paper cannot be taken out of the test room

**Will there be a clock in the exam room?**

Yes, a clock will always be visible and start and finish times for the reading and writing papers will be displayed for paper-based tests. If you are taking the test on a computer, the time will be displayed in the top right corner of the screen. Time checks will also be given verbally by the invigilator throughout the test

**Do I need to submit a passport sized photo with my application?**

No, we now take a photo of you on the test day. This is captured, along with a fingerprint scan, when you arrive for your test and the photo will appear on your Test Report Form. The scan of your fingerprint is for verification only and is not stored or kept after the test

**Why are there two versions of the test?**IELTS has two versions – Academic and General Training. The Academic test is for those who want to study at a tertiary level in an English-speaking country. The General Training test is for those who want to do work experience or training programs, secondary school or migrate to an English-speaking country. All test takers take the same Listening and Speaking tests but different Reading and Writing tests

**Do I need to take an IELTS for UKVI test?**

Please ensure you book the correct test you need. You can find lots of information on IELTS by visiting – [www.takeielts.org](http://www.takeielts.org) – if you book the wrong test, you will not be able to receive a refund. It is your decision as to which test you take

**Which version of the test should I do?**

Read the explanation of the Academic and General Training tests, then contact the organisation or institution to which you are applying to find out what it requires. Note that you must know which version to take when you complete the application form. It is your responsibility to apply for the correct version

**What is the test format and how long will it take?**  
IELTS has four sections – Listening (approx. 35 minutes), Reading (60 minutes), Writing (60 minutes) and Speaking (11–14 minutes). The Listening, Reading and Writing sections are done in one sitting. The Speaking test at Melton College is always on the same day as the written sections

**Which part do I take first?**

**Paper-Based tests**

You do the Listening section first following by the Reading and Writing sections of the test. The speaking test at Melton College is conducted on the same day

**Computer-Delivered tests**

If you take the 09.00 sitting, your speaking test will be in the afternoon between 13.00 and 15.00

If you take the 13.00 sitting, your speaking test will be in the morning between 10.30 and 12.30

If you take the 17.00 sitting, your speaking test will be in the afternoon between 14.30 and 16.30

**What kinds of accents can be heard in the Listening and Speaking tests?**  
As IELTS is an international test, a variety of English accents are used in both of these tests

**Does the Listening recording provide instructions and pauses?**  
Yes. At the beginning, you hear instructions and a sample question. Then you read section 1 questions, listen to section 1 and answer the questions

**Is there a similar period of 10 minutes in the Reading test to transfer answers?**  
**No.** The Reading test is one hour, and you must write all your answers on the answer sheet in this time

**What if I need to postpone or cancel my application?**  
If you postpone or cancel your application more than 5 weeks before the test date, you will receive a refund minus an administration charge of £25.00. If you postpone or cancel within 5 weeks of the test date, you will be charged the full fee unless you have a medical reason. If you provide a medical certificate within 5 days of the test date, you will receive a refund minus the administration charge of £25.00

**What if I am absent or sick on the test day?**  
If you are away on the test day with no prior notice, you will lose your full fee. However, if you provide a medical certificate within 5 days of the test date, you will receive a refund minus the local administrative charge of £25.00

**What do I need for the Speaking test?**  
You must bring the same identification documents you supplied on your IELTS Application Form/Online Registration and used for the rest of the test. Your ID will be checked before you enter the interview room and you will be required to confirm your identity via fingerprint

**How are the tests marked?**  
IELTS uses a 9-band scoring system to measure and report test scores in a consistent manner. You receive individual band scores for Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking and an Overall Band Score on a band scale from one to nine

**Who sets the ‘pass’ mark for the IELTS test?**  
There is no pass or fail in IELTS. Scores are graded on the 9-band system. Each educational institution or organisation sets its own level of IELTS scores to meet its individual requirements

**When will I receive my test results?**

**Paper-Based tests**   
Your result will be available 13 calendar days after your test. Your Test Report Form will be posted to you on the 13th day

**Computer-Delivered tests**

Your result will be available 5-7 calendar days after your test. Your Test Report Form will be posted to you when available

You will be able to view your result when it is released via the Test Taker Portal, where you booked your test. Keep your Test Report Form in a secure place as you only receive one copy. IELTS Test Partners have a responsibility to all candidates and Recognising Organisations to ensure the highest confidence in the accuracy and integrity of test results and that the IELTS Test Partners therefore reserve the right to withhold test results temporarily or permanently, or to cancel test results which have been issued, if they consider those results to be unreliable for reasons of suspected malpractice or any other irregularity in the test process.

**Can my Test Report Form be posted to my address outside of the UK?**

First Class postage within the UK is free. If you would like your Test Report Form posting outside of the UK, this will be sent by tracked mail and will incur an additional fee. Please contact Katie at Melton College for a quote – [katie.davis@melton-college.co.uk](mailto:katie.davis@melton-college.co.uk)

**What if I lose my Test Report Form?**  
Test Report Forms are valid for two years. Copies cannot be sent to test takers but IELTS will forward a Test Report Form to your relevant institution or embassy. Additional copies will incur a charge of £15.00 and you may be required to pay a postage fee

**How soon can I re-sit the test?**  
There is no limit on sitting the test. However, IELTS recommends you do additional study before taking the test again. Melton College offer preparatory courses and language classes, please contact us for details. You can also improve your skills by using the IELTS Official Practice Materials and the Road to IELTS which is available at [www.takeielts.org](http://www.takeielts.org)

**What if I feel my test result is wrong?**  
You can apply for an ‘Enquiry on Results’ at your test centre within six weeks of the test date. You must pay an enquiry fee, which is fully refunded if your band score changes. Note that IELTS Examiners and markers follow strict assessment guidelines and are regularly monitored. The IELTS testing process has the highest quality control procedures

**What if I am delayed by circumstances beyond my control?**  
Melton College may be able to offer you another test depending on availability. You would be required to provide evidence of why you were unable to arrive on time