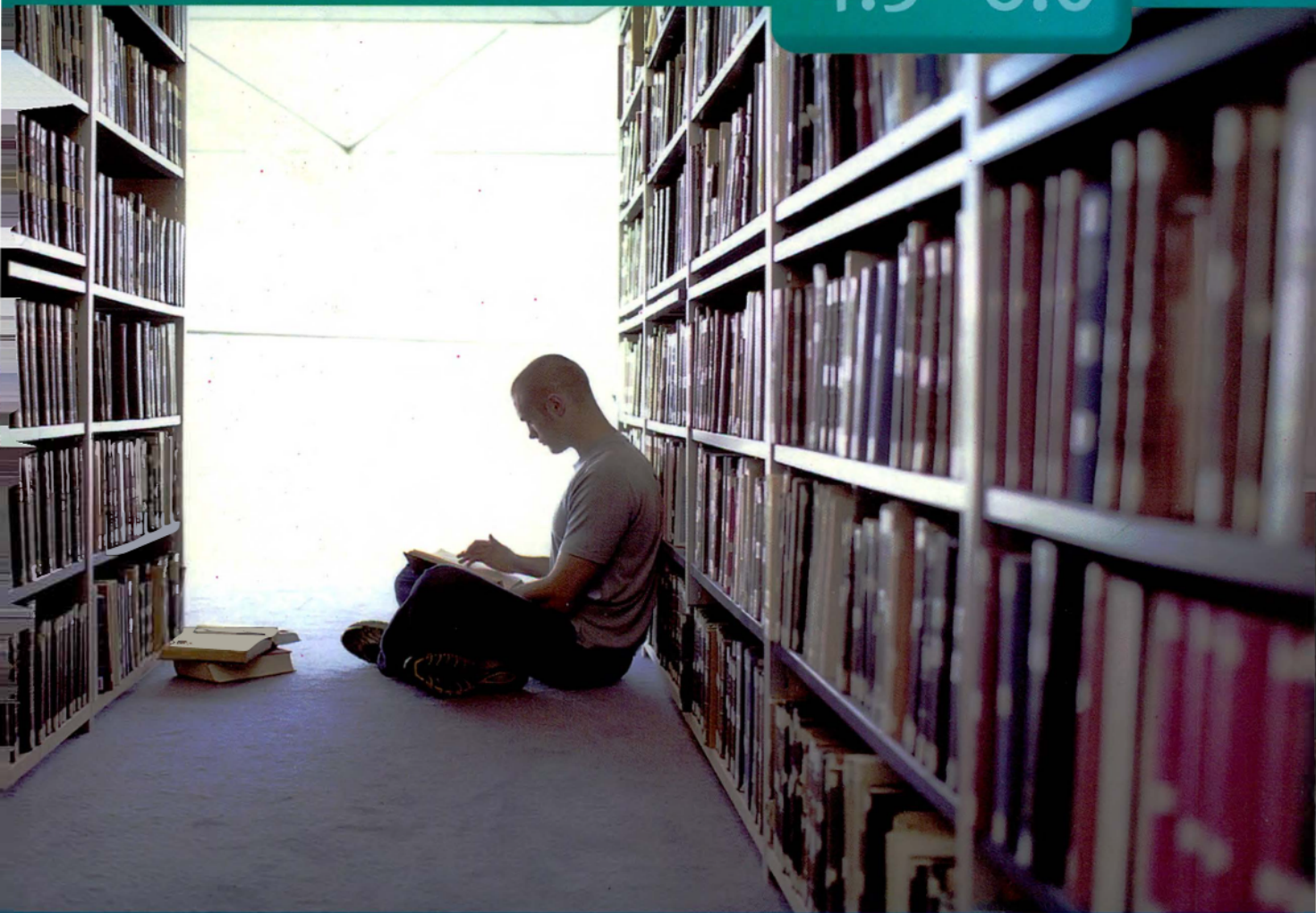


Improve your Skills

Reading *for IELTS*

with Answer Key

4.5–6.0



Sam McCarter • Norman Whitby



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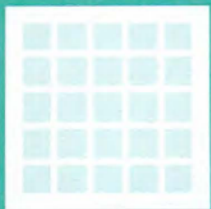
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Introduction

What is *Improve your IELTS Reading Skills*?

Improve your IELTS Reading Skills is a complete preparation course for students at score bands 4.5–6.00 preparing for the Academic Reading component of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Through targeted practice, it develops skills and language to help you achieve a higher IELTS score in the Academic Reading component. The course can be used with *Improve your IELTS Writing Skills* and *Improve your IELTS Listening & Speaking Skills*.

How can I use *Improve your IELTS Reading Skills*?

You can use *Improve your IELTS Reading Skills* as a book for studying on your own or in a class. If you are studying on your own, *Improve your IELTS Reading Skills* is designed to guide you step by step through the activities. The book is also completely self-contained: a clear and accessible key is provided, so you can easily check your answers as you work through the book. If you are studying as part of a class, your teacher will direct you on how to use each activity. Some activities can be treated as discussions, in which case they can be a useful opportunity to share ideas and techniques with other learners.

How is *Improve your IELTS Reading Skills* organized?

It consists of ten units based around topics which occur commonly in the real test.

Each unit consists of three sections:

Skills: exercises and examples to develop reading skills and build confidence for the exam.

The skills section is subdivided further into sections. These focus on specific types of questions that occur in the exam.

Word skills for IELTS: practice of useful vocabulary for the Academic Reading.

Reading Passage: a practice test with questions to develop skills for reading.

In addition, there are Technique boxes throughout the book. These reinforce key points on how to approach Academic Reading tasks.

How will *Improve your IELTS Reading Skills* improve my score?

By developing skills

The skills sections form a detailed syllabus of essential IELTS reading skills. The full range of question types is covered. For example, key IELTS tasks like *Matching headings* and dealing with *True/False/Not Given* statements are dealt with clearly and then practised in a reading test.

By developing language

Each unit also contains a resource of useful phrases and vocabulary to use in each reading test. Over the course of *Improve your IELTS Reading Skills*, you will encounter a wide range of ideas to ensure that you are well prepared when you reach the real test. These include concepts such as recognizing general nouns, recognizing organization, analysing questions and understanding meaning to increase your speed so that you can approach the Academic Reading component with confidence.

By developing test technique

The Technique boxes contain procedures which can easily be memorized and used as reminders in the real test. These include quick and easy advice about how to tackle particular types of questions and how to use the skills you have learned effectively.

How is the IELTS Academic Reading component organized?

The Academic Reading component of the IELTS lasts one hour. In the test, there are three reading passages of different lengths and increasing difficulty with 40 questions.

What does each task consist of?

The passages are taken from a range of sources: books, magazines, newspapers and journals. At least one of the articles contains a detailed argument. The range of questions used in the exam are as follows:

- multiple-choice questions
- short answer questions
- sentence completion
- notes, flow chart, table completion
- labelling a diagram/map
- summary completion with and without wordlists
- classification
- matching information to paragraphs
- matching paragraph/section headings
- identification of information – True/False/Not Given
- identification of writer's views/claims – Yes/No/Not Given

In the exam, you will probably only have a selection of the above types of question, but you need to be familiar with all of them.

How will I be assessed?

The Academic Reading component is weighted. This means that the standard for each exam is the same, but the number of correct answers required to achieve that standard will vary from exam to exam. For example, in order to achieve a score band 7, you should aim to have a minimum of 29 or 30 correct answers.

Therefore, keep in mind that as you do different reading passages in the book, the number of correct answers in each will probably be different. This reflects the nature of the IELTS exam as some passages may appear to be easier or more difficult than others.

If you are aiming for a score band 7, for example, we would expect you to answer approximately 9 or 10 correctly from each passage over three passages. In the real test, this is equal to 29 or 30 over three passages, but remember that in exam conditions your performance may not be the same.

How much time should I spend on each reading passage?

It is advisable to spend twenty minutes on each reading passage and to write your answers directly onto the answer sheet. You do not have time at the end to transfer your answers from the test booklet.

If you cannot answer a question quickly, leave it and move on to the next question. Then come back to it if you can. As a rough guide, you will have a maximum of one and a half minutes to answer each question.

Since the passages become progressively more difficult, do each passage in order.

Note that your spelling in the answers needs to be correct.