

IELTS™

Establishing Your Institution's Optimal IELTS Requirements to Support Student Success

Kate McKeen, IELTS USA
**Regina Carvalho, Broward
College**

www.ielts.org/usa



What's happening today

- IELTS 101 and global statistics
- Understanding the test
- Speaking samples
- Exploring on-site testing
- Broward College: Using IELTS as an admission standard



IELTS™



www.ielts.org/usa

Top 5 things

Paper and Pencil

Handwritten cursive text on a blue-lined notebook page.

Handwritten cursive text on a blue-lined notebook page.

Handwritten initials 'CP' in the bottom right corner.

IELTS™

Live face-to-face Speaking



IELTS™

Two tests



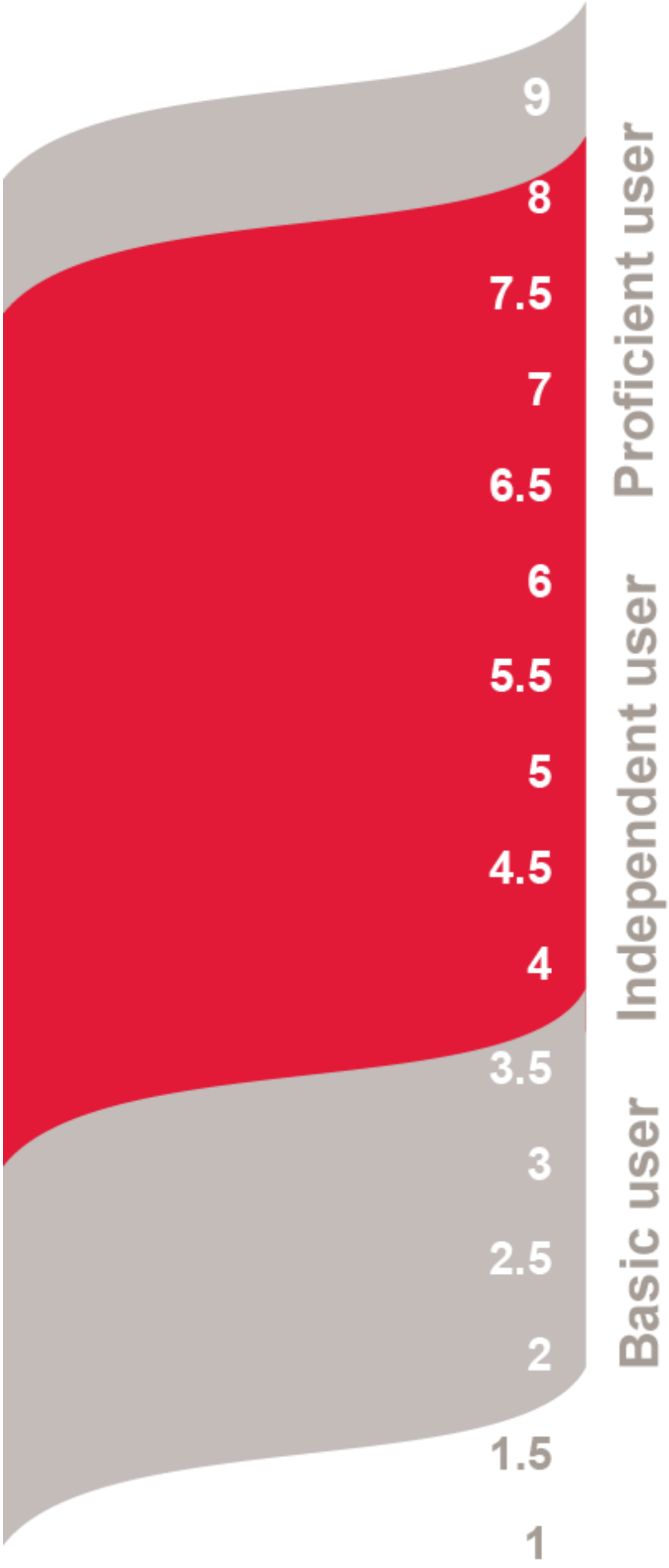
ACADEMIC



**GENERAL
TRAINING**

IELTS™

Nine-band score



IELTS™



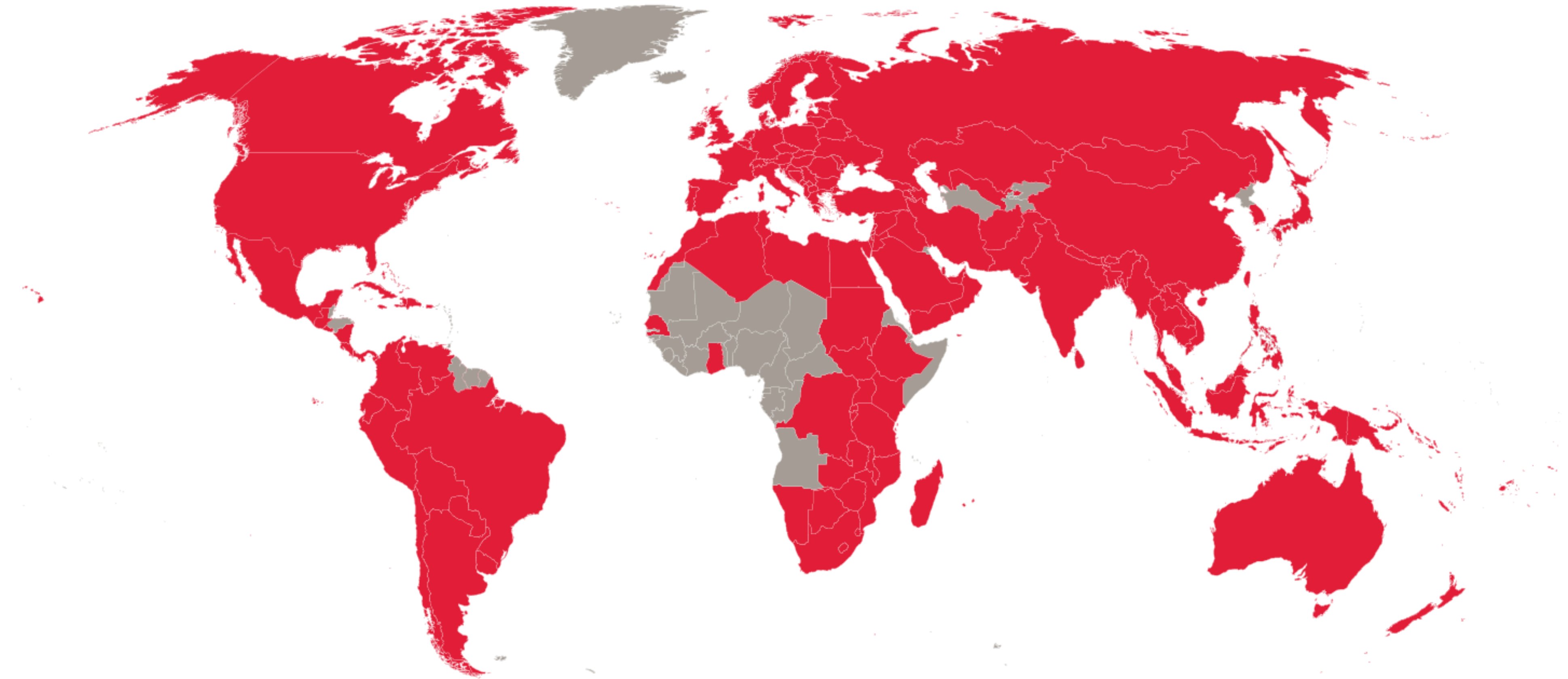
CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
Language Assessment
Part of the University of Cambridge



OVER
10,0000

IELTS™

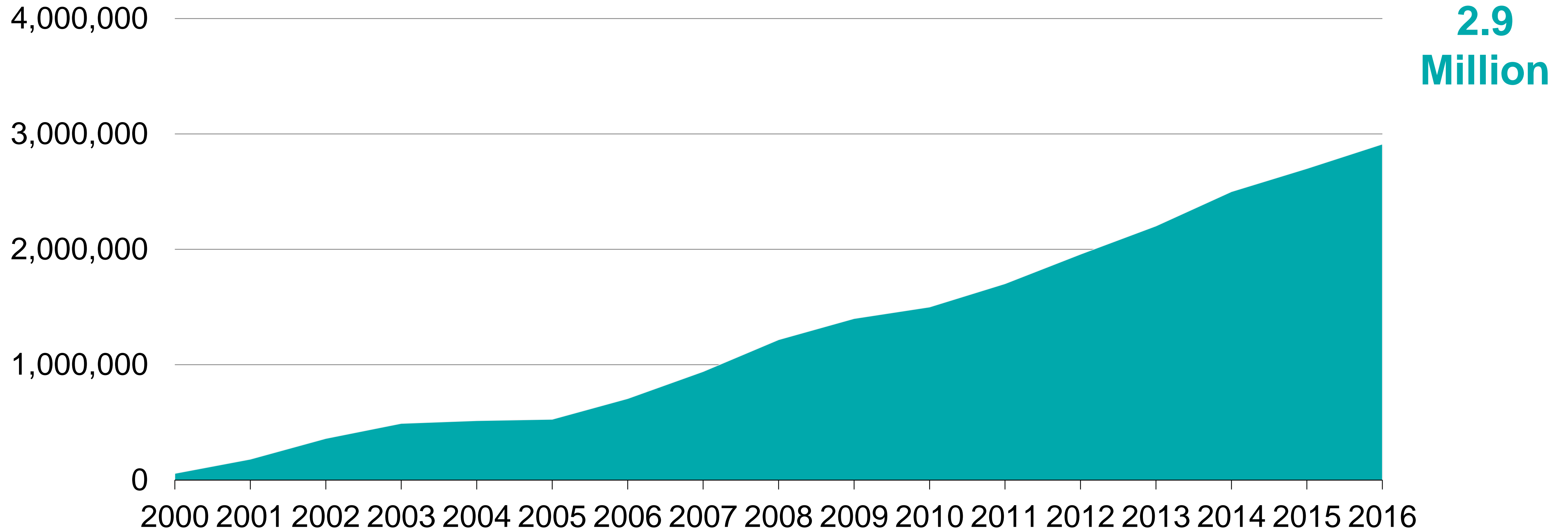
Over 1,100 testing locations



in over 140 countries



Increasing in Popularity



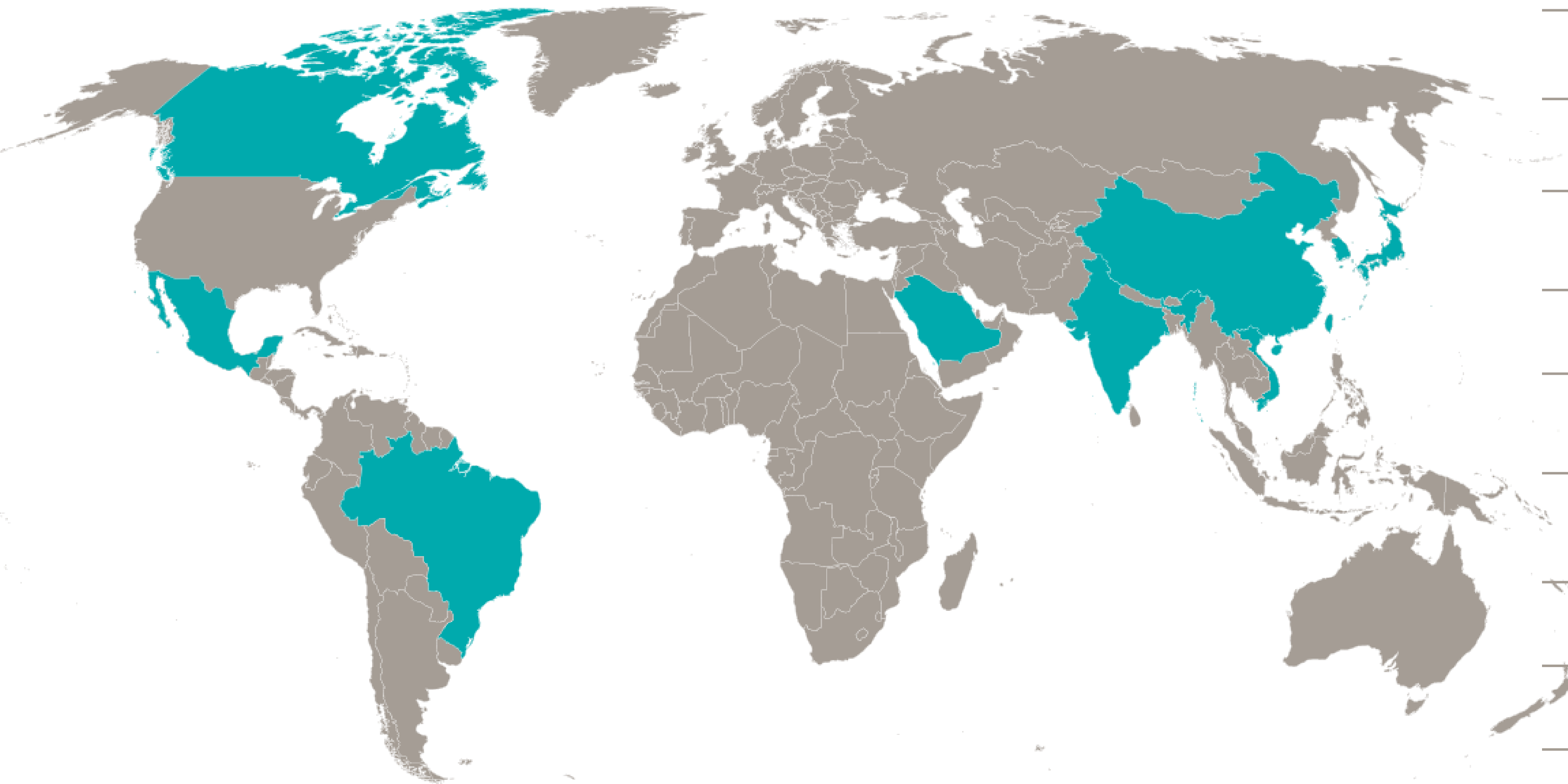
IELTS™

Global education trends



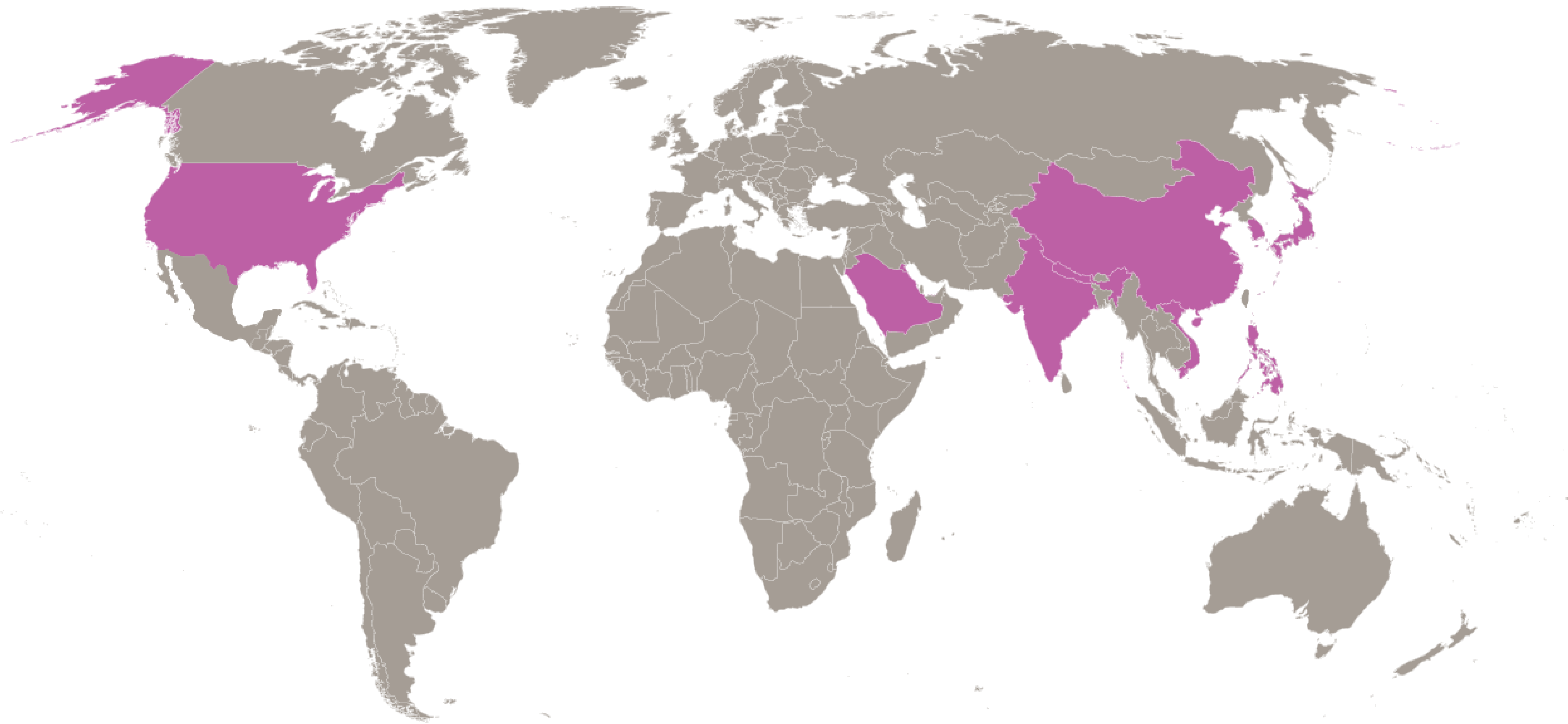
www.ielts.org/usa

Countries of origin: US-Bound international students



China	328k
India	165k
Saudi Arabia	61k
South Korea	61k
Canada	26k
Vietnam	21k
Taiwan	21k
Brazil	19k
Japan	19k
Mexico	16k

US-Bound test takers



USA

China

India

Saudi Arabia

Vietnam

Kuwait

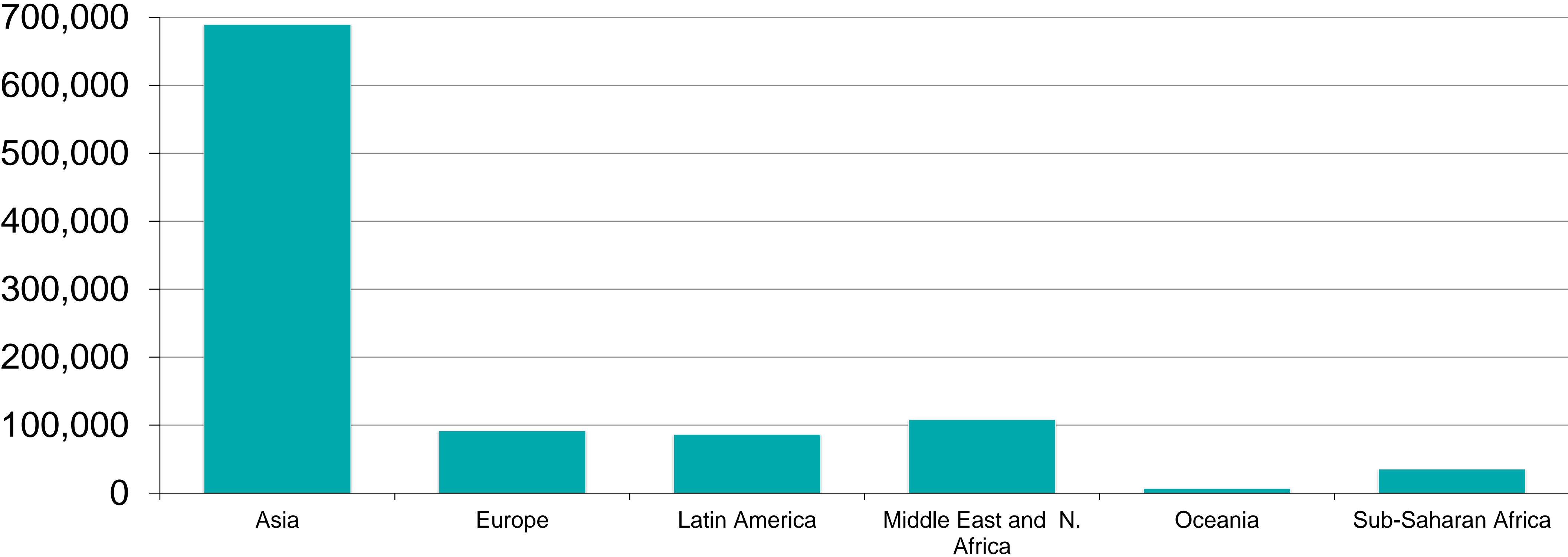
Japan

Philippines

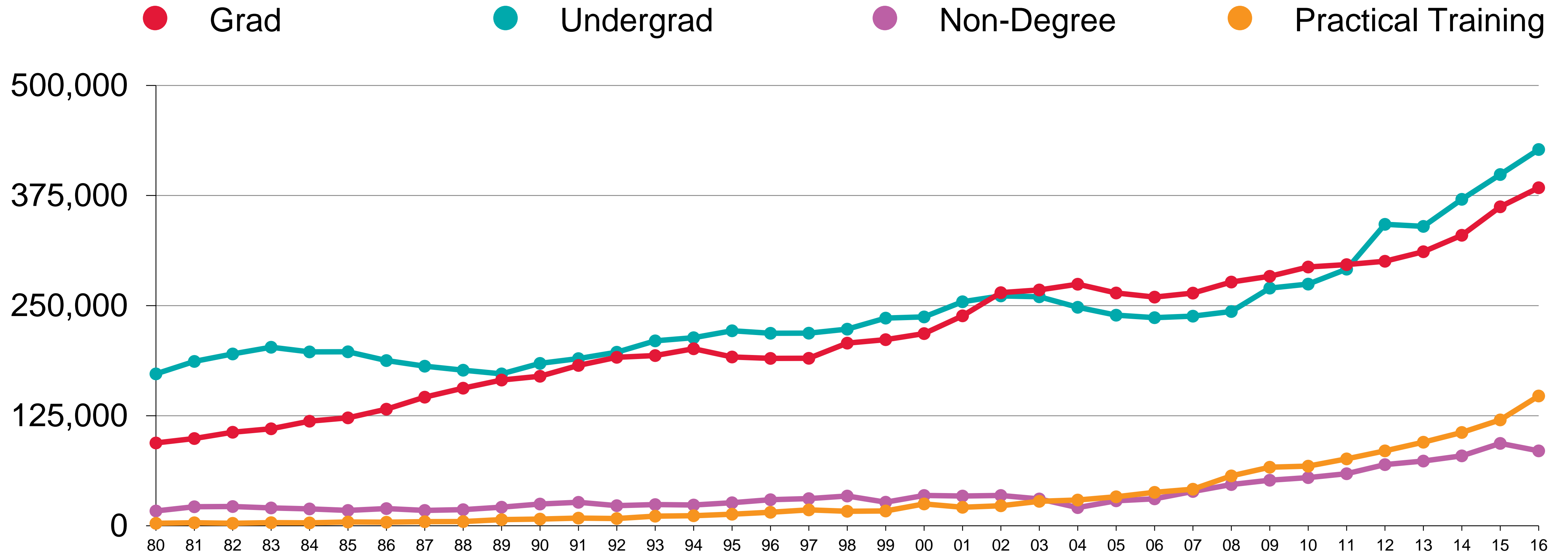
Nepal

South Korea

Students studying in the US

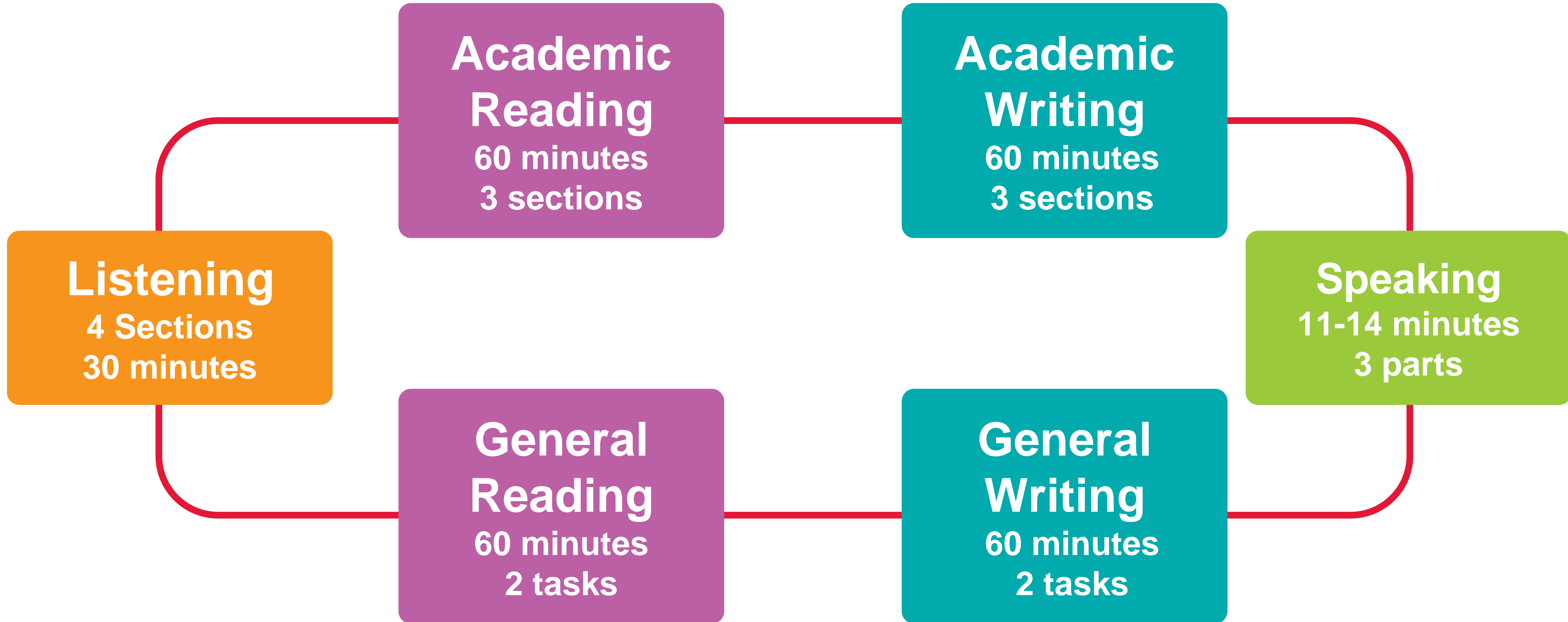


Academic level of international students

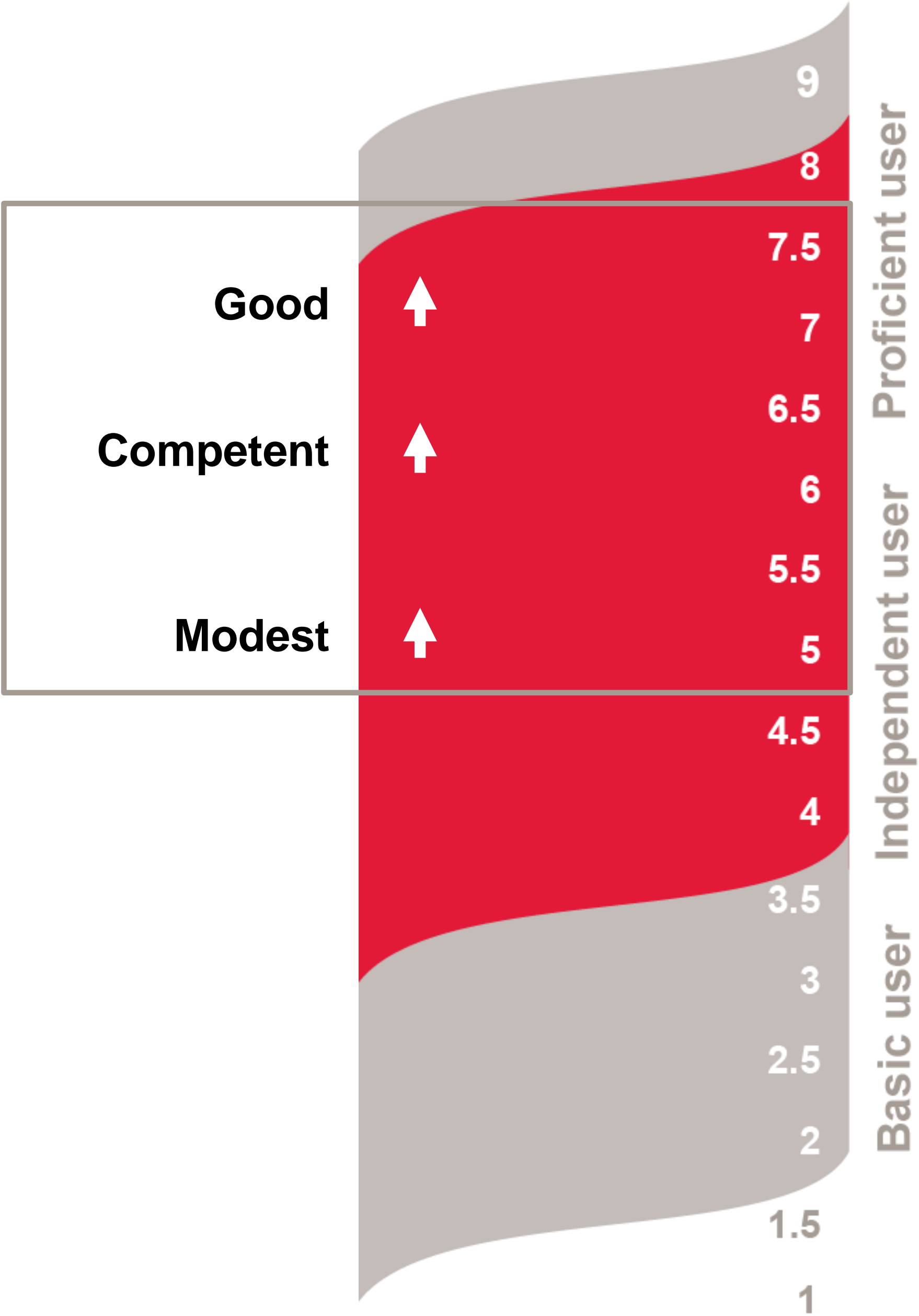


Understanding the test

Academic or General Training?



Nine-band scale



Most common band scores

⑦ **Good user:** Has operational command of the language. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

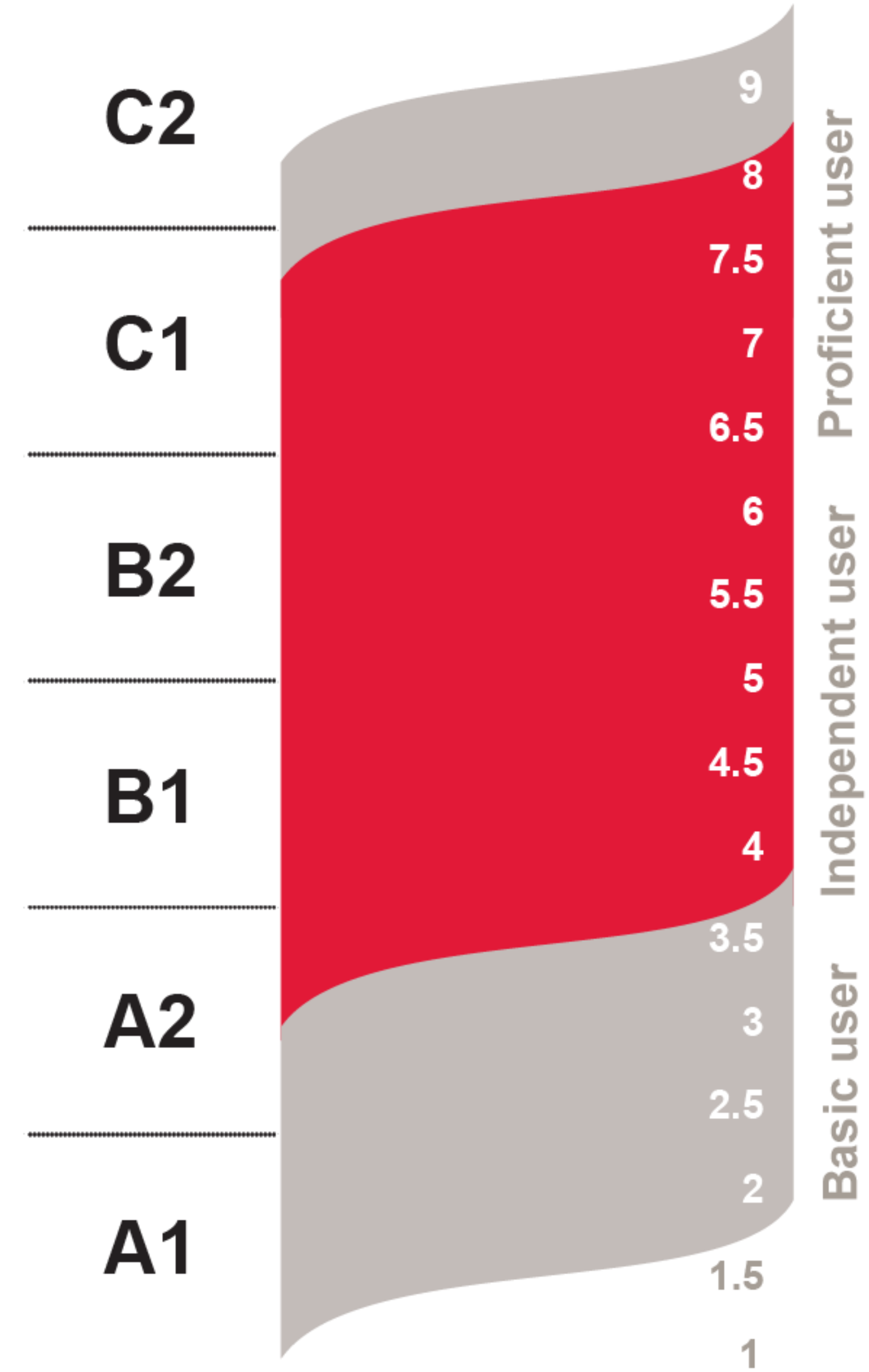
⑥ **Competent user:** Has generally effective command of the language. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.

⑤ **Intermittent user:** Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations.

Rounding scores to calculate final band score

Candidate	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Average Score	Band Score
A	6.5	6.5	5.0	7.0	6.25	6.5
B	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.875	4.0
C	6.5	6.5	5.5	6.0	6.125	6.0

Common European Framework of Reference



Test format: receptive skills

Listening

Read the questions listen to prompts and write answers.

Reading

Write answers.



Variety of task types

- **Forms/notes/table/flow-chart/summary completion**
- **Multiple choice**
- **Short-answer questions**
- **Sentence completion**
- **Labeling a diagram/plan/map**
- **Classification**
- **Matching**





Listening

- **30 minutes (40 minutes with transfer)**
- **4 sections, with 10 questions each**
- **Increase in complexity through the sections**
- **Variety of native-speaker accents:**
 - US
 - Canadian
 - British
 - Australian



Listening

Social Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conversation• Monologue
Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion• Monologue



Marking the Listening

Upper or lower case

Acceptable

“No more than three words”

Do not exceed
three words

Correct spelling (US or UK)

Always required

**Standard alternatives for numbers,
dates, and currencies**

Acceptable

Standard abbreviations

Acceptable

How are Listening skills assessed?

- One mark is awarded for each correct answer in the 40-item test.
- Poor spelling and grammar are penalized.
- Scores are reported as a whole band or a half band.





Reading

- **60 minute, 40 questions**
- **3 passages: 2,000-2,750 words total**
- **Authentic texts**
- **General interest topics**



Seaweed is a particularly wholesome food, which absorbs and concentrates traces of a wide variety of minerals necessary to the body's health. Many elements may occur in seaweed – aluminium, barium, calcium, chlorine, copper, iodine and iron, to name but a few – traces normally produced by erosion and carried to the seaweed beds by river and sea currents. Seaweeds are also rich in vitamins; indeed, Inuit people obtain a high proportion of their bodily requirements of vitamin C from the seaweeds they eat. The health benefits of seaweed have long been recognized. For instance, there is a remarkably low incidence of goitre among the Japanese, and also among New Zealand's Indigenous Maori people, who have always eaten seaweeds, and this may well be attributed to the high iodine content of this food. Research into historical Maori eating customs shows that jellies were made using seaweeds, nuts, fuchsia and tutu berries, cape gooseberries, and many other fruits both native to New Zealand and sown there from seeds brought by settlers and explorers. As with any plant life, some seaweeds are more palatable than others, but in a survival situation, most seaweeds could be chewed to provide a certain sustenance.

The nutritional value of seaweeds

How are Academic Reading skills assessed?

One mark is awarded for each correct answer in the 40-item test. A band score conversion table is produced for each Academic Reading test, which translates raw scores out of 40 into the IELTS nine-band scale. Scores are reported as a whole band or a half band. Poor spelling and grammar are penalized.

IELTS test format: productive skills

Writing	Read the task requirements before writing their answer.
Speaking	Listen to and read task information in order to complete the task.





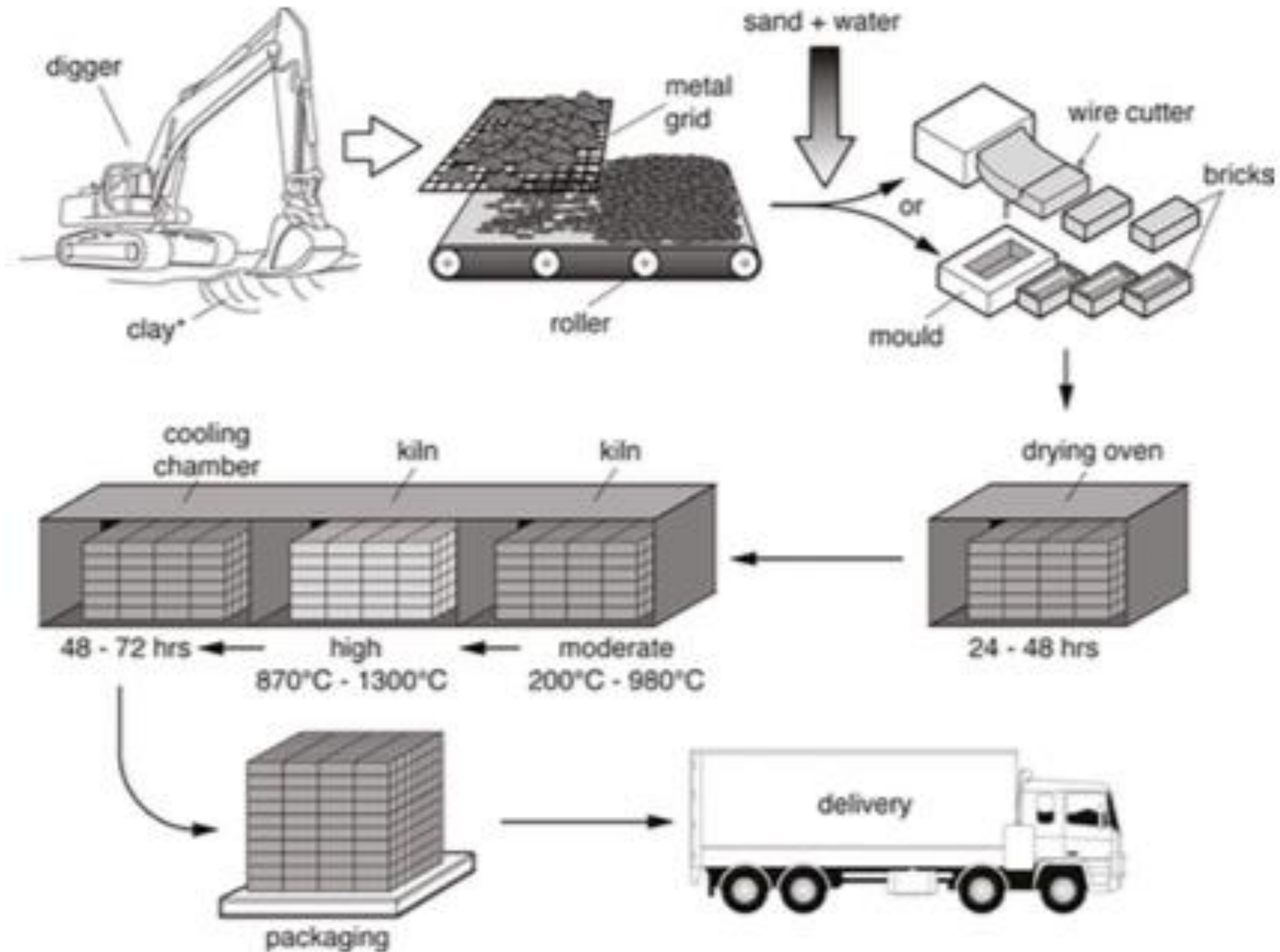
Writing

Topic	Word Count	Score Weight
Describe information (graph / table / chart)	150	34%
Presented with a point of view, argument, or problem	250	66%



Writing Task 1 – “Brick Manufacturing”

Brick Manufacturing



*Clay: type of sticky earth that is used for making bricks, pots, etc.



Overview of rubric for Writing Task 2

Task Response	Coherence and cohesion	Lexical resource	Grammatical range & accuracy
Did they respond to the task(s)?	How does it flow? Do you understand it?	Does the vocabulary reflect the task?	Does the response demonstrate a range of grammar, used accurately?

Handout: Rubric Writing Task 2



Writing Task 2 - “Old Buildings and New”

Many old buildings are protected by law because they are part of a nation’s history. However, some people think old buildings should be knocked down to make way for new ones because people need houses and offices.

How important is it to maintain old buildings?
Should history stand in the way of progress?







IELTS Speaking test format

Introduction and interview	4-5 minutes
Individual long turn	3-4 minutes
Two-way discussion	4-5 minutes
Total duration:	11-14 minutes



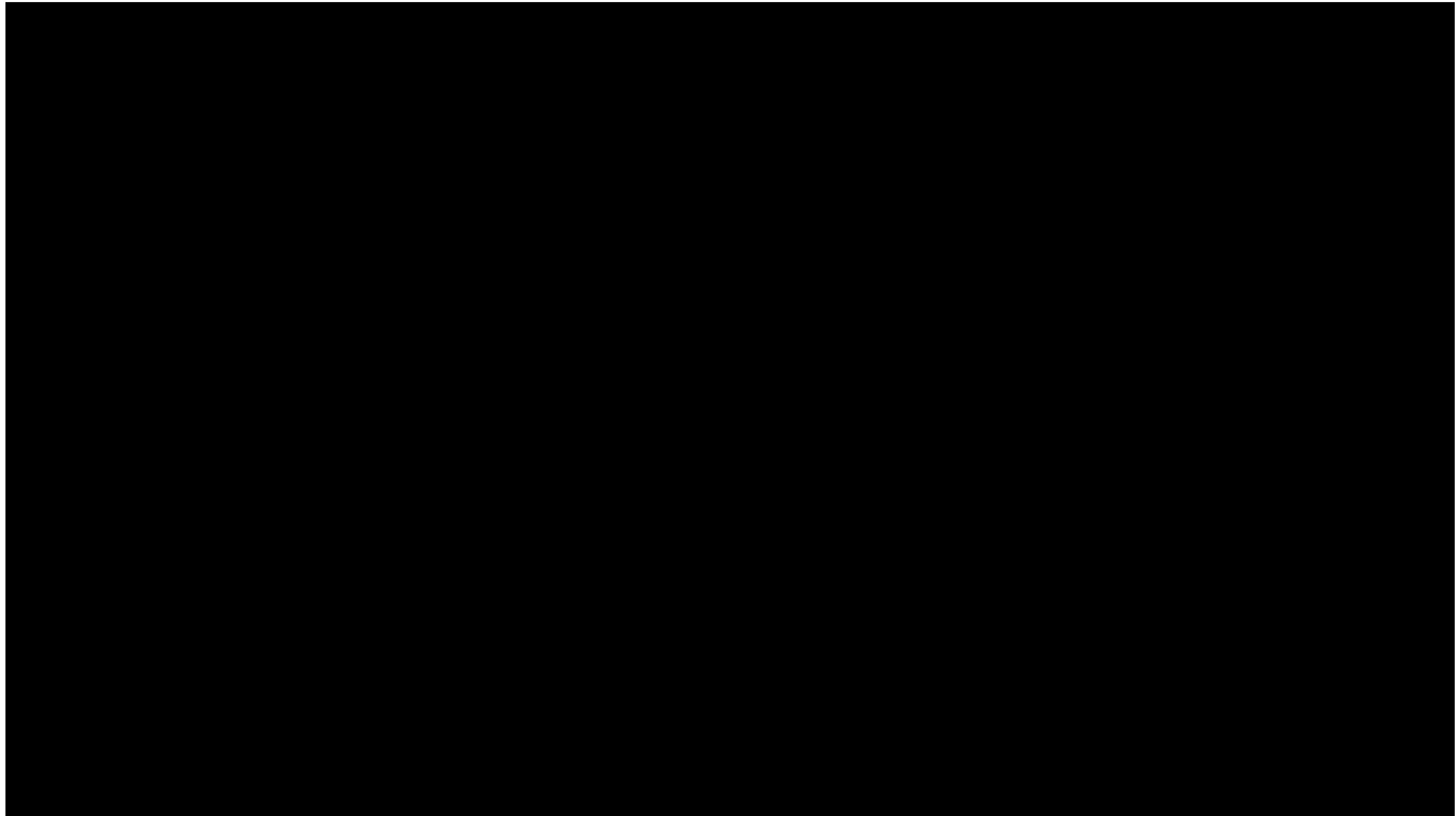
Overview of rubric for Speaking

Fluency and coherence	Lexical resource	Grammatical range & accuracy	Pronunciation
How does it flow? Do you understand it?	Does the vocabulary reflect the task?	Does the response demonstrate a range of grammar, used accurately?	Whether pronunciation is used to convey and enhance meaning, or to what extent it causes strain or barrier to understanding?



**Part 3:
A well-known
person**

Speaking Part 3: Video sample





Examiner notes...



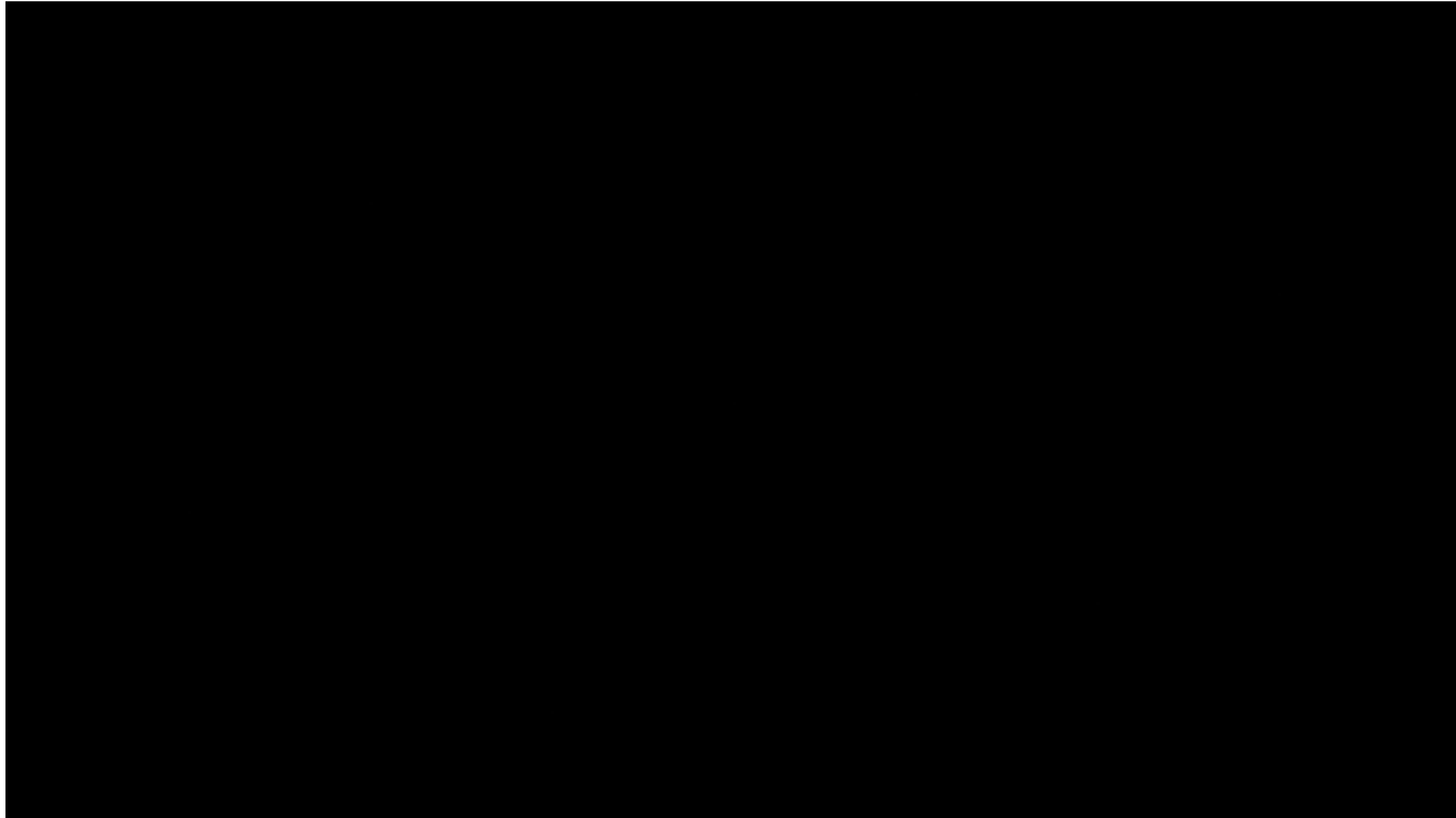
Band
5.5

- **FLUENCY AND COHERENCE**
 - Willing to speak at length, but his speech isn't always coherent.
- **LEXICAL RESOURCE**
 - Meaning is usually clear despite some inappropriate vocabulary use.
- **GRAMMATICAL RANGE AND ACCURACY**
 - Grammar is his weakest feature. Exhibits errors in areas such as articles, pronouns and verb tenses.
- **PRONUNCIATION**
 - Uses pausing effectively, but demonstrates a few problems with syllable stress and sounds are poorly formed.



Part 3: Famous people

Speaking Part 3: Video sample





Examiner notes...



Band
7.0

- **FLUENCY AND COHERENCE**

- Speaks quite fluently and gives appropriate and extended responses.

- **LEXICAL RESOURCE**

- Uses a wide range of vocabulary; however, there are a few examples of error and inappropriate word use.

- **GRAMMATICAL RANGE AND ACCURACY**

- Displays a good range of simple and complex structures with minimal errors. There are some errors in subject/verb agreement and verb tense.

- **PRONUNCIATION**

- Is generally clear and easy to follow.

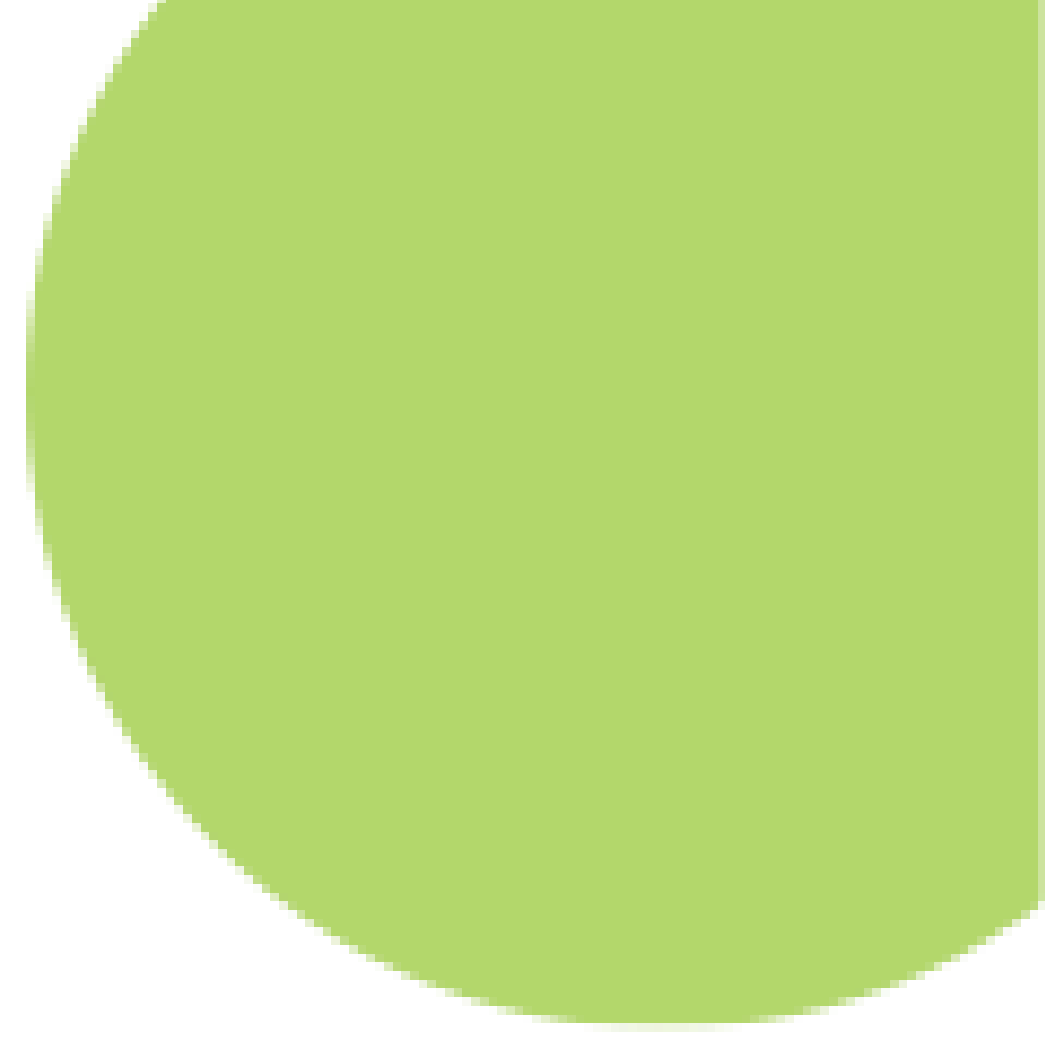
Setting IELTS scores for your programs

Some essential questions to ask when setting requirements...

- 1. What is the agreed minimal level of English proficiency?**
- 2. How does this minimally acceptable level of English translate into scores on the IELTS test?**
- 3. Is there language support on campus (funded by whom)?**
- 4. Who are the most appropriate people to make decisions on standards in this context?**
- 5. Should you set a single standard?**
- 6. Are colleagues satisfied with your current score?**

Best practices for communicating your policy

- **Make sure all advisers, admission staff, and English language faculty are aware**
- **List your IELTS requirements on all marketing and recruitment materials**
- **List your IELTS requirements on your website, including the following**



[Apply Now!](#)[Request Info](#)[Giving](#)[Ask Us](#)[Calendars](#)[Locations](#)[A-Z](#)[Contact Us](#)[Login ▾](#)[GO!](#)[ADMISSIONS](#)[FINANCIAL AID](#)[STUDENT LIFE](#)[ACADEMICS & PROGRAMS](#)[STUDENT RESOURCES](#)[BC ONLINE](#)[BC PROUD](#)

Broward College IELTS Requirements

Presented by:

Regina Carvalho

District Director, International Student Services

[Apply Now!](#)[Request Info](#)[Giving](#)[Ask Us](#)[Calendars](#)[Locations](#)[A-Z](#)[Contact Us](#)[Login ▾](#)[GO!](#)[ADMISSIONS](#)[FINANCIAL AID](#)[STUDENT LIFE](#)[ACADEMICS & PROGRAMS](#)[STUDENT RESOURCES](#)[BC ONLINE](#)[BC PROUD](#)

Since **1960**,

Broward College has firmly stood by our mission to provide a **high-quality education** that is **affordable** and **available** to all.

Each year, more than **63,000 STUDENTS** choose from **[EIGHT CAREER PATHWAYS](#)**, leading toward associate and bachelor degrees.

Apply Now!

Request Info

Giving

Ask Us

Calendars

Locations

A-Z

Contact Us

Login ▾



Search for...

GO!



ADMISSIONS

FINANCIAL AID

STUDENT LIFE

ACADEMICS & PROGRAMS

STUDENT RESOURCES

BC ONLINE

BC PROUD

Where are our students coming from?



[Apply Now!](#)

[Request Info](#)

[Giving](#)

[Ask Us](#)

[Calendars](#)

[Locations](#)

[A-Z](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Login](#) ▾



Search for...

GO!



[ADMISSIONS](#)

[FINANCIAL AID](#)

[STUDENT LIFE](#)

[ACADEMICS & PROGRAMS](#)

[STUDENT RESOURCES](#)

[BC ONLINE](#)

[BC PROUD](#)

63,000

8,000

701

87

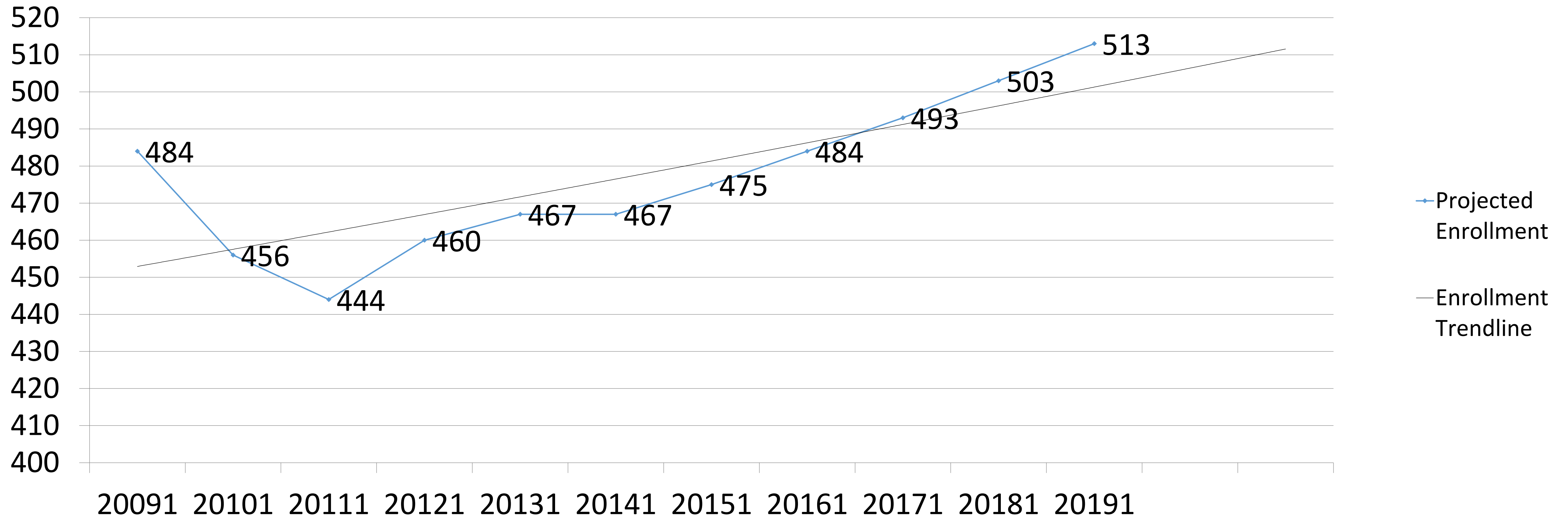
	Country of Citizenship F1 Students in 20172	Total
1	VE=VENEZUELA	176
2	JM=JAMAICA	58
3	BR=BRAZIL	57
4	CO=COLOMBIA	47
5	VN=VIETNAM	29
6	BS=BAHAMAS	27
7	HT=HAITI	22
8	CN=CHINA	20
9	CA=CANADA	17
10	PE=PERU	17

[Apply Now!](#)[Request Info](#)[Giving](#)[Ask Us](#)[Calendars](#)[Locations](#)[A-Z](#)[Contact Us](#)[Login ▾](#)[GO!](#)[ADMISSIONS](#)[FINANCIAL AID](#)[STUDENT LIFE](#)[ACADEMICS & PROGRAMS](#)[STUDENT RESOURCES](#)[BC ONLINE](#)[BC PROUD](#)

Test	Score Range	Placement Test Upon Arrival
TOEFL IBT	79 to 120	PERT (Post-Secondary Education Readiness Test)
TOEFL IBT	61 to 78	LOEP (Levels of English Proficiency)
IELTS	6.5 to 9.0	PERT
IELTS	5.5 to 6.0	LOEP
Cambridge English Advanced	176 to 209+	PERT
Cambridge English Advanced	162 to 175	LOEP

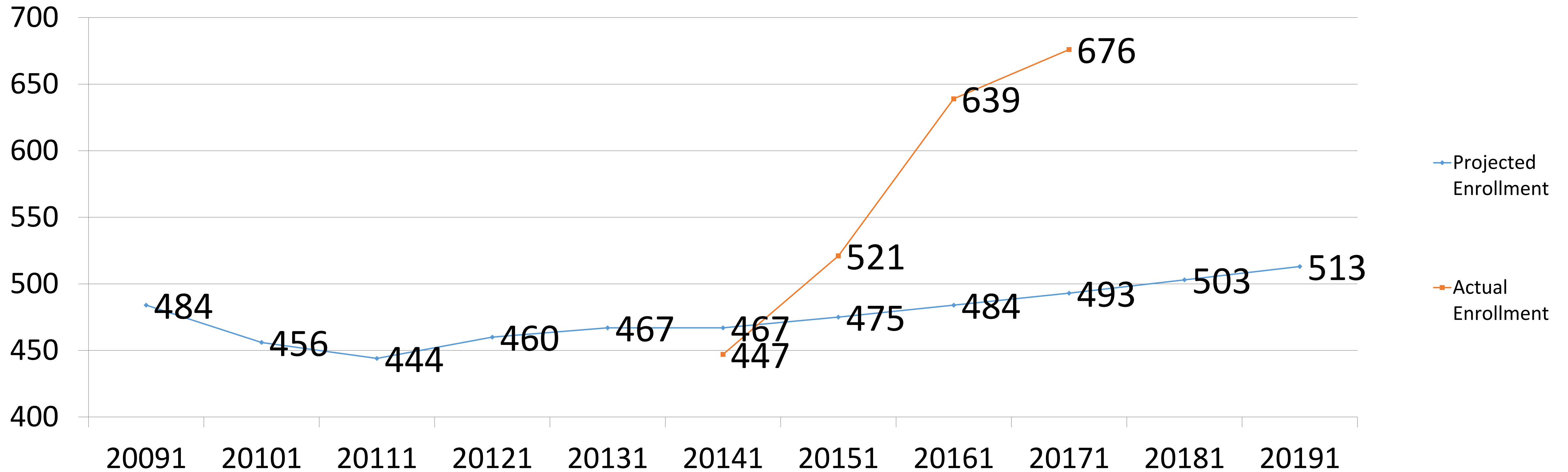
Projection Growth Reported in 2013

**F1 Enrollment With Projected Growth Reported 2013
FALL Terms Depicted**



Actual Growth and Projections

F1 Enrollment With Actual Growth as of 20171 and Projections (Reported in 2013)
FALL Terms Depicted



Planning an On-site IELTS Test

Planning an on-site IELTS Test

- **What organizations can benefit from on-site IELTS testing?**
 - High schools
 - Colleges
 - Universities
- **How long does it take to plan an on-site test?**
 - The process takes about 12 weeks from initial contact to test date

What does the test center provide for test day?

- Logistical coordination to set up the test
- Acceptance of payments and test applications
- All staffing required to run test day. A local on-site contact will be needed in case of issues with premises, security, emergencies etc.
- All test materials and equipment (clocks, stationary etc.) needed to run the test
- Results processing and results release

What are the steps for planning an on-site IELTS test

- Complete an online interest form at www.ielts.org/usa/onsitetesting
- IELTS USA evaluates whether there are enough test takers to carry out an on-site test and whether we have a test center that can support the request
 - Approximately 30 test takers as a minimum is required.
- Agreement on test fee – The test fee will be slightly higher than for tests taken at a center
 - The increased fee covers transportation and accommodation for staff for both the test delivery day and the site inspection
 - The test fee will be agreed upon before moving to the next step.
- Site inspection – A member of the test center will visit the on-site location to determine if the required facilities are compliant to testing standards and complete an on-site application approval form

What are the steps for planning an on-site IELTS test

- Approval – IELTS USA reviews the application and if successful an on-site testing agreement will be signed between the test center and on site testing location.
- Arrange test date(s)
- Collection of test taker applications and payments
- Arrangements for the setup of test day and test delivery on the agreed upon test date
- Results are released and sent to the test takers/on-site venue

Complimentary services

- **Listing on IELTS Global Recognition System and US Recognition List**
- **Social Media Promotion**
- **Stakeholder Workshops**
- **Teacher Workshops**
- **Webinars**
- **Results Verification Service**
- **E-Newsletter**





@IELTSUSA



IELTS USA



/IELTSUSA



KATE MCKEEN
Recognition Manager
IELTS USA

kmckeen@ieltsusa.org

REGINA CARVALHO
District Director of International Student Enrollment
Broward College

rcarvalh@broward.edu

IELTSTM

www.ielts.org/usa