

PTE Academic

Introduction

Overview

The ability to communicate effectively in English is crucial to academic success for university and college students in an English-speaking environment. The purpose of Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) is to accurately assess the listening, reading, speaking and writing ability of test takers who want to study at institutions where English is the principal language of instruction.

If you are a non-native speaker of English and need to demonstrate your academic English language ability, PTE Academic is the test for you. The test provides an accurate measure of a test taker's English language proficiency to ensure success in courses and active participation in university and college-level education where English is the language of instruction. Institutions will use the results of PTE Academic to determine the actual English language skills of applicants when making admission decisions.

The Language Testing division of Pearson, the world's leading education company, is responsible for the development of PTE Academic. Test development professionals involved in producing the test are based in several countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

PTE Academic has been developed in accordance with the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference (CEF or CEFR; Council of Europe, 2001), which is a widely accepted standard of ability or performance in language testing. Test items are also internationally approved to ensure that the test is representative of and measures international academic English.

Key features

Integrated skills items

As language skills do not occur in isolation, PTE Academic uses a variety of integrated skills item types to reveal how well you can use English language for oral and written communication. Integrated skills items are important for assessing English language proficiency because, in an academic environment, students are often required to combine several language skills to perform a task, for example, listening to or reading information and then responding orally.

PTE Academic test items are task-based, representing the range of functions and situations that you will encounter during academic studies in an English-speaking environment. For example, one item type asks you to demonstrate your understanding of a passage by providing a written summary, while another assesses your understanding of a lecture by asking you to retell the lecture. A different item type tests your ability to orally describe graphical information.

PTE Academic features 20 different item types, each assessing one language skill or a combination of language skills. Chapters 3–6 of the *Official Guide* describe each item type in terms of format, timing, expected response length and scoring criteria, and offer strategies to help you complete each item type.

Source materials

PTE Academic is designed to be representative of academic language demands within a university or college setting. Source materials used in PTE Academic are taken from real-life situations in an academic environment.

Reading texts

As a student at university and college level, you need to do a lot of skimming, scanning and critical reading to complete academic coursework and deal with campus situations. PTE Academic focuses on reading tasks across a wide range of topics and academic disciplines.

Reading texts used in PTE Academic include those of academic interest and those related to aspects of student life. Texts of academic interest include historical biographies and narratives, academic articles, book reviews, commentaries, editorials, critical essays, science reports and summaries, journal articles and scientific articles written for a general academic audience. Academic disciplines include arts, science, social studies, humanities, economics, business administration and more. You are not expected to have any prior knowledge of these academic disciplines. The test assesses your ability to comprehend information provided in a given text. Texts related to student life include instructions, course outlines, grant applications, notices, timetables and accommodation guides. Academic reading texts may be accompanied by graphic information.

Reading texts are taken from published sources, such as textbooks or websites containing useful information for academic audiences.

Audio recordings

Audio recordings include characteristics of actual speech, such as accents and dialects, fillers, hesitations, false starts, self corrections and variations in delivery speed. In academic settings, it is important that you understand a wide variety of spoken language across different situations. You need to follow different modes of lectures such as audio, video and audiovisual, despite differences in accent and delivery speed.

Recordings used in PTE Academic include audio recordings of academic interest and those related to aspects of student life. Recordings of academic interest include lectures, presentations, discussions, interviews, debates and speeches appropriate for a general academic audience. Academic disciplines include arts, science, social studies, humanities, economics, business administration and more. You are not expected to have any prior knowledge of these academic disciplines. The test assesses your ability to comprehend information provided in a given recording. Recordings related to student life include instructions, announcements and notices. A recording may be accompanied by visuals such as a presentation slide, providing information about the setting and clues about where the language is being used. Video recordings may also be included.

Recordings are taken from sources such as websites containing useful information for students, or based on actual speech samples from universities and colleges.

Test delivery

PTE Academic is a computer-based test that is delivered through Pearson's secure network of test centers. For a list of test center locations, refer to the Pearson website at www.pearsonpte.com.

You can register for PTE Academic online at www.pearsonpte.com and schedule your test at a time convenient for you. When you register, you will create a secure web account with a unique user name and password. Please refer to "Registration and scheduling" in Chapter 2 for detailed information.

Accessing your score report

After taking the test, you will be notified by email when your PTE Academic scores are available (normally within five business days from your test date). Using your account, you will be able to view your scores and send them to institutions of your choice (up to seven selections per test order). For further guidance on accessing your test results, please refer to the *Test Taker Handbook* available at www.pearsonpte.com.

Your test results will be presented in a score report. Please refer to "Scoring" in this chapter for details about the PTE Academic score report. Your test scores will be valid for up to two years from your test date. After two years your scores will no longer be valid.

Retaking the test

You can take the test as often as you wish, but you can only schedule one test at a time. Subsequent tests may be scheduled immediately after you receive your scores. If you take the test more than once, you can select which score to send to an institution. For further information, please refer to the *Test Taker Handbook* available at www.pearsonpte.com.

Structure

PTE Academic assesses all four language skills—listening, reading, speaking and writing. The test will last approximately three hours. This includes an untimed introduction to the test and one optional break of up to 10 minutes.

PTE Academic consists of three main parts. You will receive a general introduction to the test and specific instructions about what to expect in each part of the test. Each part may contain a number of sections. Each section is individually timed. The table below shows the test structure.

Part of test	Section	Item type	Time allowed
Introduction			not timed
Part 1: Speaking and writing	Section 1	Personal introduction	1 minute
	Section 2	Read aloud	30–35 minutes
		Repeat sentence	
		Describe image	
		Re-tell lecture	
		Answer short question	
	Sections 3–4	Summarize written text	20 minutes
Part 2: Reading	Section 5	Summarize written text or Write essay	10 or 20 minutes
	Section 6	Write essay	20 minutes
		Multiple-choice, choose single answer	32–41 minutes
		Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	
		Re-order paragraphs	
		Reading: Fill in the blanks	
		Reading & writing: Fill in the blanks	

Part of test	Section	Item type	Time allowed
Part 3: Listening	Section 1	Summarize spoken text	20 or 30 minutes
	Section 2	Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	23–28 minutes
		Fill in the blanks	
		Highlight correct summary	
		Multiple-choice, choose single answer	
		Select missing word	
		Highlight incorrect words	
		Write from dictation	

Part 1: Speaking and writing

In Part 1 you will be tested on your speaking and writing skills. You will have approximately 77–93 minutes to complete this part. The table below shows the speaking and writing part of the test.

Part 1: Speaking and writing		
Section	Item type	Time allowed
Section 1	Personal introduction	1 minute
Section 2	Read aloud	30–35 minutes
	Repeat sentence	
	Describe image	
	Re-tell lecture	
	Answer short question	
Sections 3–4	Summarize written text	20 minutes
Section 5	Summarize written text or Write essay	10 or 20 minutes
Section 6	Write essay	20 minutes

The minimum and maximum timings indicated for the sections in the speaking and writing part of PTE Academic do not add up to the total minimum and maximum times stated for this part of the test (77–93 minutes). This is because different versions of the test are balanced for total length. No test taker will get the maximum or minimum times indicated on all sections.

PTE Academic is an integrated skills test. Some item types in this part of the test also assess reading and listening skills.

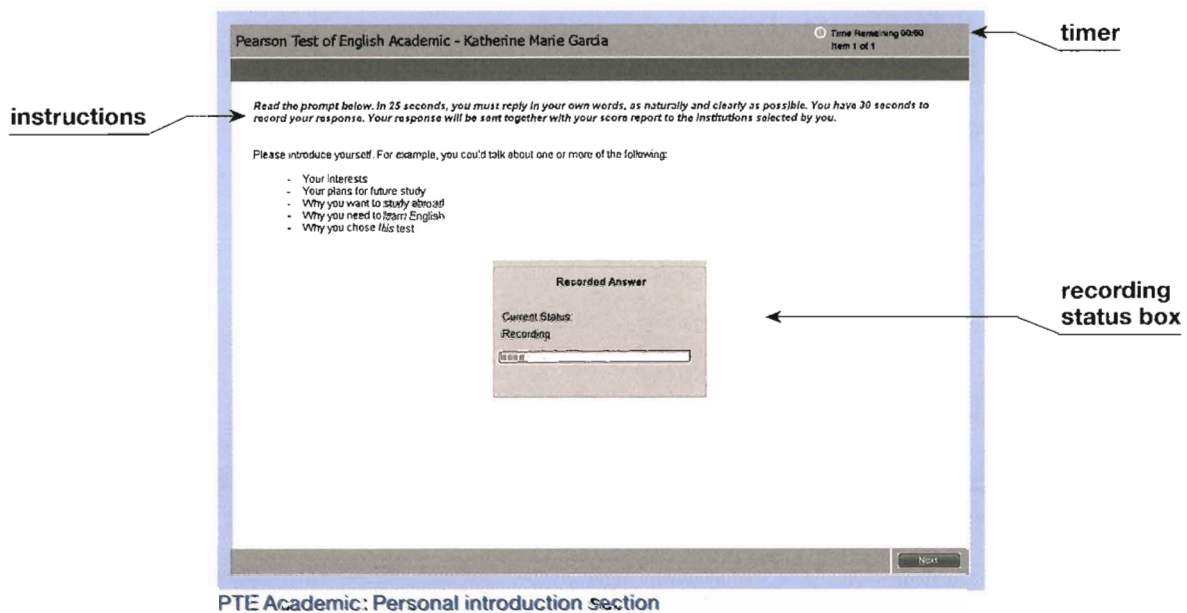
Section 1

In Section 1, before starting the scored part of the test, you will be asked to orally introduce yourself. You are not assessed on your performance in the Personal introduction section. Your response offers an additional security measure for institutions and provides some impression of you as a person to university admission officers. Your response will be sent together with your score report to the institutions you select.

You could talk about one or more of the following:

- your interests
- your plans for future study
- why you want to study abroad
- why you need to learn English
- why you chose PTE Academic

You will have 25 seconds to read the prompt and 30 seconds to record your response. The recording status box on screen will let you know when to start recording and when to complete your response. You must reply in your own words, as naturally as possible. You will not be able to re-record your response, so make sure you are ready to speak. The image below shows the Personal introduction section of the test.



Section 2

In Section 2, there is a single timed speaking section consisting of 35–42 independent and integrated skills items, depending on the combination of items in a given test. You will have approximately 30–35 minutes to complete this section. Different response formats are used in the speaking part of PTE Academic.

Sections 3–6

In Sections 3–6, there are three to four writing tasks, depending on the combination of items in a given test. Each task is in an individually timed section. Different response formats are used in the writing part of PTE Academic.

Part 2: Reading

In Part 2 you will be tested on your reading skills. You will have approximately 32–41 minutes to complete this part. The table below shows the reading part of the test.

Part 2: Reading	
Item type	Time allowed
Multiple-choice, choose single answer	32–41 minutes
Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	
Re-order paragraphs	
Reading: Fill in the blanks	
Reading & writing: Fill in the blanks	

This is a single timed part containing 15–20 independent and integrated skills items, depending on the combination of items in a given test. Different response formats are used in the reading part of PTE Academic.

PTE Academic is an integrated skills test. One item type in this part of the test also assesses writing skills.

Part 3: Listening

In Part 3 you will be tested on your listening skills. You will have approximately 45–57 minutes to complete this part. The table below shows the listening part of the test.

Part 3: Listening		
Section	Item type	Time allowed
Section 1	Summarize spoken text	20–30 minutes
Section 2	Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	23–28 minutes
	Fill in the blanks	
	Highlight correct summary	
	Multiple-choice, choose single answer	
	Select missing word	
	Highlight incorrect words	
	Write from dictation	

The minimum and maximum timings indicated for the sections in the listening part of PTE Academic do not add up to the total minimum and maximum times stated for this part of the test (45–57 minutes). This is because different versions of the test are balanced for total length. No test taker will get the maximum or minimum times indicated on all sections.

PTE Academic is an integrated skills test. Some item types in this part of the test also assess writing and reading skills.

Section 1

The first section in the listening part, *Summarize spoken text*, is an integrated skills item type that tests listening and writing skills. Two to three items of this type appear, depending on the combination of items in a given test.

Section 2

In Section 2, there is a single timed listening section consisting of 15–22 items, depending on the combination of items in a given test. You will have approximately 23–28 minutes to complete this section. Different response formats are used in the listening part of PTE Academic.

Since listening takes place in real time, PTE Academic assesses your ability to process spoken language in real time. Each recording is played only once. You can take notes using the Erasable Noteboard Booklet provided when listening to the recording, and use these notes as a guide to complete the tasks.

Scoring

All items in PTE Academic are machine scored. Scores for some item types are based on correctness alone, while others are centered on correctness, formal aspects and the quality of your response.

Formal aspects refer to the form of your response, for example, whether it is over or under the word limit for a particular item type, or whether it contains more than one sentence for an item type requiring a one-sentence response.

The **quality** of your response is represented in a number of additional skills called Enabling Skills. For example, in the item type *Re-tell lecture* your response will be scored on skills such as oral fluency and pronunciation. Scores for item types assessing speaking and writing skills are generated by automated scoring systems. For information about automated scoring, please refer to www.pearsonpte.com.

Types of scoring

There are two types of scoring.

► Correct or incorrect

Some item types are scored as either **correct** or **incorrect**. If your responses to these items are correct, you will receive the maximum score points available for each item type. If your responses are incorrect, you will receive no score points.

► Partial credit

Other item types are scored as **correct**, **partially correct** or **incorrect**. If your responses to these items are correct, you will receive the maximum score points available for each item type. If your responses are partially correct, you will receive some score points, but less than the maximum score points available for each item type. If your responses are incorrect, you will receive no score points. This type of scoring is referred to as “partial credit” scoring.

Three item types in the test are scored slightly differently to the others: Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers (Reading), Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers (Listening) and Highlight incorrect words. For these item types, if you get any answers wrong, points will be deducted. For example, if you score two points for two correct answers and then choose two wrong answers, your score will be zero ($2 - 2 = 0$). This does not apply to any other item types in the test.

The table below shows the item types that are scored as correct or incorrect, and where partial credit scoring applies.

Part of test	Item type	Skills assessed	Type of scoring
Part 1: Speaking and writing	Personal introduction	Not assessed	Unscored
	Read aloud	Reading and speaking	Partial credit
	Repeat sentence	Listening and speaking	Partial credit
	Describe image	Speaking	Partial credit
	Re-tell lecture	Listening and speaking	Partial credit
	Answer short question	Listening and speaking	Correct/incorrect
	Summarize written text	Reading and writing	Partial credit
	Write essay	Writing	Partial credit
Part 2: Reading	Multiple-choice, choose single answer	Reading	Correct/incorrect
	Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	Reading	Partial credit*
	Re-order paragraphs	Reading	Partial credit
	Reading: Fill in the blanks	Reading	Partial credit
	Reading & writing: Fill in the blanks	Reading and writing	Partial credit
Part 3: Listening	Summarize spoken text	Listening and writing	Partial credit
	Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	Listening	Partial credit*
	Fill in the blanks	Listening and writing	Partial credit
	Highlight correct summary	Listening and reading	Correct/incorrect
	Multiple-choice, choose single answer	Listening	Correct/incorrect
	Select missing word	Listening	Correct/incorrect
	Highlight incorrect words	Listening and reading	Partial credit*
	Write from dictation	Listening and writing	Partial credit

*Points deducted for incorrect answers

Types of scores

PTE Academic reports an overall score, communicative skills scores and enabling skills scores.

- **Overall score:** The overall score is based on your performance on all test items. For each item, the score you obtain contributes to the overall score. The score range for the overall score is 10–90 points.

- **Communicative skills scores:** The communicative skills measured are listening, reading, speaking and writing. The scores for integrated skills items (that is, those assessing reading and speaking, listening and speaking, reading and writing, listening and writing or listening and reading) contribute to the score for each of the communicative skills that the items assess. The score range for each communicative skill is 10–90 points.
- **Enabling skills scores:** The enabling skills measured are grammar, oral fluency, pronunciation, spelling, vocabulary and written discourse. The scores for enabling skills are based on your performance on only those items that assess these skills specifically. The score range for each enabling skill is 10–90 points.
 - **Grammar:** the correct use of language with respect to word form and word order at the sentence level
 - **Oral fluency:** the smooth, effortless and natural-paced delivery of speech
 - **Pronunciation:** the production of speech sounds in a way that is easily understandable to most regular speakers of the language. Regional or national varieties of English pronunciation are considered correct to the degree that they are easily understandable to most regular speakers of the language.
 - **Spelling:** the writing of words according to the spelling rules of the language. All national variations are considered correct, but one spelling convention should be used consistently in a given response.
 - **Vocabulary:** the appropriate choice of words used to express meaning, as well as lexical range
 - **Written discourse:** the correct and communicatively efficient production of written language at the textual level. Written discourse skills are represented in the structure of a written text, its internal coherence, logical development and the range of linguistic resources used to express meaning precisely.

The scores for enabling skills are not awarded when your responses are inappropriate for the items in either content or form. For example, if an essay task requires you to discuss global warming and you provide a response entirely devoted to the topic of fashion design, you will not receive any score points for writing or any of the enabling skills assessed by the item. In relation to form, if a task requires a one-sentence summary of a text and you give a list of words, you will not be awarded any score points for your response to that item.

Score report

The image on the next page shows an example PTE Academic score report that you will receive after you have completed the test. The report shows your overall score, communicative skills scores and enabling skills scores.

PTE Academic**Test Taker Score Report****Example Test Taker**

Test Taker ID: PTE123456789
Date of Birth: 06 January 1980
Country of Residence: United Kingdom
Country of Citizenship: United Kingdom
Gender: Male
Email Address: pltsupport@pearson.com
Registration ID: 123456789
Test Date: 13 September 2011
Test Centre Country: United Kingdom
Test Centre ID: 00001
First-Time Test Taker: Yes
Report Issue Date: 18 September 2011
Scores Valid Until: 13 September 2013



Test Taker Example
23200678

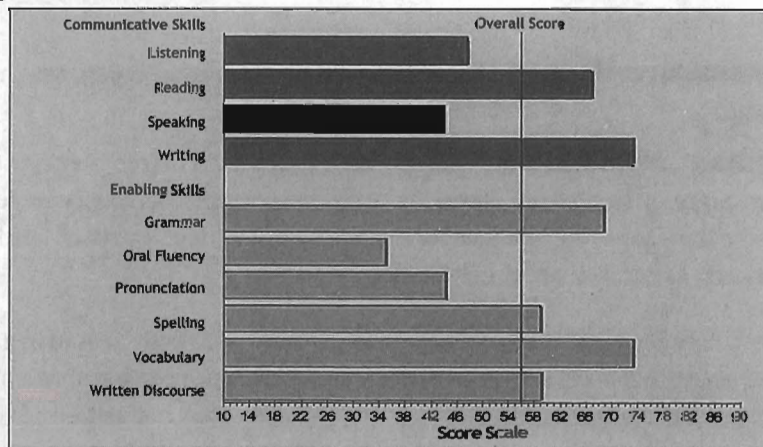
Overall Score: 90

The Overall Score for the PTE Academic is based on the test taker's performance on all items in the test. The scores for Communicative Skills and Enabling Skills are based on the test taker's performance on only those items that pertain to these skills specifically. As many items contribute to more than one Communicative or Enabling Skill, the Overall Score cannot be computed directly from the Communicative Skill scores or from the Enabling Skill scores. The graph below indicates this test taker's Communicative Skills and Enabling Skills relative to his or her Overall Score.

When comparing the Overall Score and the scores for Communicative Skills and Enabling Skills, please be aware that there is some imprecision in all measurement, depending on a variety of factors. For more information on interpreting PTE Academic scores, please refer to *Interpreting the PTE Academic Score Report* which is available at www.pearsonpte.com/pteacademic/scores.

Skills Profile

Communicative Skills	
Listening	51
Reading	69
Speaking	47
Writing	74
Enabling Skills	
Grammar	70
Oral Fluency	37
Pronunciation	47
Spelling	61
Vocabulary	74
Written Discourse	61



NOTE TO INSTITUTIONS: This score report is not valid unless authenticated on the PTE Academic Score Report Website: www.pearsonvue.com/ptescores.

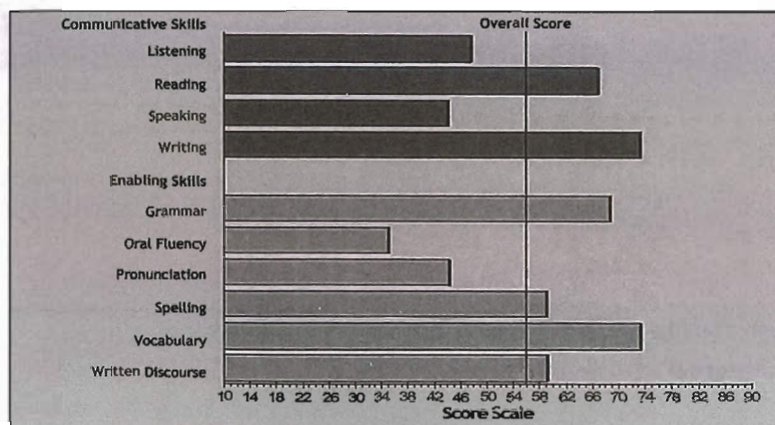
ALWAYS LEARNING

PEARSON

Example PTE Academic Test Taker Score Report

Score scale

The score scale on the example score report indicates that the minimum number of points awarded in PTE Academic is 10 and the maximum is 90.



A score of 10 indicates that you have demonstrated English at a level that is not adequate for communication purposes. Scores above 85 indicate an extremely high level of English, and one that is achieved by few language learners.

The score scale shows increments of four score points. For example, the next score after 10 is 14, then 18 and so on.

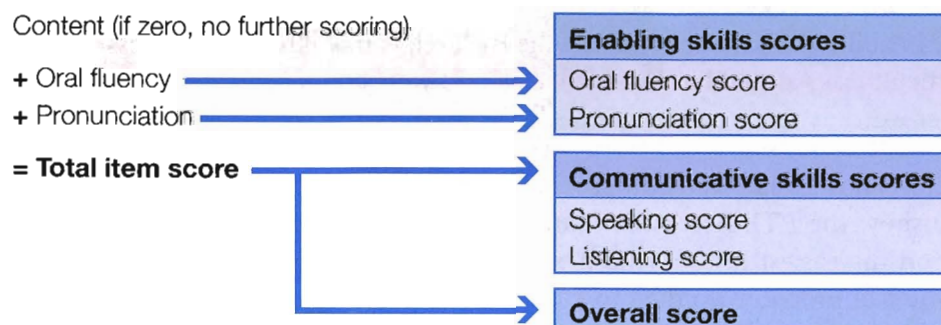
Item scoring

The diagram below illustrates how different types of scores reported in the PTE Academic score report are computed at the item level.

Integrated speaking item (assessing listening and speaking skills): *Re-tell lecture*

You will hear a lecture. After listening to the lecture, in 10 seconds, please speak into the microphone and retell what you have just heard from the lecture in your own words. You will have 40 seconds to give your response.

Your response is scored on:



The item is first scored on content. If you give no response or an irrelevant response, the content is scored as 0.

If you provide an acceptable response (that is, you receive a score for content), the item will be scored on two enabling skills: **oral fluency** and **pronunciation**.

The enabling skills scores—oral fluency and pronunciation—in addition to the content score, add up to the **total item score**.

Each enabling skills score assessed by the item contributes to the **enabling skills scores** reported for performance on the entire test.

The total item score contributes to the **communicative skills scores** for listening and speaking, as well as to the **overall score** reported for performance on the entire test.

PTE Academic scores and the Common European Framework

PTE Academic is aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEF or CEFR), a widely recognized benchmark for language ability. The CEF includes a set of language levels defined by descriptors of language competencies.

The six-level framework was developed by the Council of Europe (2001) to allow language learners, teachers, universities or potential employers to compare and relate language qualifications gained in different educational contexts.

The CEF describes language proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing on a six-level scale, grouped into three bands: A1–A2 (Basic User), B1–B2 (Independent User), C1–C2 (Proficient User).

For further information on the CEF descriptors of language competencies, see Appendix.

The explanation of this alignment is that to have a reasonable chance at successfully performing any of the tasks described at a particular CEF level, you must be able to show that you can do the average tasks at that level.

As you grow in ability, for example, within the B1 level, you will become successful at doing even the most difficult tasks at that level and will also find you can manage the easiest tasks at the next level. In other words, you are entering into the B2 level.

The table below shows PTE Academic scores aligned to the CEF levels A2 to C2. The dotted lines on the scale show the PTE Academic score ranges that predict that you are likely to perform successfully on the easiest tasks at the next higher level. For example, if you score 51 on PTE Academic, you can probably do the more difficult tasks in the CEF B1 level and the easier tasks at B2.

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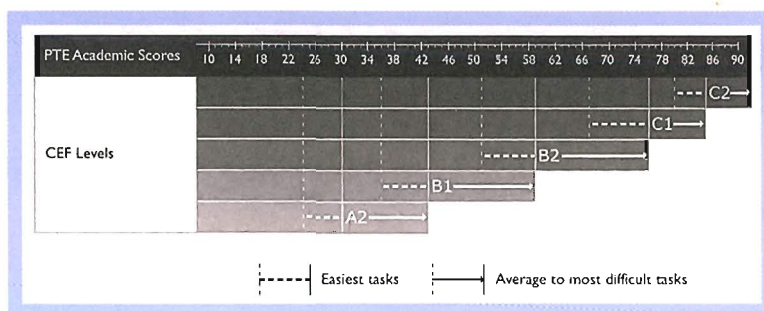
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As you grow in ability, for example, within the B1 level, you will become successful at doing even the most difficult tasks at that level and will also find you can manage the easiest tasks at the next level. In other words, you are entering into the B2 level.

The table below shows PTE Academic scores aligned to the CEF levels A2 to C2. The dotted lines on the scale show the PTE Academic score ranges that predict that you are likely to perform successfully on the easiest tasks at the next higher level. For example, if you score 51 on PTE Academic, you can probably do the more difficult tasks in the CEF B1 level and the easier tasks at B2.



Preliminary alignment of PTE Academic scores to CEF levels

Scores required

A score of **at least 36** is required for the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) Tier 4 visas for students wanting to study on a course below degree level.

A score of **at least 51** is needed for the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) Tier 4 visas for students who want to study on a course at or above degree level at an institution that is not a UK higher education institution.

If you want to study at degree level or above at a UK higher education institution, it is the university that decides on the score you will need. Our experience suggests that most universities in the United Kingdom, United States and Australia require for:

- **undergraduate studies** a minimum score **between 51 and 61**
- **postgraduate studies** a minimum score **between 57 and 67**
- **MBA studies** a minimum score **between 59 and 69**

For the latest information on score requirements, visit www.pearsonpte.com.

What PTE Academic scores mean

PTE Academic alignment with the CEF can only be fully understood if it is supported with information showing what it really means to be 'at a level.' In other words, are you likely to be successful with some or all the tasks, even the most difficult ones, at a particular level? The table below shows which PTE Academic scores predict the likelihood of you performing successfully on the easiest, average and most difficult tasks within CEF levels A2 to C2.

PTE Academic scores predicting the likelihood of successful performance on CEF level tasks

CEF level	Easiest	Average	Most difficult
C2	80	85	NA
C1	67	76	84
B2	51	59	75
B1	36	43	58
A2	24	30	42

For example, if your PTE Academic score is 36, this predicts that you will perform successfully on the easiest tasks at B1. From 36 to 43, the likelihood of successfully performing the easiest tasks develops into doing well on the average tasks at B1. Finally, reaching 58 predicts that you will perform well at the most difficult B1 level tasks.

You can use the table below to find out what PTE Academic scores in the range 10 to 84 (A1 to C1) mean. It shows the score ranges that predict some degree of performance at the next level, and it explains what you are likely to be able to do within those score ranges.

PTE Academic score	Common European Framework level	Level Descriptor © Council of Europe	What does this mean for a score user?
76–84	C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts and recognize implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.	C1 is a level at which a student can comfortably participate in all post-graduate activities, including teaching. It is not required for students entering university at undergraduate level. Most international students who enter university at a B2 level would acquire a level close to or at C1 after living in the country for several years, and actively participating in all language activities encountered at university.

PTE Academic score	Common European Framework level	Level Descriptor © Council of Europe	What does this mean for a score user?
59–75	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialization. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.	B2 was designed as the level required to participate independently in higher level language interaction. It is typically the level required to be able to follow academic instruction and to participate in academic education, including both coursework and student life.
51–58	Predicts success on easiest tasks at B2	Has sufficient command of the language to deal with most familiar situations, but will often require repetition and make many mistakes. Can deal with standard spoken language, but will have problems in noisy circumstances. Can exchange factual information on familiar routine and non-routine matters within his/her field with some confidence. Can pass on a detailed piece of information reliably. Can understand the information content of the majority of recorded or broadcast material on topics of personal interest delivered in clear standard speech.	

PTE Academic score	Common European Framework level	Level Descriptor © Council of Europe	What does this mean for a score user?
43–58	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics, which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.	B1 is insufficient for full academic level participation in language activities. A student at this level could 'get by' in everyday situations independently. To be successful at communication in university settings, additional English language courses are required.
36–42	Predicts success on easiest tasks at B1	Has limited command of language, but it is sufficient in most familiar situations provided language is simple and clear. May be able to deal with less routine situations on public transport e.g., asking another passenger where to get off for an unfamiliar destination. Can re-tell short written passages in a simple fashion using the wording and ordering of the original text. Can use simple techniques to start, maintain or end a short conversation. Can tell a story or describe something in a simple list of points.	

PTE Academic score	Common European Framework level	Level Descriptor © Council of Europe	What does this mean for a score user?
30–42	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g., very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.	A2 is an insufficient level for academic level participation.
10–29	A1 or below	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.	A1 is an insufficient level for academic level participation.

In Chapters 3–6 of the *Official Guide*, you will practice PTE Academic item types and compare your responses with sample responses rated at the CEF levels C1, B2 and B1. This will allow you to evaluate your current proficiency level and assess any progress you make by studying English.