An insight into proficiency levels
Total test time: 2 hours 44 minutes
(+ 10 minutes transfer time)
A clear scale of proficiency

9 – expert user
8 – very good user
7 – good user
6 – competent user
5 – modest user
4 – limited user
3 – extremely limited user
2 – intermittent user
1 – non user
IELTS’ approach is to clearly describe what each band score represents in terms of English language proficiency

• **Band 6** - Competent user: has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.

• **Band 7** - Good user: has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

• **Band 8** - Very good user: Has fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.
A practical exercise

• Read through the band score descriptors
• Review two speaking clips together
• Discuss your opinions and suggest scores
• Receive Examiner feedback
**Practical Exercise**
Review the Band Score descriptors (public version) for Speaking Task.

- **Fluency and Coherence** - to what extent they can maintain a flow of speech, and the way they use connecting words and signalling words to make the relationship between their ideas clear

- **Lexical resource** – their range of vocabulary, whether they can express themselves without repetition and use an appropriate style

- **Grammatical range and accuracy** – the range of grammar they can use and the accuracy with which they use it

- **Pronunciation** – whether their pronunciation causes a strain for the listener
In Summary

- Inherent difficulties in directly comparing English language tests that use different testing methods
- IELTS’ approach is to clearly describe what each band score represents in terms of English language proficiency
- Up to education institutions to determine what band score/s they set
- Key questions include:
  - What is the minimum level of English needed?
  - How does this minimum level translate into IELTS scores?
  - IELTS Scores Explained DVD can assist you in doing this
Thank you