

# GET READY FOR IELTS™

## PREPÁRATE PARA EL EXAMEN



## IELTS TE LLEVA A LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS Y CANADÁ

Si estás contemplando estudiar en Estados Unidos, Canadá o Australia, el **British Council** te ofrece la herramienta perfecta para iniciar un pregrado o posgrado a través del examen IELTS.

Más de 10.000 instituciones de educación superior alrededor del mundo reconocen el examen para sus procesos de admisión de las cuales más de 3.200 están en los Estados Unidos, incluyendo las más prestigiosas universidades pertenecientes a la Ivy League.

Además del reconocimiento, el formato del IELTS contiene ejercicios de producción de textos y comprensión de lectura del tipo que emplean en sus actividades académicas las universidades.

**EL TIEMPO**, en alianza con el British Council, se complace en presentar este coleccionable de 20 salidas que ofrece a los estudiantes universitarios enfocados en países como Estados Unidos, Canadá, Australia, Nueva

Zelanda o Europa, un complemento perfecto de preparación para el tomar el examen.

El **IELTS** es copropiedad del British Council, Cambridge Assessment English e IDP, y es un examen que evalúa las habilidades comunicativas del idioma inglés. Es la opción ideal para estudiar en el Reino Unido o trabajar en Canadá y Australia donde la prueba está plenamente reconocida por las autoridades para sus respectivos procesos migratorios.

Actualmente, el British Council ofrece sesiones públicas en Bogotá, Barranquilla, Cali, Medellín, Manizales, Bucaramanga, Pasto, Cúcuta, Ibagué, Villavicencio, Cartagena y próximamente en más ciudades.

### ENCUENTRA EN ESTA SALIDA:

- IELTS Reading Passage 3
- Speaking, writing and listening

SALIDA | JUEVES  
18 | 29 DE NOVIEMBRE

 **READING**

## ¿SABÍAS QUE?

- El examen IELTS evalúa las cuatro habilidades y está diseñado para reflejar la capacidad de comunicación en inglés en diferentes ámbitos (general y académico).
- 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.
- La administración del British Council y sus aliados te ofrecen los más altos estándares internacionales de seguridad para garantizar tus resultados.

# READING

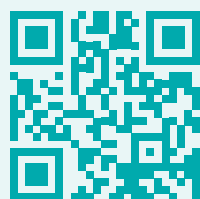
## IELTS READING ACADEMIC

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.

**LEARN MORE**



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

Questions 1 – 10 are based on reading passage 3 below

### READING PASSAGE 3

## HAPPINESS IS ...

According to Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, the definition of happiness is:

- A state of well-being and contentment
- A pleasurable or satisfying experience

**A** 'Happiness' today is investigated as a psychological phenomenon. However, for the Greek philosopher Aristotle (384–322 BC) it had a much broader significance. His theory of eudaimonia, 'well-being' or 'happiness', meant living well, enjoying many different aspects of a flourishing life: good health and physical well-being, material prosperity, thriving familial and friendship ties, fulfilment of intellectual and moral needs as well as living in a just and well-ordered society.

**B** A lot of our current assumptions about happiness have been confirmed by recent studies. Robust romantic relationships, good health, being well-off and enjoyment of a spiritual dimension to life all generate happiness. Our expectations are that positive outcomes in life will make us far happier and negative ones far unhappier than they really do. Harvard psychologist Dan Gilbert explains that over the last two million years human brains have grown and gained a new structure –

the pre-frontal cortex. This allows us to simulate experiences but we tend to imagine the outcome of one scenario (for example, passing an exam) as being radically different from another (failing the exam) in terms of impact. Gilbert says, however, the difference is less significant than what we envisage because of our innate ability to synthesise happiness.

**C** Gilbert claims there are two kinds of happiness: "Natural happiness is what we get when we get what we wanted, and synthetic happiness is what we make when we don't get what we wanted." Gilbert maintains that synthetic happiness is just as real and enduring as natural happiness. They might have different origins but they feel the same. He likens the production of synthetic happiness to a psychological immune system – a system of mainly unconscious cognitive processes that facilitate a modification of our view of the world so that we feel better about the situation we find ourselves in. We have the ability to manufacture happiness.

**D** This inherent coping mechanism minimises our disappointment and allows us to experience happiness even when we do not achieve our desires but Timothy Pychyl (Carleton University, Canada) warns that, when this happens, we minimize the 'perceived distance between our actual self and ideal self'. This 'cognitive dissonance' is an important source of incentive in our lives. For instance, think of an athlete who receives a bronze medal when she expected gold. If happiness is synthesised, she is content but where is the stimulus to improve? Pychyl believes we must learn to recognise synthetic happiness and use the tension caused by the divergence between actual and ideal self to change our behaviour; in the case of the athlete, this discrepancy would provide the impetus for harder training.

**E** According to Gilbert, if we get what we want, natural happiness ensues. If we don't get what we want, our psychological immune system is activated and synthetic happiness kicks in. However, when we have the liberty to choose from many options, we tend to agonise over squandered opportunities denying ourselves synthetic happiness. He believes synthetic happiness ensues only when people have no alternative.

**F** However, as Barry Schwartz points out, "we take choice as the critical sign that we have freedom and autonomy". Although it may seem counter-intuitive, an explosion of choice leads not to heightened feelings of liberation but to paralysis instead. Even if we overcome the paralysis, with proliferation of possibility there is an escalation of expectations and consumers experience regret because they imagine the alternatives might have been better.

**G** H. A. Simon classified consumers into 'satisficers', who settle for 'good enough', and 'maximisers', who want the best. It is the maximiser's pursuit of perfection amidst an overwhelming array of options that leads to constant dissatisfaction and disappointment. Why? Because they made the choice and therefore they are responsible. Where there is no choice, we tend to blame outside factors. The satisficer's strategy seems practical and sensible but, with more choice, comes more pressure to maximise, making life more difficult and stressful. For many the freedom to choose is no freedom at all.

## Questions 1–5

Reading Passage 3 has seven paragraphs, **A–G**.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, **A–G**, in boxes 1–5 on your answer sheet.

- |                                                                  |                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> The result of always looking for excellence             | <b>4</b> A definition of an ancient concept of happiness                       |
| <b>2</b> The distinction between synthetic and natural happiness | <b>5</b> An example of how synthesised happiness results in lack of motivation |
| <b>3</b> causes of happiness today                               |                                                                                |

## Questions 6–10

Look at the following statements (Questions 6–10) and the list of researchers below.

Match each statement with the correct researcher, **A–D**.

Write the correct letter, A–D, in boxes 6–10 on your answer sheet.

**NB** You may use any letter more than once.

- |                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6</b> People can use the conflict between how they really are and how they would like to be to improve performance. |
| <b>7</b> People think the power of choice proves they are independent and free.                                        |
| <b>8</b> People who seek perfection blame themselves if the outcome is not perfect.                                    |
| <b>9</b> Synthetic happiness lasts for the same length of time as natural happiness.                                   |
| <b>10</b> Too much choice results in a failure to take action.                                                         |

### List of Researchers

- A** Gilbert
- B** Pychyl
- C** Schwartz
- D** Simon

## GET READY FOR IELTS

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 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 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 SPEAKING



### MARKING

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



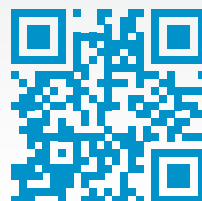
## Apps

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[WWW.TAKEIELTS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG/APPS](http://WWW.TAKEIELTS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG/APPS)



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**Clarity**

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

¿Quieres IELTS para tu institución? Contacto: **Andrés Giraldo Medellín**: Gerente de Red de Exámenes

Colombia, Ecuador y Panamá.

[andres.giraldo@britishcouncil.org](mailto:andres.giraldo@britishcouncil.org)