Important Test Tips

Do

Use correct punctuation for writing tasks: full stops, capital letters, commas, etc

Answer the question. If the question asks you to write or speak about sport, write or speak about ‘sport’ NOT ‘science’

Keep strictly within the word limit given for writing tasks

Respond quickly and keep speaking during speaking tasks. The microphone will close after 3 seconds of silence and stop recording

Don’t

Write ENTIRELY in capital letters. Only use capitals when needed: at the beginning of sentences, names, etc

Click Next before you have completed the task and are ready to move on
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PTE Academic: Test Overview

PTE Academic is designed to test your English reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

The test takes approximately **three hours** to complete. This includes an un-timed introduction to the test and one optional scheduled break of **up to 10 minutes**.

There are **three timed parts**:
- Speaking and writing
- Reading
- Listening

Each part may contain a number of sections. Each section is individually timed.

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# PTE Academic: Speaking and Writing Item Overview

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<tr>
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<td>A text appears on screen. Read the text aloud</td>
<td>reading and speaking</td>
<td>text up to 60 words</td>
<td>varies by item, depending on the length of text</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Repeat sentence</strong></td>
<td>After listening to a recording of a sentence, repeat the sentence</td>
<td>listening and speaking</td>
<td>3-9 seconds</td>
<td>15 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Describe image</strong></td>
<td>An image appears on screen. Describe the image in detail</td>
<td>speaking</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>40 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Re-tell lecture</strong></td>
<td>After listening to or watching a lecture, re-tell the lecture in your own words</td>
<td>listening and speaking</td>
<td>up to 90 seconds</td>
<td>40 seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Answer short question</strong></td>
<td>After listening to a question, answer with a single word or a few words</td>
<td>listening and speaking</td>
<td>3-9 seconds</td>
<td>10 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summarize written text</strong></td>
<td>After reading a text, write a one-sentence summary of the passage</td>
<td>reading and writing</td>
<td>text up to 300 words</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write essay</strong></td>
<td>Write a 200–300 word essay on a given topic</td>
<td>writing</td>
<td>2-3 sentences</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Task</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiple-choice, choose single answer</td>
<td>After reading a text, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the text by selecting one response</td>
<td>reading</td>
<td>text up to 110 words</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers</td>
<td>After reading a text, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the text by selecting more than one response</td>
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<td>text up to 300 words</td>
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<td>Re-order paragraphs</td>
<td>Several text boxes appear on screen in a random order. Put the text boxes in the correct order</td>
<td>reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading: Fill in the blanks</td>
<td>A text appears on screen with several gaps. Drag words from the box below to fill the gaps</td>
<td>reading</td>
<td>text up to 80 words</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading and Writing: Fill in the blanks</td>
<td>A text appears on screen with several gaps. Fill in each gap from a drop-down list of response options</td>
<td>reading and writing</td>
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# PTE Academic: Listening Item Overview

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<tr>
<td>Summarize spoken text</td>
<td>After listening to a recording, write a 50-70 word summary</td>
<td>listening and writing</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Fill in the blanks</td>
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<td>listening and writing</td>
<td>30-60 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlight correct summary</td>
<td>After listening to a recording, select the paragraph that best summarizes the recording</td>
<td>listening and reading</td>
<td>30-90 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple choice, choose single answer</td>
<td>After listening to a recording, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the recording by selecting one response</td>
<td>listening</td>
<td>30-60 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select missing word</td>
<td>After listening to a recording, select the missing word that completes the recording from a list of options</td>
<td>listening</td>
<td>20-70 seconds</td>
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<td>Highlight incorrect words</td>
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<td>3-5 seconds</td>
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PTE Academic: Test Introduction

There is an **untimed** Test Introduction at the start of the test.

**NDA Reminder**

You are reminded of the non-disclosure agreement you signed as part of the terms and conditions of the test.
**Equipment Check**

You have an opportunity to check you have the correct **keyboard** and that the **headset** and **microphone** are working.

**Test Information**

You receive further information about what to expect during the test in the **Test Introduction**.
Part 1: Overview

In Part 1 you are tested mainly on your Speaking and Writing skills. You are reminded of what to and what not to do in the test. Pay close attention to this or you will lose score points or score zero in some cases.

Speaking section 1 contains the Personal introduction. Speaking section 2 contains a number of item types where you first listen to an audio, then respond into the microphone.

Listening: The Current Status counts down until the audio clip begins to play. When the progress bar reaches the right hand side the audio clip stops playing.

Speaking: The Current Status counts down until the microphone opens. Start speaking when the status changes to Recording. Some item types have a short tone to indicate the end of the preparation time.

You must finish before the progress bar reaches the right hand side. If you remain silent for longer than 3 seconds, the recording will stop. You will not be able to re-record.

Writing sections 3-6 contain a number of individually-timed items. You are required to write two summaries and one essay OR three summaries and one essay OR two summaries and two essays.
**Speaking: Personal introduction**

This is an opportunity to give your selected institutions some information about yourself. This item is not scored.

The recording status box displays a countdown until the microphone opens. You have **25 seconds to prepare**. After the tone, start speaking immediately. Do not start speaking before the microphone opens because your voice will not be recorded.

You should speak clearly. There is no need to rush.

You have **30 seconds to record your response**. Finish speaking before the progress bar reaches the end. The word “Recording” changes to “Completed”.

You are only able to record your answer once.

Your response will be sent together with your score report to the institutions selected by you.
For this item type you need to read a written text aloud.

The recording status box displays a countdown until the microphone opens. You have **30-40 seconds to prepare**, depending on the length of the passage. You hear a short tone. After the tone, start speaking immediately. Do not start speaking before the microphone opens because your voice will not be recorded.

You should speak clearly. There is no need to rush.

Finish speaking before the progress bar reaches the end. The word “Recording” changes to “Completed”.

You are only able to record your response once.
For this item type you need to repeat the sentence you hear.

The audio begins to play automatically. When the audio finishes, the microphone opens and the recording status box shows “Recording”. Speak into the microphone immediately (there is no short tone) and repeat exactly what you heard.

You should speak clearly. There is no need to rush.

Finish speaking before the progress bar reaches the end. The word “Recording” changes to “Completed”.

You are not able to replay the audio. You are only able to record your response once.
For this item type you need to describe an image.

The recording status box displays a countdown until the microphone opens. You have **25 seconds to study the image and prepare your response**. You hear a short tone. After the tone, start speaking immediately. Do not start speaking before the microphone opens because your voice will not be recorded.

You should speak clearly. There is no need to rush.

Finish speaking before the progress bar reaches the end. The word “Recording” changes to “Completed”.

You are only able to record your response once.
For this item type you need to re-tell what you heard.

The audio begins to play automatically. You may also see an image related to the audio. After the audio finishes, you have **10 seconds to prepare**.

The recording status box displays a countdown until the microphone opens. You hear a short tone. After the tone, start speaking immediately. Do not start speaking before the microphone opens because your voice will not be recorded.

You should speak clearly. There is no need to rush.

Finish speaking before the progress bar reaches the end. The word “Recording” changes to “Completed”.

You are only able to record your response once.

Note: While the audio is playing, you can take notes on the erasable notepad provided.
For this item type you need to reply to the question in one or a few words.

The audio begins to play automatically. You may also see an image.

When the audio finishes, the microphone opens and the recording status box shows “Recording”. Speak into the microphone immediately (there is no short tone) and answer the question with one or a few words.

You should speak clearly. There is no need to rush.

Finish speaking before the progress bar reaches the end. The word “Recording” changes to “Completed”.

You are not able to replay the audio. You are only able to record your response once.
For this item type you need to write a summary of the text in one sentence.

You have **10 minutes to write your summary.** Make sure to include the main points of the reading passage in a full, single sentence of no more than 75 words.

The Word Count at the bottom of the screen counts the number of words you write. There are also cut, copy and paste buttons which you may use while constructing your summary.

**Cut:** Select text from your answer that you wish to remove and left-click “Cut”.

**Copy:** Select text from your answer that you wish to copy and left-click “Copy”.

**Paste:** Place the cursor where you wish to paste the cut/copied text and left-click “Paste”.

The passage below is an example of a “Just-in-Time” production system. This system aims to minimise production time, production costs, and the amount of stock held in the factory. Raw materials and supplies arrive at the factory as they are required, and consequently there is very little stock sitting idle at any one time. Each stage of the production process finishes just before the next stage is due to commence and therefore the lead-time is significantly reduced. With a ‘Just-in-Time’ production system, the level of production is related to the demand for the output (i.e. the number of orders) rather than simply producing finished goods and waiting for orders. This means that raw materials and stock only need to be ordered from suppliers as required.

"Just-in-Time is a method of manufacturing products which aims to minimise production time, production costs, and the amount of stock held in the factory. Raw materials and supplies arrive at the factory as they are required, and consequently there is very little stock sitting idle at any one time. Each stage of the production process finishes just before the next stage is due to commence and therefore the lead-time is significantly reduced. With a ‘Just-in-Time’ production system, the level of production is related to the demand for the output (i.e. the number of orders) rather than simply producing finished goods and waiting for orders. This means that raw materials and stock only need to be ordered from suppliers as required."

[Cut]  [Copy]  [Paste]

Total Word Count: 3
For this item type you need to write a 200-300 word argumentative essay in response to a prompt.

You have **20 minutes to write your essay**.

The Word Count at the bottom of the screen counts the number of words you write. Make sure to write a minimum of **200 words**, but no more than **300 words**.

There are also cut, copy and paste buttons which you may choose to use while constructing your response.

**Cut:** Select text from your answer that you wish to remove and left-click “Cut”.

**Copy:** Select text from your answer that you wish to copy and left-click “Copy”.

**Paste:** Place the cursor where you wish to paste the cut/copied text and left-click “Paste”.

You will have 20 minutes to plan, write and revise an essay about the topic below. Your response will be judged on how well you develop a position, organize your ideas, present supporting details, and control the elements of standard written English. You should write 200-300 words.

“Education is a critical element of the prosperity of any nation. The more educated the people in a country are, the more successful their nation becomes.” Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with this statement. Support your point of view with reasons and/or examples from your own experience or observations.
**Part 2: Overview**

In Part 2 you are tested mainly on your reading skills.

Part 2 contains a single timed section.

Read the instructions to each question carefully and answer as directed.

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<tr>
<td>Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-order paragraphs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading: Fill in the blanks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading &amp; Writing: Fill in the blanks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Reading:** Multiple-choice, choose single answer

For this item type you need to read the passage and answer the multiple-choice question.

There are several possible response options but only one is correct.

To select an option click on it using the left button on your mouse. If you change your mind, left-click on the option again to deselect it, or left-click on a different option.

The option you select is highlighted in yellow.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pearson Test of English Academic - Katherine Marie Garcia</th>
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Every day millions of lights and computers are left on in deserted offices, apartments and houses. Environmental activists say that simply switching them off could cut Sydney’s greenhouse gas emissions by five percent over the next year.

Per capita, Australia is one of the world’s largest producers of carbon dioxide and other gases that many scientists believe are helping to warm the Earth’s atmosphere, causing climate upset.

A long-standing drought and serious water shortages in Australia have focused much attention on climate change. Some experts warn higher temperatures could leave this nation of 20 million people at the mercy of more severe droughts and devastating tropical cyclones.

Read the text and answer the multiple-choice question by selecting the correct response. Only one response is correct.

One present indicator of climate change in Australia is ________.

- environmental activists.
- gas emissions.
- carbon dioxide.
- drought.
For this item type you need to read the passage and answer the multiple-choice question. There is more than one correct response.

You need to select all the response options that you think are correct from the list of possible options.

To select an option click on it using the left button on your mouse. If you change your mind, left-click on the option again to deselect it.

The options you select are highlighted in yellow.
Reading: Re-order paragraphs

For this item type you need to restore the original order of the text by selecting text boxes and dragging them across the screen.

There are two ways you can move the text:

1. Left-click on a box to select it (it will be outlined in blue), hold the left mouse button down and drag it to the desired location.

2. Left-click on a box to select it, and then left-click on the left and right arrow buttons to move it across. On the right panel, you can also use the up and down arrow buttons to re-order the boxes.

To deselect a box, left-click elsewhere on the screen.
Reading: Fill in the blanks

For this item type you need to drag and drop words across the screen to correctly fill in the gaps in the text.

There is a passage with some missing words. You have a list of words in the blue box that you can use to fill the gaps in the text. There are more words than gaps so you will not use all the words provided.

Left-click on a word to select it; keep the left mouse button held down and drag the word to the gap where you want to place it. You can also drag words between gaps. To remove a word from a gap, drag it back to the blue box.
Reading & Writing: Fill in the blanks

For this item type you need select the most appropriate words from a drop-down list to restore the text.

There is a passage with some missing words. Beside each gap, there is a button with a drop-down list. Left-click on this button to reveal the drop-down list of options for that gap. Select the option you think best fills the gap.

To change your mind, left-click on a different option.
Optional Break

After Part 2 you have the option to take a break. The total time available is 10 minutes, but you should allow up to 5 minutes to sign back in and be seated.

If you want to take a break, you must leave the testing room.

If you spend more than 10 minutes in total on the break, that time is taken from the next part of the test.

If you want to take a break, raise your hand to signal the Test Administrator.

When you return to your seat, remember to put your headset on ready for Part 3.
Part 3: Overview

In Part 3 you are tested mainly on your listening skills.

This part consists of questions that are based on audio or video clips which begin to play automatically. You hear each audio or video clip only once so listen carefully. You are allowed to take notes.

For each question you have the opportunity to adjust the volume. While the audio clip is playing, move the control bar to the right to increase the volume or to the left to decrease the volume.
Listening & Writing: Summarize spoken text

For this item type you hear an audio recording and need to write a 50-70 word summary on what you heard.

You have **10 minutes to write your summary**.

The audio begins to play automatically. You are only able to listen to the audio recording once.

The Word Count at the bottom of the screen counts the number of words you write. Make sure to write a minimum of **50 words**, but no more than **70 words**.

There are also cut, copy and paste buttons which you may choose to use while constructing your summary.

**Cut:** Select text from your answer that you wish to remove and left-click “Cut”.

**Copy:** Select text from your answer that you wish to copy and left-click “Copy”.

**Paste:** Place the cursor where you wish to paste the cut/copied text and left-click “Paste”.

You will hear a short lecture. Write a summary for a fellow student who was not present at the lecture. You should write 50-70 words.

You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points presented in the lecture.
Listening: Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers

For this item type you need to listen to the recording and answer the multiple-choice question. There is more than one correct response.

The audio begins to play automatically. You are only able to listen to the audio recording once.

You need to select all the response options that you think are correct from the list of possible options.

To select an option click on it using the left button on your mouse. If you change your mind, left-click on the option again to deselect it.

The options you select are highlighted in yellow.

According to the text, how are online news sources making the news industry more competitive?

- There are more media options to choose from.
- More advertising revenue comes from online news articles.
- People care less about the national news.
- The national stations have taken over the online media market.
- It is easier to get the news from outside sources.
Listening & Writing: Fill in the blanks

For this item type you are presented with a transcript of the audio recording, however some words are missing. Restore the transcript by typing in the missing words.

The audio plays automatically. You are only able to listen to the audio recording once.

Left-click on each gap and type in the missing word. You can also use the Tab button on the keyboard to move between gaps.

Note: While the audio is playing, you can take notes on the erasable noteboard provided and then fill in the gaps.

Well, sometimes, representatives of a company make __________. They get something wrong regarding __________ policy. And then, sometimes the problem is just letting people upfront know that sometimes this happens, and __________ quickly when it does. What some companies do as an alternative is have, is have or, hobbyists, __________ run the discussion boards and then representatives __________ in that, but then they have much less __________ as far as I can tell.
Listening & Reading: Highlight correct summary

For this item type you need to select the summary that best matches the recording.

The audio begins to play automatically. You are only able to listen to the audio recording once.

There are several possible response options but only one is correct.

To select an option click on it using the left button on your mouse. If you change your mind, left-click on the option again to deselect it, or left-click on a different option.

The option you select is highlighted in yellow.

Note: It may be difficult to read and listen at the same time. It is recommended that you listen first, make notes on the erasable noteboard and then read the summaries.
**Listening: Multiple-choice, choose single answer**

For this item type you need to listen to the recording and answer the multiple-choice question.

The audio begins to play automatically. You are only able to listen to the audio recording once.

There are several possible response options but only one is correct.

To select an option click on it using the left button on your mouse. If you change your mind, left-click on the option again to deselect it, or left-click on a different option.

The option you select is highlighted in yellow.
Listening: Select missing word

For this item type the last word or group of words in the recording has been replaced by a beep. Select the most appropriate option to complete the recording.

The audio begins to play automatically. You are only able to listen to the audio recording once.

There are several possible response options but only one is correct.

To select an option click on it using the left button on your mouse. If you change your mind, left-click on the option again to deselected it, or left-click on a different option.

The option you select is highlighted in yellow.
Listening & Reading: Highlight incorrect words

For this item type you are presented with a transcript of the audio recording, however the transcript contains some errors. While listening and reading, you need to select the words in the text that differ from what the speaker says.

The audio begins to play automatically. You are only able to listen to the audio recording once.

To select a word click on it using the left button on your mouse. If you change your mind, left-click on the word again to deselect it.

The words you select are highlighted in yellow.

When explorer Roald Amundsen set out to find the Northwest Passage, his official mission was scientific - a search for the magnetic south pole. But as historian Roland Huntford describes, the real drive behind the expedition came from a deep desire to colonize the unknown. "One of the reasons that Amundsen would have been challenged by the Northwest Passage is simply that it was one of the last great geographical goals accomplished. What you have to realize is that by the 1880s, most of the earth had been discovered."
Listening & Writing: Write from dictation

For this item type you hear a short sentence. Type the sentence into the response box at the bottom of the screen.

The audio begins to play automatically. You are only able to listen to the audio recording once.

Note: While the audio is playing, you can take notes on the erasable noteboard provided.

Remember to check your spelling.
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