

## ABOUT THE TEST

PTE Academic assesses listening, reading, speaking and writing all via computer in a single 3 hour test session.

To complete a PTE Academic test, you will need to attend a secure Pearson test centre. You will use a computer and headset to listen to, read and respond to questions.

During the three-hour test session there will be three main parts to the test: speaking and writing (together), listening and reading. There are twenty different question formats, ranging from multiple choice through to essay writing and interpreting information.

PTE Academic assesses real-life, academic content, so you will hear excerpts from lectures and view graphs and charts. You will hear a range of accents in the test, from British and American to non-native speakers, so you will be exposed to the type of accents you will encounter in everyday life.

## TEST FORMAT:

### **PART 1: SPEAKING & WRITING (77 – 93 minutes)**

- Personal Introduction; **Name, H/Name, Education, Belonging & Hobbies**
- Read aloud
- Repeat sentence
- Describe image
- Re-tell lecture
- Answer short question
- One sentence
- Paragraph
- Essay (20mins)

### **PART 2: READING (32 – 41 minutes)**

- Multiple choice questions (x2)
- Re-order paragraphs
- Fill in the blanks (x2)

*A ten minute break is optional*

### **PART 3: LISTENING (45 – 57 minutes)**

- Summarize spoken text
- Multiple choice x2
- Fill the blanks
- Highlight the correct summary
- Select missing word

- Highlight incorrect words
- Write from dictation

## PART I: SPEAKING & WRITING (77 – 93 MINUTES)

In PTE Academic, your writing skills will be tested during Part I of the test (Speaking & Writing).

To assess speaking, your skills will be tested by asking you to repeat sentences, respond to questions and summarise passages.

**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.

**TIP:** 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.

| Item                   | Task  | Skills assessed        | Prompt length       | Time to answer                                  |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>Read aloud</b>      | A text appears on screen.<br>Read the text aloud.                 | reading and speaking   | text up to 60 words | varies by item, depending on the length of text |
| <b>Repeat sentence</b> | After listening to a recording of a sentence, repeat the sentence | listening and speaking | 3-9 seconds         | 15 seconds                                      |
| <b>Describe image</b>  | An image appears on screen.<br>Describe the image in detail.      | speaking               | N/A                 | 40 seconds                                      |
| <b>Re-tell</b>         | After listening   | listening              | up to 90            | 40 seconds                                      |

|                               |  |                        |                      |            |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| <b>lecture</b>                | to or watching a lecture, re-tell the lecture in your own words.         | and speaking           | seconds              |            |
| <b>Answer short question</b>  | After listening to a question, answer with a single word or a few words. | listening and speaking | 3-9 seconds          | 10 seconds |
| <b>Summarize written text</b> | After reading a text, write a one-sentence summary of the passage.       | reading and writing    | text up to 300 words | 10 minutes |
| <b>Write essay</b>            | Write a 200–300 word essay on a given topic.                             | writing                | 2-3 sentences        | 20 minutes |

### PART 3: LISTENING (45 – 57 MINUTES)

**You are tested on your listening skills mainly in Part 3 of the test, as well as having some integrated speaking & listening questions in Part 1.**

Part 3 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.

#### SECTION OVERVIEW:

| <b>Item</b>      | <b>Task</b>                     | <b>Skills assessed</b> | <b>Prompt length</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Summarize</b> | After listening to a recording, | listening and          | 60-90                |

|   |   |                       |               |
|---|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>spoken text</b>                              | write a 50-70 word summary  | writing               | seconds       |
| <b>Multiple choice, choose multiple answers</b> | After listening to a recording, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the recording by selecting more than one response         | listening             | 40-90 seconds |
| <b>Fill in the blanks</b>                       | A transcript of a recording appears on screen with several gaps. After listening to the recording, type the missing word in each gap                  | listening and writing | 30-60 seconds |
| <b>Highlight correct summary</b>                | After listening to a recording, select the paragraph that best summarizes the recording   | listening and reading | 30-90 seconds |
| <b>Multiple choice, choose single answer</b>    | After listening to a recording, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the recording by selecting one response                   | listening             | 30-60 seconds |
| <b>Select missing word</b>                      | After listening to a recording, select the missing word that completes the recording from a list of options   | listening             | 20-70 seconds |
| <b>Highlight incorrect words</b>                | The transcript of a recording appears on screen. While listening to the recording, identify the words in the transcript that differ from what is said | listening and reading | 15-50 seconds |
| <b>Write from dictation</b>                     | After listening to a recording of a sentence, type the sentence   | listening and writing | 3-5 seconds   |

## PART 2: READING (32 – 41 MINUTES)

**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.

### SECTION OVERVIEW:

| <b>Item</b>                                     | <b>Task</b>  | <b>Skills assessed</b> | <b>Prompt length</b> |
|---|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Multiple-choice, choose single answer</b>    | After reading a text, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the text by selecting one response           | reading                | text up to 110 words |
| <b>Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers</b> | After reading a text, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the text by selecting more than one response | reading                | text up to 300 words |
| <b>Re-order paragraphs</b>                      | Several text boxes appear on screen in a random order. Put the text boxes in the correct order                                 | reading                | text up to 150 words |
| <b>Reading: Fill in the blanks</b>              | A text appears on screen with several  | reading                | text up to 80 words  |

|  |  |                     |                      |
|--|--|---------------------|----------------------|
|  | gaps. Drag words from the box below to fill the gaps   |                     |                      |
| <b>Reading and Writing: Fill in the blanks</b> | A text appears on screen with several gaps. Fill in each gap from a drop-down list of response options | reading and writing | text up to 300 words |