

EL TIEMPO

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BRITISH  
COUNCIL

# GET READY FOR IELTS™

PREPÁRATE  
PARA EL EXAMEN

## IELTS: LA OPCIÓN NUMERO 1 DE LAS UNIVERSIDADES EN COLOMBIA

Las universidades de Colombia se enfrentan a retos importantes en la búsqueda de la excelencia para estar a la vanguardia en la educación superior. Los rankings internacionales son cada vez más competitivos y un elemento clave es el perfil bilingüe de la institución.

En este contexto es crítico tener metas lingüísticas coherentes, alcanzables y alineadas con estándares internacionales, además de un sistema de evaluación completo y confiable. De acuerdo con lo anterior, las universidades necesitan demostrar el desarrollo del nivel del bilingüismo, siendo esta la razón por la cual cada vez más instituciones educativas adoptan el examen **IELTS** como la prueba con mayor reconocimiento global y garantía de precisión en resultados y seguridad.

En Colombia, las mejores universidades reconocen el IELTS como prueba válida para el requisito de grado. Ade-

más, gracias a su enfoque en redacción y comprensión de textos, el IELTS ofrece técnicas importantes para la vida académica. El examen es copropiedad del **British Council**, Cambridge Assessment English e IDP, y es un examen que evalúa las habilidades comunicativas para estudiar, trabajar y desenvolverse en situaciones cotidianas.

**EL TIEMPO**, en alianza con el British Council, se complace en presentar este coleccionable de 20 salidas que ofrece a los estudiantes universitarios y a todos los candidatos a presentar el examen, un complemento perfecto de preparación para el IELTS.

### ENCUENTRA EN ESTA SALIDA:

- IELTS Reading
- Speaking, writing and listening

SALIDA

12

JUEVES

08

DE  
NOVIEMBRE



READING

### ¿SABÍAS QUE?

- El IELTS (International English Language Testing System) es el examen internacional de inglés más utilizado y reconocido en el mundo.
- El próximo año IELTS celebra 30 años de estar brindando oportunidades a la comunidad educativa a nivel global.
- Con un máximo de 2 horas 55 minutos, el IELTS es el único examen que garantiza una evaluación más justa de sus habilidades en un tiempo razonable.
- El IELTS es un examen confiable y muy seguro, que cumple con todos los estándares de calidad en su diseño y administración.

# READING

## IELTS READING ACADEMIC

The IELTS Reading test is designed to assess a wide range of reading skills, including how well you:

- Read for the general sense of a passage.

- Read for the main ideas.

- Read for detail.

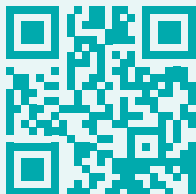
- Understand inferences and implied meaning.

- Recognise a writer's opinions, attitudes and purpose.

- Follow the development of an argument.

**NOTA:** This is the case for whichever version of the IELTS test you are taking.

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You will need to manage your time during the test because you will not be told when to start or finish each section.

### THREE SECTIONS

You will be given three different passages to read, each with accompanying questions. You can expect to read **2,150 - 2,750** words in total during your test.

## TASK

Read the text below and answer Questions 1-9.

### READING PASSAGE 3

## WRITER'S BLOCK

You have to finish that report for the boss, write an essay or article, or you work in the information economy – the deadline for the current project is looming but you find yourself mindlessly staring at a blank page on the screen and the words just won't come.

Writers' block is not an uncommon experience. The root cause is anxiety. There are many reasons for the writer to feel anxious. Perfectionism is one of them – the writer is too judgemental, viewing her work as inferior in some way. The project itself may be fundamentally misconceived or the writer lacks the experience or ability to complete it. Perhaps the pressure of a tight deadline is paralysing. There are other anxiety-provoking life stresses and deep-seated issues: serious illness, depression, a relationship break-up, not to mention financial difficulties. Sometimes distractions are too great or the writer simply runs out of inspiration.

There are various ways of overcoming the block. Exercise gets the blood moving through the body and brain: a visit to the gym, a walk around the block, a few yoga poses and some deep breathing all help to clear the head, induce relaxation and get the creative juices flowing. The body and brain need to be nourished with healthy food and pure water. Junk food is unlikely to increase mental output. Obviously, distractions have to be completely eliminated – phones turned off, the internet disconnected, the desk or workspace uncluttered – because good writing needs focus and undivided attention.

Consider also that the subconscious mind is continually problem-solving even while a person is sleeping so writing for twenty minutes prior to bedtime and thinking about the difficult bits before falling asleep might just induce the subconscious to resolve the issue overnight, the writer waking up with a fresh perspective in the morning. The best time for writing is early in the morning; tackle the most complex task first, and the easier stuff should just flow.

A tired writer will accomplish less and is more likely to suffer from a block – a good eight hours sleep at night is optimal but not always achievable. In this case, the best and most successful remedy is the caffeine nap. Researchers at Loughborough University in the U.K. found that a cup of coffee followed by a fifteen-minute nap is an effective way to re-boot the brain. The recommendation is to imbibe the coffee swiftly and then stretch out immediately and snooze for no more than a quarter of an hour. By the end of this period, the caffeine has had time to take effect and the subject wakes up feeling refreshed and is usually able to resume work without delay. The micro-sleep or power nap, combined with the stimulatory effect of the caffeine, although it sounds paradoxical, is apparently an effective antidote to fatigue.

The effects of a caffeine nap are much more powerful if the coffee is good. A semi-automatic pump espresso machine makes an excellent brew and it is easy to operate. The machine is turned on at the on/off switch at the bottom and, with the portafilter securely in place, allowed to heat for at least 20 minutes. The temperature light on the control panel at the top will indicate when the machine is ready. Then, pre-ground beans are measured into the portafilter, levelled off, and pressure is applied with a tamper to create an even seal. The pump is started by pressing the square button in the middle of the control panel and the water flows through the coffee into the cup. When there is enough espresso in the cup, the pump is shut off by pressing the button again. The portafilter is then removed and the used grinds are banged out. It should be rinsed well and dried before being placed back under the grouphead ready for the next shot.

## Questions 1–5

Complete the sentences below

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text for each answer.  
Write your answers in boxes 1–5 on your answer sheet.

1 Some writers judge their writing too harshly, thinking it is .....

2 The writing task could be at fault if it has been .....

3 Writers may suffer from complete inaction if there is not enough time to meet a .....

4 All possible forms of disturbance should be .....

5 The ..... may sort out a problem when the writer is asleep.

## Questions 6–9

Complete the flow-chart below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.  
Write your answers in boxes 6–9 on your answer sheet.

### HOW THE CAFFEINE NAP WORKS TO WARD OFF FATIGUE

Drink 6 ..... quickly



Lie down at once



7 ..... for 8 ..... minutes while caffeine goes into operation



Get up 9 ..... and go straight back to work

## GET READY FOR IELTS<sup>™</sup>

will help you experience the types of tasks you will be asked during the test session of the academic IELTS version. Use this material to carry out timed exercises and develop your test technique. Find the answers to the questions, model responses and complementary material on [www.britishcouncil.co/examen/ielts](http://www.britishcouncil.co/examen/ielts)



Validar inglés fue muy fácil con IELTS

Ana María Díaz

[www.eltiempo.com/ielts](http://www.eltiempo.com/ielts)



## ANSWERS

Once you have completed the exercise, check your answers on





## IELTS LISTENING



### MARKING

- A mark is given for each correct answer.
- Spelling is important. A spelling mistake counts as a wrong answer.
- Both American and British English spelling are accepted but be consistent.
- A hyphenated word (e.g. absent-minded, flow-chart) counts as one word.
- Grammar is important: e.g. if you write a singular instead of a plural noun, it counts as a wrong answer.
- Write answers clearly. Illegible handwriting will result in a wrong answer.



## IELTS WRITING



### MARKING

- You are marked on 4 criteria.
- Task achievement (Task 1) / task response (Task 2).
- Coherence and cohesion.
- Lexical resource.
- Grammatical range and accuracy.



## IELTS SPEAKING



### MARKING

- You are marked on four criteria.
- Fluency and coherence.
- Lexical resource (vocabulary).
- Grammar.
- Pronunciation.



## Apps

Practise IELTS on the move with these free mobile apps. Access practice tests, check your progress and find all you need to know about taking IELTS

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**Clarity**

¿Tienes preguntas? Contáctanos: [servicioalcliente@britishcouncil.org.co](mailto:servicioalcliente@britishcouncil.org.co)

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