IELTS General Training Reading Guide

Format · band score table · 60-minute plan · skimming, scanning and paraphrase

3 sections · 40 questions · 60 minutes · no extra transfer time. Section 1: everyday texts. Section 2: workplace texts. Section 3: one longer general-interest text.

Correct answers	Band	Correct answers	Band
40	9	30–31	6
39	8.5	27–29	5.5
37–38	8	23–26	5
36	7.5	19–22	4.5
34–35	7	15–18	4
32–33	6.5		

Typical conversions; exact numbers can vary slightly between tests.

Pacing

- Section 1 ≈ 17 minutes · Section 2 ≈ 20 minutes · Section 3 ≈ 23 minutes.
- Write answers on the sheet as you go; keep one minute for blanks.
- Move on if one question takes more than a minute. Never leave blanks.

Skim, then scan

	Skimming	Scanning
Question	"What is this about?"	"Where is this fact?"
How	Title, headings, first and last sentences (60–90 s)	Pick 1–2 keywords + synonyms; sweep; stop and read the sentence
Helps with	Headings, main ideas, purpose	Names, numbers, dates, short answers
Danger	Getting stuck in details	Stopping at the first keyword match

Paraphrase: scan for meanings, not words

Question says	Text may say
cost	fee · price · charge
start	begin · commence · open
free	no charge · at no cost · complimentary
must	required · compulsory · obligatory
staff	employees · workers · team members

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