

Relating IELTS scores to the Council of Europe's Common European Framework

The chart below illustrates how the IELTS band scores map onto the Common European Framework (CEF) levels.

This mapping is based upon a growing body of research, combined with long established experience of test use within education and society, as well as feedback from a range of test stakeholders regarding the uses of test results for particular purposes.

Work continues to refine our understanding of the relationship between IELTS and the CEF levels. Please note that the IELTS band scores referred to in both tables are the overall scores and not the individual module scores.

IELTS	CEF
9.0	C2
8.0	
7.0	
6.0	C1
5.0	B2
4.0	
3.0	B1
	A2
	A1

The table below indicates the IELTS band scores we would expect to be achieved at a particular CEF level:

Corresponding CEF Level	IELTS approximate band score
C2	7.5+
C1	6.5/7.0
B2	5.0/5.5/6.0
B1	3.5/4.0/4.5
A2	3.0

IELTS – International English Language Testing System
CEF – Common European Framework