

PTE English Language Test Software Development Brief

Project Brief for ImmiConsult

Project Overview

ImmiConsult seeks to develop a comprehensive practice software for non-native English speakers preparing for Pearson's PTE tests. This software will assist users in enhancing their language skills across four test modules, providing a robust platform for practice and assessment.

Scope of Work

The project involves the creation of an intuitive software application with the following key features:

1. Test Modules and Variations:

- **Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking:** Each module will have a wide array of practice questions, reflecting the diverse question types found in PTE tests such as essay writing, fill-in-the-blanks, and multiple-choice questions.
- **Hundreds of Test Variations:** The system will source or generate numerous variations to ensure comprehensive practice and exposure to different question formats, aiding users in familiarizing themselves with the test structure and types of questions they might encounter.

2. User Profiles and Practice History:

- **Profile Management:** Users will have the capability to create and manage their profiles, tracking their progress and practice history.
- **Performance Visibility:** The software will provide detailed visibility of practice sessions, highlighting areas of strength and aspects requiring improvement.

3. Mock Tests and Score Estimation:

- **Simulated Tests:** Users will be able to take full-length mock tests simulating the actual PTE test environment.
- **Score Estimation:** Post-test, the system will generate detailed reports with estimated scores. Although our scoring may not perfectly correlate with Pearson's proprietary scoring system, it will offer users a valuable benchmark to gauge their preparedness.

4. User Experience and Accessibility:

- **Intuitive Interface:** The application will boast a user-friendly interface, ensuring easy navigation and a smooth user experience.
- **Multimedia Integration:** Incorporation of audio and video elements to support diverse learning styles and enhance the similarity to real test environments.

Challenges Addressed

Preparing for Pearson's PTE tests can be daunting, particularly due to the complexity of mastering all four language skills simultaneously and the wide variety of question types. Common challenges include understanding the specific requirements of each question type, managing test anxiety, and achieving a balanced preparation across all skills. Our software aims to mitigate these challenges by offering structured practice, immediate feedback, and personalized performance insights.

Initial Phase: Scope Clarification and Research

Phase Overview

Before commencing full-scale development, we propose an initial phase where a dedicated individual works on an hourly basis to clarify the project scope, conduct preliminary research, and develop initial test content. This phase aims to lay a strong foundation for subsequent development.

Scope of Work for Initial Phase

1. Scope Clarification:

- Engage with stakeholders to gather detailed requirements.
- Define the specific functionalities and features to be included in the MVP.
- Prepare a comprehensive project plan and timeline.

2. Preliminary Research:

- Investigate existing solutions and best practices for language proficiency software.
- Identify potential challenges and mitigation strategies.
- Gather resources and materials relevant to Pearson's PTE tests.

3. Initial Test Content Development:

- Develop a small set of practice questions for one test module (e.g., Reading).
- Create a basic mock test to demonstrate the intended functionality.
- Prepare initial feedback mechanisms and reporting templates.

Duration and Resources:

- **Resource:** One individual working on an hourly basis.
- **Duration:** Two to four weeks, depending on the complexity of the research and scope clarification.

Interim Step: First Minimal Viable Product (MVP)

Project Overview

The goal of this phase is to develop a minimal viable product (MVP) that demonstrates the core functionality of the practice software for Pearson's PTE tests. This MVP will focus on the essential features necessary to validate the concept, ensuring that it can be reliably delivered within a two-month timeframe with a small development team.

Scope of Work for MVP

1. Core Test Modules and Variations

- **Essential Test Types:** Implement key question types for the Reading and Writing modules. Focus on high-impact questions like essay writing and multiple-choice questions.
- **Limited Variations:** Initially include a smaller set of variations (e.g., ten to twenty variations per question type) to ensure manageability and focus on quality.

2. Basic User Profiles and Practice Tracking

- **User Registration and Login:** Enable users to create accounts and log in.
- **Basic Progress Tracking:** Track user progress on completed tests and provide simple performance summaries.

3. Mock Tests and Score Estimation

- **Basic Mock Tests:** Include a full-length mock test for one module (e.g., Reading).
- **Simplified Score Reports:** Generate basic performance reports with estimated scores, highlighting areas for improvement.

4. User Experience and Interface

- **Simplified UI/UX:** Develop a straightforward, easy-to-navigate interface. Prioritize clarity and usability.
- **Limited Multimedia:** Incorporate basic multimedia elements necessary for the selected test types.

Team and Timeline

- **Team Composition:** Two core developers and one part-time developer.
- **Timeline:** Two months.

Development Phases

1. Week 1-2: Requirements and Design

- Finalize the scope of the MVP.
- Design UI/UX wireframes and initial database schema.
- Set up the development environment and version control.

2. Week 3-6: Core Development

- Implement user registration, login, and profile management.
- Develop the core test modules and variations.
- Create basic tracking and reporting functionalities.

3. Week 7-8: Testing and Refinement

- Conduct internal testing to identify and fix bugs.
- Refine the UI/UX based on feedback.
- Prepare for initial user testing.

The following resources were used in developing the above brief:

1. <https://www.pearsonpte.com/scoring>
 2. Pearson's PTE Academic Score Guide for Test Takers (June 2023) found at <https://www.pearsonpte.com/pte-academic/scoring>
 3. <https://ptetutorials.com/blog/pte-exam-guide-detailed-format-scoring-duration-by-section>
 4. <https://edvoy.com/articles/pte-exam-preparation/>
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Project Scope: Inclusions and Exclusions

Included in the System and Project Scope

1. Core Features:

- **Test Modules:** Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking practice modules specifically for Pearson's PTE tests.
- **Test Variations:** Generation of hundreds of variations for each test module.
- **User Profiles:** Capability for users to create and manage profiles, track practice history, and view performance analytics.
- **Mock Tests and Score Estimation:** Full-length mock tests with detailed performance reports and score estimates.
- **User Experience:** Development of a user-friendly interface for both mobile and desktop applications.
- **Feedback Collection:** Mechanism for users to provide feedback during practice and after completing practice sessions.

2. Infrastructure and Maintenance:

- **Basic Analytics:** Monitoring infrastructure and system performance to ensure reliability and maintenance.

Not Included in the System and Project Scope

1. **Payments:** Payment processing features will not be included in this phase.
2. **Localization:** The application will not be localized to different languages since it is focused on English language learning.
3. **Other Test Types:** No support for test types outside of Pearson's PTE tests will be provided.
4. **Advanced Analytics:** In-depth analytics and reporting on system usage and performance beyond basic monitoring.
5. **Global Deployment:** While the eventual user base will be globally distributed, this phase will not address infrastructure for reliable global deployment.

Additional Context

- The system will initially focus on proving the core functionality with a minimal viable product (MVP) approach.
- The MVP will be developed by a small team of two core developers and one project manager within a two-month timeframe.
- A preliminary phase will involve one individual working on an hourly basis to clarify the project scope, conduct initial research, and prepare initial test content.

This scope ensures a focused and manageable development process, setting the foundation for future expansion and enhancements.