

Pearson Test of English General

Practice Test 2: Written Test

Level 4
Advanced



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Please check the table below for the total time given to complete the written test at this level and score points available for each section. Please use the accompanying audio files for sections 1-3. Answer keys and transcripts are provided at the back of this document.

Sections	Skills	Score points	Level A1	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
1	Listening	10	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 35 mins	1 hour 35 mins	2 hours	2 hours 30 mins	2 hours 55 mins
2	Listening and Writing	10						
3	Listening	10						
4	Reading	5						
5	Reading	5						
6	Reading	8						
7	Reading	7						
8	Writing	10						
9	Writing	10						

The written test is scored out of **75 points** in total at all levels. Please see the *Guide to PTE General* at this level for further information.

Please note: The design of the practice tests is not identical to actual PTE General tests.

SECTION 1

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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. This is an extract from

- A an announcement.
- B an advertisement.
- C a message.

1. Sheila is talking to her

- A bank manager.
- B boss.
- C colleague.

2. Martin is a

- A fireman.
- B paramedic.
- C diver.



3. This excerpt is from a

- A radio broadcast.
 - B cinema film.
 - C TV broadcast.
-

4. Mrs Banks wants a

- A job.
 - B loan.
 - C lesson.
-

5. The second speaker

- A was over-confident about finding a job.
 - B knew she would find it hard to find a job.
 - C is determined to find a job in three months.
-

6. The speaker thinks the book is

- A scientific.
- B funny.
- C dreadful.



7. The speaker is talking about a/an

- A hiking holiday.
 - B sports contest.
 - C exploration trip.
-

8. The speaker is persuading a friend to

- A withdraw money from a bank.
 - B share the cost of a journey.
 - C use less petrol in the car.
-

9. The people were said to have died because they

- A robbed a pharaoh.
 - B disturbed a tomb.
 - C placed a curse.
-

10. The speaker is

- A presenting a TV programme.
- B giving a university lecture.
- C hosting a radio show.

Leave
blank

(10 marks)



SECTION 3

Leave blank



You will hear a recording from a lecture on how to give a presentation. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the lecture. You will hear the recording twice.

Example. Choose *appropriate* clothes.

- 12 Check how to use the.....
- 13 Don't speak too quietly –your voice.
- 14 Not too much.....language.
- 15 Don't include what is not.....
- 16 Prepare.....to give out.



SECTION 3 CONTINUED

Leave
blank



You will hear an announcement. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the announcement. You will hear the recording twice.

Example. The company specialises in *hologram / holographic technology*.

- 17 An advantage of this is.....
- 18 It is expected to be ready for household use in.....
- 19 The product demonstration is on.....
- 20 To get a free ticket you need to fill in a.....with your details.
- 21 The ticket is for you and

(10 marks)

That is the end of the listening section of the test. Now go on to the other sections of the test.



SECTION 4

Leave blank



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

Example.

The value of older books is determined by many of the same criteria as modern books – condition, content, and edition. Many people think that just because a book is old, it is valuable, but a book has no collectible value by

- A age alone
- B normal standards
- C today's collectors

22.

Is your current broadband deal failing to meet your needs? We offer a choose-your-installation option, superfast speeds, unlimited downloads and great value! Why not take of our great starter packages at £6.99 a month? It's easy to switch, and there's a money-back guarantee if not satisfied!

- A heed
- B advantage
- C possession



23.

Paleontologists have unearthed fossilized giant crocodiles in the Sahara desert, dating them at around 100 million years old. Several species have been discovered, with some having apparently had an erect stance which gave them the ability to 'gallop', in their contemporary relatives, which when on land can only crawl.

- A contrast to
- B common with
- C opposition to

24.

To configure your handset for incoming email access is relatively uncomplicated, since incoming mail is authenticated by your user credentials. You will need to with your computer in order to access your data.

- A tune your radio
- B synchronize your phone
- C calibrate your camera

25.

To purchase online, choose 'Ordering online' and select product, click 'Add to shopping basket' to store product. When you've completed your shopping, Input your credit card details, click 'Check your details', and then click 'Submit order'.

- A choose 'Select more products'
- B select 'Proceed to checkout'
- C find 'Take your credit card'



26.

This tale, with its beautifully drawn characters, its historic links to the pioneers who crossed the high seas in search of new lands, and its elements of fantasy, will fascinate you and draw you into its imaginary world.

- A carefully-stitched
- B finely-knitted
- C delicately-woven

(5 marks)

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SECTION 5

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

Life on Mars?

From the days of the 'Martian canals', once thought by many to have been made by an intelligent civilization but later proved to be an optical illusion, to our current preoccupation with gathering data in the hope of providing us with more information, our fascination with the Red Planet continues.

In the early days of space exploration, visits were restricted to 'fly-bys', such as those by the Mariner probes, whereby craft would simply pass the planet, taking pictures and obtaining data as they went. The Viking 'orbiters' were next, and later craft in the Viking series, known as 'Landers', began to probe the mysteries of its surface, equipped with instruments which continued to relay data about the environment until they stopped working. The more recent 'Rovers' move around the planet's surface as they gather information.

Current proposals include missions to study terrain, climate, and soil components, in order to determine, amongst other things, whether the planet can ever have supported carbon-based life forms. Scientists now believe that at some stage the planet cooled dramatically, resulting in the near-loss of its atmosphere and, thanks to erosion features, mineral deposits and other factors, it is also believed that liquid water once flowed there.

One of the most recent craft is Phoenix, a Rover which landed in November 2008. Named after the mythological bird, Phoenix's mission was to obtain samples from beneath the surface by digging into the arctic ice, while its high-resolution camera provided geological data and other equipment scanned the atmosphere, measuring temperature and pressure in a bid to discover whether the chemicals necessary for life might exist beneath the surface. The craft was expected to send back data for three months, but managed to hold out for a further two. An especially important part of the project was the need to maintain sterility of the equipment, in order to ensure that any organic material collected was not contaminated by 'hitchhiking' terrestrial microbes.

In the future manned landings may be possible – and though it may seem an outrageously difficult undertaking, plans have already been discussed for the 'terraforming' of the planet - giving it an atmosphere, oceans and a terrain similar to earth, with the possibility of human colonisation.

Example. According to the writer, the canals on Mars were

- A shown to be real by many people.
- B simply a trick of the eye.
- C made by civilised beings.



27. A fly-by is a

- A photograph of a planet.
- B way of collecting information.
- C type of spacecraft.

28. According to the writer, what is one of the factors that suggests that Mars once had liquid water?

- A The wearing away of areas on its surface.
- B The fact that there is ice on the planet.
- C The fact that it once had breathable air.

29. How long did Phoenix remain active for?

- A three months
- B five months
- C two months

30. What were the scientists connected with the Phoenix mission particularly concerned about?

- A The danger that people might try to stow away on the spacecraft.
- B The need to maintain the data-gathering equipment.
- C The risk that equipment might transport organisms from Earth to Mars.

31. How does the writer feel about the possibility of human beings going to Mars?

- A It might be hard, but it's not impossible.
- B It would be much too difficult a task.
- C It will happen and has already been planned.

(5 marks)



SECTION 6

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Read the article below and answer the questions.

LETS

Local Exchange Trading Schemes exist in many countries, and are a development of the barter system, but with the advantage that exchanges are not direct. Instead people trade using alternative currencies, which can be anything from pebbles to printed 'cheques'. 'Wants' and 'offers' are displayed in a directory circulated amongst the group, through which members contact one another and 'buy' and 'sell' goods or services by exchanging these tokens.

Since currencies are local, trading is restricted to the immediate group – this helps to reduce the negative effects of globalization.

Whether LETS credit is tax-deductible or not depends on what is being offered – generally, since the scheme is non-profit-making, with tokens worthless outside groups and most members trading under the tax threshold, the taxman tends to turn a blind eye to domestic trading. However, if a businessperson trades professional services using LETS tokens, some tax liability may ensue.

LETS are common in deprived, low-income areas, where they encourage social networking and help prevent isolation due to poverty.

Example. What are LETS an alternative to? money/currency

32. How did trading using the barter system differ from LETS?

33. Where do people find goods and services?

34. What kind of trading is not usually tax-deductible?

35. In the writer's view, where are LETS particularly helpful?



SECTION 6 CONTINUED

Leave
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Read the text below and answer the questions.

The Bluetooth glove phone is a reassemblage of parts from a Bluetooth headset into a driving glove. This glove integrates our telecommunications devices into a stylish and functional clothing accessory and improves driver safety by keeping the bulky phone out of the way. OK, maybe a glove phone isn't a great leap forward in technology or ergonomics, but it's hard to deny the goofy fun of answering a call with your thumb and pinky finger. In fact, this is the beginning of a trend that has received a lot of academic attention: wearable computing. Many futurists believe that our communications devices will eventually become cheap and ubiquitous enough to simply be integrated into the elements of our everyday attire. And it's already happening. Several Bluetooth helmets have been developed for skiing and motorcycling, and jackets that plug into all of your gear and create a personal area network are also available.

Example. What were the components of the glove phone originally used for?
(a) (telephone) headset

36. Who is the Bluetooth glove phone designed for?

37. How does the user operate the phone?

38. Where might we find many means of communication in the future?

39. What areas of activity have already been catered for by Bluetooth?

(8 marks)



SECTION 7

Leave
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Read the web article and complete the notes. Write no more than three words in each gap from the article.

If Only They Could Talk

Does your pet have a problem? In an advertisement on a website, an 'expert in animal communication' states that she can talk to animals, ask them their problems and what kind of assistance they would like from you, and report back to you. All animals and all kinds of problems are within her capabilities. An exact fee is not given, but you are discreetly encouraged to 'contact her for further information'.

Until now, it has been generally believed that only humans possess language. Attempts were made in the 1960s to teach human speech to chimpanzees – two animals managed to communicate with humans in this way, but with limitations, and scientists later decided that they were not producing true language, but only responding to prompts. Recent scientific breakthroughs, however, may mean we have to question our assumptions about how animals communicate.

Several scientists claim to have discovered that some animals use verbs, nouns and adjectives, just as we do. By studying the distress calls of some animal species and videotaping the animals as they made them, he was able to see what the animal was reacting to. He found that the cries told their fellows what kind of predator was approaching, and how fast it was moving. They could tell the difference between individual predators, using such information as their hunting habits, and if the threat was a man, they could to some extent describe his size and shape, the colour of his clothing, and even whether he was carrying a gun. Different colonies of one species were found to have different dialects, which proved that the calls cannot be inborn, but must have been learned from previous generations.

A psychologist has given further weight to these ideas by claiming to have discovered not just that some animals can communicate more complex ideas than previously thought, but also that some of this 'language' can be understood by other species. His team recorded monkeys' calls and found that, as in the other experiment, these changed according to the threat or opportunity approaching. When the team played back the calls to other monkeys, they understood the different meanings. More surprisingly still, it was found that other monkey species could differentiate between the calls, and so could certain species of birds.

So perhaps the Internet 'expert' is right. If so, what could this mean for humanity? We have long regarded ourselves as unique amongst animals, and accepted that this confers rights upon us to rule over our fellow creatures. Must we reconsider our position? Only time will tell.



Example. As the ‘animal communication expert’ doesn’t state her exact fee, we would need to contact her for more information.

40. Our idea that we are the only ones on the planet to.....may now be in doubt.

41. Early experiments with human-animal communication suggested that the animals were simply.....

42. The animals’ calls differentiated between a man with and one without.

43. Dialectal differences showed that the animals’ language was not.....

44. The nature of the monkeys’ calls depended on the nature of the..... they were presented with.

45. The claim that some animals can communicate across is a particularly interesting finding.

46. These findings suggest that we may need to..... how we treat other animals.

(7 marks)



SECTION 8

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

47. As a response to the article ‘If Only They Could Talk’, write a letter to the editor of the magazine it appeared in. Write about 120 – 150 words and include the following information:

- Your thoughts about whether animals use language or not.
- What you think about the claims of the ‘Internet expert’.
- How the discovery of animal language might change how we behave towards our fellow creatures.

Write your answer here. Do not write outside the box.

A large rectangular box containing ten horizontal dotted lines for writing.

(10 marks)



SECTION 9

Leave
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Choose one of the topics below and write your answer in 200 – 250 words.

48. A) You are asked to write a short article for an environmental website, entitled,

Explorers – “brave or foolish?”

Or

48. B) You see the following advertisement on your college noticeboard.

Communication in my Lifetime

We want to know your views on how methods of communication have changed during your lifetime and how you feel about these changes. The most thought-provoking entries will be published in the college magazine.

Write a contribution.



H 3 5 1 6 4 A 0 2 1 8

Write your answer here. Do not write outside the box.

Leave
blank

A large rectangular box containing 25 horizontal dotted lines for writing an answer.

(10 marks)



Leave
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ANSWER KEY

Leave
blank

Section 1

Example. B

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. B

Section 2

11. Realistic financial planning on a student budget / isn't the easiest of tasks. / Useful tips are / to calculate your income and outgoings in advance; / keep track of incidental expenses / so that you can avoid impulse buys /and separate wants from needs. / When it comes to food, / buy staples in bulk, / go for own-brand labels / and acquire some cooking skills.

Section 3

Example. appropriate

12. visual aids
13. project
14. highbrow
15. relevant
16. handouts



Section 3 Continued

Example. holographic/hologram technology

17. low(er) carbon footprint / green technology
18. 5/five years
19. July 30th
20. postcard
21. a guest

Section 4

Example. A

22. B
23. A
24. B
25. B
26. C

Section 5

Example. B

27. B
28. A
29. B
30. B
31. A

Section 6

Example. money/currency

32. exchanges were direct /indirect exchanges weren't possible
33. in a directory
34. domestic trading/non-profit trading/trading under the tax threshold
35. in deprived areas/low-income areas



Section 6 Continued

Example. (a) (telephone) head set

- 36. drivers / people who drive
- 37. with / using (the) thumb and finger
- 38. in / (as part of (our) (everyday) clothing / (everyday) attire
- 39. skiing and motorcycling / some sports

Section 7

Example. exact fee

- 40. possess / speak a language
- 41. responding to prompts
- 42. a gun
- 43. inborn
- 44. threat or opportunity
- 45. species
- 46. reconsider / rethink

Section 8

47. Sample answer:

Dear Editor

I felt I had to give my views on the article about animal ‘language’. Firstly, if these findings are true, it is beginning to seem that we are not as different from other animals as we thought, and this may mean that we have to alter our treatment of them radically. For example, if all animals prove to be thinking, feeling, individuals like us, how could we condone meat-eating?

However, we should view the claims with caution – this is not the first time experts have made claims, and they may later prove to be unsubstantiated.

Furthermore, I do not feel the Internet expert’s claims are to be regarded in the same light, as she has provided no scientific evidence to back up what she is offering – it is very easy to make claims, and easy to prey upon those who are gullible, simply for the sake of profit. (150 words)



Section 9**48 A. Sample answer:**

Human beings have travelled in search of new lands since time began, and there is no doubt that many of those who undertake such journeys, and the harsh living conditions and dangers that go with them, must be considered courageous. Many have suffered and died on expeditions; however those who have returned have often been responsible for the discovery of new species, new plants which have provided essential ingredients for life-saving drugs, and for acquiring new territories for their countrymen.

Nevertheless, in many cases these have been gained at an unacceptable price, this being the extinction of animal species such as the Dodo, and the torture and killing of the indigenous peoples of many lands following colonization, such as in the case of the Native Americans and the Aboriginal people of Australia. In some cases the explorers also took with them diseases which had not existed amongst the native peoples, and which therefore quickly overwhelmed them and caused further deaths. In the Brazilian rainforest, the early explorers paved the way for a destruction which continues today. In addition many such as the Pyramids, have been disturbed against their original builders' wishes and precious artifacts stolen.

It is a sad fact those who regard themselves as civilised seem unable to respect the peoples whose territories they 'invade', and there is a need to ensure that future exploration is conducted in a way that causes minimal disruption to the environment. (238 words)

48 B. Sample answer:

Communication has come a long way since the days of my childhood, when there were no computers, no mobile phones and many people didn't even have landlines. We couldn't have imagined today's world of the Internet, text-messaging and e-mail, and the idea of videoconferencing with people in other countries was science fiction to us.

Of course it's true that these new forms of communication have added much to our lives, and they become cheaper and more accessible all the time. However, while the ever-changing world of technology continues to produce one development after another, our exchanges get less personal. How many of us write letters nowadays? And with email and text so convenient, how often do we even bother to phone friends and family, let alone visit them? Instead we 'touch base' with hurried texts, just the bare facts, while we're taking five minutes out of our busy lives. There's no time for closeness, and we've forgotten the excitement of waiting for the postman.

Of course, with technology such as Skype and related software, we can now talk face-to-face and feel closer to our relatives abroad, and for nothing, so we shouldn't complain. But how many of us, in the odd moment, feel a pang of nostalgia for the old days? (213 words)



This is the Pearson Test of English General Level 4. This test takes 2 hours and 30 minutes.

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 man speaking. What is this an extract from?

M: Be one of the few, the proud, the Marines.

The correct answer is B

1. Listen to the conversation. Who is Sheila talking to?

F: Hello Mr Jones, sorry to bother you, but my salary doesn't seem to have gone in. D'you know who I should contact about it?

M: Oh hello Sheila – you started with us last month, didn't you? Have you given your details to Accounts? If so, I'll get on to them and get them to look into it.

2. Listen to the man speaking. What is Martin's job?

M: You can see the wreck coming into view now, just behind that coral reef. Martin's just adjusting his breathing apparatus, and then I think he'll go in.

3. Listen to the woman speaking. What is the excerpt from?

F: Hello Amanda – well, it's looking pretty wintry there! Can you tell us what kind of conditions we have to look forward to in the next few days? Hello? Hello? I apologise viewers, we seem to have lost audio contact with Amanda – we'll come back to this a little later.

4. Listen to the woman speaking. What does Mrs. Banks want?

F: Good morning Mrs. Banks. I understand you'd like to discuss your borrowing. I've got several slots available on Tuesday, if you can give me a convenient time?

5. Listen to the people speaking. How does the second speaker feel about finding a job?

F: I was made redundant in February so I've been finding it hard to get a job.

F: So have I. I thought I would have found a job within three months. That's the thing; I really thought I'd get a job. I've never found it that difficult in the past, so I'm just going to have to ring up these places and drive them mad.



Section 1 Continued

6. Listen to the woman speaking. What does she think about the book?

F: Have you read 'The Battle of the Sexes' Helen? – you know, it's about communication between men and women. I wouldn't say it's the most scientific book in the world but it had me in stitches.

7. Listen to the woman speaking. What is she talking about?

F: Well, it was the Amazon they were going to, I think – she spent ages at the gym getting fit for it – but then, would you believe it, she had to drop out because she couldn't manage the backpack! She was so disappointed – she thought she was going to discover some new species and make a name for herself!

8. Listen to the woman speaking. What is she persuading a friend to do?

F: Well, I'm pretty strapped for cash too. But if we go halves on the petrol it won't break the bank, will it?

9. Listen to woman speaking. Why were people said to have died?

F: Many of those connected with the excavation of Tutankhamun's tomb were rumoured to have died in retribution for its violation, as the result of a curse which had been placed on it at the time of the Pharaoh's interment.

10. Listen to the speaker. What is he doing?

M: Can anyone tell me where we get our word 'salary' from?

F: From the word salt?

M: That's largely correct, Joanne - but can you all bear in mind that although we know there was a connection with the salt that Roman soldiers received, we don't strictly know what that connection was.

Section 2

11. You will hear a recording about budgeting. 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.

M: Realistic financial planning on a student budget / isn't the easiest of tasks. / Useful tips are / to calculate your income and outgoings in advance; / keep track of incidental expenses / so that you can avoid impulse buys / and separate wants from needs. / When it comes to food, / buy staples in bulk, / go for own-brand labels / and acquire some cooking skills.



Section 3

12. – 16. You will hear a recording from a lecture on how to give a presentation. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the lecture. You will hear the recording twice.

F: Good oral communication is to some extent inborn – however, by following a few simple rules, and with careful planning it's possible for the least confident person among us to give a memorable presentation. First, ensure that you plan carefully, and rehearse at least once before the big day. Appropriate dress will boost your confidence as well as encouraging your audience's trust in you. Greet your audience warmly, and make eye-contact. Don't stand so that you are obscuring the screen, and ensure you have full command of any visual aids you've chosen to use. You will need to project your voice clearly to the back of the room, so don't mumble – and ensure that you speak at a measured pace - although some variation in tone and pitch will avoid boring your audience. Make sure your language is accessible – avoid highbrow words where they're not needed. Your data should be concise and include only that which is relevant, so don't cram too much onto a slide, and use large fonts so that the audience can see the information. At the end, answer questions with good grace. When it's all over, the audience will appreciate handouts which they can take home to remind themselves of the key facts.

Now listen again

17. – 21. You will hear an announcement. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the announcement. You will hear the recording twice.

F: Hologram technology's been around a while, but it's only recently we've really begun to explore its benefits. Did you know that in 2007 Prince Charles appeared holographically at a conference in Dubai? If he'd flown, 20 tonnes of carbon waste would have been produced, but by this method, he left the carbon footprint of a lightbulb. Not bad in terms of green technology.

True, live appearances are a long way off, and the equipment is still expensive – but you can be sure it'll be within the reach of the average householder before very long. We're working to make sure it is.

We're at the forefront of holographic design and we aim to produce a home holographic communication system within the next five years. We'd like to invite you to join the hologram revolution, so we're holding a demonstration in London on July 30th this year. Entrance is by ticket only, but we have 50 to give away if you're fast. Just send your name and address on a postcard to: HOLOCo (that's H O L O, capital C, small O) at 220 Victoria Street, London SW1, and we'll send you tickets for yourself and a guest.

Now listen again

That is the end of the listening section of the test. Now go on to the other sections of the test.



H 3 5 1 6 4 A 0 2 1 8

