

The Swansea English Language Test

The SWELT is the official English language test for international students wishing to study at Swansea University. The test is designed, administered and marked by English Language Training Services staff.

Format of the SWELT

The SWELT consists of the following papers:

READING : 1 hour

WRITING : 1 hour

GRAMMAR AND ACADEMIC VOCABULARY : 40 Minutes

LISTENING: 30-40 minutes

All four components are normally taken at a single session, on the same day.

Each component is scored in a banding system equivalent to the IELTS banding, and an overall band is obtained by averaging performance across the four components.

Reading

Time: 60 minutes

This test consists of two or three texts, totalling 2000-2500 words. Texts will be from articles of general interest, including one text of an academic style. Comprehension of the texts is assessed by about 40 questions, of a variety of types including:

Multiple Choice

True/False/Not Given

Short answer

Matching paragraph headings

Summary gap-fill

Writing

Time: 60 minutes

This test consists of two tasks, for each of which the candidate is required to write about 200 words.

Task 1 requires the candidates to summarise and interpret numerical data , shown in the form of a chart, such as a graph, bar chart or pie chart.

Task 2 is thematically related to Task 1, and requires the candidate to express personal opinions on a topical subject.

Performance is assessed on accuracy of grammar and vocabulary, range of structure, fulfilment of task and organisation .

Each task carries 50% of the total marks for the paper.

Grammar and academic vocabulary

Time: 40 minutes

This tests is in two parts, Grammar (20 minutes) and Academic Vocabulary (20 minutes).

Grammar (20 minutes)

This consists of two parts

15 multiple-choice questions, testing knowledge of grammar.

10 error-correction questions , testing ability to edit.

Vocabulary (20 minutes)

This test consists of 25 sentences with one word omitted . Candidates are required to choose the correct completion from four alternatives. The vocabulary tested is all from the sample SWELT test of academic vocabulary. (See link)

Listening

Time: 30-40 minutes

This test consists of recordings of a variety of conversations, short talks and news items. Comprehension is tested by a range of questions, including multiple choice, short answers (single word or number), completion of tables and labelling of diagrams.