

STUDENT ANSWERS

Introduction

There are three sample student answers for each of the tasks with spoken or written answers in the Speaking and Writing, and Listening sections. Each answer has a comment from a PTE examiner explaining what is good about the answer and what the student could have done better. The answer itself is not scored, but you can see the student's overall score in the actual PTE Academic test.

Student answers for Test 1 are in the book, and for Tests 2–4 are on the CD-ROM. You'll find MP3 audio of all the student spoken answers on the CD-ROM.

Test 1, Speaking

Read aloud

1 Topic: Market research

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55

▶ 162 Market research is a vital part of the planning ... of any business. However ... experienced ... you or your staff may be in particular field, if you are thinking of introducing a service to a new area. It is important to find out what the local population thinks about it first.

Examiner's comments: This student has read the whole text, but the pronunciation of the word 'particular' is very unclear. Fluency is also very poor because there are pauses between every word.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 163 Market research is a vital part of the planning of any business. However experienced you and your staff may be in a particular field, if you are thinking of introducing a service to a new area, it is important to find out what the local population thinks about it first.

Examiner's comments: This student's response contains all but one word from the text and is delivered with good, though not native-like, fluency. However, the student suffers from many pronunciation problems, such as pronouncing 'of' like 'off'; 'of' should be pronounced with a 'v' sound at the end. The student would also lose points for saying 'and' rather than 'or'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 164 Market research is a vital part of the planning of any business. However experienced you or your staff may be in a particular field, if you are thinking of introducing a new service to a new area, it is important to find out what the local population thinks about it first.

Examiner's comments: This student has read the text completely, using natural pronunciation and fluency. The strong use of stress on the appropriate words would lead him to achieve a very high score.

2 Topic: Transportation of goods by water

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55

▶ 165 Not a lot– not a lot is known about how the transportation of goods by water first began. Large cargo boats were being used in some parts of the world up to five thousand years ago. However, sea trade become more widespread when large sailing boats travelled between port carrying spesces, perfumes and objects made by hand.

Examiner's comments: Although this student says every word from the text, the score would be reduced because he has poor fluency and repeats 'Not a lot'. In addition, the pronunciation is weak; for example, the student pronounces 'goods' like 'goats'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 166 Not a lot is known about how the transportation of goods by water first began. Large cargo boats were being used in some parts of the world up to five thousand years ago. However, sea trade became more widespread when large sailing boats travelled between ports carrying, especes, perfumes and objects made by hand.

Examiner's comments: This student's fluency is quite natural, and every word from the text is included. However, the pronunciation is poor, and some words such as 'spices' are very hard for the listener to understand.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

▶ 167 Not a lot is known about how the transportation of goods by water first began. Large cargo boats were being used in some parts of the world up to five thousand years ago. However, sea trade became more widespread when large sailing boats travelled between ports, carrying spices, perfumes and objects made by hand.

Examiner's comments: This student pronounces every word in a native-like way. Fluency is very natural, and pauses are suitably placed between each sentence of the text.

3 Topic: Young artist**Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55**

▶ 168 When the young artist ha— was asked about his drawing, he explained, that he had started by— by taking a photograph of himself sitting by a window at home. He then drew his face from the photograph and replaced the buildings which were outside the window with trees. This gave the picture a softer, more artistic background.

Examiner's comments: This student's pronunciation is adequate and understandable but there are frequent unnatural pauses, such as between 'He then drew' and 'his face'. Every word from the text is included, but he would lose points because there are extra words, such as between 'When the young artist' and 'was asked'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 169 When the young artist was asked about his drawing, he explained that he had started by taking a photograph of himself sitting down a window at home. He then drew his face from the photograph and replaced the buildings which were outside the window with trees. This gave the picture a softer, more artistic background.

Examiner's comments: This student's pronunciation is clear and he pauses appropriately between sentences. However, his speech is slow and the use of the word 'down' instead of 'by' would reduce the score.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 170 When the young artist was asked about his drawing, he explained that he had started by taking a photograph of himself sitting by a window at home. He then drew his face from the photograph and replaced the buildings which were outside the window with trees. This gave the picture a softer, more artistic background.

Examiner's comments: This student's speech is clear and each word is pronounced in a native-like way. Every word from the text has been included, there is no repetition and the speech would achieve the maximum score.

4 Topic: Energy and pollution**Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45**

▶ 171 Humans need to use energy in order to exist. So it is unsurprising that the way people have been producing energy, is largely responsible for current environmental problems. Pollution comes in many forms, but those that are most concerning because of their impact of health, result from the combu— combustion of fills in power stations and cars.

Examiner's comments: This student's speech is staccato; in other words, there are pauses between different parts of words. For example, in the word 'unsurprising' there are three long, unnatural pauses ('un-sur-pris-ing'), and this would reduce the score for fluency and pronunciation.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 172 Humans needs to use energy in order to exist. So it is unsurprising that the way people have been producing energy is largely responsible for current environmental problems. Pollution comes in many forms, but those that are most concerning because of their impact on health, result from the combustion of fuels in power stations and cars.

Examiner's comments: This student's speech is also staccato, and his fluency is very poor. Instead of reading 'Humans need', he says 'Humans needs', and this would reduce the score because the text has not been read accurately.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

▶ 173 Humans need to use energy in order to exist. So it is unsurprising that the way people have been producing energy is largely responsible for current environmental problems. Pollution comes in many forms, but those that are most concerning, because of their impact on health, result from the combustion of fuels in power stations and cars.

Examiner's comments: This student reads every word from the text accurately, using appropriate stress and pronunciation.

5 Topic 5: Retirement

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

▶ 174 Clearly, times are changing and while many people are saving for their retirement, many more still need to do so. Most countries have a range of pensions shemes that are design-ed to provide individuals with an income once they stop working. People need to take advantage of this if they are to have sufficient money throughout their retirement years.

Examiner's comments: This student frequently mispronounces words, such as 'their', 'pension' and 'schemes', in a way that makes it impossible to understand what is being said. Although she reads every word from the text, her fluency is also very poor.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 175 Clearly, times are changing and while many people are saving for their retirement, many, more still need to do so. Most countries have a range of pension schemes that are designed to provide individuals with an income once they stop working. People need to take advantage of these if they are, to have sufficient money throughout their retirement years.

Examiner's comments: This student's pronunciation is adequately clear and every word from the text is included. However, the speech would not score highly for fluency, as there are unnatural pauses within sentences, for example between 'many' and 'more'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

▶ 176 Clearly, times are changing and the while many people are saving for their retirement, many more still need to do so. Most countries have a range of pension schemes that are designed to provide individuals with an income once they stop working. People need to take advantage of this if they are to have sufficient money throughout their retirement years.

Examiner's comments: This student's speech is too slow for the first sentence, but her fluency becomes more natural later in the text. Her pronunciation is not native-like for some words, but it is always clear.

6 Topic: Good weather and mood

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 56

▶ 177 According to recent research, sunshine and warm weather have a positive effect on our moods. The British Journal of Psychology has published a report in which it claims that anxiety levels fall when temperature rise, while increased exposure to sunri- sunshine makes us think more positively about our lives.

Examiner's comments: This student mispronounces certain words in a way that makes the speech hard to understand; for example, he says 'worm', not 'warm'. He reads every word, but would lose points for saying 'sunri' which is not in the text.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 178 According to recent research, sunshine and warm weather have a positive effect on our moods. The British Journal of Psychology has published a report, in which it claims that anxiety levels fall when temperatures rise, while increase exposure to sunshine make us think more positively about our lives.

Examiner's comments: This student mispronounces words such as 'warm' and 'of', but fluency is good throughout the response. He reads every word without hesitation or repetition.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 179 According to recent research, sunshine and warm weather have a positive effect on our moods. The British Journal of Psychology has published a report in which it claims that axiety- anxiety levels fall when temperatures rise, while increase exposure to sunshine makes us think more positively about our lives.

Examiner's comments: This student's speech is naturally fluent and every word from the text is said in a native-like way, but his score would be reduced due to mistakenly saying 'axiety' before the word 'anxiety'.

Test 1, Speaking

Repeat sentence

1 Topic: Design of a bridge

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55

▶ 180 Factors [unclear] no.

Examiner's comments: This student only accurately repeats one word from the sentence. Three other words are incomprehensible due to poor pronunciation.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 181 Factors such as cost and ... influence the – the design of the building.

Examiner's comments: This student omits 'and function' from the sentence and there is a long hesitation in the middle of the response.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 182 Factors such as cost and function influence the design of a bridge.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats every word, with appropriate fluency and pronunciation.

2 Topic: Waste disposal

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

▶ 183 It is important for humans ... proper ways.

Examiner's comments: This student repeats less than 50 percent of the sentence; the response would receive a low score. It also lacks fluency due to a long pause in the middle.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 184 It's important that ... er ... the humans dispose their waste in appropriate ways.

Examiner's comments: This student omits the word 'of' but otherwise repeats every word. Fluency is poor, but the pronunciation is adequate.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 185 It's important that humans dispose of their waste ... in appropriate ways.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats every word, with appropriate fluency and pronunciation.

3 Topic: Unable to complete

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

▶ 186 If you are not er ... allowed to complete all the exams ... er... me– noticed me by email.

Examiner's comments: This student replaces 'unable to' and 'the task' with 'not allowed to' and 'all the exams', and the response would lose points for these inaccuracies. In addition, the speech is too slow and hesitant.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 187 If you're unable ... to complete the task in time ... please notify me by email.

Examiner's comments: This student repeats every word from the sentence, but his speech is slow and hesitant.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

▶ 188 If you are unable to complete the task in time please contact me by email.

Examiner's comments: This student repeats most of the sentence accurately with good fluency and pronunciation. The response would not score maximum points because 'notify' is replaced with 'contact' and there is an unnaturally strong stress on the word 'me'.

4 Topic: Financial report

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55

▶ 189 The financial report of the last quarter will be available this afternoon.

Examiner's comments: This student does not repeat the sentence accurately – 'for' is replaced with 'of'. In addition, pronunciation is poor and the word 'quarter' is incomprehensible.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 190 The financial report for the last quarter will be an a– available this afternoon.

Examiner's comments: This student repeats every word, but would lose points for hesitations before the words 'will' and 'available'. His pronunciation is understandable but it is definitely not native-like.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 191 The financial report for this last quarter will be available after noon– this afternoon.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats most words, with appropriate fluency and pronunciation, but would lose points for saying 'this' rather than 'the', and for repeating the word 'afternoon'.

5 Topic: Extra seminars

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

▶ 192 Next year's schedules should be assisted by ...

Examiner's comments: This student only repeats two words accurately and pronunciation and fluency are poor.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 193 Extra seminars will be available to assist you in revision.

Examiner's comments: This student repeats every word apart from 'scheduled' and 'with', which are replaced with 'available' and 'in'. His pronunciation is of an intermediate level, but his fluency is relatively strong.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

▶ 194 Extra seminar will be scheduled to assist you with revision.

Examiner's comments: This student speaks with appropriate fluency and good pronunciation, but she says 'seminar' not 'seminars' and, therefore, the response would not receive the maximum score.

6 Topic: Switch off electronic devices

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 56

▶ 195 Please switch off all electronic devices when you are attending the conferen– conference.

Examiner's comments: This student speaks with suitable fluency until the end of the sentence where the repetition of the word 'conference' and the omission of the word 'session' would reduce the response's score.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 196 Please switch off all electronic devices when you are ... attending a conference session.

Examiner's comments: This student repeats every word accurately and the pronunciation is adequate, but the hesitation before the word 'attending' is unnatural and this would reduce the score.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 197 Please switch of all electronic devices while you are attending a conference session.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats every word, with appropriate fluency and pronunciation.

7 Topic: Team work**Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55****▶ 198** It is important that you work ... as a team in this project.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats every word, apart from saying 'in' instead of 'on'. However, his speech is too slow for a good fluency score and the pronunciation of the word 'project' is poor.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74**▶ 199** It is important that you work as a team in this project.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats almost every word, with adequate fluency and pronunciation. The response would lose points because the student says 'in' rather than 'on'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89**▶ 200** It's important that you work as a team on this project.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats every word, with appropriate fluency and pronunciation.

8 Topic: People's mood**Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55****▶ 201** The study by moods ... are affected by ...

Examiner's comments: This student only repeats four words from the sentence correctly, and therefore the response would receive a very low score. Pronunciation is unclear and fluency is very poor.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67**▶ 202** The study shows how people's move can be affected with weather change.

Examiner's comments: This student's speech has good fluency, but he would lose points for replacing words, such as 'that' with 'how', and for mispronouncing 'mood' as 'move'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77**▶ 203** The study shows that people's mood can be affected by news and the weather.

Examiner's comments: This student would lose points for omitting the word 'reports', adding the word 'the', changing 'showed' to 'shows', and for mispronouncing 'mood'. However, pronunciation and fluency are generally good.

9 Topic: Population growth**Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45****▶ 204** Details about population growth ... will be attaining ...

Examiner's comments: This student repeats less than 50 percent of the sentence, so the response would receive a relatively low score. Fluency is adequate, but the second vowel sound in the final word is mispronounced as 'attaining' rather than 'attending'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67**▶ 205** Detail analysis of population growth has revealed some alarming ... predictions.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats every word, with adequate pronunciation. There is an unnaturally long pause before the word 'predictions', which would prevent the response from achieving a maximum score for fluency.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89**▶ 206** Detailed analysis of population growth has revealed some alarming predictions.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats most words, with appropriate fluency. However, he says 'revealed' in an unclear way so would not achieve a maximum score for pronunciation.

10 Topic: College laboratories

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

▶ 207 Please note that the laboratory will be closed next week.

Examiner's comments: This student repeats most of the sentence correctly and clearly. Her fluency is adequate but the omissions of the words 'college', 'for' and 'cleaning' would reduce the response's score.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 208 Please note that the laboratories will be ... closed during the cleaning.

Examiner's comments: This student replaces 'for cleaning next week' with 'during the cleaning', which would reduce the score. However, fluency is good and pronunciation is adequate.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 209 Please note that the college laboratories will be closed for maintenance next week.

Examiner's comments: This student accurately repeats most words, with appropriate fluency and pronunciation. The student says 'maintenance' rather than 'cleaning' and therefore would not achieve a maximum score.

Test I, Speaking

Describe image

1 Topic: Percentage world population by region

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55

▶ 210 The graph illustrate ... the world population of Asia and Europe, since 1950 to 2000. Ah, so, Asia ... have a population of 60 percent, and remains the same. Um Europe have a ... slightly decrease from 20 percent to, little over 10 percent little under— under 10 percent.

Examiner's comments: This student's response does mention some key information, including the main topic of the graph and the continents featured. However, the response would receive a low score because a key feature is severely misrepresented when he says that the dates range from '1950 until 2000', as the data actually begins in 1750. The speech is hesitant and sometimes unclear, so the student would not achieve a high score for fluency or pronunciation.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 211 The graph shows the percentage of world population by region, namely for um Asia and Europe from 1950 up to the year 2000. From the graph it can be seen that the world population ... um for Asia has constantly, decreased from 19— from 1750 to 1850. And then as from 1950 up to 2000— the year 2000 it has increased. For Europe there has been a constant increase from 1750 to 1900, and then its shows a slight decrease. Um ... [cut]

Examiner's comments: This student misreads the data and says '1950' rather than '1750'. This misrepresentation of a key feature would significantly reduce the score. In addition, by merely reading the graph's title 'World population by region', he does not demonstrate complete understanding of the data. The score would have been improved by paraphrasing the graph's title. Despite problems with the description, the student's fluency is relatively good, and the pronunciation is clear.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 212 Er the graph shows the world population by region. When you look at Europe, um up until the late 1800s, the world population, er I mean the European population was on the rise. From 1900 till about 2000 it's been steadily declining. However, when you look at Asia, the percentage of the world population is much, much larger, and, even though it is on the decline it's not as rapid as, the European population.

Examiner's comments: This student describes all key features of the graph, and also refers to implications when he says 'until the 1800s the European population was on the rise'. The student shows a strong understanding of the relationships between the graph's different elements through the comparison between Asian and European populations. In addition, the speech is natural and native-like in terms of fluency and pronunciation.

2 Topic: Reasons for no longer attending school

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

▶ 213 This graph illustrates, the ... the amount of employment between er two groups, male and female and it can be see that er female complete study five percent more than male. And the ... personal of- or family is the the 30 percentage er, about female, the second is of- about obtain employment.

Examiner's comments: Most elements of the data are described in this response. However, because the student only reads the different labels, an understanding of the charts is not clearly demonstrated. No implications of the data or the relationship between the two charts are mentioned. In addition, the student's mispronunciation of the word 'female' sometimes makes the description impossible to understand. The student's speech is hesitant and lacks natural stress and intonation, so it would receive a low score for fluency.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 214 This two charts compare a both a female and male, in er terms of the studies er economic studies, and probably in terms of the, University studies and you can see that while 65 percent of female has completed the studies, only 60 percent of male did it, however, more men, 25 percent obtain employment compare to 12 percent of er female that obtain that employment.

Examiner's comments: This student describes most key features of the charts and effectively contrasts some elements; for example, he says 'and you can see that, while 65 percent of female has completed their studies, only 60 percent of male did it'. His pronunciation is not native-like, but it is generally clear. However, fluency is poor, due to the slow speed of the speech. This slow speed prevents the student from describing all key features of the data within the time limit.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

▶ 215 The graphic shows the comparison of er male and female, in terms of er, the status I think. We can see the percentage of completed study is quite similar between male and female, while male, 60 percent of the male complete their study and 65 percent of the female complete their study. However, when we look at obtain employment, the percentage of male reach as high as 25 percent while the percentage of obtain employment for female, is er quite low at 12 percent only, and the, if we look at the percentage of personal ... [cut]

Examiner's comments: This response would receive a good score because it describes differences and similarities between the two charts accurately. The student intelligently selects the most important features of the data – the difference between rates of 'completed study' and 'obtained employment' for males and females. However, the speech is slow and she does not have time to talk about all key features. Despite relatively poor fluency, pronunciation is quite native-like so this response would receive a good score for this.

3 Topic: US citizens over 65 years

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 56

▶ 216 The graph showing a prediction of how US citizen, will be over the next 65 years, and we can see the growth is um, very slight, from 2010 to 2035 and we can see, there will be only um, seven percent peep- um population, more than now in 65 years, so we can see how they will control the birth.

Examiner's comments: This student misrepresents the key feature of the chart. He incorrectly says the chart shows 'a prediction of how US citizens will be over the next 65 years', whereas the chart actually shows a prediction of how many US citizens *who are over 65 years old* there will be within a 25-year period. The student also says 'the growth is very slight' but actually it is significant (over 60 percent). Despite poor fluency, his pronunciation is adequate.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 217 The graph shows the percentage of US citizens over 65 years from the year 2010 until 2035. Basically it is a prediction, um as from the year 2012 and it can be seen that, the um population of over 65 is gonna constantly increase over the years. In the US.

Examiner's comments: This student mentions one key element of the data which is that the population of US citizens over 65 'will constantly increase'. However, there is no mention of any figures. The score would have been higher if the student had said 'will constantly increase from 12.5 percent to 20 percent of the population'. In addition, he misrepresents a key feature when he says '2012', as this year is not included in the data. Fluency and pronunciation are of an intermediate level, but the answer is too short.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

▶ 218 The graphic shows the percentage of US citizens aged over 65 years old, across the year 2010 to 2035, so it's an estimative, number I think. We see that the percentage of citizens over 65 years old, er will be expected to grow steadily over the years, in 2010 it reach about 13 percent, while in 2035 is expected to reach as high as 20 percent.

Examiner's comments: This student clearly states all of the key features of the chart. There is statistical information in the response and it shows that she understands that the figures are predictions. Although the answer would receive a good score, it would not get maximum points as the student fails to develop the answer by mentioning possible causes for the changes in population. Fluency and pronunciation are both strong.

4 Topic: Revenue growth

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 56

▶ 219 The graph showing the revenue will generate by two companies X and Y and as you can see, both of the company will start from 0 and in 18 years, the position that Y company will exit X revenue. From the beginning to the end X company's revenue was growing slowly as er Y, but from 2018, Y company has got boom in their revenue.

Examiner's comments: This student mentions some key features, such as the speed of growth, and compares the two companies. However, the comparison is limited to the speed of growth, and the amount of revenue is not mentioned. In addition, there is a misrepresentation of some basic features of the graph; for example, the student says 'both companies will start from 0', whereas, in fact, Company X starts with \$300 million revenue. His pronunciation is of an intermediate level, but his fluency is relatively poor.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 220 The graph shows the revenue growth in terms of millions for two companies, namely company X and company Y, from the year 2006 until 2024. It can be seen that company X has a more steady growth over the years when compared to company Y. ... Although both of them seem to attain the same amount of growth, um by the year 2024.

Examiner's comments: This student clearly describes some key features of the graph and compares Company X's and Company Y's growth and revenue accurately. However, the description does not mention the amount of revenue in millions of dollars, which is another key feature. The speed of speech is usually very good, but the student would fail to achieve a maximum fluency score because of a long pause between 'Company Y' and 'although both of them'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 221 Um this graph shows the revenue growth for two different companies. Company Y starting in about 2006 – it's starting at the bottom, so that's probably a new company, and it, well it rises quite a lot up until 2024, where it's at 2,000 million dollars. Company X started about 300 million dollars and rises to 1,800 million dollars. However Company Y, it seems to rise exponentially and Company X is a bit more constant.

Examiner's comments: This student would receive a maximum score for his answer. Every key feature of the graph is mentioned, and implications of the data, such as saying Company Y 'is probably a new company' because of its low revenue at the start of the period, are also clearly described. The student's speech is native-like in terms of fluency and pronunciation.

5 Topic: Reading achievement

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

▶ 222 This graph illustrates the ... reading achievement through the Grade 1 to Grade 3. Er ... this success– successful readers, the highest point is 120, and, that– that means that er ... they– they know 120 words per minute. This is about the oral reading fluency, and ... [cut]

Examiner's comments: This student does not mention many key features of the graph, such as the struggling readers and Grades 1 to 3. In addition, this response would receive a low score because the student misrepresents another key point by saying that successful readers 'know' 120 words per minute. In fact, successful readers 'can read' 120 words per minute. Her answer is slow and she frequently pauses in a way which is not native-like. Pronunciation is adequate.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 223 The graph shows the reading achievement for three different Grades, over three different seasons, namely Grade 1 2 3 over fall, winter and spring. It can be sure— it can be seen that, struggling the— Grades for struggling rea— readers has um, been quite um constant, whereas the Grade for successful readers has increased constantly.

Examiner's comments: This student describes some but not all the key features of the graph. The number of words per minute that struggling and successful readers can read is not mentioned, so the difference between these two groups is not shown. However, the response does successfully describe the changes in these groups' ability from Grade 1 to 2. The student's fluency is poor and pronunciation is clear, but it is not native-like.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 224 And this graph shows the oral reading fluency in words per minute for successful readers and struggling readers. Starting with the successful readers, they can read 20 words per minute in Grade 1, and then two years later they can read up to 120 words a minute, which is about six times as much. Struggling readers can only read about seven to eight words a minute when they start and two years later they are stuck on about 40 words per minute.

Examiner's comments: This student describes all key features of the graph, with native-like fluency and pronunciation. This answer would receive a very high score, but not a maximum score because it does not develop beyond description. In order to obtain a maximum score, some implications of the data on the graph should be mentioned, such as reasons why successful Grade 1 readers improve more rapidly.

6 Topic: Shadouf**Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45**

▶ 225 OK just, er flow chart illustrates the ... er method of water collection. At the beginning of the process, the operator moves er, the ... pivot up and down and the other person, collect the water, and ... the level rise and dow, to collect the water, and ... so it can be see that, needs two— two... [unclear]

Examiner's comments: This student would receive a high score for describing most key features of the diagram. However, poor pronunciation of important words, such as 'operator', sometimes makes the description difficult to understand. This would reduce the score for pronunciation and the overall score. As the student frequently hesitates at unnatural times, the score for fluency would also be low.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 226 The graph shows a method of water collection. The operator moves up and down um the— moves up the walk way so as to pivot the walkway and ... and make the level fall, and ... following which the bucket um drops into the water, with the suspending rope ... Once the water is collected the operator moves down and the bucket comes up and, the um other operator at the other end of the rope ... [cut]

Examiner's comments: This student's speech has many hesitations and repetitions, which would reduce the score for fluency. In addition, he mispronounces many key words such as 'pivot', which makes the description of the diagram's features unclear at times. However, the answer does successfully mention most basic features of the diagram.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

▶ 227 The diagram shows a method of water collection called, I think, shadouf. Um there's a climbing post with notches which you climb up on, and then there's a walkway with stairs on it. As the operator moves up and down the stairs, a lever rises and falls, causing a bucket to drop in the water or to rise from the water. Someone else erm, can just get the bucket and the water on the other side.

Examiner's comments: This student describes all key features of the graph, with native-like fluency and pronunciation. The answer would receive a very high score, but not a maximum score because it does not develop beyond description. In order to obtain a maximum score, the student should comment on the implications of the diagram; for example, they could say the diagram shows that shadouf was a simple and effective way to get water.

Test 1, Speaking

Re-tell lecture

1 Topic: Air pollution

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 56

▶ 228 The speaker was talking about er, the change in air pollution and he was talking a 99, 1950s, there was air pollution called Black Fog, which normally called by the factories, and caused to the, lots of health problem which leads, to 4,000 deaths in London. In 1956, they, made a legislation, to clean the air, but most, still it is a big issue, to the environment, but now the difference is we can't see the pollution, um we use lots of cars and lorries and which ... [cut]

Examiner's comments: This student's description of the first half of the lecture is very good. However, because his speech is slow and hesitant, he does not complete the description and fails to mention many key points from the second half of the lecture. Pronunciation is relatively good, but the score for fluency and the overall score would be low.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 229 Er the issue for air pollution is analysed by the speaker and he mentioned that it was an issue since 1950. Er at the time in the 50s, pollution was too many too factories, and those factories were actually causing severe health problems er in— in Britain. The— the Clean Act was introduced to resolve these problems. Today it is still and issue, however, we cannot see the pollution, the pollution is not visible. Still has ... [cut]

Examiner's comments: This student effectively describes most key points of the lecture. However, the answer fails to mention examples, such as 4,000 deaths in 1952, so it would not achieve a maximum score for content. The student's pronunciation and fluency are both slightly above intermediate level.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

▶ 230 Um this, this lecture compares the changes of air pollution in 1950s and the twenty-first century. In about 1950s, er the air pollution was visible; people could see a black fogs or a clouds in the sky. And the sources of air pollution come, majorly come from the factories and it caused the severe er health problem, and they caused something like 4,000 death in London. And in 1950, there is a Clean Air Act introduced to the UK and it improved the conditions, however nowadays ... [cut]

Examiner's comments: This student mentions some key points from the lecture, but fails to describe the situation nowadays, so the overall score would be relatively low. In addition, she does not develop her answer or mention any implications or conclusions of the lecture. However, the student would receive a good score for fluency and pronunciation.

2 Topic: Focus groups

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

▶ 231 The speaker talk about the researcher and how do the focus group, how, er find out the, the information that you need with er, through focus group. So, the first, er important information is how large is the group, the ideal is, er six to seven people. And bigger than, bigger than seven could be break the conversation and change the focus. The second erm ... [cut]

Examiner's comments: This lecture contains three main points about focus groups, and this student only mentions one of them, namely the importance of the size of the focus group. For this reason, the overall score would be very low. The student's speech is slow and there are frequent pauses in a way which is not native-like. In order to improve the score, the test taker should give an overview of all the key points of the lecture at the start of the response.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 232 The lecture is about tips or how to use a focus group. It is mainly about what the focus group is about, how large er the focus group should be and also the minimum number of people in the focus group. Um also the focus group needs to have a moderator, so as to ensure that um, everybody in the focus group is actually participating and that nobody is actually going away from the subject matter of the lecture.

Examiner's comments: This student's response mentions some but not all of the lecture's main points. Although the response mentions the importance of size and moderators for focus groups, it does not mention the lecturer's third point regarding materials, such as photos and diagrams. Therefore, the answer would not achieve a high score for content. However, pronunciation is clear and the speech contains very few long hesitations.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

▶ 233 This er lecture talks about, what, a focus group is and what major areas need to be pay attention to when you are planning to use a focus group, so first of all what is the perfect size of a ... focus group. Ideally it should be somewhere between six and seven. If it's too small, then you may not be able to get all the er, opinions you like. If the group is too large then the people might start to have some side conversation. And the second, key point is you need to have a moderator to facilitate and guide the discussion, and to make sure that the discussion is, well on— on the track.

Examiner's comments: This student gives a good overview of the first two of the lecture's three main points, the size of the focus groups, and the role of the moderator. Speech is very fluent and the answer would therefore receive a good score for this and for pronunciation. However, the answer does not mention the lecture's third main point, the need for materials such as photos and diagrams, and it does not develop further, so it would not receive maximum points.

3 Topic: Setting up a website**Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45**

▶ 234 So it is important if you want to, err start a website, err to understand the really value to, to do this. So the first one is, who is your target and what, what he need, and the second is accessibility, and the third one is retention. About accessibility, make sure that your site, should be finded in the last one [*unclear word*], make sure that information's exactly what the people need.

Examiner's comments: This student presents a good overview of the lecture's three main points about setting up a website – target audience, accessibility, and retention. However, the student does not fluently develop the answer and does not mention the implications of the lecture. In addition, pronunciation is very poor and it is often very difficult to understand what it is being said; for example, the student says that websites must be 'finded', instead of correctly saying 'found'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

▶ 235 The lecture is about setting up a website, and the, um, author is giving three main points that people need to focus about. First being who the target audience is, that is, um, group the people by what the people need, second being the accessibility of the website, that is, to make sure that the website can be found either by, links via other websites or the social media. And the third point would be, um retention. That is, to make sure that the target audience returns to the website and this can be achieved by um, keeping the website up-to-date, and having more interesting news so as ... [*cut*]

Examiner's comments: This student's response effectively describes all three main points of the lecture, and gives details about the first two main points. It would not receive a maximum score for content because it does not describe details about 'retention', the lecturer's third main point. Pronunciation and fluency are good, but the speech is clearly not native-like, so the student would not score maximum points for either skill.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

▶ 236 This er lecture talks about how to set out, a website and, add value to your website. So the most important thing is you need to know who your target audience is, what information that your audience might want to find on your website and the design, the content of the website need to be based on their needs. And the second thing need to consider, you need to consider is the accessibility. How your website can be found. Maybe the, the, you can provide links on other website or you can use a social media. And the third point is the retention, how you make sure that the, your user will be re— returning to your website.

Examiner's comments: This answer would receive a high score because it clearly describes the key points of the lecture, and provides details about each point – target audience, accessibility, and retention. Although all the key points are included accurately, it does not describe the implications of the lecture; for example, it does not mention that setting up a website requires lots of time. For this reason, the response would not achieve a maximum score. However, fluency and pronunciation are both very strong.

Test 1, Writing

Summarize written text

1 Topic: Tea

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55

The second most popular drink in the world after water is tea which mostly came from Asia because it requieres particular weather factors to grown up such as temperature, rainfall, diferent altitudes, and other kind of tress and vegetation around necessities to give the tea the best quiality.

Examiner's comments: Appropriately, this answer is one sentence and this student's response provides a fair summary of the passage's content. However, it does not include one key aspect – the fact that, after being originally grown in three countries, tea is now a major export for over 50 countries. In addition, this student's response has poor grammar ('to grown up') and spelling ('requieres', 'diferent', 'tress', and 'quiality'), which would reduce their score.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

Producing a good quality tea that is highly demanded by world's consumers requires certain growing conditions, such as a suitable weather environment and specific geographical features.

Examiner's comments: This response does not include one key aspect – the fact that, after being originally grown in three countries, tea is now a major export for over 50 countries. Although the answer is appropriately one sentence in length, it does not contain sufficient information to be an effective summary. On the other hand, the student has used a correct grammatical structure and a suitable choice of words.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

Having originally been grown in three countries, Tea is now produced in over fifty and behind only water it is one of the most popular drinks in the world, as it is used in social settings and appeals to a wide variety of tastes.

Examiner's comments: This student's summary of the passage has the appropriate length and contains accurate grammatical structure. The response also has appropriate choice of words and provides a strong summary of the passage's main points.

2 Topic: Over-fishing

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55

Currently people are trying to help the environment in order to preserve a balance in the ecosystem, and fishing is an activity that is every day is increasing since the demand of healthy meat rise around the world.

Examiner's comments: This answer's good points are its length (just one sentence), and the fact that it provides a fair summary of the passage. However, the summary does not make the link between fishing and protecting the earth clear. In addition, the student has made grammatical errors ('is every day is' and 'the demand of healthy meat rise') which could make his response difficult to understand. As there are no spelling mistakes, this student would receive the maximum spelling score.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

Along with preserving the planet, we should also be preserving fish as nowadays it considered as healthy compared to meat and its consumption has increased which can result to extinction because of overfishing and hence a negative effect on the ecosystems.

Examiner's comments: This answer provides a good summary of the passage's main points in one sentence and it makes the link between preserving fish and the environment reasonably clear. However, there are grammatical errors ('nowadays it considered') and mistakes with word choice ('can result to extinction') which would reduce the student's score.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

The consumption of fish has skyrocketed in the developed world, leading to overfishing and ultimately extinction and destruction of entire ecosystems.

Examiner's comments: This student's response provides a good summary of the main points of the passage in one sentence. In addition, it contains no grammatical errors or mistakes with vocabulary.

Test 1, Writing

Write essay

1 Topic: Increasing life expectancy

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

Can you imagine a world without any disease? In large part of the world the life expectancy are becoming increasingly concern and tough. Some people believe that the advances in medical care are the solution of the problems with ageing for men and women. In stark contrast, othesbelieve that it is just a excuse to make money as well as could bring some unknowndemagde to body. I firmly believe that the increase of life expentancy is a positive develop of human being. This issue warrants further discussion.

An obvious starting point is that with more years to live, all people will have more chance and time to do what they really what to do in their lifes. This is particularly relevant when you consider that is to unfair when in the past young people died before fulfill their dreams. A clear example of this is case of people who died just because the medicine do not know how to solve their desease.

It is often cited that if people live more, people just will suffer for more years. Whist, if all human being could live longer, they could take care more properly of health and do ...

Examiner's comments: This student's essay is incomplete and, therefore, would receive a low score for development, structure and coherence. As the last paragraph in the body of the essay is not finished, the student's last point is not easy to understand. There are frequent grammatical errors, such as 'the life expectancy are becoming' and 'when you consider that is to unfair when ...', and these errors prevent effective communication. The student would also lose points for frequent spelling mistakes and for the inadequate length of the essay (198 words).

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

Nowadays, medical science is well advanced and this has eventually led to the average life expectancy of human beings to increase. This of course has both its advantages and disadvantages. Let's talk about the latter.

The first disadvantage with an ageing population is that the society has to provide more for the old people in terms of benefits. Secondly the young people of nowadays can find it as a burden to look after the aged ones; and the longer they live, the longer they will have to be looked after. Also aged people tend to have health issues and as a matter of fact, that means that they need to be looked after. In the busy world that we live nowadays, this might not be always possible. Therefore aged people will end up being sent to homes and they might not like it. Also, more hospitals will be needed.

One personal example is my grandfather who passed away when I was a kid. He was quite old and due to a mixture of diseases he was suffering from, he needed someone to look after him all the time. He was quite fortunate to have someone by his side all the time.

As a conclusion, I would like to say that there is no point in increasing the life expectancy of human beings if they will end up suffering. I'd rather people die younger without having to suffer rather than living donkey years and having to suffer.

Examiner's comments: This student has dealt with the question quite well. The response clearly describes some disadvantages of an increasing life expectancy, and supports this point of view well with reasons and examples. However, the response does not deal directly with the question 'Do you think most people will see this as a positive development?' Although the essay mentions that young people find looking after old people a burden, this part of the essay could have been improved by stating that 'Most people think that this development is (not) a positive one'.

The student's choice of vocabulary is sufficient to provide a clear description, but the term 'donkey years' is inappropriately casual and vague. In order to achieve a maximum vocabulary score, the test taker would need to use more precise language. The essay has appropriate development, structure and cohesion. With 246 words, it has appropriate length.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

The average life expectancy has gone up, due to medical advances. This brings many issues with it, mostly financial and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

As birth rates all over the world have gone up and death rates have been steadily declining, an imbalance has been created, leaving the world overpopulated. Many ailments that simply didn't exist in the last century have now suddenly cropped up due to our increased lifespan. Contributions towards social health care will have to increase to accommodate this phenomenon. I've noticed over the past 10 years that medication for more and more illnesses aren't included in the "free" part of the public health system any more, and personal contributions have gone up.

In addition, the stereotype is that the elderly can't work, and this thinking will almost certainly be perpetuated in the workplace; this has (and will) put an enormous strain on benefits systems, as the work force will once again have to pay up. This has made the current recession very difficult to manage, as the majority of people have little disposable income left, and cannot afford to contribute more to the welfare state, myself included.

Lastly, housing will become an even bigger problem than it is, as younger people generally don't mind living in shared accommodation, whereas the elderly prefer not to. The only exception is when they live in care homes, due to physical restraints. This has effected me personally: when I wanted my own space, it was almost impossible to receive a house from the council as most of them were earmarked for the retired.

In conclusion, the increased life expectancy is creating massive problems globally.

Examiner's comments: The essay answers the questions effectively and supports the student's opinion with strong explanations and a wide variety of examples. There is good development and a logical structure. The essay also shows consistent control of complex language. The student's range of vocabulary is good enough to clearly express arguments and points of view. With 277 words, the essay is appropriate in length. However, the student would lose points for spelling mistakes ('effected' and 'accomodation') and a typing error ('ompossible').

2 Topic: Preparation for university or work

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

In Brazil you bargaing for this common statement: "Is better have your own business instead of do nothing at university". Some believe that it is extremely important that schools prepared pupils for university. I am of the opinion that it is relevant teach students how university works but also more important is prepare young people for a real life, for work. What are the consequences of take this instance?

In some countries it is often cited that is better to prepare young people for academic life rather than for professional life when they were just at school. However, it is extremaly relevant consider that student needs to know about work to be more prepared for the university as well. A clear illustration of this is students who do not know what they want to do for the rest of their lifes as well as spend years to finally find what they really like and are happy doing it.

On the other hand, it is not correct the student start in the university withou any preparation.

Examiner's comments: This student's response contains defective choices of words and spelling mistakes which make the response very difficult to understand from the first sentence onwards. The essay has no conclusion and, therefore, the student would receive a low score for development, structure and coherence. In addition, the essay is only 175 words, so it would not receive full points for length, which should be between 200 and 300 words.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 67

The following statement 'schools should prepare students for university, rather than for work' can be argued both ways. I personally think that schools should actually prepare students for both university and work.

The reasons why I believe that schools should prepare students for university are as follows. First of all, university is the next level after school and therefore, there is every reason for its preparation. As there is a big gap between school level and university level, the preparation will help to breach that gap. Also, at university level, there is less spoon feeding and more self study. So, if school children are prepared for that, it will help and this can lead to better results.

Schools should on the other hand, also prepare students for work. The gap between school and work is even bigger than the gap between school and university. As a matter of fact, preparing children for work at school level will help to shorten the gap between university and work. If students are at a young age being inbuilt with work values, this will help to develop better and more responsible students.

In a nutshell, I would say that school should be encouraged to prepare students for both university and work. This will have a positive impact on the individuals, thus helping them for the future.

Examiner's comments: This is a good essay which clearly shows the student's opinion and supports it with reasons and examples. The answer is appropriately divided into paragraphs and the introduction and conclusion are both written in a suitable style. With 222 words, the essay is also appropriate in length. The student has also used a wide range of language and grammatical structures, yet one or two points are slightly unclear, particularly in the second paragraph.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 89

I think that schools should prepare for work, rather than university as they are two completely different worlds, and often mutually exclusive.

School is meant to give you a solid grounding in life, from where you can flourish, whether it be further studies or work. It is a fact that most people will only spend a small part of their lives in university, and a larger proportion in the workforce. For instance, I spent roughly 6 years in university, and have spent many more years as a worker. Surely it makes more sense to pour resources into what will effect people for greater periods of time?

Also, a university does not guarantee a job; I know many people with impressive degrees, who simply cannot find any work due to lack of work experience. A lot of employers are also struggling due to what I call the "bitesize culture": Schools create unrealistic expectations for students because everything is being spoon fed. Managers simply have neither the time, nor the patience to spoon feed new recruits. This is especially noticeably when it comes to spelling and appropriate social behaviour

University is but one way to nurturing a successful life, and should be treated as such; in the current recession we see a lot less young people opting for university

Examiner's comments: This essay answers the questions effectively and supports the student's opinion with strong explanations and a wide variety of examples. There is good development and a logical structure. The essay also shows consistent control of complex language. The student's range of vocabulary is good enough to clearly express arguments and points of view. With 217 words, the essay is appropriate in length. However, the student would lose points for spelling mistakes ('will effect' and 'noticeably') and a grammar error ('one way to nurturing').

Test 1, Listening

Summarize spoken text

1 Topic: Technological nature

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 45

Nature's picture is real view of life. People who appretiate pictures of nature recover of stress. Exist two groups of people and both groups agree that nature picture is recovering.

Examiner's comments: This student's response is too short (only 30 words) and it omits the main aspect of the short lecture; it does not mention the comparison between real nature and a virtual picture of nature. The answer does mention one relevant aspect, the fact that the two groups agreed, but it contains very poor choices of vocabulary, such as 'recovering', which prevent effective communication. In addition, there is a spelling mistake, 'appretiate'. Therefore, this response would receive a very low score.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

The speaker talks about technological nature, which is used to produce a picture that seems real using computer graphics. A scene of nature for example could be beneficial for an ill person. However, when doing an experiment with two groups (one with a real view and another one with a virtual view), it is demonstrated that the recovery from stress is faster with the real view.

Examiner's comments: The student's response contains all of the main points from the short lecture and it is of appropriate length (66 words). However, some of the word choices are poor and unnatural; for example, the meaning of 'technological nature' could be explained more effectively. The answer contains appropriate grammatical structure.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

This lecture describes new technology using computer graphics to create virtual natural scenes and discusses to what extent such virtual images would have the same beneficial impact as the real natural scene. One study shows that the group with an authentic natural garden scene recovers much faster than the other group presented with a virtual one, which concludes that the virtual image cannot re-create the same effect as the real nature.

Examiner's comments: This student has summarised all the key points from the lecture. The grammatical structure used is appropriate and does not lead to problems in communication. The student has also selected suitable vocabulary for the summary. With 71 words, it is appropriate in length, and there are no spelling mistakes.

2 Topic: Memories in criminal trials

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 55

In criminals crimes there are various ways to investigate and look for details about the crime. Researchers found that if different people watch a video of the situation everybody describes different things and see other type of evidence. These is useful to obtain more details and information on a crime with the aim of solving it faster developing the process.

Examiner's comments: This student's answer provides a fair summary of the lecture. It correctly mentions that people who watch a video describe different things, but because of poor choice of vocabulary, it does not make the link of this fact to memory clear. The summary is also weak because it does not describe the importance of memory to criminal trials, which is one of the lecturer's main points. The length of the response is suitable, but it would also lose points for grammatical errors which hinder communication, such as 'These is useful'.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 74

In criminal trials, memory becomes an important factor, as witnesses are often used to prove evidence. However, memory can be unreliable if witnesses need to recall events that happen some time in the past. It has been demonstrated that when retelling events, witnesses may include objects that were never there in real. They may therefore distort reality.

Examiner's comments: This student's answer contains all the key points from the lecture, however, some mistakes with vocabulary would reduce the score. For example, the summary says that witnesses 'prove' evidence, whereas actually witnesses 'provide' evidence. It also says 'events that happen some time in the past', but this should be written in the past tense as 'happened'. With 57 words, the answer is a suitable length, and the choice of vocabulary is also appropriate.

Student's overall PTE Academic score: 77

In criminal courts, the prosecution or the defence usually have witnesses to testify for them. However, research has shown that human's memories are not as reliable as expected when new information is added. For example, the subjects are asked to re-tell what they see in a video, and they would describe something that is never included in the video when new idea or object is presented.

Examiner's comments: This student's summary has an appropriate number of words (66) and it describes all the main points from the short lecture, including the importance of memory in criminal courts and the results of the research. The choice of vocabulary and the use of grammar are both accurate, and the summary has no spelling mistakes.