

SKILLS FOR THE READING MODULE

One of the main difficulties experienced by students doing the reading module is not having enough time to complete the test. It is, therefore, essential to read with both efficiency and effectively.

There are four main skills that you will need in order to do well in the IELTS Reading Module. It is useful to use the following procedure for each text that is given.

1. Previewing (about 2 minutes for each passage)

(a) Study the passage by noting:

- titles
- heading
- illustrations
- diagrams
- anything printed in bold type or italics.

(b) Study key parts of the passage by skimming. Read the first paragraph, which

Focuses on the main idea .The first sentence of the each paragraph usually expresses the key point of the paragraph. Generally, the concluding paragraph provides a summary of the given passage. Highlight these with a pen or pencil.

2. Interpreting the instructions and questions (about 2 minutes)

Read each word in the instructions carefully and ensure that you understand exactly what is required and in what form. For example, the instructions may say, " Choose no more than three words from the passage for each answer'. In this situation, it would not be acceptable to write four or more words. Often students find the right answer but present it in the wrong form and, unfortunately, do not score any marks for that answer. Understanding what is required, therefore, is just as important as finding the right answer in the passage.

When you are looking the questions, you need to recognise:

- what type of question you have to answer (is it gap filling, multiple choice, matching information etc. ?
- whether the question requires a specific or general answer
- what form the answer should take (is it a number, date, reason etc. ?).

3. Scanning the text for specific answers (about 1 minute per question)

Use your time wisely. Spend no longer than one minute on finding each answer. Look only in the given text, table, diagram or graph for the answer required. Locate key words in the questions and find them, or synonyms for them, in the text. **The sentences around these words are most likely to contain the answer you need.**

If you are still unsure of the answer after you have spent approximately one minute of the question, make a sensible guess in the appropriate form. You may wish to mark the answers you are unsure of in some way so that, if you have time at the end of the Reading Module, you can check these answers again.

4. Checking your answers (about 3 minutes)

After you have completed your answers for each section, you need to check them.

Check that you have followed the instructions exactly. If you have time, return to the answers you marked because you are unsure and decide if the answers you have given are the best ones.

Regards,

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