

Understanding the Structure of the PTE Exam

Section	Duration	Tasks
Speaking & Writing	77-93 Minutes	Personal introduction Repeat sentence Read aloud Re-tell lecture Describe image Summarize written text Answer short question Essay (20 mins)
Reading	32-40 Minutes	Reading & writing: Fill in the blanks Reading: Fill in the blanks Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers Multiple-choice, choose single answer Re-order paragraphs
Listening	45-57 Minutes	Summarize spoken text Fill in the blanks Multiple choice, choose single answer Multiple choice, choose multiple answer Select missing word Highlight correct summary Highlight incorrect words Write from dictation

Speaking and Writing

Tasks	Description
Personal Introduction	In this section, candidates are required to speak about themselves. There are 25 seconds for preparation and 35 seconds for speaking. This section is not graded but it provides an opportunity to become familiar with the test environment.
Read Aloud	A 60-word text appears on the prompt and a candidate is required to say the whole length of the text aloud after hearing the tone. You can record your response only once.
Repeat a Sentence	A recording of a sentence is played into headphones of the candidate and he needs to repeat it as clearly as possible
Re-tell a Lecture	In this part of the PTE exam format, a lecture is shown or played into the headphones. Test-takers are asked to speak aloud in their own words what they think about it.
Describe an Image	Candidates during this phase need to describe an image shown on the prompter for around 40 seconds. They are given 25 seconds to prepare.
Answer Short Questions	This short section requires a test-taker to answer a question in one or a few words.

Summarize Written Text	The summation skills of a candidate are tested here when he/she is asked to write a sentence summary after reading a text of nearly 300 words.
Essay	A topic-based essay of approximately 250 words is the requirement of this section. Candidates are given a total of 20 minutes time to think, construct and present their ideas.

Tasks	Number of Items	Scoring	Prompt Length	Skills Assessed	Time to Answer
Personal Introduction	1	Partial Credit	25 seconds	Speaking	30 seconds
Read Aloud	6-7	Partial Credit	Text upto 60 words	Reading and Speaking	Varies
Repeat a Sentence	10-12	Partial Credit	3-9 seconds	Listening and Speaking	15 seconds
Re-tell a Lecture	3-4	Partial Credit	Upto 90 seconds	Listening and Speaking	40 seconds
Describe an Image	6-7	Partial Credit	N/A	Speaking	40 Seconds
Answer Short Questions	10-12	Correct/ Incorrect	3-9 seconds	Listening and Speaking	10 Seconds

Summarize Written Text	1 Sentence summary	Partial Credit	Text upto 300 words	Reading and Writing	10 Minutes
Essay	1 essay	Partial Credit	2-3 sentences	Writing	20 Minutes

Reading

Tasks	Descriptions
Fill in the Blanks	In this section, incomplete and gap-filled sentences appear on screen in front of the candidate. You are required to select suitable words from the words displayed to complete the sentence in a correct manner. There is another question on fill in the blanks which is a shorter version. An 80-word text with gaps needs to be filled with the right combination of words displayed separately.
Multiple Choices, Multiple Answers	A passage is displayed on the screen. Based on the reading of the passage, the candidate has to answer a question having multiple correct answers.
Re-order Paragraphs	This is a common question on many English tests. Multiple boxes with phrases appear on the screen which needs to be arranged in the correct order to form a grammatically coherent sentence. Read every text before rearranging them.

Multiples Choices, Single Answer	In this section of the PTE exam format, the examinee is shown a long text of approximately 250 words. After careful reading, you are required to attempt a multiple-choice question with a single correct answer.
Reading and Writing Fill in the Blanks	In this section, a text appears on screen with several gaps and you need to drag words from the box below to fill the gaps

Tasks	Number of Items	Scoring	Prompt Length	Skills Assessed
Fill in the Blanks	4-5	Credit	Text upto 80 words	Reading
Multiple Choices, Multiple Answers	2-3	Credit	Text upto 300 words	Reading
Re-order Paragraphs	2-3	Credit	Text upto 150 words	Reading
Multiples Choices, Single Answer	2-3	Correct/ Incorrect	Text upto 110 words	Reading
Reading and Writing Fill in the Blanks	5-6	Credit	Text upto 300 words	Reading and Writing

Listening

Tasks	Description
Summarize Spoken Test	An audio recording is played. Candidates are required to write a 50-90 words summary of the recording on their understanding of the recording. A total of 10 minutes is allotted for this task.
Multiple Choice, Multiple Answer	On the basis of a short recording, the candidate is questioned on any aspect of it through a multiple-choice question. This question can have multiple right answers so make sure to listen intently.
Fill in the Blanks	A gap-filled transcript of a recording is displayed on the screen. Based on the recording played, the gap needs to be filled with the appropriate word. The option of taking notes is provided for this part of the PTE exam format.
Highlight the Correct Summary	A recording is played to you. Based on its content, the candidate is asked to choose the paragraph that closely reflects the summary of the recording.
Multiple Choice, Single Answer	Based on the understanding of the recording, a multiple-choice question with the single correct answer is put forward. Candidates need to select the option that best reflects the meaning and sense of the played recording.

Select the Missing Word	According to the audio recording, the candidate needs to select a suitable word from the displayed choices.
Highlight the Incorrect Word	The transcript of the audio played in the above section is then displayed. Select those words that are not correct in the transcript.
Write From Dictation	The recording plays a short sentence. You are expected to rewrite the sentence correctly.

Tasks	Task	Scoring	Prompt Length	Skills Assessed
Summarize Spoken Test	2-3	Partial Credit	60-90 seconds	Listening and Writing
Multiple Choice, Multiple Answer	2-3	Partial Credit	40-90 seconds	Listening
Fill in the Blanks	2-3	Partial Credit	30-60 seconds	Listening and Writing
Highlight the Correct Summary	2-3	Correct/ Incorrect	30-90 seconds	Listening and Reading
Multiple Choice, Single Answer	2-3	Correct/ Incorrect	30-60 seconds	Listening
Select the Missing Word	2-3	Correct/ Incorrect	30-60 seconds	Listening

Highlight the Incorrect Word	2-3	Partial Credit	20-70 seconds	Listening
Write From Dictation	3-4	Partial Credit	3-5 seconds	Listening and Writing