

IELTS Preparation Timelines – Based on Study Schedules

The time needed to prepare for the IELTS depends on your current English level (B1, B2, C1), your target band score, and how intensively you study. This document outlines four study scenarios with approximate preparation time, weekly hours, and total hours required.

1. Studying 2 Hours Every Day (~14 hours/week)

■ Fastest and most effective approach because of daily exposure.

B1 (Intermediate, Band 5.5–6.0 target): 2–3 months (~120–180 total hours). Focus on grammar, vocabulary, and IELTS task types.

B2 (Upper-Intermediate, Band 6.5–7.0 target): 1.5–2 months (~90–120 hours). Focus on strategies, timed practice, and fluency.

C1 (Advanced, Band 7.5–8.0+ target): 1–1.5 months (~60–90 hours). Focus on advanced writing, coherence, and full mock tests.

2. Studying 2 Hours a Day on Weekdays (~10 hours/week)

■ Effective and realistic; allows weekends free while keeping strong progress.

B1: 3–4 months (~120–160 hours). Steady practice across all four skills.

B2: 2–3 months (~80–120 hours). Enough for focused improvement and test preparation.

C1: 1.5–2 months (~60–80 hours). Mostly polishing essays and speaking answers.

3. Studying 2 Hours a Day on Weekends Only (~4 hours/week)

■ Slow progress because of long breaks between sessions.

B1: 7–9 months (~120–160 hours). Risk of slow vocabulary retention.

B2: 5–7 months (~100–140 hours). Must add extra reading and listening outside class time.

C1: 4–5 months (~70–100 hours). Suitable mainly for review and practice tests.

4. Studying 3 Hours per Week (~12 hours/month)

■ Very slow route; suitable only if exam is 8–12 months away.

B1: 8–10 months (~100–120 hours). Gradual progress; needs discipline.

B2: 6–8 months (~75–100 hours). Works with consistent passive exposure.

C1: 4–6 months (~50–75 hours). Enough for strategies and test technique.

■ Summary Table

Study Plan	Hours/Week	B1 (Band 5.5–6.0)	B2 (Band 6.5–7.0)	C1 (Band 7.5–8.0+)
2h/day (7d)	~14 h	2–3 mo (120–180 h)	1.5–2 mo (90–120 h)	1–1.5 mo (60–90 h)
2h/day (5d)	~10 h	3–4 mo (120–160 h)	2–3 mo (80–120 h)	1.5–2 mo (60–80 h)
2h/day (weekends)	~4 h	7–9 mo (120–160 h)	5–7 mo (100–140 h)	4–5 mo (70–100 h)
3h/week	3 h	8–10 mo (100–120 h)	6–8 mo (75–100 h)	4–6 mo (50–75 h)