

IELTS Band Scores:

An overview on how they are calculated

The IELTS band score tables below explain the scoring to will help you calculate and understand your score.

How the IELTS Band Scores are calculated

All IELTS scores are between 0 and 9. You can also get .5 scores as well (for example, 6.5 or 7.5). You will get a band score for each skill (listening, reading, writing and speaking) and also an overview band score. The overall band score is the average score of all the skills. See the table below as an example.

Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall
8	7.5	7	7.5	7.5

If your overall score is an average of 6.25, your score will be increased to 6.5.

If your overall score is an average of 6.75, your score will be increased to 7.

If your overall score is 6.1, your score will go down to 6.

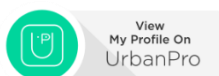
Your score is rounded up or down to the nearest 0.5 or whole score as shown above.

Band score	Skill level	Description
Band 9	Expert user	You have a full operational command of the language. Your use of English is appropriate, accurate and fluent, and you show complete understanding.
Band 8	Very good user	You have a fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriate usage. You may misunderstand some things in unfamiliar situations. You handle complex detailed argumentation well.
Band 7	Good user	You have an operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriate usage and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally you handle complex language well and understand detailed reasoning.
Band 6	Competent user	Generally you have an effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriate usage and misunderstandings. You can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
Band 5	Modest user	You have a partial command of the language, and cope with overall meaning in most situations, although you are likely to make many mistakes. You should be able to handle basic communication in your own field.
Band 4	Limited user	Your basic competence is limited to familiar situations. You frequently show problems in understanding and expression. You are not able to use complex language.
Band 3	Extremely limited user	You convey and understand only general meaning in very familiar situations. There are frequent breakdowns in communication.
Band 2	Intermittent user	You have great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.
Band 1	Non-user	You have no ability to use the language except a few isolated words.
Band 0	Did not attempt the test	You did not answer the questions.

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Listening and Reading Band Scores

Your listening and reading scores are calculated by the number of correct answers you have out of the 40 questions in the test. You do not lose points for incorrect answers.

CORRECT ANSWERS	BAND SCORE
11-12	4
13-15	4.5
16-17	5
18-22	5.5
23-25	6
26-29	6.5
30-31	7
32-34	7.5
35-36	8
37-38	8.5
39-40	9

IELTS READING SCORES

ACADEMIC

GENERAL

CORRECT ANSWERS	BAND SCORE	CORRECT ANSWERS	BAND SCORE
39-40	9	40	9
37-38	8.5	39	8.5
35-36	8	37-38	8
33-34	7.5	36	7.5
30-32	7	34-35	7
27-29	6.5	32-33	6.5
23-26	6	30-31	6
19-22	5.5	27-29	5.5
15-18	5	23-26	5
13-14	4.5	19-22	4.5
10-12	4	15-18	4
8-9	3.5	12-14	3.5
6-7	3	9-11	3
4-5	2.5	6-8	2.5

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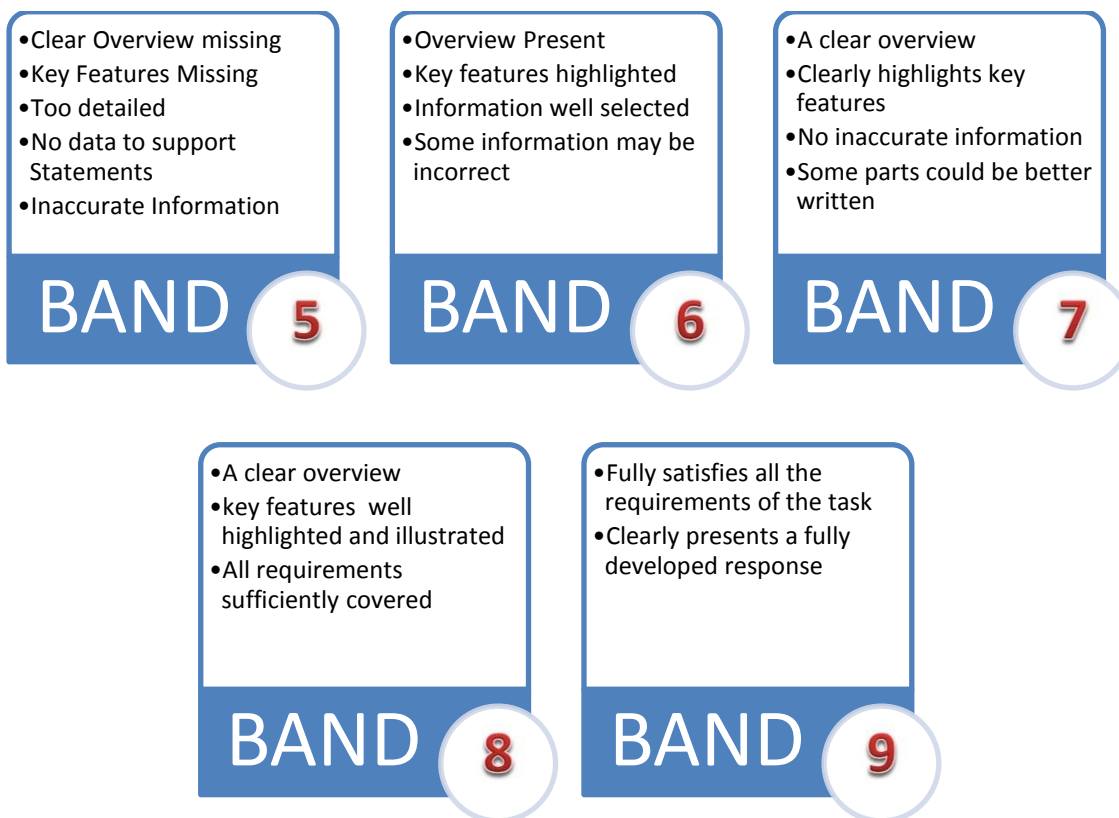
Writing Task 1 Marking Criteria

At the IELTS exams , the examiner will evaluate your writing under 4 different criteria . Each criterion is worth 25% of your total marks for writing task 1.

- Task Achievement
- Coherence and Cohesion
- Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Below are tables to show you the requirement for IELTS band score 5 to 8 in writing task 1 for each assessment criterion. At the bottom of the page is more information about the marking criteria.

Task Achievement – This implies how you write the overview; provide information in detail and with accuracy.



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Tips to improve your score

- Evaluate the chart and identify all key features
- Highlight your key features in an overview (see table above)
- Associate your body paragraph with data (numbers and dates if possible)
- Avoid putting in information which is wrong
- DO NOT give an opinion
- Compose a factual report
- Write over 150 words

Coherence

 (as per the Cambridge dictionary means)

UK /kəʊ'hiə.rəns

The situation when the parts of something fit together in a natural or reasonable way:

*Example: There was no coherence **between** the first and the second half of the movie.*

Cohesion

 (as per the Cambridge dictionary means)

UK /kəʊ'hi:.ʒən/

The situation when the members of a group or society are united:

*Example: The **lack of** cohesion within the party lost them votes in the election.*

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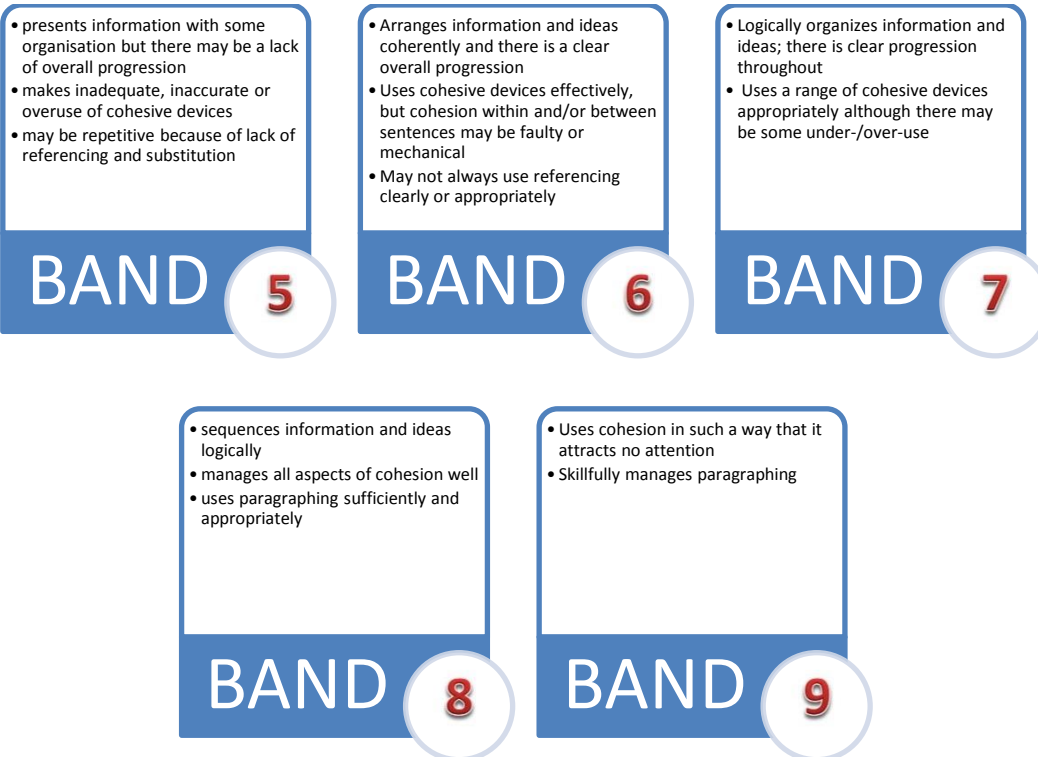
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Coherence and Cohesion



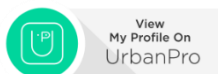
Tips to improve your score

- Plan where to put your information
- Have four body paragraphs (structure and paragraphing)
- Use a range of linking devices
- Avoid mistakes with linking words
- Use referencing (this, it, etc.)

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lexical

adjective

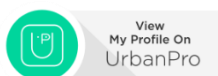
UK /'lek.sɪ.kəl

Relating to the words or vocabulary of a language.

Lexical Resource - Your use of vocabulary, your spelling and the number of mistakes will affect your score

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- Uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task
- May make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader

BAND

5

- Uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task
- Attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy
- Makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not obstruct communication

BAND

6

- Uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and accuracy
- Uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and association
- May produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation

BAND

7

- uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings
- skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation
- produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation

BAND

8

- uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'

BAND

9



Tips to improve your score

- Try and use a range of vocabulary
- The vocabulary used should present an accurate data
- Understand collocations (matching verbs with nouns)
- Avoid spelling mistakes
- Don't use the wrong words or informal language,
- Don't use idioms unless you are 100% sure about the meaning

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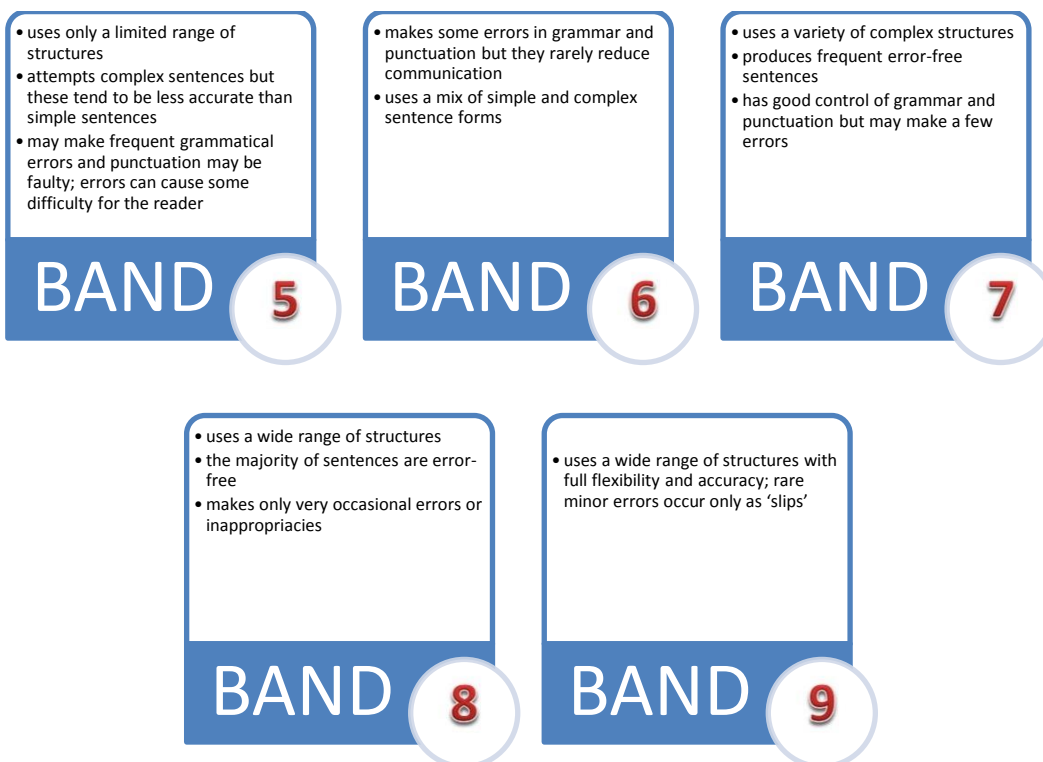


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Grammatical Range and Accuracy — A band score is given for your sentence structures, tenses, control of grammar and the number of mistakes.

Grammatical range in the IELTS writing is a reference to how complex one's ability to utilize **grammar** is, or the **range of grammar** one uses the ability to go beyond basic **grammar** forms



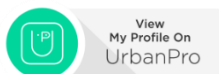
Tips to improve your score

- use a range of sentence structures
- use the right tense for the chart given to you
- use the right word order
- adjective noun / verb adverb
- avoid mistakes (see table above to learn how mistakes affect your score)
- use the right punctuation

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