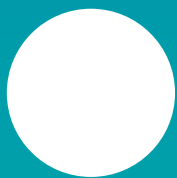


EL TIEMPO

EN ALIANZA CON
BRITISH
COUNCIL

GET READY FOR IELTS™

PREPÁRATE
PARA EL EXAMEN



CADA VEZ MÁS COLOMBIANOS VAN A MÁS LUGARES CON IELTS

El **British Council**, con casi 84 años de operación a nivel global y con presencia en más de 100 países, se ha consolidado como el líder mundial en la enseñanza y la evaluación del idioma inglés.

El IELTS, copropiedad del British Council, Cambridge Assessment e IDP, es el examen de inglés que evalúa las habilidades comunicativas para estudiar, trabajar y desenvolverse en situaciones cotidianas. El enfoque del examen es reconocido alrededor del mundo por ser justo, confiable y válido para el candidato, cualquiera que sea su nacionalidad, género o necesidad especial.

En Colombia, **IELTS** es el examen de inglés preferido por estudiantes de colegios, universidades y profesionales de todas las áreas. Cada vez más instituciones educativas de todos los niveles adoptan IELTS como

la prueba que garantiza mayor nivel de satisfacción entre sus candidatos y mayor confianza en sus resultados.

El British Council, en alianza con **EL TIEMPO**, se complace en presentar este coleccionable de 20 salidas que esperamos complemente tu proceso o curso de preparación para la versión académica y general del IELTS.

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:

- Academic Reading: passage 3
- Writing, listening and speaking

SALIDA

06

JUEVES

18 DE OCTUBRE

 **READING**

¿SABÍAS QUE?

- IELTS (International English Language Testing System) es el examen internacional de inglés con el mayor número de candidatos, anualmente más de 3 millones de personas.
- El examen IELTS es reconocido por más de 10.000 instituciones en más de 140 países.
- La administración del British Council y sus aliados te ofrecen los más altos estándares internacionales de seguridad para garantizar tus resultados.
- IELTS es uno de los pocos exámenes internacionales que incluyen una entrevista presencial para evaluar la habilidad de expresión oral.

READING

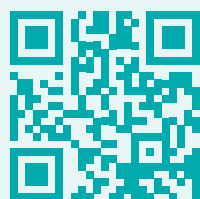
IELTS READING ACADEMIC

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

There are 3 sections in the IELTS Academic Reading test. In the exam you will be allowed 1 hour to complete all 3 sections. For the following exercise you should spend about 20 minutes.

READING PASSAGE 3

HELIUM'S FUTURE UP IN THE AIR

A In recent years we have all been exposed to dire media reports concerning the impending demise of global coal and oil reserves, but the depletion of another key nonrenewable resource continues without receiving much press at all. Helium – an inert, odourless, monatomic element known to lay people as the substance that makes balloons float and voices squeak when inhaled – could be gone from this planet within a generation.

B Helium itself is not rare; there is actually a plentiful supply of it in the cosmos. In fact, 24 per cent of our galaxy's elemental mass consists of helium, which makes it the second most abundant element in our universe. Because of its lightness, however, most helium vanished from our own planet many years ago. Consequently, only a miniscule proportion – 0.00052%, to be exact – remains in earth's atmosphere. Helium is the byproduct of millennia of radioactive decay from the elements thorium and uranium. The helium

is mostly trapped in subterranean natural gas bunkers and commercially extracted through a method known as fractional distillation.

C The loss of helium on Earth would affect society greatly. Defying the perception of it as a novelty substance for parties and gimmicks, the element actually has many vital applications in society. Probably the most well known commercial usage is in airships and blimps (non-flammable helium replaced hydrogen as the lifting gas du jour after the Hindenburg catastrophe in 1932, during which an airship burst into flames and crashed to the ground killing some passengers and crew). But helium is also instrumental in deep-sea diving, where it is blended with nitrogen to mitigate the dangers of inhaling ordinary air under high pressure; as a cleaning agent for rocket engines; and, in its most prevalent use, as a coolant for superconducting magnets in hospital MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanners.

D The possibility of losing helium forever poses the threat of a real crisis because its unique qualities are extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible to duplicate (certainly, no biosynthetic ersatz product is close to approaching the point of feasibility for helium, even as similar developments continue apace for oil and coal). Helium is even cheerfully derided as a "loner" element since it does not adhere to other molecules like its cousin, hydrogen. According to Dr. Lee Sobotka, helium is the "most noble of gases, meaning it's very stable and non-reactive for the most part... it has a closed electronic configuration, a very tightly bound atom. It is this coveting of its own electrons that prevents combination with other elements'. Another important attribute is helium's

unique boiling point, which is lower than that for any other element. The worsening global shortage could render millions of dollars of high-value, life-saving equipment totally useless. The dwindling supplies have already resulted in the postponement of research and development projects in physics laboratories and manufacturing plants around the world. There is an enormous supply and demand imbalance partly brought about by the expansion of high-tech manufacturing in Asia.

E The source of the problem is the Helium Privatisation Act (HPA), an American law passed in 1996 that requires the U.S. National Helium Reserve to liquidate its helium assets by 2015 regardless of the market price. Although intended to settle the original cost of the reserve by a U.S. Congress ignorant of its ramifications, the result of this fire sale is that global helium prices are so artificially deflated that few can be bothered recycling the substance or using it judiciously. Deflated values also mean that natural gas extractors see no reason to capture helium. Much is lost in the process of extraction. As Sobotka notes: "[t]he government had the good vision to store helium, and the question now is: Will the corporations have the vision to capture it when extracting natural gas, and consumers the wisdom to recycle? This takes long-term vision because present market forces are not sufficient to compel prudent practice". For Nobel-prize laureate Robert Richardson, the U.S. government must be prevailed upon to repeal its privatisation policy as the country supplies over 80 per cent of global helium, mostly from the National Helium Reserve. For Richardson, a twenty- to fifty-fold increase in prices would provide incentives to recycle.

F A number of steps need to be taken in order to avert a costly predicament in the coming decades. Firstly, all existing supplies of helium ought to be

conserved and released only by permit, with medical uses receiving precedence over other commercial or recreational demands. Secondly, conservation should be obligatory and enforced by a regulatory agency. At the moment some users, such as hospitals, tend to recycle diligently while others, such as NASA, squander massive amounts of helium. Lastly, research into alternatives to helium must begin in earnest.

Questions 1–5

Reading Passage 3 has six paragraphs, A–F.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

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

- 1 A use for helium which makes an activity safer.
- 2 The possibility of creating an alternative to helium.
- 3 A term which describes the process of how helium is taken out of the ground.
- 4 A reason why users of helium do not make efforts to conserve it.
- 5 A contrast between helium's chemical properties and how non-scientists think about it.

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



Con el IELTS me di cuenta que tan importante es tener una certificación internacional.

Alexandra Rivera

www.eltiempo.com/ielts

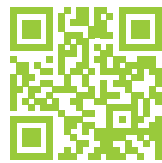
ANSWERS

Once you have completed the exercise, check your answers on



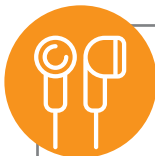


IELTS WRITING



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.



VERSIÓN COMPUTARIZADA: LA NUEVA FORMA DE PRESENTAR IELTS

Tendrás la opción de tomar el examen en un computador. La prueba oral mantiene su formato de entrevista cara a cara, que es la manera que más favorece al candidato.



MUY PRONTO

RECIBE UN CURSO DE PREPARACIÓN EN LÍNEA ROAD TO IELTS CON LA COMPRA DEL EXAMEN



ROAD TO IELTS
IELTS preparation and practice

Prepárate para un excelente puntaje en IELTS



Clarity

¿Tienes preguntas? Contáctanos: servicioalcliente@britishcouncil.org.co

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

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