



## 2. GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE SUBJECT

Course title	:	IELTS READING
Semester	:	Autumn
Number of Credits	:	1
Total hours	:	16 hours
Each class contact duration	:	2 hours
Class contact number	:	8
Prerequisite	:	Proficiency level equivalent to 4.5 IELTS listening
Teachers in charge	:	

## 3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for the students of USTH to improve their English from the listening level equivalent to 4.5 IELTS. The course includes exercises and activities for students to develop language competence, language skills and testing techniques for questions in Reading test.

This course adopts learner-centered and communicative approaches.

The proficiency goal of this course is for the students to achieve at least Band 5.5 IELTS for listening skill.

## 4. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of the course, students are expected to be able to

1. achieve at least 5.5 IELTS score;
2. understand the strategies to deal with IELTS Listening question types.

### Course Prerequisites

In order to start their study in this course, students are supposed to have finished their English program at mainstream high schools in Vietnam, which also means that they

- have grasped certain vocabulary items of daily-life topics such as school and study, entertainment, environment, etc. which were presented in their high-school learning program.
- can read and understand short texts of 500-word length.
- are familiar to multiple choice question type.

## 5. MATERIALS

### Course books:

1. Barry Cusack & Sam McCarter. (2007). *Improve your skills: IELTS Reading*. Macmillan Publishers Limited
2. Book for homework: Sam McCarter. (2008). *IELTS test builder 2* (Sam Carter). MacMillan Publishers Ltd.

### Supplementary (Optional) Texts and Materials

Supplementary texts and materials are also included in the study pack for ease of reference. Detailed instructions and requirements on how to use and what to do with supplementary materials are to be given by individual lecturer.

### Book requirement for students:

Students also have e-copies of these materials (WITHOUT answer key). Students are required to prepare for their own hard copies. If students do not bring hard copies to class, they will be marked as absent for that class.

## 6. COURSE POLICY

- **Attendance Policy:** Students who are absent for 2 sessions onwards will merit an automatic failure.
- No late submission or task completion is accepted, unless otherwise approved by the teacher at least ONE week before the deadline. Late submission will occur in 20% reduction of the allotted grade for each day late.
- Completion of all assignments is required as the condition to sit for the final test
- **Technology and Media:**  
**Email:** Students can submit their home writing to the lecturer via email if allowed by him/her.  
**Laptop Usage:** Students can use their laptops during the lecture to look up for new words, or to type their writing (as required by lecturer). However, they will be asked to leave the classroom

immediately and marked as absent on that day if found using laptops for any purpose unrelated to that particular studying session.

- **Professionalism Policy:**
- Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, *etc.*, **must be silenced** during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment.
- Students are supposed to arrive on time in all class meetings and participate actively in the lessons. Those who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc.*, and have been warned will gain a reduction of up to 50% in their final class grade.
- **Academic Conduct Policy:** Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult University Policy for further details. As in all University courses, the University Policy will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.

## 7. ASSESSMENT

Components	Description	Grade allotment
Attendance/ Homework Completion	Either absence or incomplete hw= mark zero for that class Homework completion+ participation= 2.5pts/ class	10%
Midterm test-	WEEK 5 Implemented in class, designed by teacher of each class <b>Format:</b> An IELTS reading full test (40 questions, band 9.0) Marks submitted to the department: both on band 9.0 and converted marks to band 20 The students must be informed of their results 2 weeks after the test as the latest. The department is NOT responsible for dealing with the students' queries on midterm test.	30%
Final test- Date to be confirmed	Implemented by the department Date to be confirmed Implemented by the department Format: An IELTS reading full test (40 questions, band 9.0)	60%

## 9. UNDERSTAND THE READING TEST

### **You will need to read quickly and efficiently, and manage your time**

You will be asked to read three different passages and respond to related questions in your IELTS Reading test.

The content of the Reading test is different for [IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training](#) tests. Details of each version are given below.

### **Purpose of the test**

The IELTS Reading test is designed to assess a wide range of reading skills, including how well you

- read for the general sense of a passage
- read for the main ideas
- read for detail
- understand inferences and implied meaning
- recognise a writer's opinions, attitudes and purpose
- follow the development of an argument

This is the case for whichever version of the IELTS test you are taking.

### **Timing**

The IELTS Reading test takes 60 minutes. You are not allowed any extra time to transfer your answers, so write them directly on to your answer sheet. You will need to manage your time during the test because you will not be told when to start or finish each section.

### **Three sections**

You will be given three different passages to read, each with accompanying questions. You can expect to read 2,150 - 2,750 words in total during your test.

### **IELTS Academic Reading test**

There are three sections to the IELTS Academic Reading test, and each contains one long text.

These are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers. They have been written for a non-specialist audience and are on academic topics of general interest. They range from the descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical.

Each text might be accompanied by diagrams, graphs or illustrations, and you will be expected to show that you understand these too. A simple glossary is provided if the material contains technical terms.

### **Questions**

There are 40 questions.

A variety of question types is used. You may be asked to

- fill gaps in a passage of written text or in a table/ match headings to written text to diagrams or charts/ complete sentences/ give short answers to open questions/ answer multiple choice questions

Sometimes you will need to give one word as your answer, sometimes a short phrase, and sometimes simply a letter, number or symbol.

Make sure you read the instructions carefully.

### Marking

Each correct answer receives one mark. Scores out of 40 are converted to the IELTS 9-band scale. Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

IELTS Academic Reading marking schemes

For the *academic* reading test, which also contains 40 questions, but is more difficult, the *approximate* band scores can be calculated using this table.

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

## 10. FRAMEWORK FOR IELTS READING SKILLS

Week #	Areas/Themes	Contents	Homework	
1	<b>Unit 1: Change &amp; consequences</b>	Scanning Sentence completion T/F/NG	Test builder 2 Practice test 1- passages 1-2	
2	<b>Unit 2: The importance of the past</b>	Skimming T/F/NG Sentence completion (matching endings)	Test builder 2 Practice test 1- passage 3	
3	<b>Unit 3: Machines, cycles, &amp; processes</b>	Labelling a diagram Completing tables Completing flowcharts	Test builder 2 Practice test 2- passages 1-2	
4	<b>Unit 4: Education</b>	Predicting Y/N/NG (writer's claims) Matching headings	Test builder 2 Practice test 2- passage 3	
5	<b>Unit 5: Youth</b>	Identifying relevant sections Summaries with wordlists Selecting statements Global multiple choice	Test builder 2 Practice test 3- passages 1-2	<b>MIDTERM TEST</b>
6	<b>Unit 6: Culture Unit 7: Arts and sciences</b>	Using organizing words Matching headings Matching phrases Matching names Summaries without wordlist Multiple choice Analysing questions	Test builder 2 Practice test 3- passages 3	
7	<b>Unit 8: Nature Unit 9: Health</b>	Labelling a map Short answer questions Labelling a diagram Classifying information Scanning for meaning Identifying sentence function Matching phrases	Test builder 2 Practice test 4- full test <i>Ss should try to complete the test under time pressure.</i>	
8	<b>Unit 10: Individuals &amp; society</b>	Dealing with opinion Y/N/NG (writer's opinion)		