The first strategy to score in English exam is you should have good English.  
  
I have got 90 overall score and 8 band each in PTE. Though I do not have any experience of giving IELTS but from other people's views I can say that PTE still gives you higher chances of scoring. (Not based on the rumours that they purposely lower your score in either writing or speaking so that you keep on giving money.)  
  
Following is the strategy that I can suggest.  
1. Familiarity with computer based test.  
As it is computer based, time bound exam, having a better typing speed will help. I am a software developer and can touch type, this was one of the reason I could finish exam in two hours. So in case you have slow typing speed try to improve it a bit.  
  
2. Get to know each question type in all sections.  
You can get information on what to expect in each question type under each section on youtube or on [ptepractice.com](http://ptepractice.com/) (Paid). You can also learn what are the best way to solve each question type. This is a must for good score. E.g. reorder paragraph can be solved better using instructions given in youtube video and they are (I heard) worth 20 points each.  
  
3. Try to give a sample exam on web  
[ptepractice.com](http://ptepractice.com/) sample paper will cost you 35$ ( ~2300INR ) and it will be exact replica of original test. You will get scores for it and will know what sections to improve (Eg. I had low score in written discourse and so read more on how to structure a good essay). Much better than giving exam twice.  
  
4. Make notes on each type of questions (Very important)  
I had made a list of all question types and marked them easy/medium/hard during my preparation. I had marked re tell lecture/repeat sentence hard, but slowly learned which questions should be made quick notes for (Re tell lecture) and which one should only be solved based on memory (repeat sentences). In the end I had reached all question types marked as Easy. Believe me 3 second rule and even otherwise repeat sentence looks tough but after practice it is one of the easy ones.  
  
5 Make note of flow of exam.  
This one is included in fourth point as well. Along with notes on each question, make notes section wise, try to learn which question follows which one. Describe image is followed by Retell lecture and is quite a change as Re tell lecture sometime come with a image causing confusion. This will keep you well prepared, though I am not sure if this same flow is always followed.

Speaking test is not what you call easy...its just you need to speak in microphone.....  
  
There are couple of things you need to do:  
  
1- Read Passage - Be fluent, pronounce words correctly, and give slight pause between sentences.......you get 30seconds to read test before speaking time starts.  
  
2- Describe Image - Its more like Part1 of writing section of IELTS, explain Graph in 30-40 seconds...important thing describe main curves, variations trends etc.  
  
3- Retell Lecture - A graph or picture will be given and you need to listen to a talk or lecture and then put it in your own words....try to write key points in rough sheet given.  
  
4- Answer short Question - Basically a question is asked and you need to reply it in 1 word.....like: Machine used by astronauts to go in space---Space jets..etc....fairly basic stuff.  
  
5- Repeat Sentence - Repeat sentence as exactly spoken-----generally 5-10 words long.

In Reading section time is constrain. Be prepared the questions, it doesn't follow order it may come in different sequence. Need to attempt all items, if not it reflect badly on your final scores.   
1. Don't spend much time on reorder paragraphs, you'll get marks at least you arrange more than 2 or 3 in a right sequence.  
2. In MC - CMA (Multiple choices choose multiple answers) having negative marking system. Only answers if you quite sure. Do not go for guessing answers, it may nullify your correct responses.  
In remaining item types MC -CSA , Fill in the blanks reading , Fill in the blanks Reading and Writing ,do enough preparation.

**Re-order paragraphs**  
This item type assesses reading skills. It requires you to be familiar with the organization and links between ideas in academic texts and arrange text boxes in a single correct order.  
  
**Item Type Strategies**  
  
Strategy 1  
Quickly and quietly read the content of the text boxes to yourself. While you are reading, listen for one text box that sounds complete by itself and is clear on its own. This sentence is likely be the most logical introduction to the paragraph or topic.  
  
Strategy 2  
Once you have identiﬁed the introduction or topic sentence, quietly read the remaining boxes to yourself again to listen to how they sound together. While you are reading, look for language patterns that will help you identify a sequence. Check the language patterns in each box to conﬁrm your sequence (i.e., use of connectives, use of indeﬁnite articles forﬁrst reference, deﬁnite articles for further reference, use of pronouns, etc).  
  
Strategy 3  
Quietly read the boxes to yourself in the order that you have sequenced them. This will help you check whether the sentences run smoothly from one to the other, and whether the passage makes sense and sounds logical and correct as a whole

Here are my comprehensive write-up on PTE-A exams and individual sections in each module based on my experience.  
  
**Speaking:**  
  
***Read aloud:***  
  
Use the given 30-40 seconds to read through the text and identify the difficult words were you might struggle. Pay attention to flow of the sentences such as full stop, commas. Try to read the sentence like a news reader with some intonation and purpose. Quite straight forward. We get around 7-8 questions in this section.  
  
***Repeat Sentence:***  
  
Initially, when I was preparing for PTE-A exams this section seemed overwhelming. However, in the actual exams expect something like 8-10 words. Not very difficult. Just concentrate on the sentence and try to repeat as many words in-order as possible without any major pauses. We get around 8-10 questions in this section.  
  
***Describe image:***  
  
This section was daunting for me as there were two much information to comprehend in a short span of time (35-40 sec) before you start speaking. Try to speak about most of the information from the image in an organized manner than sharing (all/most of) the information in an unorganized manner. We get maps, graphs (run-chart; bar graphs; pie-chart; trend graphs etc). We get around 6-8 questions in this section.  
  
***Re-tell Lecture:***  
  
Yet another demanding section. Luckily we get around 2-3 questions in this section. The image gives a bit of idea about the narration. Try to note the key points and don’t waste time on examples too much. Understand the theme of the lecture and try to start with that. Something like Topic sentence, references or examples if any and conclusion in 40 secs.  
  
***Answer a short questions in one ore few words:***  
  
There are close to 10 questions. Few questions are straight forward. Like if time period before noon is called ante meridian, what is the time after noon called. But, there are few questions where you might need to go through a given picture which might vary from process flow diagram or a chart or whatever… to answer the short question. Just try to see and understand the give picture on the toe and answer. You should be OK

**Writing:**  
  
Now comes the nightmare section. **Why nightmare ?!** because there are many in this forum who have faced repeated nightmares due to IELTS writing experience.  
  
***Essay:***  
  
The difficulty is on-par with IELTS for essay writing but here in PTE-A we are going to type in a system than writing using a pencil. So, erasing, correcting and re-ordering of the text will be much easier. Trust me, it saves lot of time. That’s the reason we are able to write around 250+ words in PTE-A even though the given time is just 20mins. Most of the times the essays are something like give your opinion and do you agree or disagree. Try to follow Ryan (IELTS-Argumentative essays) writing videos from youtube. That will be of great help.  
  
***Summarize text:***  
  
The trick is to write in **ONE sentence.** Try using transition words. Strategy would be to understand what the given para is trying to convey. Be objective, don’t dwell over finer example. Try to use as many own words as possible. A sample would be – **“Agriculture has fallen into a debt; loans; high cost for seeds and manual labor, resulting more barrowing and loans and further example stating bad shape of farming and farmers relative to debt; barrowing etc etc”**– *Agriculture is caught-up in a vicious cycle*; that should suffice. We get around 2-3 questions in this section.

**Reading:**  
  
***Multiple-choice, choose single answer:***  
  
We get around two to three questions. Might be little bit tricky however read with purpose and don’t read the options before going through the text. This strategy helped me. Understand the purpose of the para and match the summary sentence. Difficult ones would be inferring the paradox of a given sentence from the para. Having said that, this section is OK to handle. Watch out for the timer, do not spending too much time.  
  
***Multiple-choice, choose multiple answer:***  
  
Same as above. But, try to select only the most appropriate answers as there is a negative marking for this section. Most of the times two options will be correct out of the five given option.  
  
***Re-order paragraphs:***  
  
I got a bit easier stuff. While practicing I struggled big time in this section. Also this section, if I am not wrong has more marks under direct reading section. Strategy would be to identify the**topic sentence**and they just follow the flow of the message this para is trying to convey. Got three questions in this sections. Couple of questions with four sentences to be placed in order and one question with just three sentence to order. Hopefully, I have done all of them correctly. Pretty straight forward, if you identify the topic sentence. OK, what is a **TOPIC sentence?** Sentence which can stand alone and looks like a statement then having some kind of reference or relation to other sentence in the given list. Sometimes a concluding sentence would also sound similar; however, major difference b/w topic and concluding sentence is that conclusion sentence try to recommend or predict or draws a conclusion.  
  
***Fill in the blanks: (From Drop-down option or Drag and drop)***  
  
Yet another easy section, I would say. (My results are yet to come so I will not go over the board). Strategy should be not to see the drop down options. Read the para and understand the purpose and meaning it is trying to convey. Post-which you will know what word to fill-in even without seeing the drop-down options. Now, if you check on the available options, it will make life easier.

*Manage your time carefully for reading sections*

Taking optional break, its upto each individual. I took the break.  
  
**Listening**  
  
***Summarize spoke text:***  
  
Listen attentively to what the lecture is trying to convey. Strict to the word limits. Use synonyms and more effective words to convey the message. OK let me use the same example: “Agriculture has fallen into a debt; loans; high cost for seeds and manual labor, resulting more barrowing and loans” – Agriculture is caught-up in a vicious cycle; that should suffice. We get 2 questions in this section.  
  
Then comes identify the missing word replaced by BEEP, select the correct summary for the lecture from the given options, multiple choice single answer, for all these sections listen carefully and take notes, you will be able to identify the answer quite easily.  
  
***Highlight incorrect word:***  
  
Skim through the text before the audio starts and identify *key words as sign posts*. Move the cursor as the audio begins and identify the wrong words. If you miss the audio the sign post words which you have identified earlier will help you regain your attention and will bring you back on track.  
  
***Write from dictation:***  
  
The sentences are 8-10 words in-length, write in the provided notebook because I am sure it will be difficult to type in system as the audio plays. Its more like a media persons taking notes during a press conference. You should be FINE!!!

***Day to Day instances can be used for practice.***

1. Talk to customer care
2. Listen to BBC news and try to summarize & re-tell the news,
3. Repeat the headlines of the news,
4. Read editorial columns from Hindu news paper and write a short summary about it.
5. Summarize the Gold; silver; petrol; $USD; daily trend graphs from top of news paper.

Following are my guidelines  
Retell lecture :Close your eyes and focus on the sentence spoken. It is one sentence only. U have 10 Secs to Speak. That's the hard part..you need to remember for 10 secs.  
  
Listening summarize : It tests your notes taking ability. Unlike, Toefl IBT , the sentences are about 90 Secs. So, take all the points in short forms,do not concentrate on spellings while taking notes.   
Next, you have 10 mins to write. Check your notes , write key points. Plan for 3 mins. Write 60 words in 5 mins and revise 2 mins. check spelling and grammar.   
  
Essay: As I mentioned before, most of the essay types are argumentative or persuasive types. So , take any IELTS or TOEFL essays and practice . Now, to write between 200-300 words.   
50 Words Introduction, 75 words Para1,75 words para 2, 50 Conclusion . You can juggle between word count in Intro and conclusion. The timings - 3 Mins planning , 7 Mins Intro and Para 1, 7 Mins para 2 and Conclu and finally 2-3 Mins revision. Hence, typing speed (around 30 WPM) and thinking English is utmost important.

**Essay Topics compiled from the thread:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FJz_mjVsn_k27RTvIt4p1ylWO_qkzERsUXOxXaocZnE/edit#gid=0>

**FROM THE PERSON WHO SCORED 90 IN SPEAKING**

I think the following format that I've followed for "Describe images" has helped me..   
  
1. **Overview**about the graph/map/process.. I.e, to paraphrase the heading of the image and what it is trying to convey..  
  
2. Highlight the major/evident point first.. i.e, if there is a line chart for 2 different category wherein 1 has more larger revenue/percentage, then I would state that as "During the year, Category 1 has generated much greater revenue when compared to Category 2".. something like this..  
  
3. To highlight other key points based on priority.. but there is no time to add all details.. For example in a process diagram... I used 1 long sentence and covered all other key process areas.. The example that I had for process diagram was to generate paper from tree after being through different key cycles..  
  
4. The last important point that I would say is an conclusion/implication of the diagram.. For example when there is a graph that shows garbage waste collected and recycled for a particular year, then I would say... "As there was always a rise seen throughout the year on the collection of garbage, it is expected to rise in the next year too and hence people would need to think ways for reducing the garbage...." something like this..  
  
Although I tried following the above points, I was not too correct to follow all of them in entirety.. I think it is ok to make minimal mistakes which I'm sure I had made all through... I did not expect to score 90 in speaking and I was surprised to see the score myself http://www.expatforum.com/expats/images/smilies/smile.gif http://www.expatforum.com/expats/images/smilies/smile.gif

I'm happy to share my PTE result; LRWS-87/83/89/90  
  
I can't believe my eyes when I saw the result. I appeared yesterday (3rd Jan - Punjab-India) and result was released by 11:00 AM today.  
  
My previous tries with IELTS;  
Monash Uni, Melbourne- Academic (2012)- L/R/S/W - 8.5/8/7.5/7  
IDP INDIA (April'2014) - General (2014) - L/R/S/W - 9/7.5/7/7 (result released after 3 weeks)  
IDP INDIA (Sep'2014) - Academic (2014) - L/R/S/W - 8.5/9/7/6.5 (result delayed by 1 month)  
  
I gave the mock test A also and the result of the same was way below my actual result;66/68/72/68.  
  
I just practiced using PTE Academic Test Builder(Macmillan) for around 10 days.  
  
I will say about IELTS is their methodology is old as they judge your writing on the basis of just two essays, which in my opinion is not justifiable. And speaking is very much subjective.  
  
I was in need of 20 points and I got the same from PTE Academic.  
  
I got one essay it was about global climate change. My reading score is bit low may be it is because the time was not much and I rushed through it. There was another two candidates and I will say it was distracting and I was not able to concentrate during speaking and writing but tried to gave my best shot.  
  
Thanks to the friends over here, who shared their experiences and I was able to learn a lot from it.   
  
I will advice don't be afraid have confidence and you can crack PTE Academic easily...

Practice is the Key. For describing an image. You should memorize the start up words like:  
  
This graph shows -----  
This picture shows ----  
This image reflects ----  
  
Keep in mind you just have to tell the key points of the image/picture/graph, NOT everything, because time is short. It will be like 2 steps:  
  
Tell about the main purpose/title of the image. Then Key points only. You will be scored on all this.  
  
You can even, during Practice prepare and memorize the main Script having fill in the blanks. This main script should be developed like you are a teacher in a classroom and you have to teach about an image in 3 minutes. The main problem is flow of words while looking at the image. So if are already trained to speak out quickly these words such as, increasing, declining, trend, development, growth, margins, profits, loss etc then it will be easy for you to speak in flow while describing everything or most of the things in an image.  
  
For re-telling Lecture:   
  
No need to memorize whole lecture,   
You are not required to re-tell the whole lecture as it is:  
MUST TAKE Notes, of only Key Words/points  
  
Again 2 steps:  
1. Give overall idea of lecture: e.g. the lecturer is telling about a spaceship.  
2. Speak only the Key point/s in your own words.   
  
You are not required to use the same words as used by the lecturer.  
  
If you practice through main material, the official guide you will get C1, B2, B1 level of answers. So try to achieve C1 level answers. These are all based on what I have mentioned above.  
  
Just don't be panic in the test and focus on tricks.

Do not let difficult vocabulary slow down your reading. Just  
ignore the difficult vocabulary on your first reading and  
understand as much as you can.  
Often the first sentence in a paragraph will give you a  
general idea of the whole paragraph.  
Remember to look carefully at the question word. Who?  
wants a name or person. When? wants a time. Where?  
wants a place. How long? wants a time or distance. Why?  
wants a reason.  
Examine the reading task carefully after your first reading.  
Some tasks require general or detailed understanding.  
Other tasks require searching for specific information.  
  
Learn to 'skim' – that is to read through the whole text quickly to get a general idea of  
the meaning.  
  
Learn the skill of 'scanning' the text looking for key words. Then read around the key  
word to find the answer.  
  
If the task requires detailed understanding, read the questions carefully and have a  
clear idea in your mind of what you are looking for before you read the text a second  
time.  
  
Don’t be afraid to read the text a third or fourth time to get the information of ideas you  
need. This is much better than ‘inventing’ your answers.  
  
Remember that fast, repeated reading is much more effective than slow, careful  
reading

|  |
| --- |
| Originally Posted by **RogerQ** [View Post](http://www.expatforum.com/expats/australia-expat-forum-expats-living-australia/573034-pte-academic-post6227514.html#post6227514)  *Hi Guys,  I was preparing for PTE Academic and had a question in the below areas:  1} Highlight incorrect word:   a} Taking the audio number 21 from the "The Official guide to PTE Academic" and the corresponding text on page 158 that starts: " So far in our discussion of ..." There is an article used in the third line from the beginning - it is "the" (we read it in****the****equation ) in the text where as it is "an" (we read it in****an****equation) in the audio. I highlighted this as a difference in the answer, but in the answer key this is not highlighted. Could you please tell me which is correct how I should approach this ? Should I not consider articles like "the" etc to be incorrect if there is a difference between audio and text ?  b} The audio is quite fast in the practice. Is it the same in the actual test? Also, we need to highlight the words that are incorrect on the screen. Will this waver your concentration in getting the next incorrect word or staying with the audio of the section ?   2} In the Answer short question, how are questions to answer ? Are they easy/ straightforward ? For example, I did not know the answer to the standard question " What periodical is published daily?". The answer was of course "newspaper" but I could not get the answer when I was testing myself, neither could I get the context. How do we prepare for this if we need to get high score in the PTE? Please let me know your tips for these sections.  Thank you in advance* |

Here are the clarifications:-  
1)  
a)Those discrepancies happen only in the practice tests. The actual exam is much more accurate, so you're unlikely to encounter this situation.   
b) In the exam, it depends on your luck, to be honest. Some of the audio clips are fast, while others are normal. The trick here is to stay with the audio. If you miss a word, NEVER stay back at that point in the text and allow the audio to move ahead. If you do this, you'll miss all subsequent errors. Instead, it would be better to miss just one or two.   
  
2) Most of the answers to the 'short answer' type questions are straightforward, but some can be tricky. Usually, only one or two of those questions will be difficult. No need to worry too much, because the weightage given to these questions are quite less.

According to Pearsons' PTEA\_Test\_Tips.pdf  
  
"You will score marks for any correct options but you will lose score points for any incorrect option. These include: options that you have clicked on as correct but which are wrong and options that are correct but that you have not clicked on."  
  
And Official Guide says that 1 point gained for correct and 1 point deducted for incorrect.  
  
So in summary, we need to be sure of our answers.  
  
[least we get is 0, and no negative] (cannot remember where I read this]  
  
I am updating you calculation so that it will help others as well  
  
For instance -- A,B,C are the right answers   
if you choose -- A,B,C -- you get full marks (1+1+1)  
if you choose -- A,B -- you will get 1 ( 1+1-1)  
if you choose -- A,D -- you will get 0 (1-1-1-1) [B,C not chosen, and D wrong][least we get is 0, and no negative]  
if you choose -- A,B,D -- you will get 1 (1+1-1)  
if you choose -- A,D,E -- you will get 0 (1-1-1-1-1) [B,C not chosen, and D,E wrong]

BBC radio 4 is best for repeat sentence practice and retell lecture. You can pause while they are speaking and try to repeat or retell  
you can download bbc radio application if u have an android or just watch yotube videos.  
For graph you can type ielts graph images on google and try to speak every graph while keeping a eye on the clock as you can speak for 40 seconds only.  
ALso keep in mind even if u r not able to answer some of the questions in speaking   
don't lose ur fluency like try not to say uuummm, hhh, aaaa and also pronunciation too.

As soon as I entered, Test administrator asked me to provide my Passport, this is the only acceptable ID proof so please make sure you carry it. They have taken the signature and both left and right palm prints. Nothing is allowed inside including the wrist watch http://www.expatforum.com/expats/images/smilies/smile.gif, except the Passport and locker key. As a part the security check, I was asked to show my pockets, palms and sleeves. There were around 8 other guys waiting to take the test.I kept on practicing the self-intro which is the first task. Though it is not scored section, I thought if would be good start to keep my confidence levels high for the subsequent modules.  
  
Just like any other exam, Test admins briefed us about the Do's and Don'ts and escorted us into a small room where I was given an erasable book and a pen, make sure the pen is working fine. I had some issues with that, I had to scribble it a lot before it starts to write.  
  
I was alloted my seat. The test taking area resembling an Internet Cafe, it was clean and comfy enough. Please remember that the complete exam is A/V monitored. Fellow test takers would be setting next to each other. However, this should not be a concern as everyone would be focusing on their own test. Center Admins will logon with their IDs and everyone will start their tests at the almost sametime. The microphones were of good quality and capable of recording the voice effectively.  
  
During the Test  
  
**Speaking -**  
The much awaited test began and I was trying to make myself comfortable. I completed the self intro.Reading passages, repeat sentences & answer short questions were not too tough but tried to keep my focus to understand the different accents.Couple of graphs were manageable, while 1-2 were slightly complex, retell lectures also needs some practice, I think I didn't do well in those sections, pbly it screwed up my speaking score.In graphs, I tried to highlight the key trends, highest and lowest points/values. Please keep in mind that microphone closes and screen advances automatically to next question if a 3 secs pause is detected hence whenever I fell short of words, I tried to fill the gaps with umm...hmm..but ensured there are not many.   
  
**Writing -**  
For Summarize written text, I highlighted the key idea as per the instructions. For essays, I tried to keep it to 200-250.One essay was about "Imitating celebrities in sports and movies is good or bad." and another one is on "Any recent Invention that you think proved beneficial or detrimental to society". I completed the essays in 18-19 mins and allotted 1 min to skim through the essays to recheck the   
spellings and punctuations.  
  
**Reading -**  
Reading was OK. For Fill in the blanks and Multiple/Single choice selections, I stuck to the context and the main theme of the passage whenever in confusion. Paragraph reordering was not too tough, look out for "This","That" and order of the Years to reorder the jumbled paragraphs.  
  
**Listening -**  
I wrote 50-60 words for Summarize passages and tried to adhere to punctuations.For fill in the blanks kept my focus on listening to the passages and wrote the missing words in the notes then typed it. For Highlighting the correct summary, I didn't go through the option while listening, just listened to the passage and then answered the questions. For Highlight the incorrect words, the speaking pace was too fast and just followed the narrator and moved the cursor accordingly

**ESSAY TOPICS:**

* “what is the best invention of last 100 years, computer, antibiotics, airplane, and explain why
* Now a days people are spending long hours in jobs , with nothing much left for personal life.
* In education system,assessment through written formal examinations are valid or not**.**

Guys, you need to concentrate more on below points.  
  
1. Rearrange the paragraph (Reading) - you need to figure out the past tense at the starting sentence (that would remain the 1st sentence of paragraph). For me it worked.  
  
2. Skimming the text in reading, just chunk out the repeated words in the single choice/multiple options in 4-5 seconds and later concentrate on the main passage where the wword appears and match the relative meaning.  
  
3. Same for listening single & multiple choice.   
For listening no need to worry, but you need to be fast in fill up the sections. (Note down in the erasable notepad which they will provide and later enter the answer in these sections)  
  
4. Speaking - paragraph reading - Speak fluently and try to see the next words which you need to speak as it comes. Do not try to speak in any US/UK accent.  
  
5. Repeat the sentence - Try remembering the words as they say OR try repeating the same words without sound as much as you can because there will not be any beep after the main audio ends, you need to start it immediately.  
  
6. Describe an image - Chunk out the main points in the image and speak continously till the time ends and more over concentrate on the Vocabularies and Grammer.  
  
7. Writing - for 20 mins section the topic was (Will there be any change in human behavior by changing the laws? some people argue it doesn't have effect, write it with your analysis.  
  
(Sorry i didn't remember the second topic)   
Note: for Writing you need to segregate the paragraphs and starting, firstly, secondly and in a nut shell or conclusion like so on, and you need to check the timings as you would run out of time.

Hi, your Speaking score for IELTS is quite decent.  
  
I didn't get a very high score in speaking for PTE-A, but relatively speaking about some of my experiences might be potentially helpful for you?  
  
I have noticed that the computer is quite machine-like, saying that you can speak pure awesome English you still won't get a good score if you don't do it like a machine.  
  
To be more specific:  
  
Retell lectures - doesn't need to provide much of the unnecessary or even necessary details, but do remember you need to strictly follow the orders of how the lecture's recordings do it. Computer says 123 is awesome you can't say 321 is awesome even it's logically correct.  
  
Describe images - just be fluent, don't correct yourself, don't stop, just be fluent and provide anything related to the graph.  
  
Hope it helps -   
  
Remember, the computer algorithms are testing you - not humans - forget about impressing anyone, focusing on the fluency and vocabulary.