

Pearson Test of English (Edexcel)

PTE General

Level 3 (Upper Intermediate)

Written test (Listening, Reading and Writing Sections): 2 hours

SECTION 1



You will have 10 seconds to read each question and the corresponding options. Then listen to the recording. After the recording you will have 10 seconds to choose the correct option.

Put a cross (X) in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.

Example: Who are the speakers?

- A** Simon's siblings
- B** Simon's friends
- C** Simon's colleagues

1. Who is the speaker?

- A** a police officer
- B** an ambulance driver
- C** a firefighter

2. What is the speaker really saying?

- A** You might not be as good as you think you are.
- B** Everyone's jealous of you.
- C** It's still important to keep on working hard.

3. What are the speakers discussing?

- A** a health spa
- B** a hospital
- C** a hotel

4. Who is he?

- A** a prisoner
- B** a prison officer
- C** a lawyer

5. How is the woman feeling?

- A** uncertain
- B** unprepared
- C** confident

6. Who is he?

- A** an actor
- B** a referee
- C** a musician

7. What is she trying to do?

- A** disagree
- B** complain
- C** persuade

8. Why don't the speakers want Bob to be team leader?

- A** He isn't keen enough on the work that the team does.
- B** He doesn't inspire the other team members enough.
- C** The work he does isn't good enough.

9. What is the speaker really saying?

- A** You should think again about your choice of pet.
- B** Your parents will end up looking after the snake.
- C** You shouldn't have too many pets.

10. What is she doing?

- A** complaining
- B** apologising
- C** making excuses

(10 marks)

SECTION 2



You will hear a recording about people helping others. Listen to the whole recording once. Then you will hear the recording again with pauses for you to write down what you hear. Make sure you spell the words correctly.

11. _____

(10 marks)

SECTION 3



You will hear a conversation. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the conversation.

Example: The girl is talking to her mother about her friend's _____ puppies _____.

12. The girl, Tracy, thinks the puppies are _____.
13. Tracy says she can get dog food with her _____.
14. Janet's dog gets its exercise in _____.
15. _____ can cost pet owners a lot of money.
16. Janet offered to do some _____ around the house.



You will hear a talk. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the talk.

Example: It is likely that people first wanted cats in their homes to get rid of _____ mice and rats _____.

17. People also liked having cats for _____.
18. Cats can hear well because of the way their ears _____.
19. A cat's sense _____ lets it know if food is not safe to eat.
20. A cat uses its whiskers to feel things on _____ of it.
21. A cat uses its tail to help it keep its _____.

(10 marks)

SECTION 4



Read each text and put a cross (X) by the missing word or phrase, as in the example.

Example.

Our mission is to encourage other young people to join us in doing volunteer work within our local community, to help _____, the elderly and disadvantaged children, as well as to draw attention to social problems.

- A the homeless
 B our organisation
 C the public

22. This autobiography is not simply the story of a shepherd, his sheepdogs and his _____. It is also a humorous account of life on an English farm.

- A herd
 B flock
 C pack

23. These audio books are not just designed for the blind or short-sighted. For elderly readers who have also become _____, we have recorded our books using only professional actors with clear, interesting and attractive voices.

- A hard at listening
 B hard to hear
 C hard of hearing

24. Anyone interested in working at the animal refuge should send their completed _____ together with their CV to our Human Resources Department by 1 pm on Friday 13th March.

- A appeal
 B application
 C request

25. If you inform us within seven days that you are not satisfied with your purchase, we shall _____ your money in full.

- A exchange
 B replace
 C refund

26. Due to the stormy weather that has been forecast for this Friday, the windsurfing competition has been _____ until the following week.

- A postponed
 B cancelled
 C reformed

(5 marks)

SECTION 5



Read the passage and answer the questions. Put a cross (X) in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.

Some people might be frightened of bees, but farmers certainly know what a valuable role they play in nature. Pollen is a powder, produced by plants, that may be carried to other plants of the same type by the wind or by insects. There, the pollen fertilises the plant, which means that it enables the plant to produce seeds. Bees collect pollen and nectar from plants to feed their young and, in doing so, they take it to other plants. Farmers and plant lovers therefore consider bees to be invaluable.

Of course, bees benefit from plants, since the pollen and nectar are what they eat. In turn, people take advantage of bees. For thousands of years, people have encouraged bees to live near them. Beeswax, the substance that bees produce to build the hives they live in, is used to make candles, furniture polish and lipstick, and it can be used for waterproofing cloth. The honey that bees make from nectar is a sweet, energy-rich food for which people will pay a lot of money. Indeed, having a jar of honey used to be a sign of great wealth.

Beekeepers value their bees not only for their honey and wax, but also for royal jelly. Bees produce this to feed their young in their earliest stage (as "larvae"). Royal jelly is particularly rich in vitamins and proteins, so it is also of great value to people with certain health problems. Honey is also thought to have health benefits, and it is often used in cough syrups and some other medicines.

For all these reasons, beekeeping is an important activity. However, some of us are not happy to see bees buzzing around. Indeed, it can make sense to fear being stung by a bee because some people, who are allergic to bee stings, can be killed by the poison in a sting. For most of us, however, it is a painful experience, but nothing more serious. It is important to remember that bees only sting to defend themselves: a bee (apart from a queen bee, which only stings other queen bees) loses its sting the first time it is used, and then it dies. Only female bees (worker bees) have stings.

Example.

Which statement about pollen is true?

- A** It is only produced on farms.
- B** Bees and people eat it.
- C** Plants make pollen to help create more plants.

27. Which statement about beeswax is not true?

- A People use it in make-up.
- B It is an important material for builders.
- C It is used to make certain types of clothes.
-

28. What is true about honey?

- A It can be used to polish furniture.
- B Bees use nectar to make it.
- C It used to be a very cheap food.
-

29. What does the writer say about royal jelly?

- A It has high nutritional value.
- B It is only produced by very young bees.
- C People mainly use it in cough medicine.
-

30. Why might certain people be particularly scared of bees?

- A They may have a medical condition which means they react badly to bee stings.
- B They may have an allergy to buzzing sounds.
- C They may have a medical condition that attracts bees.
-

31. What is true about someone who is stung by a bee?

- A They are likely to die.
- B They must have annoyed a large male bee.
- C They probably threatened the bee in some way.

(5 marks)

SECTION 6



Read the article below and answer the questions.

Education in Brazil

Brazilian parents are no different from parents all around the world; they want their children to have a good education that will prepare them well for life. In Brazil, however, the education system is struggling to provide such an education for many of its fifty million children. The percentage of children actually finishing high school is extremely small. What's more, those children that do finish frequently have insufficient knowledge in the two basic areas of language and mathematics. In a study comparing children from 65 countries, conducted in 2009, Brazilian students came bottom in reading, mathematics and science.

Now, private companies across Brazil are offering hope to Brazilian students by setting up schools, many of which provide free education, well-trained teachers and modern state-of-the-art facilities. However, it is still not easy to provide education in all of the isolated communities in this vast country.

Example: What do all parents want?

_ a good education for their children _

32. What proportion of Brazilian children graduate from high school?

33. What subjects do Brazilian school leavers often lack skills in?

34. According to the 2009 survey, what subjects were Brazilian students the worst in?

35. Where might people who don't have access to education live?

SECTION 6 *continued*

Read the article from your local newspaper below and answer the questions.

Time for Others

The mayor of Dursk, Ann Bennett, has officially opened the *Time for Others Social Network*. So far, forty-five people of different ages have registered with the Network to offer their services. These volunteers may take elderly people or others with, for example, mobility problems, to a doctor's appointment, pick up their shopping, or even do some housework, cooking or gardening for them.

Ms Bennett has pointed out that, although we expect social services to run smoothly and solve our problems, as members of society we can also offer support to those in need. *Time for Others* volunteers believe that they can improve the quality of life in Dursk. Not only can the people being helped benefit, but volunteers get plenty of satisfaction from their work and make new friends.

Example: How many volunteers has *Time for Others* got?

 forty-five -----

36. What might a volunteer get for someone they are helping?

37. What does Ms Bennett say people expect certain government organisations to do?

38. What do the volunteers want to make better?

39. What can this voluntary work offer to those who carry it out?

(8 marks)

SECTION 7



Read the web article about gaining work experience and complete the notes.
Write no more than three words from the article in each gap.

Summer Jobs or Work Experience?

It is common practice for students to seek holiday work. Often, they do this in order to save up for something that they really want, like a computer or a foreign holiday. However, when they have a particular career in mind, instead of going to wash dishes in a restaurant or serving customers in a café, they sometimes try to find a job that can give them experience in their field of interest.

In most cases, unless you happen to have the right connections (for example, a family friend with their own business), it can be almost impossible to find a job related to the career that you want to pursue. There is, however, another way of doing this, although it will only usually work if you can rely on support from your family. That is to gain work experience by doing unpaid work, working alongside a professional in the field.

For instance, if archaeology is your passion, you can work on a dig under the supervision of a trained archaeologist. Someone interested in, say, photography or surveying, could offer to go round with the professional, carrying equipment and helping to set it up. What could be more satisfying for an animal lover than to accompany a real-life vet on visits to farms, and to feed and care for the animals that are being treated at the surgery? Some lawyers and journalists would be happy to get help with their files and online research, and an accountant might appreciate assistance with some of the simpler, more boring book-keeping jobs.

What can an unpaid student gain from such experiences? Apart from having the opportunity to find out whether their "dream career" is what they really want, and discovering something about the work, they can achieve something else which may be even more valuable: they can show a professional how useful they may be to them, and prove how honest, reliable and hard-working they are. If the professional values the student's work and likes them as a person, this may lead to similar work in the future, offering the student the chance to learn even more and become better at the job. Another advantage of this type of work is that, when a student has some practical experience, this can help them to understand their coursework more easily and appreciate the relationship between their lessons and real life.

Example: Looking for _____ holiday work _____ is quite widespread among students.

40. Students who are thinking about _____ may aim for relevant work experience.

41. Some students offer to do _____ in order to learn from a professional.

42. The best place for an archaeology student to get experience is _____.

43. A person interested in animals could assist vets on their rounds or at _____.

44. Some students with internet experience might be able to do _____ for certain professionals.

45. If the professional is impressed by the student's personal qualities, it might lead to _____
for the student at a later date.

46. Students with _____ may have a better understanding of what they are learning in class.

(7 marks)

SECTION 8



Use the information in Section 7 to help you write your answer.

47. You have read the web article about work experience. Your cousin Laura is a student who wants to find a summer job in her hometown, especially if it is related to the profession she is interested in. Write an email to Laura. Write 90 – 120 words and include the following information:

- the type of job she should be looking for
- what she could hope to achieve from doing this job
- the steps she should take to find a suitable job

(10 marks)

SECTION 9



Choose **one** of the topics below and write your answer in 150 – 200 words.

Either:

48. **A** Write an essay on the following topic:

Our society benefits in different ways when people do voluntary work.
Should young people be made to do some form of unpaid work in their community?

Or:

48. **B** Write an article in response to the following advertisement:

Animal Magic

We are looking for articles about pets. Write an article describing your pet, how you look after it, and the ways in which having a pet has improved your life.

(10 marks)

SECTION 12



SECTION 13

The situation: Your teacher is one of your parents. You have asked your parents to let you have a pet dog, but they don't think this is a good idea.

Your goal: You want to persuade your parents to change their minds.

End of Examination

Good morning/afternoon. My name's _____

Could you tell me your name, please?

SECTION 10 (1.5 minutes)

[Put one of the main prompts to the student and allow them to speak continuously for up to 1 minute. Use the related follow-up prompts to encourage them to continue talking.]

Now I'd like you to speak on your own for about 1 minute.

Main prompt 1: Tell me about the best holiday you've ever had and why you enjoyed it so much.

Follow-up prompts:

- Who would you rather go on holiday with: your friends or your family? Why?
- How can you learn about the culture of a place you are visiting?
- How could you practise your English if you were on holiday in a country where people speak English?
- Would you like to go on a camping holiday? Why/Why not?

Main prompt 2: Can you tell me about your favourite hobby or pastime?

Follow-up prompts:

- How important is it for you to spend your free time with friends? Why?
- Do you like art or other creative hobbies? Why/Why not?
- Is there a pastime that you have tried that you didn't enjoy? Why didn't you enjoy it?
- Do you think you could make a career out of your hobby?

Main prompt 3: How important are computers in your life?

Follow-up prompts:

- Apart from playing computer games, what can young people use computers for?
- Do you think that young people spend too much time using computers? Why/Why not?
- What sorts of problems might you have if you spend time in online chatrooms?
- Apart from computers, what do you think, is the most important electronic device? Why?

Main prompt 4: What would be your ideal job? Why?

Follow-up prompts:

- What are the important characteristics of a job, apart from the amount of money you get paid?
- Would you like to work for yourself? Why/Why not?
- Do you think that English will be important in your working life?
- Is it a good idea for students to work part-time while they are at school? Why/Why not?

SECTION 11 (2 minutes)

Now we are going to discuss something together. The question is:

- “Does having a pet make people feel more relaxed and happier?”
What do you think?

[Use the following arguments as appropriate to take an opposing point of view to that of the student.]

For having a pet:

- A pet can provide company for someone who lives alone.
- Stroking a pet may make someone feel calm and relaxed.
- Having a pet in the house might make someone feel safer.
- Having a pet can teach you to be responsible.
- You may make friends more easily with people who have similar pets to yours.

Against having a pet:

- Having a pet can be a big responsibility (feeding, exercise, etc).
- A pet owner may find it difficult to go away on holiday or go out for entertainment.
- You may feel very sad if your pet dies.
- It may not be hygienic to have a pet in the house.

SECTION 12 (1.5 minutes)

Now, here are two pictures showing people at work. Please tell me what you can see in the pictures.



[Hand a copy of the pictures (page 194) to the student.]

[Allow the student to speak for about 1 minute, then put this secondary prompt.]

Which of these jobs would you rather have? Why?

[Retrieve the pictures.]

SECTION 13 (2 minutes)

Now we are going to take part in a role play. Here is a card with the situation on it.

[Hand a copy of the card (page 194) to the student.]

[Allow the student up to 15 seconds to study the card.]

Student's role card

The situation: Your teacher is one of your parents. You have asked your parents to let you have a pet dog, but they don't think this is a good idea.

Your goal: You want to persuade your parents to change their minds.

Examiner's Script

The situation: I am one of your parents. You have asked us to let you have a pet dog, but we don't think it's a good idea.

Alright? I'll start.

- It's not easy to look after a pet, and to be honest, we think you would soon get bored with it.
- Think of your bedroom. You never make your bed, and we always have to ask you to tidy it.
- Even if you do look after it, our house is too small for a dog. And it will need to go out for exercise every day.
- We would never be able to go away on holiday. Who would look after it?

[Retrieve the card.]

Thank you. That is the end of the test.

SECTION 1

You will have 10 seconds to read each question and the corresponding options. Then listen to the recording. After the recording you will have 10 seconds to choose the correct option.

Put a cross in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.

Example:**Listen to the conversation. Who are the speakers?**

M: Simon's been acting strangely lately, hasn't he?

F: Yeah, he has. I wonder if it's got anything to do with his new job.

M: You might be right. His behaviour began to change when he started working there. I hadn't made the connection.

F: Maybe I should talk to his sister. They're pretty close, and she might know more about what's going on.

The correct answer is B.

1 Listen to the woman talking. Who is the speaker?

F: Like all members of the emergency services, I regularly attend courses that are designed to improve my fast driving skills, my first aid skills and my ability to assess how serious any situation is. We have to stay cool and calm at all times. Obviously, it's always a relief when the patient is safely delivered to the true professionals.

2 Listen to the man speaking. What is the speaker really saying?

M: We're all thrilled for you. It must be fantastic to see your name in huge letters at cinemas and theatres, and to have your photo in all the papers. But remember, an actor is only ever as good as his last performance.

3 Listen to the conversation. What are the speakers discussing?

F: So, how many days will you be staying there?

M: A whole week! I'll take things easy and relax.

F: Well, I don't think it will be a holiday exactly.

M: Okay, but I'll meet lots of other people, and get plenty of fresh air.

F: Yes, but you'll have to follow the rules. Remember, it's a case of "what the doctor's ordered", whether there actually are any doctors there or not.

4 Listen to the man talking. Who is he?

M: Yet another day in the prison. It's such a dull, depressing place, with its dark stone walls and little windows with iron bars. It may be okay for those who have keys, but it's a different feeling when you don't. It could be worse, though. I see my clients, do my job and then I head back to the office.

5 Listen to the conversation. How is the woman feeling?

M: Are you ready then?

F: As ready as I'll ever be, I suppose.

M: Well, you've been training for this day for what seems like years. You'll do fine.

F: I'm glad you think so. It's just that actually doing it for real is a whole new ball game.

6 Listen to the man talking. Who is he?

M: You know, I was really nervous about it the first time. I could hear the crowd singing and chanting, and I was quite anxious about going out onto the pitch under the lights with everyone's eyes on me. I'd changed out of my everyday clothes and was all dressed up to do my job. At one point I panicked and nearly swallowed my whistle!

7 Listen to the girl speaking. What is she trying to do?

F: You know that I've saved up enough money to get a parrot, and that I've already learnt a lot about looking after them. I wouldn't expect you or Mum to do anything. And, I think Gran would be pleased. She's often in the house on her own, and I'm sure she feels lonely sometimes.

8 Listen to the conversation. Why don't the speakers want Bob to be team leader?

F: So, we're in agreement that Bob shouldn't be the new team leader, are we?

M: Yes, I know he's better qualified than anyone else here, but that's not the only thing that we have to consider.

F: We can't say that he isn't organised or doesn't take enough interest in his work.

M: True. But it's important to have someone who can motivate the others.

F: Yeah, I know. And that's the one thing he can't do.

9 Listen to the statement. What is the speaker really saying?

F: You do realise that you'll have to keep live rats or mice to feed the snake with, don't you? At least, that's the proper thing to do, and your parents must want you to do everything correctly, surely? Look, maybe you should check with them first, and also do a bit of research on snakes as pets, just to make sure.

10 Listen to the woman speaking. What is she doing?

F: I'm sorry I suggested your taking part in this. If I'd known what your contribution would be, I'd never have mentioned it to you. Well, it's no good crying over spilt milk. But one thing's for sure: I've learnt my lesson, and I'm not going to be relying on you again.

SECTION 2

11 You will hear a recording about people helping others. Listen to the whole recording once. Then you will hear the recording again with pauses for you to write down what you hear. Make sure you spell the words correctly.

The number of people in Britain / choosing to carry out voluntary work / is on the increase. / A large number of these volunteers are people who / have recently retired and now find themselves / with plenty of free time. / Accordingly, they are happy to spend time / helping others and improving their community.

SECTION 3

You will hear a conversation. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the conversation.

Girl: Mum! Guess what! Janet's dog's just had puppies, and I stopped off at her house to see them. They're beautiful! She's offered to give me one of them.

Woman: Well, that sounds very exciting, Tracy, but you can't just say "yes" and bring home a puppy.

Girl: I know that, Mum. That's why I'm talking to you. Janet's already explained how much work she has to do to look after her dog. She gets the same amount of pocket money as I do, and she can feed the dog with that.

Woman: It's not just a matter of food, you know. Dogs need plenty of exercise, and our garden is tiny.

Girl: But the park's huge! Janet takes her dog there every day. We could go together.

Woman: There are other expenses too. The vet's bills can be expensive, and you'd need to have the dog trained.

Girl: I've been thinking about vet's bills. Maybe I could do more household chores to help you out and earn some money. And you know Janet's big brother, Tom. Well, he's a qualified dog trainer. She said that he would help me out with training the dog.

Woman: I don't know... we'll see. Let's talk again tomorrow.

You will hear a talk. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the talk.

M: People have kept cats for thousands of years: probably, at first, to kill the mice and rats that went into people's houses and food stores, but soon they found that their cats could get close to people and keep them company.

Cats are great hunters, and their bodies are well developed for this purpose. Their ears are shaped to pick up lots of sounds, so they have excellent hearing. Their noses can identify other animals and food, while their sense of taste will tell them if something is bad to eat. A cat's eyesight is one of its most important hunting tools. Cats have very large eyes for their size. Also, they can see well whether it's dark or light.

A cat's whiskers are another excellent tool for hunting in the dark. With its whiskers, a cat can feel its way past whatever is on either side of its head, and so it knows whether a space is wide enough for it to go through.

Cats' sharp teeth and claws are essential for hunting. They keep their claws sharp by pulling them into their paws when they aren't needed. Finally, cats' tails give them excellent balance, so they can move quickly without falling.