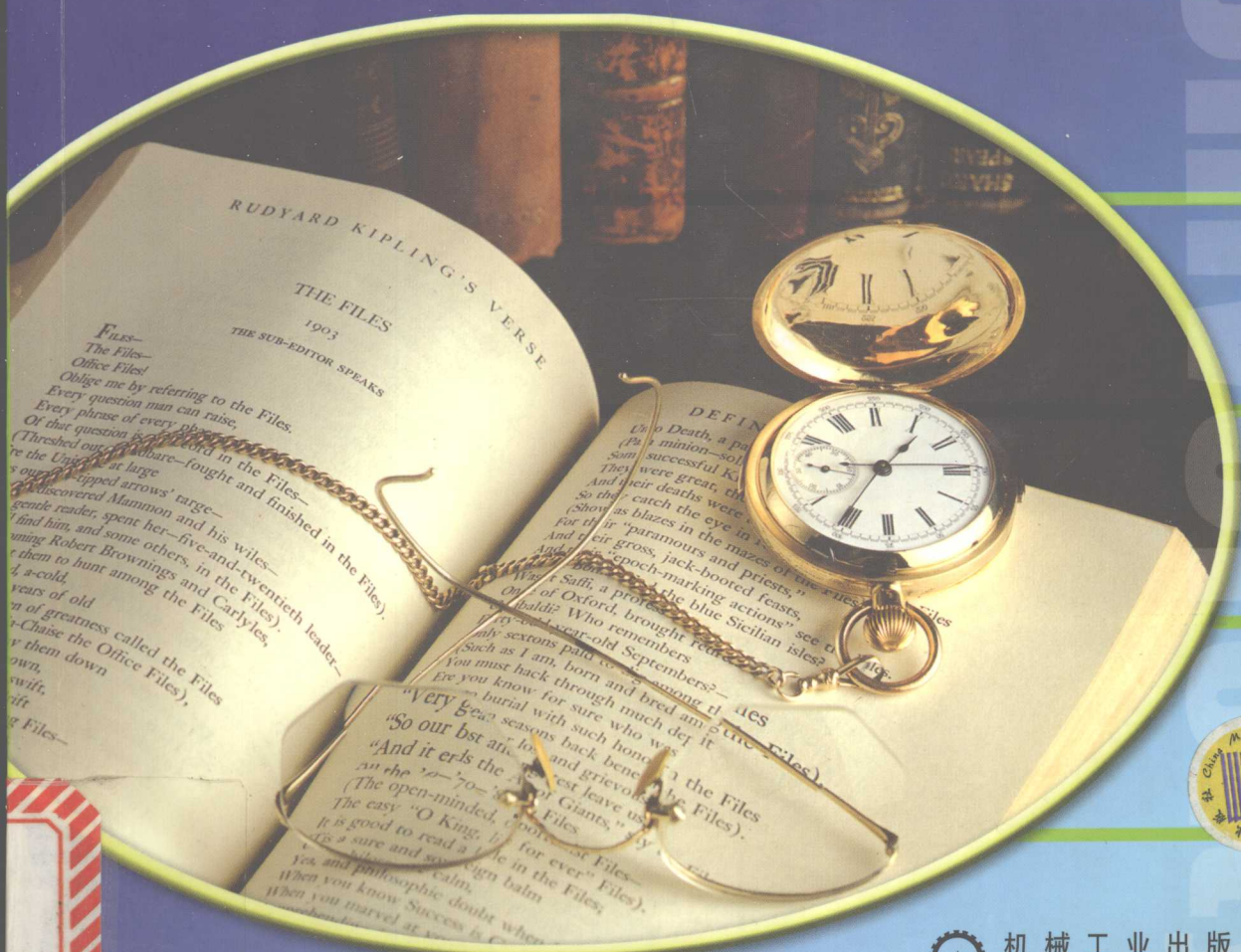


A Study Guide Book for English Language  
Assessment in British Universities

# 英国大学 英语综合测试教程

郅红 孟繁锡 李岩 主编



机械工业出版社  
China Machine Press

# 英国大学英语综合测试教程

A Study Guide Book for English Language  
Assessment in British Universities

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机械工业出版社

本书系统的介绍了英国大学入学考试 ELAS 的考试内容及应试策略。书中配有 30 套精选模拟试题,针对每个题型,都做了深入详尽的注解。全书主要由 ELAS 考试介绍、口试指导、笔试指导、模拟试题、试题解析等几个部分组成。准确把握考试核心要点,力图让考生在极其有限的时间内,迅速掌握考试内容,顺利地通过考试。

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# Chapter I: ELAS Introduction

ELAS is the English Language Assessment Service, developed and administered by University of Luton in the United Kingdom. The full ELAS assessment, including its written component TELAS, fulfils English language entry requirements for academic courses in a majority of British colleges and universities. Although ELAS is not so well known as TOEFL, IELTS or the Cambridge test, it is an equivalent assessment recognized by the British Council. Its score is also convertible to IELTS. ELAS is currently available in Beijing, Shenyang, Harbin and some cities in southern China. The assessment is also available and becoming more accepted and recognized in other regions of the world.

This study guide introduces ELAS, including its structure, modules and features. The book also includes 30 sample TELAS tests. The ELAS scoring system and corresponding equivalent scores for other tests are also listed in the Guidance Notes for Students, provided by University of Luton's Language Centre (Appendix 1). The target readership for this book includes students who plan to study in the UK, as well as international education professionals who are engaged in English language test training. The guide is designed to provide an overall understanding of the assessment's possible contents and what will be required of candidates; some advance understanding of ELAS will help students demonstrate their English abilities.

Reflecting the real structure of the ELAS, this guide offers sample question types from each of the four assessment modules: Interview, Reading, Vocabulary and Grammar, and Writing. The materials give candidates the opportunity to test themselves and see whether their English is at the level required. Clear instructions on time limits and procedures are also included, allowing candidates to practice the ELAS interview and test taking in conditions consistent with a real assessment.

ELAS comprises a face-to-face oral interview and a written test. The face-to-face interview is conducted by test administration staff from University of Luton, who thoroughly examine each student's listening and speaking skills. Unlike the traditional recorded listening test or a formal fixed-topic presentation, the ELAS interview allows listening and speaking skills to be tested in a relaxed and friendly manner. The interview is also an excellent opportunity for students to acquire some first-hand information about study in the UK. The two-hour written test TELAS (Test for English Language Assessment Service) assesses students' reading comprehension, writing skills, grammar and vocabulary.

The International College at Beijing, part of China Agriculture University, has run programmes in international education since 1994. This guide is the joint effort of our Chinese and international staff and faculty, all of whom have many years' experience in English language training and test preparation. We hope that it will serve as a valuable tool for students preparing for their study in the UK, especially those students currently enrolled in joint China-UK programmes.

The proof reading staff of this book are Weizhe Feng, Jian Wang, Yi Cheng, Jinghong Liu, Ying Tang, Yuping Chen, Jia Luo, Ning Wang, Olga Fleonova, David Youkey, Todd Eklund, Georgina Henson.

## Chapter II: ELAS Interview

The face-to-face interview is conducted by test administration staff from University of Luton. The main purpose of this part of ELAS is to test students' listening and speaking abilities. The interview may cover a wide range of topics, ranging from your daily life, study plan and career objectives to social issues such as family, marriage and environmental protection. Many other subjects are likely to come up, and students should prepare broadly, but it will be impossible to prepare for every single possible topic. Instead, candidates should first work from a core list of typical topics, and then derive their own more extensive lists of associated topics. This section lists typical interview questions as well as sample topics for preparation. Possible strategies are also recommended, including breaking down topics, identifying key words, and brainstorming to cover a broader range of possible interview questions and topics.

### 1. Typical Interview Questions

1. What is your name?
2. Does your name have any special meaning?
3. What is the literal translation of your name?
4. Does your name reflect your personality?
5. Where do you come from?
6. Where were you born?
7. Where is your hometown located?
8. What kind of landscape surrounds your hometown?
9. Which crops grow in the fields near your hometown?
10. What are the main tourist attractions in your city?
11. Could you tell me something else about your hometown?
12. What is the climate like in your hometown?
13. How would you characterise the people from your region?
14. Do the people of your hometown speak with a different accent or dialect from where you live now, and how is it different?
15. What is the favourite food in your region?
16. Can you describe one of the main traditional festivals celebrated in your region?
17. What do you do during the Spring Festival?
18. Tell me something else about the customs of your region or hometown.
19. Where do you live now, and how long have you lived there?
20. What is the weather like in your city?
21. How would you compare the climate in your city with that in your hometown?

22. What places in your city do you like best? Why?
23. What places in your city should a foreigner visit? Why?
24. What are the major social problems in your city? How can they be solved?
25. Which city, in your opinion, is the best in China? Why?

## 2. Strategies for Interview Topic Preparation

### 2.1 Topic Breakdown

Let's say you decide to prepare for a topic like "What was the most exciting time in your life?" Thinking through this topic may lead you back to an experience such as a trip or a birthday party. Whatever specific topic you have in mind, a good first step may be to break this topic down into several *subcomponents* that are likely to be covered. The following example shows how a general topic may be broken down:

#### Exciting time

- What was significant about this time?
- What were your lasting impressions?
- Compare it to other exciting times in your life.
- Do you prefer a busy, exciting lifestyle or a quiet and *sedate* one?

#### Living in a foreign country

Benefits of living in a foreign country

- Making new friends
- Improved living standards
- Better language skills
- Learning about a new culture
- Practice [what?]

Disadvantages of staying in a foreign country

- Away from family and friends
- Language barriers
- Cultural differences

#### Describe a trip you have been on

- Where did you go?
- Why did you go there?
- How long did you stay?
- What did you do?



### **Your School or Workplace**

Tell the interviewer about your present or past place of work or school and focus on the following:

- The positive things about your school or workplace.
- The negative things about your school or workplace.
- Your overall opinion of your school or workplace.
- How could your school or workplace be improved?

### **Relaxation**

Describe your favourite way to relax. This could be a resting place or a sport or even something you do at home:

- A setting (i. e. place) that helps you relax, and why it helps.
- An activity that helps you relax, and why it helps.
- How long you need to relax this way?
- How often do you relax this way?

### **Your Best Friend**

Describe your best friend:

- What does he or she look like?
- Describe his or her personality.
- Why you think you are such good friends? Describe the things you do together.

### **Ideal School**

Describe your ideal school or university:

- How it would be organized?
- What kind of facilities would it have?
- What style of architecture would you prefer?
- Mention any special features or programmes that you think would be necessary.

### **Yourself**

- What are your likes and dislikes?
- What are some of your good points (i. e. strengths)?
- What are some of your weaknesses?
- What do you value in a friend?

**Your Favourite Song**

- What is the song about?
- Why you like it?
- Who sings it and what do they look like? What kind of voice do they have?
- What style of music does this song represent?
- How does it make you feel?

**An Enjoyable Instrument**

Describe an instrument that you enjoy playing or listening to:

- What kind of music can be played on this instrument? How long you have played or listened to it?
- If you can't play this instrument, would you like to learn?
- Why do you enjoy listening to or playing this instrument so much?

**Your Country's Ethnic Mix**

- Describe the ethnic mix in your country.
- Where do different ethnic minorities live?
- Name one of the ethnic minorities in your country, and describe what is unique about their clothing, food and customs.
- Explain any experiences you have had ethnic groups in your country.
- Try to avoid negative ethnic stereotypes.

**2.2 Key Words Identification**

As you are preparing for the interview, identifying key words is as important as topic breakdown. This is also an effective way to enlarge your vocabulary and categorise key words by specific topics.

**Living in a foreign country**

self-development(自我发展) unique opportunity(独一无二的机会)

experience life(体验生活) career prospect(职业的前途)

challenging (有挑战的)cultural adaptation(文化适应)

self-development... self-improvement. Becoming a better person.

*e. g. self-development is a major benefit of studying overseas.*

Unique opportunity... a chance many other people don't get

*e. g. many people nowadays have a unique opportunity to go abroad.*

Experience life... to experience new things. Not to do the same thing all the time

*e. g. many people never really experience life.*

Career prospects... a chance to get a better job, or a promotion

*e. g. Hopefully, getting an MBA will improve my career prospects.*

Challenging... learning new things

*e. g. It's certainly going to be challenging, that's for sure.*

Cultural adaptation... adapting to different cultures

*e. g. Some people shy away from cultural adaptation. Not me.*

### Going on a trip

place of interest(名胜)

scenic spot(风景区)

historical sites(历史古迹)

first-aid kit(急救箱)

broaden one's horizon(开开眼界)

on vacation/holiday(度假)

guidebook(指南)

travel documents(旅行文件)

exchange rate(外汇兑换率)

bureaucracy(官僚作风)

get away from it all(逃避闹市生活或种种烦恼)

## 2.3 Topic Extension

Extending the topic that you have been working on is an effective way to enlarge your topic database and inspire your creativity and imagination. Through topic extension, you may bring up potential interview questions or enrich your answers to other interview questions. Some examples are provided below.

### Topic: A Trip

Topic Extension:

- A. Do you think travelling is a form of education? Explain your answer.
- B. Are vacations a waste of money? Why do you think so?
- C. Where would you most like to go? Why?
- D. Do you think travelling to another country is dangerous? Why?
- E. What advice would you give to someone visiting another country?
- F. Where would you least like to go? Why?
- G. Have you ever been to another country? Where did you go? Why?

### Topic: Living in a Foreign Country

Topic Extension:

- A. What is culture shock?
- B. What will you gain from living overseas?
- C. What difficulties do you think you'll face?
- D. How will you overcome the difficulties?
- E. What do you think you will be doing in ten years time in a foreign country?
- F. Do you think your life will be better? Explain your answer.

## 2.4 Complete Strategy Examples

The following examples combine strategies to present a whole picture of preparing and developing your topics.

### Example 1

#### Talking about your education

##### Vocabulary: Talking about your education

primary school(小学)	secondary school(中学)
technical school(专业学校)	business school(商业学校)
undergraduate(本科生)	college/university student(大学生)
postgraduate(研究生)	doctor(博士)
bachelor's degree(学士学位)	scholarship(奖学金)
master's degree(硕士学位)	thesis(学位论文)
doctoral degree(博士学位)	dissertation(博士论文)
supervisor(导师)	

##### Word definitions and example

Undergraduate... a university student studying for a Bachelor's degree

*e. g. I often played football when I was an undergraduate.*

Bachelor's degree... a first university degree in any of several subjects

*e. g. I got my Bachelor's degree from Jiao Tong University.*

Dissertation... the research paper you have to write when you study for a doctoral degree

*e. g. My supervisor is a leading expert in his field.*

##### Step 1: Think of things to say

Ask yourself these questions:

Where did I graduate?

When did I graduate?

What was my degree?

What was my major?

Why did I choose this university?

Write down four or five facts about your education and organize your ideas.

Example: Talking about your education

Fact 1: Institute... Shanghai Jiaotong University

Fact 2: Qualification... Bachelor of Engineering

Fact 3: Subject... Computer Software Design

Fact 4: Date... Graduated in 1986

##### Step 2: Find the words and expressions to say what you want to say

Work with your partners and write one sentence for each fact, adding details.

**Example**

Sentence 1: Studied for a Bachelor of Engineering in Computing

Sentence 2: Came to Shanghai in 1982 to study at Jiao Tong University

Sentence 3: Graduated in 1986 and went to work for IBM

Sentence 4: Majored in software design and published a paper based on my final year research project

**Step 3: Express your ideas**

Work with your partners and write a paragraph using the sentences.

**Example paragraph:**

I came to Shanghai in 1982 to study at Jiao Tong University. I majored in software design, with a minor in applied mathematics. Just after my graduation in 1986 I published a paper based on my final year research project that helped me get a job at IBM in Pudong, where I still work.

**Example 2**

Talking about your career

**Test tip**

When talking about your job, don't simply think about your immediate position and responsibilities. Instead, think about the whole of your career, and how it has developed over time.

**Useful vocabulary: Talking about your career**

state-run enterprise(国营企业)

joint venture(合资企业)

foreign-funded enterprise(外商投资企业)

share-holding corporation(股份制企业)

collective enterprise(集体企业)

self-employed(个体户)

part-time job(兼职)

full-time job(全职)

highly-paid job(高薪工作)

low-paid job(低报酬的工作)

career(职业)

prospects(前途)

stress(压力)

working pressure(工作压力)

client(客户)

customer(顾客)

colleague/co-worker(同事)

promotion(升职)

**Word definitions and example**

Career... your chosen profession or occupation

*e. g. I worked as an accountant for several years, but changed my career in 1986.*

Prospects... opportunities to get a better job, or a promotion

*e. g. I joined my company because of the prospects it offered.*

Stress... the way you feel when you have too much work to do in too short a time

*e. g. I'm often under a lot of stress. My job's very stressful at times.*

Client... a person who you give professional advice to

*e. g. I often have to advise my clients on how to improve their productivity.*

Customer... a person who buy your products or services

*e. g. The most difficult part of my job is keeping my customers happy.*

Colleague... a person you work with

*e. g. I get on well with all my colleagues.*

Promotion... to get a higher position in your company

*e. g. I got my first promotion in 1996 when I became an area sales manager, but was promoted to regional sales director last year.*

### Common mistakes

Account..... My mother is an account. (wrong)

Accountant..... My mother is an accountant. (right)

Computer programme..... I'm a computer programme. (wrong)

Computer programmer..... I'm a computer programmer. (right)

Colleges..... I get on well with my colleges. (wrong)

Colleagues..... I get on well with my colleagues. (right)

### Step 1: Think of things to say

Think about the first job you had after you graduated from university and ask yourself questions:

#### Working people

#### students

#### Your First Job

What did I do?

Where do I study?

Why did I join that company?

Why did I choose this university?

How long did I work there?

Why did I choose this major?

What did I leave?

What do I want to do for a career?

What did I do after I left?

Your second job

What was my job in my new company?

Have I had a promotion?

When?

What do I do now?

Work with your partners and write down four or five facts about your career.

### Example

Fact 1: Graduated-worked for state-run enterprise

Fact 2: Two years later resigned. Studied for a Master's degree

Fact 3: Joined foreign invested company

Fact 4: Promoted two years ago

Fact 5: Now work on projects and head team

### Step 2: Find the words and expressions to say what you want to say

Work with your partners and write one sentence for each fact, adding details.

Sentence 1: I graduated in 1986 and worked for a state-run enterprise as a computer programmer

Sentence 2: Returned to university in 1989 to study for a master's degree

Sentence 3: In 1992 I joined a foreign invested company in Pudong as a computer programmer

Sentence 4: Two years ago I was promoted to systems analyst

Sentence 5: I now lead a team of programmers designing specialized programs for the aviation industry

### Step 3: Express your ideas

Work with your partners and write a paragraph using the sentences.

**Example paragraph:**

Following my graduation, in 1986, I was assigned to work in a state-run enterprise as a computer programmer. I resigned after two years to read for my Master's degree, after which I went to work for a foreign invested company in Pudong, where I still work.

I joined the company as a programmer, although two years ago I was promoted to systems analyst, and last year to senior systems analyst. I now head a team of programmers, and design specialized programs for the aviation industry.

**Example 3**

Talking about your family

**Useful vocabulary: talking about your family**

step-father(继父)	step-mother(继母)
foster father(养父)	foster mother(养母)
extended family(大家庭)	immediate family(直系亲属)
close-knit(关系密切的)	harmonious(和谐的)
retire(退休)	sociable(善于交际的)
in-laws(姻亲)	one-on-the-way(尚未出世的)

**Word definitions and examples**

Immediate family—closest family members

There's only my husband and I in my immediate family.

Retire—to stop working at one's job, profession, etc., usually because of age my mother has retired. My father is due to retire this year.

Sociable—friendly, outgoing

My wife's very sociable, but I prefer to read quietly.

In-laws—people you are related to by marriage (in law)

We live with our in-laws.

One-on-the-way—to be expecting a child/to be pregnant

We don't have a child yet, although my sister-in-law has got one-on-the-way.

**Think of things to say**

Where was I born?

When did I move to...?

Who are the members of my family?

Why did I move to...?

What do my parent retired?

**Example paragraph**

I was born in Sichuan, but moved to Chongqing when I was 16. My parents are both doctors, and were assigned to work in a hospital there. They're both retired now. I came to Shanghai in 1991 to study economics at Fudan University, where I met my girlfriend. We got married after we graduated, and still live here. I also have an older brother who lives in Xinan with his wife, and a younger sister who still lives in Chongqing with our parents.

**Extended practice:**

**Answer the following questions:**

- A. Are your parents retired?
- B. What did they do before they retired?
- C. What do they do now?
- D. Do you have any brothers or sisters?



## Chapter III: ELAS Written Test (TELAS)

The second part of ELAS is a two-hour written test designed to examine your reading and writing abilities. The test has three major parts: reading, vocabulary and grammar, and writing. This chapter analyses the structure of TELAS and the features of each module. A sample TELAS cover sheet is provided in Appendix II to help you understand the overall test requirements.

### 1. Reading

There are three passages and about 40 questions. To prepare for this component of the exam you will need to develop an understanding of the different question types and prepare some strategies for efficient reading and comprehension. As time will be limited, you will need to read quickly yet thoroughly, and leave enough time to reflect on the passage before answering questions.

The texts are often very long and dense. They are on topics ranging from complex scientific issues to articles on psychology and the environment. There can be a lot of complicated vocabulary that you may not know.

Like the other parts of the exam, this is trying to test the skills you will need in the real world. If you study at a British university then you will need to visit the library, conduct research and find source materials relevant to your area. The reading section assesses your ability to extract specific information from written texts as well as understand their general meaning.

There are usually three types of questions designed to test your reading abilities and skills: reading comprehension, paragraph heading and gap filling.

#### 1.1 Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension tests how well you can understand an essay or article within a limited time. The selected texts are usually taken from magazines, journals, books and newspapers. Texts have been written for a non-specialist audience. All the topics are of general interest. They deal with issues that are interesting, recognizably appropriate and accessible to candidates entering postgraduate or undergraduate courses. About seven multiple choices are given after the texts for you to choose the best answer. It is important to examine the given four options under each question, to identify common features and areas of difference. Try to use common sense to eliminate some of the answers. Underline key words to save time when scanning the reading passage.

#### 1.2 Paragraph Headings

This section is designed to test your ability to summarise the main idea of a short passage. A list of