

IELTS AND OET

The International English Language Testing System (**IELTS**) is a test that measures your English language proficiency for **studying, working or migrating** to a country where English is the main language of communication.

The Occupational English Test (**OET**) is specifically designed for those who wish to register and work in the healthcare profession. The test **simulates real workplace tasks and the appropriate language skills**.

Make a plan....	What to do
1. Know which test is required	<p>IELTS [https://www.ielts.org/]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Study For Work [sometimes accepted for pre-registration–check with your profession’s registration requirements] For Migration IELTS Academic IELTS General Training
	<p>OET [https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/]</p> <p>The OET is applicable to 12 healthcare professions: Dentistry, Dietetics, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Radiography, Speech Pathology, and Veterinary Science</p>
2. Know what is expected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the test information in detail, making note of all sub-skills tested, test format, key dates (including registration for test) and test scoring/criteria
3. Make a plan <i>Time management is key to any success</i>	<p>Test preparation starts from day one...it involves getting organised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a timetable – record the due date for the test and plan your study backwards from that date Use a study planner - allocate some time each day for focused reading, writing, listening and speaking Allocate some time each week to practise sample test questions: IELTS OET
4. Be engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read widely, follow news in general and stories related to your discipline. (IELTS particularly will use non-controversial current events for topics in their tests; OET uses generic health-related and discipline-specific topics) Actively listen to radio programmes, current events and news – takes notes, frame questions around the topic, write summaries, raise the topic in conversation with a friend/peer, note new vocabulary and use it Read different perspectives on the same topic–write summaries, synthesising

	<p>the information/arguments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practise unfamiliar/difficult grammar • Build a vocabulary bank • Build a phrasebank • Test yourself under timed conditions [IELTS; OET] • Review your answers and compare them to model answers (if available)
5. Regularly review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review your weekly and study planners...adjust where needed to ensure all sub-skills are practised
6. Ask for guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many professional and learner forums and blogs available to assist you/offer feedback

Useful strategies...

- **Topic summaries** - reduce the main ideas from readings to a number of key points. Making connections between key points will help you to recall information in the exam
- **Recall cards** - develop a glossary of terms or definitions. On one side write the word and write the description/definition/example/diagram on the other, as you do this you will ensure that you have 'understood' the topic/concept. Cards are easy to carry around and use
- **Concept maps** - a visual picture of connected details. Write a key idea at the centre of a page, then surround it with connected information. This visual representation in your mind aids memory recall.
- **Form a study group** with others who are taking the test (online or face-to-face), talking through topics/current events to clarify understanding/develop an argument

Useful links:

IELTS

- Tips for Preparing for Exams <https://www.jcu.edu.au/students/learning-centre/exams>
- Develop your English <https://www.jcu.edu.au/students/learning-centre/develop-your-english>
- Free IELTS Practise Tests <https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/freepracticetests>
- http://www.ielts-exam.net/practice_tests/
- Vocabulary for IELTS <http://ieltsliz.com/vocabulary/>
- Grammar for IELTS <http://www.ielts-exam.net/grammar/>

OET

- OET Preparation Courses (online) <http://oetonline.net.au/>
- Free OET Practice Materials <http://oetpreparation.com/freematerials.html>
- Grammar and Vocabulary Clinic <http://oetonline.net.au/index.php/oet-preparation-courses/special-features/grammar-vocabulary-clinic>
- Occupational English Test Preparation <http://www.oetprep.com/hints-for-the-oet.html>

Other Useful links:

- Academic Word List (AWL) <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/wordlist/english/academic/>
- Vocabulary Exercises for the AWL <http://www.englishvocabularyexercises.com/AWL/>
- The AWL Highlighter <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alzsh3/acvocab/awlhighlighter.htm>
- The AWL Gapmaker <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alzsh3/acvocab/awlgapmaker.htm>
- Vocabulary in EAP <http://www.uefap.com/vocab/vocfram.htm>
- Academic Phrasebank <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>