

# PTE TEST STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

1

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

Personal Introduction  
Read aloud  
Repeat sentence  
Describe image  
Re-tell lecture  
Answer short question  
Summarize written text  
Essay

2

## **READING:** **(32 – 41 minutes)**

Fill in the blanks  
Multiple choice questions  
Re-order paragraphs  
Fill in the blanks  
Multiple choice questions  
**A ten minute break is optional**

3

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

Summarize spoken text  
Multiple choice questions  
Fill the blanks  
Highlight the correct summary  
Multiple choice questions  
Select missing word  
Highlight incorrect words  
Write from dictation

# PTE-A Speaking Module

The Part 1 of the test (Speaking & Writing) tests your writing skills in PTE Academic.

The speaking module of PTE also assesses your speaking, listening, and **writing skills**; this means you need to pay utter attention in reading, listening, and writing.

Your speaking skills will be judged by getting you the questions that ask you to repeat the sentences spoken in an audio clip, respond to the questions asked, and summarize the passages on academic topics.

Speaking section begins with the Personal Introduction where you are expected to introduce yourself. The section two comes with a number of items for what you need to listen each of them very carefully to answer into the microphone.

**Alert:** You must be done with your response before the 'progress bar' reaches to the end. Take a note that if you don't utter even a word for longer than three seconds, the recording will automatically stop and you will lose the point.

## Section overview:

Read aloud	You need to read aloud the text there on the screen.	6 - 7	text up to 60 words	Partial Credit	R/ S	var y
Repeat sentence	After listening to the sentence played, you need to repeat it verbatim.	10- 12	3 - 9 seconds	Partial Credit	L/ S	15 sec ond s
Describe image	You need to describe an image that is displayed.	6 - 7	N/A	Partial Credit	S	40 sec ond s
Re-tell lecture	You need to memorize what all is told in the lecture. Then, you need to describe it in your own words.	3 - 4	up to 90 seconds	Partial Credit	L/ S	40 sec ond s
Answer short question	You need to answer the question in one word or a few.	10 - 12	3-9 seconds	Correct / Incorrect	L/ S	10 sec ond s

## **Personal Introduction:**

This section gives you a chance to let the selected institutes know something about you. Note that this item has no **score**.

### **When to begin?**

There will be a countdown until microphone starts working and recording. You have 25 seconds to prepare the content. After you hear a beep sound, you should start speaking about you.

### **Alert:**

Do not start speaking before the microphone gets 'on' or else, your response will not be recorded. You will be able to record the voice only once. The recording will be sent to the institutes selected by you.

### **Do it this way:**

Speak calmly but clearly. You don't need to be in hurry for this. You have half a minute to record the response. You should be done with your introduction before the progress bar reaches the end. There, the word 'Recording' changes to 'Completed'.

### **Read aloud:**

As the heading suggests, you need to read aloud the text displayed on your screen.

### **When to begin?**

The countdown is displayed on the recording status box. The countdown ranges from 30 to 40 seconds to prepare the content. You'll then hear a short tone after which you should promptly start speaking.

### **Alert:**

Don't speak before the microphone starts because your voice won't be recorded. Speak clearly, and don't make any hurry. You'll be able to record your response only once.

You should be done with your speaking before the progress bar reaches the end. The word 'Recording' will then turn into 'Completed'.

**Scoring:** Partial credit

How are you judged? Reading, speaking, oral fluency, pronunciation and content

## **Repeat sentence:**

### **What is it?**

You need to repeat the sentence verbatim. This means you need to speak the sentence exactly what you hear in the audio clip.

### **When to begin?**

The audio clip starts getting played automatically within a few seconds. When the clip is over, the microphone gets 'on' and the recording begins.

### **Do it this way**

You need to speak clearly. Don't be in hurry. Finish speaking before the progress bar reaches to the end. The word 'Recording' will turn into 'Completed'.

**Alert:** Speak into the microphone immediately because unlike other items, you will NOT hear any short tone/beep.

### **Scoring:** Partial credit

How are you judged? Listening, speaking, oral fluency, pronunciation and content

## **Describe image:**

### **What is it?**

You need to describe an image that will be displayed on your screen.

### **When to begin?**

You have 25 seconds to study the image and prepare yourself with content. Once the given time (25 seconds) are over, you'll hear a short tone/beep. Start speaking immediately.

**Alert:**

Don't start speaking before you hear the tone/beep or else, your voice won't get recorded. Speak clearly. No need to be in hurry.

Finish speaking before the progress bar reaches the end. The word 'Recording' will turn into 'Completed'.

**Scoring:** Partial credit

How are you judged? Speaking, oral fluency, pronunciation and content

**Do it this way:**

Don't hesitate. Avoid having 'hmm' or 'a....' in your speech. Fluency should be maintained and is more important than describing everything that you see. If the image has too much data to cover in your speech, highlight only that are important.

**Re-tell lecture****What is it?**

As the label says, you need to re-tell the lecture in your own words.

You'll hear an academic lecture that you need to repeat once the audio clip is over.

**When to begin?**

The lecture will start automatically. At times, the lecture is accompanied by an image for better understanding. Once the audio clip is over, you'll have 10 seconds to prepare yourself. After 10 seconds, you'll hear a short tone or beep. Start speaking immediately after it.

**Alert:**

Don't speak before you hear the sound/beep or else your voice won't be recorded. Speak clearly and there is no need to rush to finish the lecture.

**Scoring:** Partial credit

How are you judged? Listening, speaking, oral fluency, pronunciation and content

**Do it this way:**

It is better to write down the keywords or phrases in the notepad given to you. These keywords will help you recalling the lecture.

**Answer short question****What is it?**

In this item, you will have to answer the question in one or a few words. The question will be quite general related to our day-to-day life.

**When to begin?**

The audio clip will begin to play automatically. At times, this item also has an image. Once the clip is over, the microphone will start recording your voice. The status box will show 'Recording' and once you are finished with it, it'll turn into 'Completed'

**Alert:**

There is no short tone/beep. Also, you need to answer it in one word or a few. You shouldn't stretch the answer explaining the stuff.

**Scoring:** Either correct or incorrect

How are you judged? Listening, speaking and vocabulary

## **PTE-A Reading Module**

What is it? This section of the PTE exam contains passages and questions based on your reading skills. It contains a single timed section. For each question, you'll have to read the instructions carefully before answering it.

**Alert:** The section allots you 32-35 minutes. Please check the timer on the screen. It depends on you to manage all the sections within the time limit. In other word, the items are not 'time bound' but the entire section is.

## Section overview:

Multiple choice, choose single answer	Only one response from many given is correct. Choose that correct one after reading the passage.	2 - 3	text up to 110 words	Correct / Incorrect
Multiple choice, choose multiple answers	More than one response is correct from many given. Choose the correct ones after reading the passage.	2 - 3	text up to 300 words	Partial Credit ( For Each Correct Response. Point Deducted For Incorrect Option Chosen )
Reorder paragraphs	On the left hand side, many sentences or paragraphs will be placed in a random order. Drag and drop them to the right side in a correct order.	2 - 3	text up to 150 words	Partial Credit ( For Each Correctly Ordered Adjacent Pair )



Reading Fill in the blanks	The passage appearing on the screen will have several gaps. Below the passage you have different words. Drag and drop the words that you think are correct and fill the blanks.	4 - 5	text up to 80 words	Partial Credit ( For Each Correctly Complete d Blank )
Reading and writing Fill in the blanks	From a drop down box, choose the correct word that you think should be the correct answer for the sentence with the gap.	5 - 6	text up to 300 words	Partial Credit ( For Each Correctly Complete d Blank )

## Multiple-choice question, single answer:

### What is it?

You will be presented with a passage. You need to go through the text carefully. Down to the text is a question with multiple options. You need to select (by clicking) only one which you think is the right answer.

### What is the prompt length?

The text could be up to 110 words

### How are you judged?

Your reading skills

### Tip:

Read the question first so that you know what you should focus on. After having a glance at the question and the options, start reading the text. Choose only one option which you think is right.

### Alert:

On an average, you should not be spending more than 2 minutes on each question.

## **Multiple -choice, multiple answers:**

### **What is it?**

You will be presented with a passage. You need to go through the text carefully. Down to the text is a question with multiple options. You need to select (by clicking) more than one option that you think are the right answers.

### **What is the prompt length?**

The text could be up to 300 words

### **How are you judged?**

Your reading skills

### **Tip:**

Read the question first so that you know what you should focus on. After having a glance at the question and the options, start reading the text. Choose more than one option which you think are right.

### **Alert:**

On an average, you should not be spending more than 2 minutes on each question

## **Re-order paragraphs:**

### **What is it?**

You will be presented with several paragraphs in a random order on the left hand side with a blank space on the right hand side. You need to drag the paragraphs from the left side and put them in order into the blank space on the right hand side.

### **What is the prompt length?**

The text could be up to 150 words

## How are you judged?

Your reading skills

### Tip:

Carefully read all the paragraphs. Generally, paragraphs with connectors and adverbs don't come as a first paragraph. If you have 'years' mentioned in your paragraphs, the chronological order may help set you the paragraphs in the right order.

## Reading-fill in the blanks:

### What is it?

On your screen will be a passage or a paragraph(s) with several blanks. Just below the text, you'll have several words. You need to drag and drop a proper word in a proper blank. You will get point for each correctly placed word.

### What is the prompt length?

The text could be up to 80 words

## How are you judged?

Your reading skills

### Tip:

Try to understand the entire sentence that has a blank. Check whether the blank requires a noun, verb, or an adjective. Pick the words accordingly.

## Reading and writing -fill in the blanks:

### What is it?

On your screen will be a passage or a paragraph(s) with several blanks. Each blank will have a dropdown option filled with several words. You need to select the word that you think is the right one.

### What is the prompt length?

The text could be up to 300 words

### How are you judged?

Your reading and **writing skills**

#### Tip:

You should have good practice of reading as it makes the task easier. This item also requires good vocabulary because many times, the words are synonyms and you require intense knowledge of which word goes better for the blank

## PTE-A Listening Module

Your listening skills are tested in this section. In addition to that, you will also have some integrated speaking and listening questions in another part.

### What is it?

The main section of listening requires you to listen to the audio or video clips that begin automatically. The volume can be increased by moving the bar to the right side. Adjust the volume to your level of comfort. The audio clips are played **ONLY ONCE**.

### Section overview:

Summarize Spoken text	Write down a summary of 50-70 words after listening to an audio clip.	2 - 3	60-90 seconds	Partial Credit	L/W
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Multiple choice, choose multiple answers	Multiple options are given on your screen and you need to choose more than one option based on the audio clip you hear. You need to select all the options that you think are true for the recording.	2 - 3	40-90 seconds	Partial Credit ( For Each Correct Response. Point Deducted For Incorrect Option Chosen )	L
Fill in the blanks	The audio clip played should be matched with the transcription written on the screen. You will need to fill in the blanks that the transcription has. You fill the blanks as you hear the audio.	2 - 3	30-60 seconds	Partial Credit (Each Correct Word Spelled Correctly)	L/ W

Highlight correct summary	After listening to the audio, you need to select the paragraph that perfectly summarizes the matter spoken in the recording.	2 - 3	30-90 seconds	Correct / Incorrect	L/R
Multiple choice, choose single answer	After listening to a recording, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the recording by selecting one response	2 - 3	30-60 seconds	Correct / Incorrect	L
Select missing word	The recording will be played with a missing word or words. From the given options, you need to select the missing part.	2 - 3	30-60 seconds	Correct / Incorrect	L

Highlight incorrect words	You need to select the word from the written transcript that is different from the speech in the audio clip. Left-clicking is used to highlight the word.	2 - 3	20-70 seconds	Partial Credit (For Each Word. Points Deducted For Incorrect Options Chosen)	L
Write from dictation	Listen carefully to the sentence spoken. You need to write it in the box verbatim	3 - 4	3-5 seconds	Partial Credit (For Each Word Spelled Correctly)	L/W

## Summarize spoken text:

### What is it?

You will hear a recording of some text. You need to type the summary for the same in 50-70 words.

### How much time do you get?

60-90 seconds

### **How are you judged?**

Your listening and **writing skills**

#### **Tip:**

Writing down the keywords or phrases quickly help you summarize the text. You have cut, copy, and paste option in case you want to use.

### **Multiple choice, choose multiple answers:**

#### **What is it?**

You will hear an audio clip. You need to select multiple answers that are relevant to the text spoken.

#### **How much time do you get?**

40-90 seconds

#### **How are you judged?**

Your listening skills

#### **Tip:**

Scan through all the options as quickly as possible. It will be then easy for you to select the relevant options.

### **Fill in the blanks:**

**What is it?** You have a transcript on your screen with several blanks to be filled. You will hear an audio clip for the same transcript. You need to type in the missing word as you hear the recording.

#### **How much time do you get?**

30-60 seconds



### **How are you judged?**

Your listening and writing skills

#### **Tip:**

If you have good typing speed, you may type the word as you listen to the audio clip. In other case, you may write down the missing word on your notepad and then once the clip is over and you are done with your writing, type all the words in the blanks.

#### **Alert:**

You will need to move your cursor to the blank space and click on it so that you can type a word. Many forget this action and find that whatever they typed was never written on the screen. It is recommended to check the word and its spelling before clicking the 'next' button.

### **Highlight correct summary:**

#### **What is it?**

You will have an audio clip playing some lecture. After listening to the lecture, you will need to select the summary paragraph that best matches the lecture.

### **How much time do you get?**

30-90 seconds

### **How are you judged?**

Your listening and **reading skills**

### **Multiple choice, choose single answer:**

#### **What is it?**

You will have a recording being played. After listening to it carefully, you need to choose any one of the text or sentences given. The selected

sentence or text should answer the question based on the audio you just heard.

### **How much time do you get?**

30-60 seconds

### **How are you judged?**

Your listening skills

## **Select missing word:**

### **What is it?**

You will listen to an audio clip that will have a 'beep'. You will need to select the most appropriate option that fits the 'beep'.

### **How much time do you get?**

20-70 seconds

### **How are you judged?**

Your listening skills

### **Tip:**

The beep, for almost all the times, comes in the last. And, knowing this fact, many students become alert only when the audio is reaching the end. The tip is you should carefully listen to the sentence right from the beginning. This is because many times, the 'beep' could be a conclusion of the entire sentence.

## **Highlight incorrect words:**

### **What is it?**

You have a transcript already written on your screen. You will hear an audio clip for the same transcript. You need to identify and select the

words (by left-clicking on them) that are different from the words in the lecture from the audio clip.

### **How much time do you get?**

15-50 seconds

### **How are you judged?**

Your listening and reading skills

#### **Tip:**

Move mouse cursor as the audio clip is played. Be alert and immediately click the word that differs from the recording. Even if you wrongly clicked one word, do not go back and deselect it immediately or else the speaker will finish several more words that you will completely miss. At the end, remember those that you clicked incorrectly; you then deselect them all by again left-clicking on them.

### **Write from dictation:**

#### **What is it?**

You will have to listen carefully to the sentence spoken in an audio clip played automatically. You need to type the sentence with exact words spoken.

### **How much time do you get?**

3-5 seconds

### **How are you judged?**

Your listening and writing skills

#### **Tip:**

Some prefer taking down the note as the sentence is spoken. Writing initials of the words spoken may help. Others with good memory power simply concentrate on the sentence and recall it while writing it.

#### **Alert:**

Spare some time to check and proofread your own content. Grammar, spelling, style, and discourse matter here.