Aims of the Session

• To give a brief overview of the listening & reading tests.

• To look at the types of tasks you are asked to do in the tests.

• To offer a few tips.

• To suggest possible resources.
Listening - Test Overview

• first test/ 30 mins
• played once/ 30 seconds reading time
• question paper & answer sheet (10 mins to transfer)
• 2 parts - social context & educational/ training context
• 4 sections/ 40 questions
• up to 4 task types per section
• conversation & monologue
• increases in difficulty
Academic Reading - Test Overview

- 60 mins/ 3 passages/ 40 questions
- texts - books, magazines, journals & newspapers
- topics of general interest
- up to 4 task types per passage
- 1,500 to 2,500 words
- one text non-verbal material possible
- one text detailed logical argument
- increases in difficulty
- poor spelling & grammar penalised
Listening & Reading - Marking

• one mark per question
• result converted to band 1-9
• whole or half bands
• band on result sheet
Task Types - Academic Reading and Listening Papers

• multiple choice/selection
• short answer questions
• sentence completion
• completing notes/table/summary/flow-chart/diagram
• classifying or grouping
• labelling a diagram which has numbered parts
Task Type unique to Listening Paper

- filling in a form
Task Types unique to Academic Reading Paper

• choosing headings
• scanning & identifying location of information
• YES, NO, NOT GIVEN – writer’s views, opinions or claims
Multiple Choice/Selection Questions

Three types:
1) one possible answer
2) multiple answers for one mark
3) multiple answers for one mark each

Complete sentences or answer questions.

Ex.
Short Answer Questions

Two types:
1) questions
2) lists

Require:
• general information or specific details.
• answers in NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS (usually).
Sentence Completion Questions

Two types:
1) with a selection of possible answers (reading only).
2) without a choice of possible answers

Required to:
• complete the end of a sentence or insert a word or phrase in the middle of a sentence (listening only).
• write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS.
• use words from reading text (reading only).
Two types:
1) a selection of possible answers
2) without a choice of possible answers
Required to:
• insert a word/phrase in middle of sentence.
• insert a word in middle & another word at end.
• write words or phrases that are not in sentences.
• write a letter that represents a word or phrase.
Ex.
Classification Questions

Required to classify information given in the texts.

Classifications often concern:
- opinion of speaker or writer.
- a period of time.
- a place.

Required to:
- write a letter which represents one of the classifications beside an item in a list or
- identify or circle a letter or
- tick a column in a table.

Ex.
Matching Questions

Required to match a list or opinions to sources mentioned in the text.
Texts have a number of different people's opinions.
Sources are usually numbered.
Opinions usually given a letter.
Could be more opinions than sources.

Ex.
Labelling a Diagram which has Numbered Parts

Given a diagram.
Asked to label it with:
• (reading) words from text.
• (listening) labels given in listening text or from a box of words.
Choosing Headings

Two types:
1) choosing headings for paragraphs or sections of a text
   Required to:
   • sum up the meaning of a paragraph to match to a possible heading.
   • maybe match every paragraph or section of text.

2) choosing a heading for the whole text
   Required to sum up the whole text.

Ex.
Scanning & identifying location of information

• Require you to scan the text to find the location of information.
• Given a set of statements.
• Need to find paragraph each statement comes from.
Yes, No, Not Given or True, False, Not Given

- Two types.
- Require you to identify:
  1) writer’s views or claims
  2) information in the text

Given a list of statements – opinions or facts. Have to decide for:

1) if they are the opinions or not or not given.
2) if they are facts whether true, false or not given.
General Tips for the Listening Test

Before the exam
• Become familiar with question types.
• Think about contexts.
• Listen to a wide range of material.
• Do practice tests.
• Focus on strategies & skills e.g. guessing meaning of unknown words; recognising signposts; listening for specific info. etc
General Tips for the Listening Test

During the exam

Before listening

• Read the questions.
• Look at all the questions in each section.
• Read the instructions carefully.
• Know the form of your answer: tick, circle, letter, word etc.
• Decide what listening for.
• Predict answers.
General Tips for the Listening Test

During the exam
While listening
• Listen carefully to instructions.
• Listen for key words & signpost words.
• Remember words/expressions in talk may be different to the questions.
• Remember some information may be irrelevant.
• Write down something even if you haven’t got the answer.
• Continue to listen while writing.
• Move on. Don’t get stuck.
• Write notes in the question booklet as you listen.
General Tips for the Listening Test

After Listening

• Transfer answers carefully.
• Use time to check answers.
• If you can’t remember, guess.
General Tips for the Reading Test

Before the exam.

• Become familiar with instructions for question types.
• Read as much as possible.
• Work on reading skills e.g. guessing meaning of unknown words; understanding signpost words in texts & reading quickly.
• Work on expanding your vocabulary.
• Do practice tests.

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General Tips for the Reading Test

• Read newspaper articles & practise:
  * dividing content into facts & opinions
  * finding topic sentences
  * writing summaries
  * interpreting tables & diagrams
  * underlining unknown words & working out meaning
  * underlining pronouns & working out what they refer to
  * reading the first paragraph and predicting what’s next
General Tips for the Reading Test

During the exam

• Look through the whole reading module first
• Quickly look at the texts. Study any: titles; headings; sub headings; illustrations; diagrams; words in bold type/italics
• Read questions carefully. Identify question type.
• Read any glossaries.
• Don’t spend too long on one question.
• Copy all words from text carefully.
Resources for Listening Reading Test Practice

• Websites:
  IELTS official website
  http://www.ielts.org/
  Homesglen
  http://international.holmesglen.vic.edu.au/ie_read_03.htm

• IELTS Specimen Pack:
  practice material with answers.

• Cambridge Examination Papers:
  IELTS 1 IELTS 2 IELTS 3
Resources for Listening & Reading Test Practice

• Practice Books:
  – Practice tests, strategies and test tips.
  – Practice tests with guidance

• Course Books:
  Jakeman, V & McDowell, C (1999) Insight into IELTS, CUP.
Resources for both modules

• Help:
  - English Language Centre ‘How to prepare for IELTS’ booklets
  - English Language Centre language learning advisors
  - English Language Centre workshops
General information on the test

- IELTS Handbook
- Most of the course books and web sites
Questions?
THE END