

Does the city change your score?

换个城市考，分数会不一样吗 · 给你打分的，不是准考证上的那座城市

Where the screenshot comes from, what IELTS China published about it, and what really does differ

There are videos telling you to book in a different city because the examiners there are softer. The official IELTS China site lists that exact rumour by name. And the city-by-city averages those videos screenshot come from an official report — one that states plainly the figures should not be read that way.

有视频建议你换个城市报名，说那里的考官更松。雅思中文官网把这条传言原样列了出来。而视频里截的城市平均分，出自一份官方报告——那份报告明确写着，这些数字不应这样解读。

1 Where the screenshot comes from 那张截图从哪来

IELTS China publishes an annual data report that does break results down by region. It also tells you what those numbers mean, in the same document.

雅思中文官网每年发布一份数据报告，确实按地区列出成绩。同一份报告里，也写明了这些数字代表什么。

FROM THE SAME OFFICIAL REPORT · 出自同一份官方报告

「雅思成绩仅反映考生的语言能力水平，不应被用于评估地区或学校的教学质量或整体英语水平。」

In English: IELTS scores reflect only the language ability of the test takers. They should not be used to evaluate the teaching quality or overall English level of a region or a school.

— 《2024-2025中国大陆地区雅思考生成绩大数据报告》，chinaielts.org. The report is the source of the regional figures that circulate; the caveat is printed in it.

What the report says about regions

报告怎么说地区差异

It states 上海学术类雅思考生成绩领跑全国，而西部地区成绩则显示出最大的提升潜力 — Shanghai's Academic candidates lead nationally, while the western regions show the greatest room for improvement. It also notes 全国雅思成绩的区域差距正逐步缩小 — the regional gap is gradually narrowing.

Why that is not what the videos claim

这为什么不等于视频里的说法

A city average is a fact about **the people who registered there**. It is not a fact about how their papers were marked. Shanghai's average is built from Shanghai's candidates — their schooling, their years of English, their reasons for testing. Move yourself to that city and you do not acquire their preparation; you only change the room you sit in.

城市平均分描述的是在那里报名的人，不是他们的卷子怎么被评。你换到那座城市，并不会因此获得他们的备考基础，只是换了个考场。

The myth contradicts itself

这个说法自相矛盾

The videos usually warn you away from the big first-tier cities as “harsh”. Yet the official report puts Shanghai at the top of the national table. If marking were looser where averages are higher, the advice should be the exact opposite of what it is. Both versions cannot be true, and neither is.

视频通常让你避开一线城市，说那里「压分」；但官方报告里上海平均分最高。两个版本不可能同时成立——事实上都不成立。

This is the part worth remembering. Averages describe candidates. Marking describes papers. The videos take a number about the first and present it as evidence about the second. That single substitution is the whole trick.

平均分描述的是考生，评分描述的是卷子。视频把前者的数字当成后者的证据——整个套路就在这一步。

2 IELTS China names this rumour 官方点名了这条传言

LISTED AS A RUMOUR ON THE OFFICIAL SITE · 官方「雅思真相大揭秘」列出的传言

「在不同的城市参加雅思口语考试，会得到不同的分数吗？」

In English: If you take the IELTS Speaking test in different cities, will you get different scores? — listed by IELTS China in its published series addressing IELTS rumours (chinaielts.org — 雅思真相大揭秘).

AND A DEDICATED PAGE ON THE “压分” BELIEF · 专门讲「压分」的一页

「雅思压分？不存在的！」

In English: IELTS score suppression? It doesn't exist. — the headline claim of an official page titled 单科卡瓶颈怀疑被压分？雅思评分真相 (“Stuck on one section and suspect you're being marked down? The truth about IELTS scoring”), chinaielts.org. The page sets out six checkpoints in the marking process.

Worth noticing. An organisation does not usually publish a page answering a rumour unless enough people believe it. The existence of that page tells you how widespread this idea is in China — and that the people who run the test thought it needed answering.

一个机构通常不会专门发文回应一条传言，除非相信的人足够多。这一页的存在，本身就说明了这个说法在国内传播得有多广。

3 Your marker mostly isn't in your city 给你打分的人多半不在你的城市

Summarised from the official page. Each point is a reason the city on your ticket cannot reach your mark.

以下摘自官方页面。每一条都说明了为什么准考证上的城市影响不到你的分数。

1 Speaking examiners are allocated globally · 口语考官全球随机分配

The official page describes examiners being drawn from a global pool and states that they cannot see your registration information, your nationality or your location. A marker who does not know which city you are in cannot mark you according to it.

2 Writing is marked anonymously, by two examiners · 写作匿名评分，两位考官

Task 1 and Task 2 are scored independently by two different examiners who do not see your background. IELTS China's FAQ states the same.

3 Divergent scores trigger an automatic re-check · 分差异常自动复审

Where scores across sections differ unusually, the system starts a review process automatically — stated on the official FAQ, not inferred.

4 Speaking tests are recorded · 口语全程录音

“The Speaking test is recorded” appears on the official test-format pages, and the Chinese page states recordings are archived so sessions can be spot-checked afterwards.

5 Cambridge spot-checks results without warning · 剑桥考评部不定期抽查

Unannounced, at no fixed interval. Selected results are also marked twice — ielts.org states this is done so that “wherever you take your test, your scoring is reliable and consistent”.

6 Examiners are re-certified every two years · 考官每两年重新认证

Re-training and re-testing on Cambridge-produced materials, plus regular monitoring throughout. A centre cannot keep a lenient examiner; the standardisation cycle exists to stop exactly that.

Note. The six points above are my summary of the six 关卡 on the official Chinese page, written in my own words. They are not a translation of it.

以上六点是我对官方页面「六道关卡」的概括，用的是我自己的表述，不是原文翻译。

4 Papers differ. Places don't. 卷子有差别，地点没有

There is one official sentence people quote to support the myth. Read it again — it says the opposite. 有一句官方原话常被拿来支持这个说法。再读一遍 —— 它说的正好相反。

THE CAVEAT, QUOTED EXACTLY · 官方原文

“The precise number of marks needed to achieve these band scores will vary slightly from test version to test version.”

Not from centre to centre. Not from city to city. From **version to version** — meaning the particular paper you were handed. The sentence appears twice on ielts.org's scoring page, attached to the Listening and Reading conversion tables.

不是「考点之间」，不是「城市之间」，而是「试卷版本之间」——指的是你拿到的那一份卷子。

There is a published process for exactly that

这件事有专门的处理机制

IELTS calls it **standards fixing**: “The aim is to gauge the difficulty of new Listening and Reading tests in order to ensure that band scores on every version of the IELTS Listening and Reading tests indicate the same measure of ability.” 官方称之为「标准固定」：目的是测定新试卷的难度，确保每个版本的等级分代表相同的能力水平。

So the raw mark moves and the band does not

原始分会动，等级分不动

The number of correct answers needed shifts slightly between papers *precisely so that* a Band 7 means the same thing on every version. The caveat is evidence of the system working, not evidence of a loophole.

所需答题数在不同卷子之间略有浮动，正是为了让7分在每个版本上代表同一水平。这是机制在运作的证据，不是漏洞。

The same conclusion, from IDP

IDP的原话

“IELTS has very strict rules that every employee and that every centre must follow. These rules are the same in every country and every centre.” And: “Travelling for an easier test to London, Tokyo, Delhi, Dakar, or Detroit may seem smart, but they will all be exactly the same.”

「雅思有非常严格的规定，每位员工、每个考点都必须遵守；这些规定在每个国家、每个考点都相同。」

5 What really does differ by city 真正因城市而异的东西

DOES NOT DIFFER · 不会因城市而异

The assessment criteria. Examiner training and certification. The band descriptors. The standard your paper is held to. Who marks your Writing.

评分标准、考官培训与认证、评分细则、评分尺度、谁批改你的写作。

GENUINELY DIFFERS · 确实因城市而异

Availability of dates and seats. How far you travel. Whether One Skill Retake is offered there. How rested you are on the morning.

考位与考试日期、路程远近、是否开放单科重考、当天你的状态。

Seats and dates

考位与日期

A real reason to book elsewhere. If the date you need is full in your city and open in the next one, that is a scheduling decision and a sensible one. It has nothing to do with expected scores.

One Skill Retake availability

单科重考的开放城市

Real, and often confused with the myth. One Skill Retake is offered at a limited set of centres, so where you sat your original test genuinely affects whether that route is open to you later. That is availability, not leniency.

这一条是真的：单科重考只在部分考点开放。这是「有没有」，不是「松不松」。

Travel, sleep and an unfamiliar room

旅途、睡眠与陌生考场

The honest cost. A night in an unfamiliar bed, an early start in a city you do not know, a room you have never seen — all small negatives on test morning. Chasing a rumour to another city does not buy you a softer examiner. It buys you a worse night's sleep.

为了一条传言跑去另一个城市，换不到更宽松的考官，只换到更差的睡眠。

If someone tells you to travel for a better score, ask the only question that matters: **what would you be buying?** A marker who cannot see your city, a criteria set identical nationwide, and a paper equated against every other version — for the price of a train ticket and a bad night's sleep.

6 Method note 编制方法说明

Quoted	The data-report caveat, the Shanghai and narrowing-gap sentences, the rumour heading, the “压分？不存在的！” line, the test-version caveat, the standards-fixing description and the IDP sentences are quoted from the official pages cited below.
Summary, not translation	The six safeguards in section 3 are my summary of the six 关卡 on the official Chinese page, in my own words. They are not a translation and should not be quoted as official wording.
What I did not find	I could not retrieve the answer text behind the rumour heading on the official video series page — only the heading. So this briefing cites IELTS China as having <i>listed</i> that rumour, and takes its substantive rebuttal from the separate 评分真相 page, which I could read in full.
Opinion	That travelling for a rumour costs you sleep rather than buying leniency, and that an official rebuttal page indicates how widespread the belief is, are my views. Neither is a measured finding.
Not a claim about any centre	This briefing makes no claim about any particular test centre, city, examiner or school, and none of it should be read as one. No band score is promised anywhere in this material.
Band descriptors	Descriptor wording is paraphrased throughout and never reproduced.
Credentials	Certified by IDP Education in Understanding the Assessment Criteria for both Speaking and Writing (2026). IDP is one of the three organisations that jointly own IELTS. This is a teacher-training certificate — IELTS has not endorsed this briefing, the books, or the classes.

Sources. chinaielts.org — 2024-2025中国大陆地区雅思考生成绩大数据报告; chinaielts.org — 单科卡瓶颈怀疑被压分? 雅思评分真相; chinaielts.org — 雅思真相大揭秘; chinaielts.org — 常见问题解答; ielts.org — Trust IELTS; ielts.org — How we develop the test; ielts.org — IELTS scoring in detail; IDP — Is IELTS different from country to country? Official pages change; if a source has changed since publication, the source wins. The full briefing with live links is at deencoxielts.com/which-city.html.

完整简报与所有来源链接见 deencoxielts.com/which-city.html。官方页面可能更新，如与本简报不一致，以官方为准。