



Tomorrow's Leaders Program

University Preparation Course Advanced Academic & Study Skills

1. Orientation & Introduction

How do academics think & organize their production?



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Who is a university professor?



Introduce yourself in 2 minutes

1. Your first name only
2. What was your score in the iBT exam?
3. What was the easiest skill? Why?
4. What was the most difficult skills? Why?
5. How do you feel about joining the university?
6. What else do you want us to know about you?

Course Total Number of Hours: 45

- 1 hour orientation
- 32 hours of synchronous classes (16 classes, 2 hours per class)
- 8 hours of asynchronous classes
- 4 hours and a half of individualized feedback. (Each student will sit for a 30-minute conference with the instructor to get a final feedback on his/her overall performance.)

Course Total Number of Hours: 45

- **Synchronous sessions days: Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. (An extra class was added today, Saturday, so as to make up for the delayed start) (Other sessions might be added at any time in case other classes were not completed for any unforeseen reason.)**
- **Asynchronous session days and times will be decided on based on the synchronous ones.**

Course Assessment Plan:

- There is an evaluation checkpoint after every 3 sessions of synchronous classes. (That is, 3 sessions of instruction then 1 session of evaluation.)
- Four incidents of evaluation: Friday 23 July, Sunday 1 August, Wednesday 11 August, and Wednesday 18 August.
- Grade breakdown:
 - 20% for every evaluation checkpoint. (60%)
 - 40% for course assignments.

OUTLINE:

1. What are the parts of an academic passage?
2. What is the content of each part?
3. What are the types of an academic passage?
4. What are the features of academic production?
5. So what will the university courses test you on?
6. iBT test structure
7. Reading section structure
8. Listening section structure
9. Speaking section structure
10. Writing section structure

Academic Passages: Parts & Structure

1. What are the parts of an academic passage?

General overview

Details and support

Round up to finalize the logic.

Academic Passage: Parts & Structure

2. What is the content of each part?

General ideas / main ideas / topic sentences

Background, details, support, examples, dates, figures & numbers, stories, cases...etc.

Conclusion with summary, final connection between details, author's opinion, a zoom out, some brief projection about the future...etc.

Academic Passages: Parts & Structure

3. What are the types of an academic passage?

The same pattern goes on in the different levels:

Macro level: essay, research, speech.

Micro level: answer to a question,
paragraph...etc.

Academic Passage: Parts & Structure

4. So what are the features of academic production?

□ Academics:

- Don't simply repeat themselves for no reason.
- Don't waste time in saying things that are not important.
- Never listen or read without taking notes.
- Never communicate a message (talk/write) without prior planning.

Academic Passage: Parts & Structure

5. So what will the university courses test you on?

- Did you get the organization of ideas?
- Did you get the main ideas?
- The relationships between the ideas and the details?
- The opinion of the writer?
- Did you understand what I said? Can you say it again? Can you add to it so it would be clearer?
- Did you get: positive facts, negative facts, the meaning of the words used?
- Can you logically conclude/guess something I didn't directly mention in the passage?
- Do you have an opinion based on what I said? Can you defend it?
- **Can you do all this with quality within a given time/word limit?**

iBT Curriculum Structure

Test Format

Test Section	Number of Questions	Timing
Reading	3–4 passages, 12–14 questions each	60–80 minutes
Listening	4–6 lectures, 6 questions each 2–3 conversations, 5 questions each	60–90 minutes
BREAK		10 minutes
Speaking	6 tasks: 2 independent and 4 integrated	20 minutes
Writing	1 integrated task 1 independent task	20 minutes 30 minutes

iBT Curriculum Structure

Reading

Reading Section Format

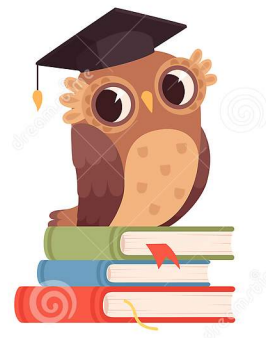
Length of Each Passage	Number of Passages and Questions	Timing
Approximately 700 words	3–4 passages 12–14 questions per passage	60–80 minutes



- 1 passage = 18 minutes
- Reading = 6 minutes
- Question = 1 minute
- 2 minutes expected waste

iBT Curriculum Structure

Listening



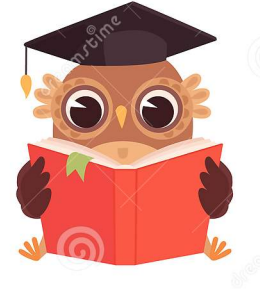
Listening Section Format

Listening Material	Number of Questions	Timing
4–6 lectures, each 3–5 minutes long, about 500–750 words	6 questions per lecture	60–90 minutes
2–3 conversations, each about 3 minutes long, about 12–25 exchanges	5 questions per conversation	

iBT Curriculum Structure:

Productive Skills:

Speaking & Writing



Independent tasks

Integrated tasks

iBT Curriculum Structure: Speaking



Independent Tasks

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Personal Preference | This question asks the test taker to express and defend a personal choice from a given category—for example, important people, places, events, or activities that the test taker enjoys. | Preparation time: 15 seconds
Response time: 45 seconds |
| 2. Choice | This question asks the test taker to make and defend a personal choice between two contrasting behaviors or courses of action. | Preparation time: 15 seconds
Response time: 45 seconds |

iBT Curriculum Structure: Speaking

Integrated Tasks

Read/Listen/Speak

3. Campus Situation
Topic: Fit and Explain

- A reading passage (80–110 words) presents a campus-related issue.
- A listening passage (60–80 seconds) comments on the issue in the reading passage.
- The question asks the test taker to summarize the speaker's opinion within the context of the reading passage.

Preparation time: 30 seconds
Response time: 60 seconds

4. Academic Course
Topic: General/
Specific

- A reading passage (80–110 words) broadly defines a term, process, or idea from an academic subject.
- An excerpt from a lecture (60–90 seconds) provides examples and specific information to illustrate the term, process, or idea from the reading passage.
- The question asks the test taker to combine and convey important information from the reading passage and the lecture excerpt.

Preparation time: 30 seconds
Response time: 60 seconds



Listen/Speak

5. Campus Situation
Topic: Problem/
Solution

- The listening passage (60–90 seconds) is a conversation about a student-related problem and two possible solutions.
- The question asks the test taker to demonstrate an understanding of the problem and to express an opinion about solving the problem.

Preparation time: 20 seconds
Response time: 60 seconds

6. Academic Course
Topic: Summary

- The listening passage is an excerpt from a lecture (90–120 seconds) that explains a term or concept and gives concrete examples to illustrate that term or concept.
- The question asks the test taker to summarize the lecture and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the examples and the overall topic.

Preparation time: 20 seconds
Response time: 60 seconds

TOTAL

20 minutes

iBT Curriculum Structure: Writing

Writing Task Types

Task Type	Task Description
Task 1 Integrated Writing: Read/Listen/Write	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test takers read a short text of about 250–300 words (reading time, 3 minutes) on an academic topic.• Test takers may take notes on the reading passage.• The reading passage disappears from the screen during the lecture that follows. It reappears when test takers begin writing so they can refer to it as they work.• Test takers listen to a speaker discuss the same topic from a different perspective. The listening passage is about 250–320 words long (listening time, about 2 minutes).• The listening passage provides additional information that relates to points made in the reading passage. Test takers may take notes on the listening passage.• Test takers write a summary in connected English prose of important points made in the listening passage, and explain how these relate to the key points of the reading passage. Suggested response length is 150–225 words; however, there is no penalty for writing more as long as it is in response to the task presented.• Response time: 20 minutes

Read: 3 minutes

Listen: 2 minutes

Write: 20 minutes



iBT Curriculum Structure: Writing

Task 2

Independent Writing: Writing from Knowledge and Experience

- Test takers write an essay that states, explains, and supports their opinion on an issue. An effective essay will usually contain a minimum of 300 words; however, test takers may write more if they wish.
- Test takers must support their opinions or choices rather than simply list personal preferences or choices.
- Typical essay questions begin with statements such as:
 - Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Use reasons and specific details to support your answer.
 - Some people believe X. Other people believe Y. Which of these two positions do you prefer/agree with? Give reasons and specific details.
- Response time: 30 minutes



Total Writing time: 50 minutes

Assignment #1 (Writing):

Assignment requirement:

"Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Dancing plays an important role in a culture. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer."

Assignment instructions:

Write an essay of around 300 words about the above topic. Make sure to revise it and proofread it very well before you send it to me. Take as much time as you want to write it, just mention the amount of time you took on top of your essay paper. This essay should be computer typed in a word file with your name on top of it. Your deadline is Monday, 19 July at 9am Cairo local time. Please calculate the time difference between your location and mine and make sure you send it before MY deadline time.

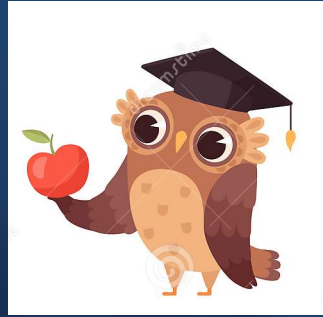
Assignment #2 (Speaking):

Assignment requirement:

"Record a one-minute talk about a musical instrument that you would have loved to learn how to play (or you actual play)."

Assignment instructions:

Take a minute to prepare you ideas before recording the note. Make sure you are very much focused in your ideas so as not to waste the time. Make sure to clearly explain why you picked this musical instrument in specific. Send the recording to me privately on *WhatsApp*. Do not record more than once, your first recording must be the one you send for evaluation. Your deadline is Monday, 19 July at 9am Cairo local time. Please calculate the time difference between your location and mine and make sure you send it before MY deadline time.



Questions?

Thank you!
Good Luck