IELTS CD Experience

by **Md. Arifur Rahman**

Overall: 8: Listening: 8 | Reading: 8 | Writing: 7.5 | Speaking: 8

This document is part of my Facebook post: Link

The Complete Speaking Test I Faced

Part 1:

1. Where do you live? How long have you been living there?
2. Are the people there friendly? Do you like living there?
3. Do people of all ages live in your area?

4. Are there many small businesses in your area?
5. Do you prefer buying things from big companies or small businesses?
6. [Another question regarding packaged foods]
7. Have you ever worked in small businesses?
8. Have you ever thought about starting your own business?

9. Do you like wearing T-shirts?
10. How often do you wear T-shirts?
11. Do you like T-shirts with pictures or prints?
12. Why not? [a follow-up question on 11's response]
13. Do old people in your area wear t-shirts? If not, what do they wear?
14. Did you ever buy a t-shirt for yourself on a trip as a souvenir?
15. Why? [a follow-up question on 14's response]

Part 2:

Describe a situation when you were late for something important:

You should say:

- what the event was
- where it was
- why you were late
- and explain how you felt about it

Part 3:

1. Why is it difficult for some people to be on time or manage time?
2. How can people manage their time better?

   Mentioned sleep in my answer and was asked the next follow-up question:
3. Why do you think sleep needs to be fixed first?

Let's talk about work-life balance:

1. The effect of work-life balance on society.
2. Is it difficult for perfectionists to ensure a good work-life balance?
3. Effect of technology on work-life balance.
4. Is it right for employers to ask employees to work from home?

There might have been one or two more questions in Part 3, this is all I could recall.

Preparing for the Test

IELTS is a standardized test, and for any test as such, the score does not necessarily reflect your ability to use English only but also **your ability to take the test**. No matter what your current level is, you have to take test-specific preparation to demonstrate your current skills completely.

Official Materials:

1. The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS
   Before resorting to any other materials, it is important that you complete this textbook thoroughly (it won't take that long). You will use the knowledge gained from this book to assess every other third-party sources, whether to follow the advice or not. It is the sole official guide to IELTS.

2. Cambridge IELTS 10-17

3. Writing Task 2 Band Descriptors: https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/ielts_task_2_writing_band_descriptors.pdf

4. Writing Task 1 Band Descriptors: https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/ielts_task_1_writing_band_descriptors.pdf

5. Speaking Band Descriptors: https://www.ielts.org/-/media/pdfs/speaking-band-descriptors.ashx

YouTube Channels

1. E2 IELTS https://www.youtube.com/@E2IELTS/
2. IELTS Advantage https://www.youtube.com/@Ieltsadvantage
3. IELTS Liz https://www.youtube.com/@ieltsliz
4. Speaking Test Examples:
   a. https://www.youtube.com/@IELTSSPEAKINGTESTCHANNEL/
   b. https://www.youtube.com/@TOPIELTSTESTS/

Listening:

1. Go to Google Podcast https://podcasts.google.com/ and start listening to a genre of your preference. I usually listen to
   a. The Audio Long Read by The Guardian
   b. The Economist Podcasts

c. Nature Podcast by Springer Nature Limited
d. Huberman Lab
e. Lex Fridman Podcast
f. Stuff You Should Know
g. Ridiculous History

Reading:

https://readtheory.org/

Sign up for this website and start solving reading passages. This is a gold mine.

Beginners:

1. Daily Star Opinion: https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion
2. BBC Future: https://www.bbc.com/future
3. BBC Culture: https://www.bbc.com/culture

Intermediate+

1. https://aeon.co/

   a free website with long-form articles + audio
2. The Guardian https://www.theguardian.com/international
3. The Economist https://www.economist.com/
4. aldaily.com

Writing:

1. Refer to the **Task 1 & 2 band descriptors** and study each band's requirements
2. Refer to **The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS** and study the writing section word by word
3. Go through the writing examples in **Cambridge IELTS 10-17** and the examiner's comments, and you will understand exactly how you are supposed to write.

Speaking

1. Go through the offical **Speaking Band Descriptors**
2. Practice with strangers online at: https://www.free4talk.com/
3. AI speaking practice tool: https://smalltalk2.me/

Preparing for Computer-Delivered IELTS

If you are planning to take the IELTS CD, the CD mock tests available for Listening and Reading at popular coaching centers are of no good; however, you can still take such mock tests to practice Writing & Speaking in a controlled environment. Still, don't take their feedback on your writing samples too seriously.

1. IELTS Official & free familiarization test: https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/ielts-on-computer/familiarisation-test
2. For mock tests: https://ieltsonlinetests.com/

Taking Mock-tests at Home

- There are 8 tests in the **The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS** and 8*4 = 32 tests in **Cambridge IELTS 10-17.** That's a total of 40 authentic tests, use them wisely.
- Do not simply move on to the next mock test after you are done taking one, take your time to review the mistakes. This is especially important for the listening part, play the audio once more and read the audio script provided in the books.
    - There is plenty of good advice in the **The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS**, so go finish studying the book first.
- You may practice a single section (L/R/W/S) at once while developing the skills, but you must practice full-length tests spanning 3 hours at home.