

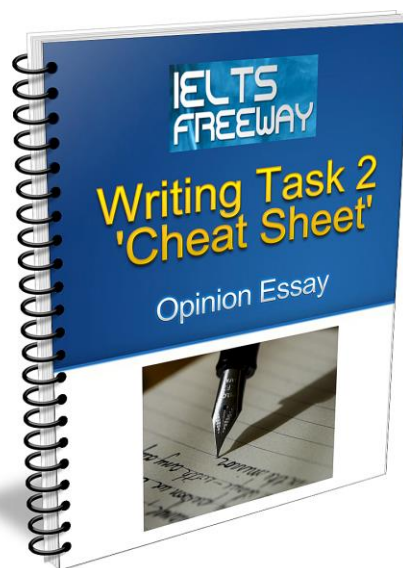
# How To Prepare For Your IELTS Test

## The 6 Essential Steps

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You may also wish to download our  
IELTS Writing Task 2 'Cheat Sheet'. [Click here to get access.](#)



# The 6 Steps of IELTS Preparation...



**Recommendations:** It is recommended that you print out this workbook and then fill it in using [ieltsfreeway.com](http://ieltsfreeway.com) to help you.

A dream written  
down with a  
**DATE**  
becomes a goal. A goal  
broken down into  
**STEPS**  
becomes a plan.  
A plan backed by  
**ACTION**  
makes your dreams  
come true.

## Step 1: Find Out About The Test

Use [ieltsfreeway.com](http://ieltsfreeway.com) to find out the following information about the test.

Section	Format (Details: word count/minutes)	Brief Task Description
Speaking Part 1	4-5 minutes One to one questioning	General questions on familiar topics
Speaking Part 2		
Speaking Part 3		
Listening Part 1		
Listening Part 2		
Listening Part 3		
Listening Part 4		
Writing Part 1 (General)		
Writing Part 1 (Academic)		
Writing Part 2		
Reading		

# Scoring System Quiz

Statement	True/False
The Writing part of the test is worth more of your band score than the others.	
The top band score possible is a band 9.	
You can score half a band e.g. 6.5	
Your overall band score is the average of your 4 separate band scores.	
A band score of 7 in the Academic test means you have better English than a band 7 from the General training module.	

## Topic Areas

List nine topic areas that frequently appear in the IELTS Writing Task 2 part of the test.

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# Further Questions

What else would you like to know about the IELTS test. These questions can be about anything to do with the test.

Question	Answer

## Step 2: Target Setting

1. What is your current or estimated band score? \_\_\_\_\_  
(You can try a test here: [Practice IELTS Test](#))
2. What score do you need to get? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When do you need to get this score by? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you seen the band descriptors for the level you require? \_\_\_\_\_  
(You can view them here: [Writing Task 2](#), [Writing Task 1](#), [Speaking Task 1,2 and 3](#))
5. Have you seen an essay at the level you need to reach? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How are you going to improve your band score to the level you require? (lessons, courses, self-study) How often? (evenings, weekends, how many hours) With who? How will you practice? (past papers, online groups) Who will give you feedback? (teachers, native speaker friends, online services)

Write your plan here:

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How realistic is your plan on a scale of 1-10? (1= very realistic, 10 = not at all realistic) \_\_\_\_\_

# Step 3: Develop Your IELTS 'Know How'

Which specific centre are you going to take your test at? \_\_\_\_\_

How far ahead do you need to book? \_\_\_\_\_

Now, complete the table below:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Question Types</b>	<b>Strategies (hints and tips)</b>
Speaking Part 1	Open questions about familiar topics	
Speaking Part 2		
Speaking Part 3		
Listening Part (All parts)	Multiple choice Matching Plan/map/diagram labeling sentence completion Short answer questions	
Writing Part 1 (General)		
Writing Part 1 (Academic)		
Writing Part 2		
Reading		

## Step 4: Get Focused

Visit the following websites and their related Facebook pages and like and follow them. This will fill your social media full of useful information, vocabulary and IELTS information on a daily basis.

### **Specific Language Learning Websites:**

[BBC Learning English](#)

[The Bangkok Post Learning English](#)

[Australiaplus.com](#)

[Breakingnewsenglish.com](#)

[Newsinlevels.com](#)

[CNN10.com](#) (the news explained)

[New York Times Learning Section](#)

[Entrepreneur.com](#) (Advanced reading for the business minded)

[OneStopEnglish.com](#) (Monthly news articles)

### **Dictionaries and Thesaurus:**

[Cambridge English Dictionary](#)

[Dictionary.com](#)

[Oxford English Dictionary](#)

[Merriam-Webster](#)

### **Vocabulary Learning Software:**

[Quizlet.com](#) (a personal favourite of mine)

[Wordpal.com](#)

[Vocab1.com](#)

[Overnightvocabulary.com](#)

[Speed Study English Vocabulary](#)

### **Web-sites**

[The BBC](#)

[The Independent](#)

[The Times](#)

[The Guardian](#)



## Step 5: Practice and get Feedback

Do full practice tests under exam conditions. Here are links to 'real' IELTS test for you to print off and try:

[IDP Full Tests](#)

[British Council Full Tests](#)

[IELTS.org Full Tests](#)

[Cambridge University Full Tests](#)

Who are you going to ask to check your essays? \_\_\_\_\_

Following taking the above test, or from your existing knowledge which areas of your English do you need to work on the most to improve your band score. Be as specific as possible:

**Area 1:**

*e.g. I need to improve my essay structure. I don't know how to organize my ideas.*

**Area 2:**

**Area 3:**

**Area 4:**

# Step 6: Plan and Take Your Test

**When is a good time for you to take your test? Consider:**

- 1) When you need your IELTS score for (university application etc...).
- 2) When will you have most time available to practice?
- 3) When will your English be at its best?

A good time for me to take my test would be \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_ .

## **A Back Up Plan...**

What happens if you don't get the score you want? If I don't get the score I want when I take the test I will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

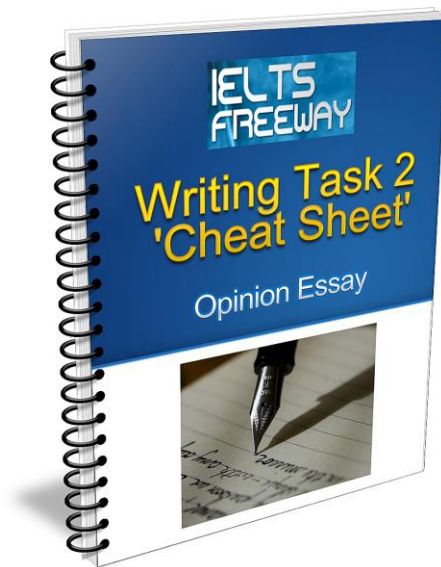
## **And Finally...**

Think about your dreams and goals for your future and use these as motivation to prepare for the exam. Complete the sentence below to help with this:

Getting the band score I need will enable me to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I really want to do this because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

You may also wish to download our IELTS Writing Task 2 'Cheat Sheet'. [Click here to get access.](#)



### **Further Resources:**

[IELTSfreeway.com](http://IELTSfreeway.com) – Main site for free information about all parts of the test.

[IELTSfreeway on Facebook](#) – Like the page to get updates, latest exam questions, tips, strategies and to connect with other IELTS students.

[IELTSfreeway's Youtube Channel](#) – Video explainers and more...