

# Prepare your Students for IELTS



## Overview and Outcomes

This 6-unit online course explores all four IELTS papers, looking at the different exam tasks and the skills and sub-skills which are tested in them. You will also look at the speaking and writing test criteria in order to be better able to understand what is expected at each IELTS band and help your students to effectively prepare for these parts of the exam.

The course gives you the chance to try out and reflect on a variety of classroom activities which prepare your learners for all aspects of the exam, including the acquisition of new vocabulary. The course also explores common teaching issues with IELTS classes, such as how to support learners of differing abilities.

### Trainers

NILE's highly experienced trainers are experts, not only in their fields, but also in working online with teachers for continuing professional development. Read more about NILE's trainers, their experience and interests at [The NILE Team](#) on the [NILE website](#).

### Teaching approaches

- We make courses practical and 'hands-on', with reference to relevant theory
- Our courses are participant-centred and collaborative, designed to build knowledge and confidence
- We use activities and tasks to help you apply the course content to your setting
- Courses are broken down into individual units and activities, forming a clear structure.
- Tasks are interactive, involving live online sessions, forums and community walls, and utilise a range of multimedia including images, audio files and videos.

*Prepare your Students for IELTS* will enable you to

- Focus on improving your understanding of IELTS exam tasks and what skills and sub-skills are tested
- Explore how to be better able to help learners achieve their desired score in the IELTS exam
- Explore how to be better able to engage and motivate students preparing for the IELTS exam
- Discover how to be better able to assess students' (typo here!) speaking and writing against the IELTS assessment criteria
- Reflect on ways to prepare for and plan a course
- Reflect on ways to organise an IELTS preparation lesson
- Reflect on how to support students with different abilities in IELTS preparation groups
- Explore principles of vocabulary acquisition and engaging classroom activities to help learners acquire and review vocabulary

Each course has a maximum of 18 participants and consists of 6 units, one unit to be completed per week, with an optional 4-week NILE Online assignment or 8-week Trinity College London assignment at the end.

Time will be built into the course for reflection, to consider how to adapt the content to your own professional context. We then support you in creating a strategy for putting your ideas into practice in your institution.

The NILE Online platform was developed specifically for teacher development courses, and upholds the NILE tradition of excellence in tutoring, materials, support and engagement.

### Certification

- Your end-of-course NILE certificate details the areas covered on your course. It comes with recommendations for sharing what you have learnt and implementing your action plan at your institution
- The course can be extended to include [The Trinity Certificate for Practising Teachers \(CertPT\)](#) - awarded upon completing an 8-week assignment after the course, fulfilling the skills and knowledge descriptors as set out by Trinity College London.



### Who is the course suitable for?

- Teachers who already prepare students for the IELTS exam or who are thinking of doing so in the future.
- Participants with a minimum language level corresponding to B2/C1 on the Common European Framework

### Requirements and Resources

- Participants need a computer, a headset (with microphone) and an Internet connection. You can do much of the course on a tablet or mobile device, but will need a computer for certain activities.

## Schedule

This course consists of 6 units, one unit to be completed per week. Each unit requires approximately 5 hours work per week.

### Course Content

#### Unit 1: IELTS Speaking development

We will begin with an overview of the exam and then focus on the speaking section. We will look at what candidates are expected to do in each part, useful language that can help learners to perform a number of different functions in these parts, and classroom activities that can help learners to prepare for each part. We will also think about ways to organise a speaking lesson on an IELTS preparation course, which can also be used with the other three skills too.

#### Unit 2: Assessing IELTS speaking

In this unit, we will look at key terminology in the assessment criteria (band descriptors) and what it means, and examine the key differences between bands. You will watch several sample speaking tests, and evaluate the candidates against the criteria, using the examiner's feedback to help you better understand what is expected at each IELTS band. Finally, we will think about ways to help learners to understand and use the criteria themselves.

#### Unit 3: Listening and Differentiation

In this unit, we look at the sub-skills tested in the listening section and think about classroom activities that can help learners to develop their listening skills in preparation for the test, as well as develop their listening skills in general. You will try out some of those activities and reflect on their use with your students. You will have the opportunity to evaluate some useful resources, and share your own ideas. Finally, we look at ways that we can address the issue of mixed ability IELTS preparation classes, thinking about how we can add support for weaker learners, and add extra challenge for stronger learners.

#### Unit 4: Writing Part 1

After an overview of the writing section, we focus on part 1 in this unit. We will look at what is expected of candidates when they produce a description of a chart, graph, table, process or map in the Academic test, or correspondence in the General Training test. We will look at practical activities for helping learners to improve their completion of these tasks. We will then examine the assessment criteria for part 1 writing tasks (band descriptors) and, as with speaking, look at the differences between different bands and what is expected at different levels. You will read some sample answers and assess them against the criteria, reading the examiner's comments to help you better understand what a candidate's writing in different bands looks like.

#### Unit 5: Writing Part 2

In this unit, we focus on how we can help candidates to write an effective essay. This includes helping them to come up with ideas, plan, organise their essay effectively, write an introduction, main body paragraph and conclusion using appropriate language, and develop ideas which are effectively linked. We will then look at the assessment criteria (band descriptors) for this part 2 task and use them to evaluate sample answers, again looking at the examiner's comments to help you get a better understanding of how writing is assessed by examiners.

#### Unit 6: Reading and Vocabulary development

In this unit, we will look common text types in the IELTS reading section, and consider the sub-skills typically tested. We will look at ways to help learners adapt useful exam strategies and evaluate some classroom activities. You will have the opportunity to look at some useful resources, and share your own ideas. Finally, we will look at some principles of vocabulary acquisition and evaluate engaging classroom activities to help learners acquire and review vocabulary. Finally, there will be time for reflection on what you will take away from the course.

#### Assignment

##### Option A

Assess a candidate's speaking OR writing test and use that assessment to provide feedback on what the candidate did well and what they need to improve to achieve a higher band. Then, suggest or create a classroom activity that will help the learner to make each specified improvement.

##### Option B

Identify a learning objective for a 45-60-minute IELTS preparation class and design an outline lesson plan that will give learners the opportunity to achieve that objective.

At NILE we are committed to offering the best in language teacher training. As such, NILE Online courses were developed specifically to recreate the classroom experience and thus, we provide two-way tutorial contact in our online courses. Online participants will benefit from tutor interaction, support and feedback in each unit they take.

NILE Online is the first online course provider aligned to the Cambridge English Teaching Framework. NILE Online courses are also formally aligned to the Equals Framework for Language Teacher Training and Development, and the effort we take to make the NILE Online experience both positive and productive has been recognised by inspections from AQUEDUTO, The