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INTRODUCTION

How to use this book

There are three main parts to this book. The Academic Reading is Part 1 and the Academic Writing is divided into two sections: Part 2 for Task 1 and Part 3 for Task 2. The units and the activities have been numbered separately in each section. Answers for the activities and the practice tests are in the Answer Key at the end of the book.

Part 1: Academic Reading

Part 1 gives you:

- an overview of the test that describes the Academic Reading, the form of the instructions, and the question types. There is then a reading that contains examples of all the different question types found in the IELTS exam.
- a chapter on the skills you will need for success in the IELTS exam.
- the question types in detail. For each question type there is an *Explanation* at the beginning. The purpose of this explanation is to help you understand the purpose of the question type and the appropriate skill for answering the question. After the explanation, there is a *Guided Practice*. Here useful skills and strategies are explained in detail and there are activities for you to practise the skills. Then there is an *Exam-style Practice*, which provides a reading and questions for you to work through as you would for the actual IELTS exam. Follow the instructions for each activity and, when you have finished, check your answers in the Answer Key at the back of the book. Because working fast and efficiently is very important in tests, many exercises have a *Time Target*. The time target gives you a suggested time limit for the activity.
- four practice reading tests and a reading answer sheet, which you may copy.

Parts 2 and 3: Academic Writing

Part 2

- gives you an overview of Task 1.
- takes you through each of the features the examiner uses to mark Task 1: Task achievement, Coherence and cohesion, Lexical resource, and Grammatical range and accuracy. Here useful skills and language will be explained in detail and there are activities for you to practise the skills and the language.
- There are then some Task 1 questions with candidate answers and analysis of those answers. There are also several Task 1 questions for you to practise on.

Part 3

- gives you an overview of Task 2.
- takes you through the process of analysing the task question in order to plan your essay. Useful skills and language for writing an effective Task 2 response will be explained in detail and there are activities for you to practise the skills and the language.
- There are then some Task 2 questions for you to practise writing before you look at the sample answers given in the Appendix.

There are editing checklists for Tasks 1 and 2 that you can copy and use to assess your own writing.

You can do the sections in any sequence you wish, but you will gain most benefit by working through the units before you do any practice tests.

PART 1

ACADEMIC READING

UNIT 1

About the Academic Reading Test

The Reading module consists of three passages with a total of 2150–2750 words to read and a total of 40 questions to answer. You are given 60 minutes to finish the entire module.

Reading (Academic) Test Format

Reading Passage 1:

700-1000-word text

Questions 1–13 (usually)

Reading Passage 2:

700-1000-word text

Questions 14–26 (usually)

Reading Passage 3:

700-1000-word text

Questions 27–40 (usually)

Total time: 60 mins

TIP Remember to write your answers directly onto the answer sheet. No extra time is given to transfer your answers.

The reading passages are on topics of general interest and are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers. The content in these passages is appropriate for any undergraduate-level candidate. The passages may be written in narrative, descriptive, discursive or argumentative style and may include a diagram, graph or illustration. The passages tend to increase in difficulty from the first to the last.

TIP Aim to do the first passage as quickly as you can (within 15 minutes or so) so that you have plenty of time left for the second and third passages, which are usually more difficult.

Questions in the IELTS Academic Reading module test different reading abilities and skills. Therefore, they are designed differently and need to be answered in different ways. In the following pages you will learn what these question types are, what skills they aim to assess, and what strategies you can use to answer them with confidence and accuracy.

Activity 1.1: Types of questions

Look at some question types, listed on the left, and think of what each type of question expects you to do to answer it.

Multiple-choice questions	e.g. choose one item as my answer out of the given four or five options
Matching questions	1
Identifying information questions	2
Completion questions	3
Short answer questions	4

Answers to this exercise will vary so you should discuss them with a friend or teacher.

Once you have done Activity 1.2 below, you will be able to check whether you correctly identified the necessary skills. Using the above five basic question types in different ways, IELTS assesses your different reading skills and abilities.

TIP In the IELTS Academic Reading module, each correct answer is worth one mark. Also, a correct answer must have correct spelling and be within the prescribed word limit.

Activity 1.2: Introductory reading

The following reading contains examples of the different question types found in the IELTS exam. Once you have answered the questions, check your answers in the Answer Key in Appendix 1 at the back of the book.

More Water for Western Australia

Industry, Science and Innovation Division of the Western Australian Government Department of Commerce

A

Supplying quality water for a healthy life and a strong community is a major concern for Australia. A lack of rain, warmer conditions, population, agriculture and industry growth put strain on our existing and traditional supplies, especially in Western Australia.

Fortunately, innovative Western Australians manage this global quality water challenge by encouraging open dialogue and undertaking meaningful research to develop infrastructure and technology.

Desalination is just one of the solutions, and in 2006 Western Australia led the way in delivering more water into Perth's public supply system with the opening of Australia's first large-scale seawater desalination plant in Kwinana.

The Perth Seawater Desalination Plant is the Water Corporation's biggest single water source, providing some 17 per cent of Perth's water needs. The state's second plant in the Shire of Harvey is being constructed.

The National Centre of Excellence in Desalination (NCED) at Murdoch University leads and coordinates Australian research into desalination technology. Through the NCED, Australia is building national capacity and capabilities in desalination with a dual focus on breakthrough fundamental and applied research, with a goal to deliver meaningful improvements at a commercial scale.

NCED is currently partnering a project to develop a suitable and sustainable desalination system for providing drinking water in remote areas.

B

A need to supply more freshwater to the remote Tjuntjunjarra community prompted the research by Academic Chair of Energy Studies at Murdoch University Dr Trevor Pryor.

Located 800 kilometres north-east of Kalgoorlie with a population of 120, the community requires more freshwater of a better quality than can be supplied by the current source.