

## IELTS Preparation:

The IELTS exam is designed to test both your language skills (i.e. your level of grammar and vocabulary) and your academic skills (i.e. your ability to write a well-developed essay or summarise complex reading texts). However, your starting level of English is a very good predictor of the score that you can expect to achieve. If you do not have the right level of English to achieve your target score, then no amount of preparation in academic skills will help. Here is a table that shows a list of levels and the score that you can expect to achieve if you prepare for IELTS well:

| English Level                        | Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) | Expected IELTS score after preparation |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Elementary / Pre-Intermediate</b> | A1 / A2                                       | 0 - 3.5                                |
| <b>Intermediate</b>                  | B1  | 4.0 - 5.0                              |
| <b>Upper-Intermediate</b>            | B2  | 5.0 - 6.5                              |
| <b>Advanced</b>                      | C1  | 6.5 - 8.0                              |
| <b>Proficiency</b>                   | C2  | 8.0 - 9.0                              |

Do not start preparing for the IELTS until your level of English is close to your target IELTS score. So, if you need a 6.5 (for example to study abroad), then you should start when your level is B2 (Upper Intermediate). If you need an 8.0 to migrate to Australia or Canada, then you should focus on your general level of English until you are at least C1 (Advanced) or C2 (Proficient).

According to the Cambridge support website:

***"...it takes approximately 200 guided learning hours for a language learner to progress from one level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) to the next."***

The table below is taken from the Cambridge support site. It suggests how many guided learning hours you might need to reach each level of the CEFR. These figures are intended as a guideline only and you may require more or less time and support depending on your own needs.

**Common European Framework Guided Learning Hours (from beginner level):**

| <b>CEFR Level</b> | <b>Cambridge English Exam</b>  | <b>Number of Hours (approximate)</b> |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| C2                | C2 Proficiency - previously known as Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)        | 1,000—1,200                          |
| C1                | C1 Advanced - previously known as Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)              | 700—800                              |
| B2                | B2 First - previously known as Cambridge English: First (FCE)                    | 500—600                              |
| B1                | B1 Preliminary - previously known as Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET)        | 350—400                              |
| A2                | A2 Key - previously known as Cambridge English: Key (KET)                        | 180—200                              |
| A1                | A1 Starters/Movers - previously known as Cambridge English Starters/Movers (YLE) | 90-100                               |

You can find more information from the Cambridge support website:

<https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/hc/en-gb/articles/202838506-Guided-learning-hours>

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