

PTE Academic Test Taker Guide

Learn more about the test
and prepare for test day.

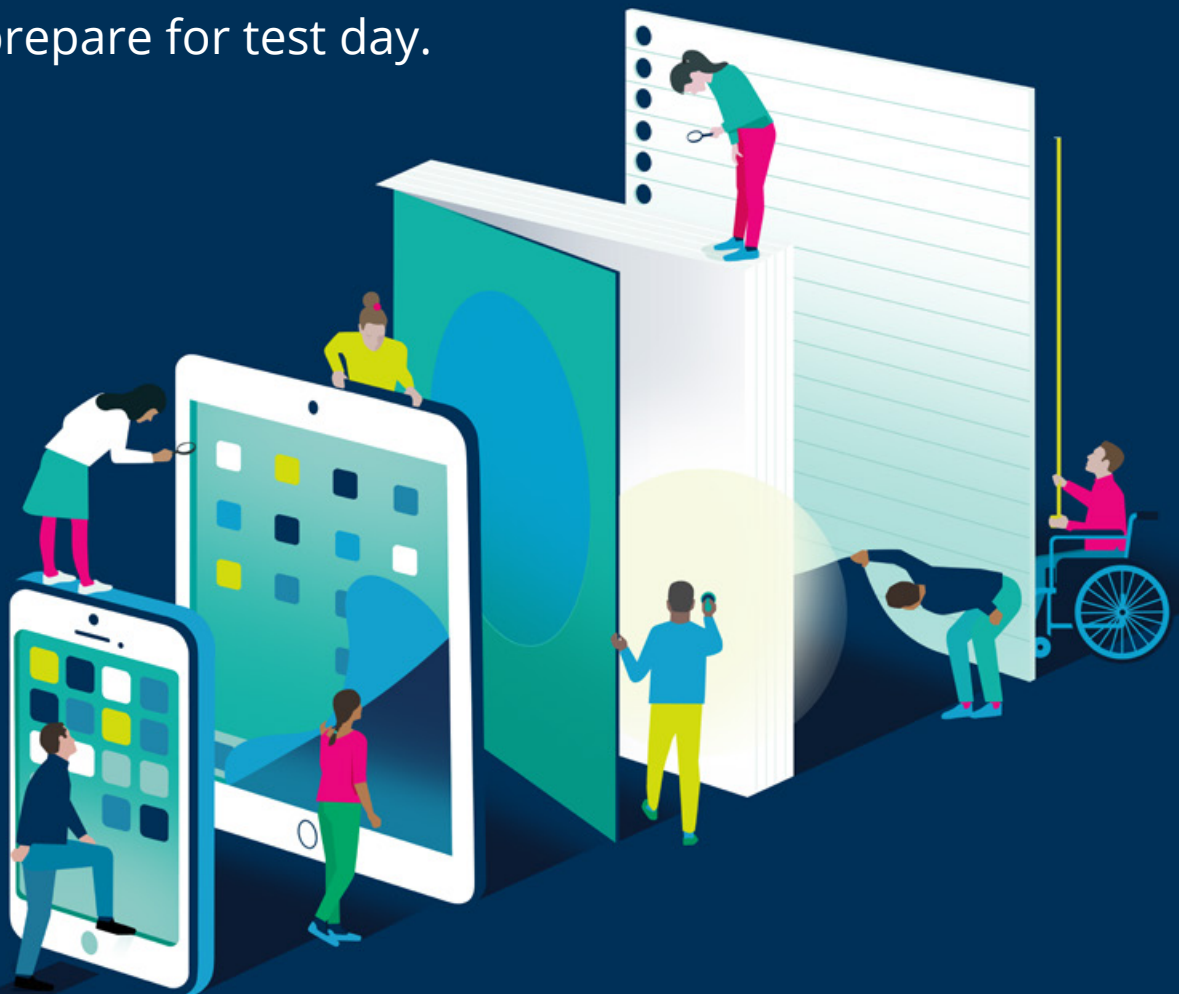


Illustration by Lucy Vigrass

What's inside

About the test	3
Sitting the test.....	4
Recognition.....	4
PTE Academic score scale	4
The path to test day	5
Before your test	6
Book your test.....	6
Find a test center	6
How to prepare	6
On the day of your test	8
What to expect on test day.....	8
During your test	10
Test Format	10
Test overview	11
Part 1: Speaking and writing	11
Part 2: Reading	12
Part 3: Listening	12
After your test	13
Understanding your Score Report.....	13
Assigning scores.....	14

About the test

PTE Academic is the smart choice when you want to study or work abroad. It is the fast and fair computer-based English test and allows you to demonstrate language skills for university, professional and migration applications.



380+

test centers
around the
world in 50+
countries

Scores typically
available within

2

business days

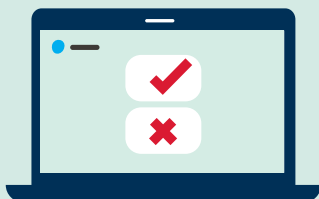


365

test days each year



Accepted by
1000s
of institutions
around the world



Computer-based marking ensures all test takers
are scored fairly and accurately.



Sitting the test

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



Recognition

Accepted by thousands of universities and colleges in Australia, New Zealand, USA, UK, Canada, Ireland, Singapore, Germany and more.



Approved for all UK, Australian and New Zealand visa and migration applications.



See the full list of institutions that accept PTE Academic
pearsonpte.com/accepts

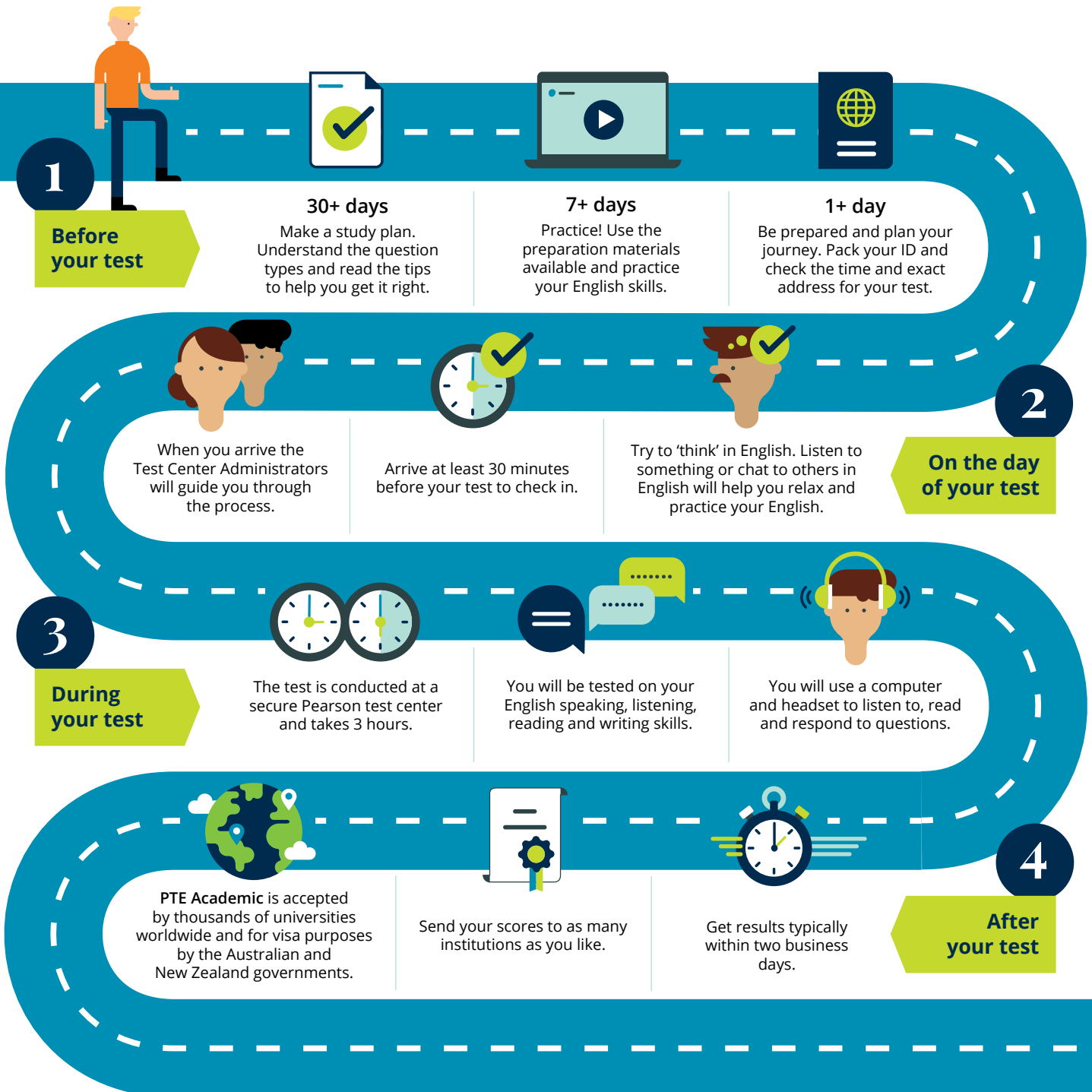
How do PTE Academic scores compare to other English tests?

PTE Academic	30	36	42	50	58	65	73	79	83	86
IELTS	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0

PTE Academic	38	42	46	50	53	59	64	68	72	78	84
TOEFL iBT	40-44	54-56	65-66	74-75	79-80	87-88	94	99-100	105	113	120



The path to test day



Things to Remember!

Before you schedule your test please ensure you have read through the Test Taker Handbook, including the PTE Academic Test Taker Terms and Conditions.



Before your test

Book your test



Booking PTE Academic is as simple as:

- ☒ Create your PTE account
- ☒ Sign in using your details
- ☒ Answer a few questions
- ☒ Select your desired test center and test date

Book your test online:

<https://pearsonpte.com/>

Find a test center

Regardless where you decide to take PTE Academic it will always be scored by the same automated scoring technology. We have test centers in more than 50 countries/regions worldwide.

Find your closest test center here
pearsonpte.com/testcenters

How to prepare

Like with any other test, you should prepare to maximize your performance. Getting familiar with the test format and how to answer questions correctly could help you achieve your desired score. Pearson offers you a range of resources designed to help you prepare.

Online sample questions and answers

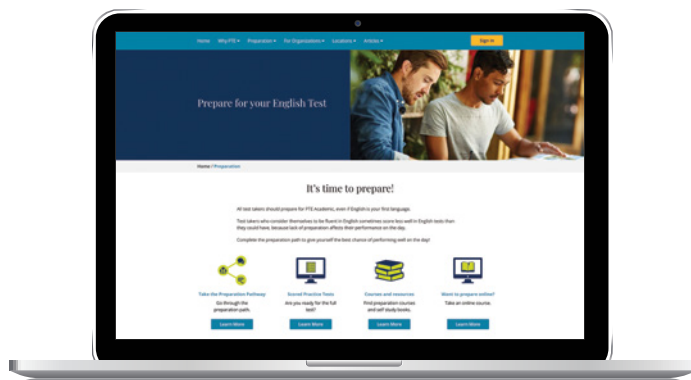
Get instant access to our online sample questions and test your skills. The online sample questions are available alone, or you can combine them with the Online Scored Practice Test. Choose from a range of online preparation packages to suit your preparation needs.



Scored Practice Tests

Scored Practice Tests offer you the best way to prepare **PTE Academic**. Take this 3-hour computer-based mock exam and receive a full score report at the end to see which areas you need to improve.

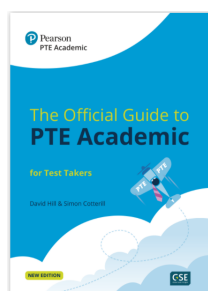
- ▶ Find out your predicted **PTE Academic** score
- ▶ Get used to the test format
- ▶ Make sure you are ready for taking a computer-based test



PTE Academic Official Practice App

The App prioritizes the key practice activities every test taker needs to focus on, and offers the support you need as test day approaches.

Official coursebooks



The official guide to PTE Academic

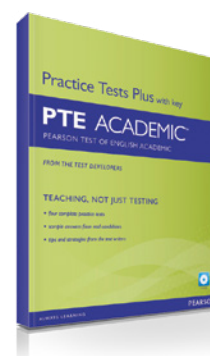
Everything you need to know about the PTE Academic

The first and only official guide for **PTE Academic** written by our test developers. It provides comprehensive information about **PTE Academic**, over 200 practice tasks on CD-ROM, an analysis of sample answers, test tips and more.

Practice tests plus: with CD-ROM

Test yourself to see if you are ready for PTE Academic

Authentic practice, comprehensive guidance and strategies for dealing with every task in the test.



Expert PTE Academic coursebook B1 & B2

Teacher-led, rigorous exam training at levels B1 and B2

The Expert series is a great way to prepare for **PTE Academic** if you have more time to study. It follows a preparation course structure and takes you through lessons that prepare you for **PTE Academic**. Choose from level B1 or B2, depending on your language level. **PTE Academic Expert** also contains access to MyEnglishLabs – digital practice for all students.

For all PTE Academic recourses, visit:

pearsonpte.com/prepare

On the day of your test

What to expect on test day

No matter where you decide to take the test, PTE Academic is taken at a secure test center, where you will need to show your ID, check in with the Test Administrator, and sit your test in a secure computer room.



1. Locate your test center

You must arrive at least 30 minutes before your test and sign in at the Test Center reception.

Note: If you arrive more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of your test, you will not be permitted to take the test.



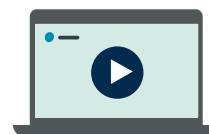
4. Test Center rules and regulations

The Test Administrator will explain the Test Center rules and regulations. Personal belongings have to be stored in the secure storage facilities. You cannot access the storage facilities until your test has been completed.



2. Test Taker Rules Agreement

All candidates must read the 'Test Taker Rules Agreement' which will be provided to you when you arrive at the test center. Once you have read the 'Test Taker Rules Agreement' you need to return it to the Test Administrator.



5. Test room

Once it is time to start your test, the Test Administrator will escort you into the test room and assign you a computer. You will be provided with an erasable note booklet and pen. You must not take any notes until your test has started.

The Test Administrator will sign you into the computer and you will be presented with a nondisclosure reminder.



3. ID check and biometric data

The Test Administrator will check your Identification and take your biometrics. Please note the electronic signature you provide is legal acceptance that you accept the rules you have read.

ID requirements are strictly enforced and if you cannot meet the requirements listed on our website pearsonpte.com/acceptable-id/ you will be refused entry into the testing room and lose your fee.

6. Checking your equipment

The screen will guide you through an equipment check to ensure your headphones and microphone are working correctly. Your test will then begin.



A passport is the safest form of ID as it meets all the requirements and it is accepted in all countries.





7. 10 Minute Break

You will be able to take one ten-minute scheduled break after you have completed the first two parts of the test. Instructions will appear on the computer screen at the appropriate time.

If you decide to take this break you will be required to complete a palm vein scan before leaving the room and when you come back in.

If you take more than 10 minutes to come back, the excess time will be deducted from the following part of the test. By declining the break, time will not be added to your test time.



8. Finishing your test

After you finish the test, raise your hand to get the attention of the Test Administrator, who will make sure the test has ended properly.

You will be escorted out of the test room and your identification will be checked electronically.

The test center staff will provide you with an End of Test Confirmation printout. This is not a score report, but a confirmation that you have completed the PTE Academic test.

Once this is complete, you can take all your personal belongings from the storage facilities and are free to leave.

You can watch more of what happens on test day.



During your test

Test Format

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

During the three-hour test session there will be three main parts to the test: Speaking and Writing (together), Listening and Reading. There are 20 different question types, ranging from multiple choice through to essay writing and interpreting information.

PTE Academic assesses real-life, academic English, 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.

Part 1: Speaking & Writing (77 – 93 minutes)

- Personal introduction
- Read aloud
- Repeat sentence
- Describe image
- Re-tell lecture
- Answer short question
- Summarize written text
- Essay (20 mins)

Part 2: Reading (32 – 41 minutes)

- Multiple choice, choose single answer
- Multiple choice, choose multiple answers
- Re-order paragraphs
- Reading: Fill in the blanks
- Reading & writing: Fill in the blanks

Note: 10 minute optional break

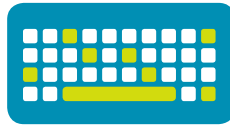
Part 3: Listening (45 – 57 minutes)

- Summarize spoken text
- Multiple choice, choose multiple answer
- Fill in the blanks
- Highlight correct summary
- Multiple choice, choose single answer
- Select missing word
- Highlight incorrect words
- Write from dictation



Test overview

Part I: SPEAKING and WRITING



Task type	Task description	Time allowed
Personal introduction	After reading the instructions, you have 30 seconds to give a recorded introduction about yourself. This part is not assessed, but is sent to institutions you choose along with your Score Report.	1 minute
Read aloud	A text appears on screen. Read the text aloud.	30-35 minutes
Repeat sentence	After listening to a sentence, repeat the sentence.	
Describe image	An image appears on screen. Describe the image in detail.	
Re-tell lecture	After listening to or watching a video of a lecture, re-tell the lecture in your own words.	
Answer short question	After listening to a question, answer with a single word or a few words.	
Summarize written text	After reading a passage, write a one-sentence summary of the passage of between 5 and 75 words.	20 minutes
Summarize written text or Write essay	Either a <i>Summarize written text</i> task or a <i>Write essay task</i> , depending on the combination of tasks in your test.	10 or 20 minutes
Write essay	Write an essay of 200-300 words on a given topic.	20 minutes



Part 2: READING



Task type	Task description	Time allowed
Multiple-choice, choose single answer	After reading a text, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the text by selecting one response.	32-41 minutes
Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	After reading a text, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the text by selecting more than one response.	
Re-order paragraphs	Several text boxes appear on screen in random order. Put the text boxes in the correct order.	
Reading: Fill in the blanks	A text appears on screen with several blanks. Drag words or phrases from the blue box to fill in the blanks.	
Reading & writing: Fill in the blanks	A text appears on screen with several blanks. Fill in the blanks by selecting words from several drop-down lists of response options.	

Part 3: LISTENING



Task type	Task description	Time allowed
Summarize spoken text	After listening to a recording, write a summary of 50-70 words.	20 or 30 minutes
Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	After listening to a recording, answer a multiple-choice question on the content or tone of the recording by selecting more than one response.	23-28 minutes
Fill in the blanks	The transcription of a recording appears on screen with several blanks. While listening to the recording, type the missing words into the blanks.	
Highlight correct summary	After listening to a recording, select the paragraph that best summarizes the recording.	
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.	
Select missing word	After listening to a recording, select the missing word or group of words that completes the recording.	
Highlight incorrect words	The transcription of a recording appears on screen. While listening to the recording, identify the words in the transcription that differ from what is said.	
Write from dictation	After listening to a recording of a sentence, type the sentence.	



After your test

Interpreting the Score Report

PTE Academic is scored against the Global Scale of English, a granular scale from 10-90. The **PTE Academic** Score Report includes the test taker's overall score, communicative skills scores and enabling skills scores.

For PTE Academic UKVI the score report will include a SELT URN number for inclusion on the visa, settlement or citizenship application.

1 Score Report Code

2 SELT URN number

If you are applying for a UK visa, use this number on your visa application form so that the UK Government can access your result.

3 Overall Score

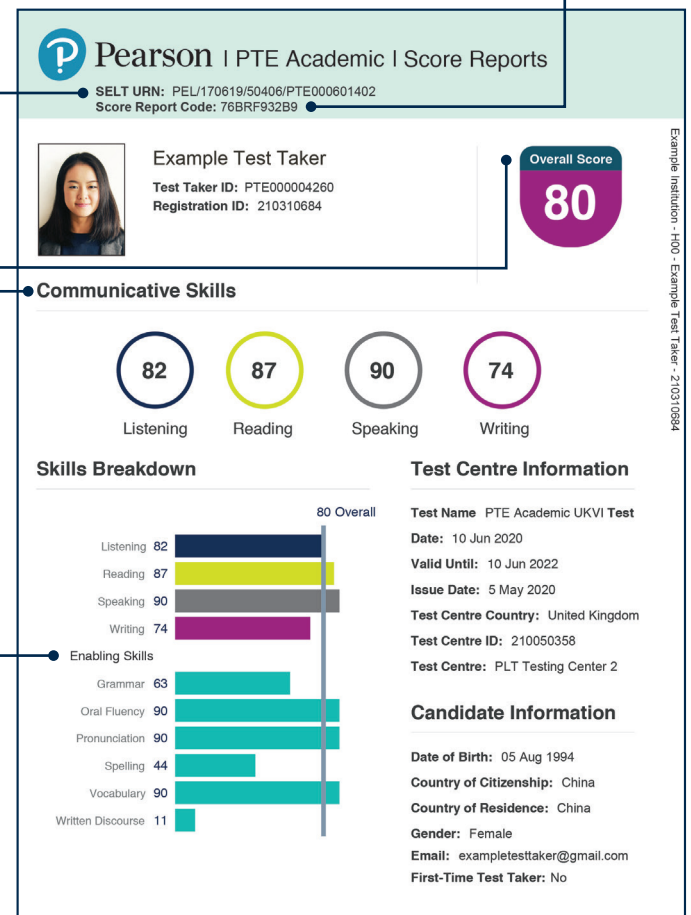
Reflects your overall English language ability and is based on performance throughout the test.

4 Communicative skills

Listening, Reading, Speaking and writing scores are based on all test questions that assess these skills, either as a single skill or together with other skills.

5 Enabling skills

Grammar, oral fluency, pronunciation, spelling, vocabulary and written discourse are based on all test questions assessing one or more of these skills.



PLEASE NOTE:

- The Score Report representation (above) may differ from current Score Reports.
- For a detailed understanding of PTE Academic scores, view the PTE Academic Score Guide pearsonpte.com/ScoreGuide



Learn more about

