

Video 3 transcript: “IELTS General and Academic: A comparison”

Hi and welcome to the third video in this series! In this session I want to explain what the IELTS general and IELTS academic have in common and where they are different.

Let's begin with the common points. **Both the IELTS general and the IELTS academic share the speaking and listening parts.**

Let's first look at the **speaking** part. The speaking test is conducted live and face-to-face with a certified examiner. The test is about 15 minutes long and divided into three parts.

- In **part one** the examiner will ask you some general questions about your work or studies, your family or your hobbies and interests.
- In **part two** you will get a topic that you have to talk about for around two minutes. You will have one minute to prepare for your talk.
- In **part three** you will have a discussion with the examiner, with questions related to part two.

Let's now take a look at the **listening** part:

- The listening test is about 30 minutes long. You will have to listen to **four recordings** and you will have to answer 40 questions based on those recordings. The first two recordings are taken from everyday situations while the other two are more related to study or training topics.
- Recordings one and three are conversations while recordings two and four are monologues.

Let's move on and look at the parts where the two tests are different, namely the reading and writing parts.

Let's first look at the **reading** parts:

For both tests, the time frame of the reading part is 60 minutes and you have to answer 40 questions about the contents.

The **IELTS general reading part** consists of three sections, with each section being more complex than the one before:

- In **section one** – or **Social Survival** – you will see short texts taken from everyday life situations, for example time tables, advertisements and so on.

- In **section two** – or **Workplace survival** – you will see work related texts, for example contracts, job descriptions or training manuals.
- In **section three** you will have to read more complex texts, for example articles from newspapers, magazines or books.

Now to the IELTS academic **reading** part:

Here you will have to read three long texts of around 2400 words. These texts are of general academic interest taken from books, magazines or newspapers and, as already mentioned, you will have to answer 40 questions related to the contents.

Let's now look at the **writing** parts.

Both the IELTS general and IELTS academic writing exams consist of two parts and you will have a total of 60 minutes to complete both parts.

Once again let me start with the **IELTS general**.

- In **part one** you will have to write a letter of no less than 150 words in response to a situation that will be given to you. This letter can be informal, semi-formal or formal in style. You should spend no more than 20 minutes on this task.
- In **part two** you will be given an argument, a problem or a point of view and you will have to write an essay of no less than 250 words. You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

As for the **IELTS academic**,

- In **part one** you will be given a visual, for example a chart, a diagram or a table and you will have to describe this illustration in detail. You will have to write at least 150 words and spend no more than 20 minutes to complete this task.
- In **part two** you will be given an argument, a problem or an opinion and you will have to write an essay of no less than 250 words. You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Thanks for watching this video. You can download the transcript from my website: claque.net.

In the next video I will explain the IELTS scoring scale and what to consider for your personal objectives. Bye for now and see you in the next video.