

**PTE**

PEARSON TEST OF ENGLISH  
Academic

PEARSON

# Setting the New Standard!



[www.pearsonpte.com](http://www.pearsonpte.com)

endorsed by

Graduate  
Management  
Admission  
Council®

“I am truly excited about PTE Academic. After working for years with other English language tests and getting increasingly frustrated, I am ready for something new and better. I have worked with Pearson during the development of this test and have had the opportunity to see its innovative design and capabilities. In addition, PTE Academic is endorsed by the Graduate Management Admission Council® - so it is backed by Pearson and GMAC®, both brands that we know and trust.”

Frances Murphy,  
 Director of Graduate Admissions Baruch College,  
 Zicklin School of Business,  
 CUNY New York,  
 US

PTE Academic	
Authentic	Real-life academic content
Accurate	Objective automated scoring
Secure	Integrated biometric technology with randomized test forms
Informative	Detailed test taker performance data
Customer-focused	Online results and verification for test takers and institutions

#### Setting the new standard

PTE Academic is a computer-based academic English language test. The test delivers real-life measures of test takers' language ability to universities, higher education institutions, government departments and other organizations requiring academic-level English. The new test is endorsed by the Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC®), the owners of the GMAT®.

Pearson, a global leader in education and education technology, developed PTE Academic in response to feedback from institutions that they needed a test that more accurately measures the English communication skills of non-native English speaking students in an academic environment.

#### Authentic and relevant

With PTE Academic, institutions will be confident that they are accepting test takers who can communicate effectively in an academic environment. Because learning is interactive and students' ability to participate in class discussion and presentations are critical components of the academic experience, institutions need an assessment like PTE Academic, designed to evaluate English as it will be used in real-life situations.

The test has been developed by test development professionals in several countries including the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States. Test items are also internationally cross-validated to ensure that the test is representative of, and measures, international academic English.

“We are recognizing PTE Academic because we know that it will provide us with an accurate and reliable measure of the English language ability of candidates for admission that we can use to determine if they are prepared to succeed in our intense programs.”

Professor Tom Begley, Dean  
 University College Dublin - Michael Smurfit Graduate  
 Business School  
 Ireland

### Faster and more secure results

Test takers receive email notification that their scores are available typically within five business days of taking the test. Test takers view their results online via a secure website. Institutions retrieve results from a secure score report website and can view them online or download and store the results offline. Institutions will be able to view test takers scores 48 hours after test takers have assigned their scores to a program.

Both test takers and recognizing institutions have secure login credentials to enable them to access score data from a secure score report website. To avoid the potential for forgery inherent in issuing hard-copy results, only PTE Academic scores viewed online are guaranteed to be authentic. The photo captured by Pearson on the test day appears on the score report, meaning that there is no doubt over the identity of the person who took the test.

### More informed data

With PTE Academic, score users will get the valuable information they need to make decisions in a timely manner. All schools, institutions and other organizations that recognize and accept PTE Academic scores will have access to a superior reporting and results service, to assist institutions in making more informed admissions decisions. Because PTE Academic is a high-stakes test, and to ensure test taker integrity, sophisticated features have been developed within the PTE Academic Score Report Website to maintain the security of test results.

PTE Academic score reports contain detailed information. They report three types of scores.

1. The Overall Score reflects the overall English language ability of a test taker
2. Scores for Communicative Skills include Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing
3. Scores for Enabling Skills include Grammar, Oral Fluency, Pronunciation, Spelling, Vocabulary and Written Discourse

In addition, test takers are required to provide a Personal Introduction (a voice print), giving them an opportunity to record a short statement about themselves. Test takers are not assessed on their performance for the Personal Introduction. This response may provide additional identification verification to allow institutions to compare an applicant's voice with the voice recorded while taking the test. The Personal Introduction will be available as a digital sound file and accessed through the PTE Academic Score Report Website.

LASTNAME FIRSTNAME Score: 56 JPP-XB-97

**PEARSON TEST OF ENGLISH Academic**

Example Institution Name - Example College/Department - Example program

**Institution Score Report**

**Example, Student**

Address: 123 Example Lane  
Example City, EX 12345  
Example Country

Email Address: example.student@xleinstudent.com  
Telephone Number: +999 321 12345678  
Date of Birth: 12 August 1985  
Country of Citizenship: Example Country  
Gender: Male

Registration ID: 998877665  
Report Issue Date: 29 October 2009  
Test Date: 26 October 2009  
First-Time Test Taker: No  
Scores Valid Until: 26 October 2011

**Overall Score: 56**

The Overall Score for 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 Skill 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/ptestacademic/scores](http://www.pearsonpte.com/ptestacademic/scores)

**Skills Profile**

Category	Skill	Score
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:**  
To obtain official, authenticated PTE Academic score information for this test taker, visit our secure website at [www.pearsonvue.com/ptescores](http://www.pearsonvue.com/ptescores)

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Figure 1. An example of the PTE Academic Score Report

### A benchmark of language ability

PTE Academic is aligned to the Common European Framework (CEF or CEFR, Council of Europe, 2001), a widely recognized benchmark for language ability. The CEF includes a set of consecutive language levels defined by descriptors of language competencies. The six-level framework was developed by the Council of Europe (2001) to enable language learners, teachers, universities, or potential employers to compare and relate language qualifications by level.

Owing to the alignment of PTE Academic to these levels, institutions can be confident that they are receiving accurate measures of test takers' language ability.

The PTE Academic score scale will range from 10 to 90. Most institutions will set their score requirements in the range of 50 to 64. Some institutions may require higher scores depending on the area of study.

Visit [www.coe.int/T/DG4/Linguistic/Source/Framework\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/T/DG4/Linguistic/Source/Framework_EN.pdf) for more information.

This chart outlines the preliminary concordance between PTE Academic and CEF. Pearson will conduct more research in collaboration with independent scholars to increase the evidence for the validity and accuracy of this concordance table.

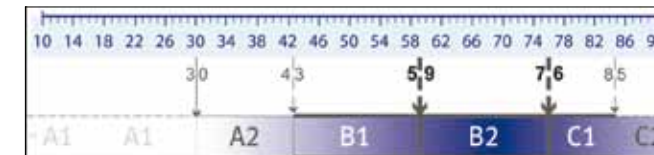


Figure 2. Preliminary alignment of PTE Academic with the CEF

“PTE Academic score data on the enabling language skills, such as fluency, grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, gives us a great tool to assess the language abilities of incoming MBA applicants to ensure they can interact at the levels expected in a small, experienced group of professionals on the Ashridge MBA program.”

Amy Armstrong, Director of Marketing  
Ashridge Business School  
UK

“Pearson has a proven record of test security which makes it an easy decision to collaborate with the company on this effort.”

Kate Klepper, Associate Dean, Graduate Business Program, College of Business Administration  
Northeastern University  
Boston, US

#### Technology you can trust

With PTE Academic, reliable and standardized grading will assist institutions with high-quality recruitment decisions. The test uses state-of-the-art technology for test scoring.

Test takers' verbal and written responses are scored using Pearson's proprietary, patented automated scoring technologies. Research shows that the automated scoring technology underlying PTE Academic produces scores comparable to human raters but with the precision, consistency and objectivity of a machine, ensuring maximum reliability and validity.

In addition, the impartiality of automated scoring means that test takers can be confident that they are being judged solely on their language performance and institutions can be confident that a test taker would have earned the same score wherever in the world it had been administered.

Hundreds of academic institutions, corporations and government agencies around the world rely on Pearson's proven automated scoring technologies to measure the abilities of students, staff or applicants.

For further information visit [www.pearsonpte.com](http://www.pearsonpte.com) to download the white paper *PTE Academic and Automated Scoring*.

#### State-of-the-art security

Test security is the key to maintaining the integrity of PTE Academic. Pearson's worldwide reputation as a provider of high quality secure assessments is an important factor for recognizing institutions. PTE Academic will be administered in Pearson VUE test centers, using the industry leader's state-of-the-art security technologies to ensure maximum security of the test itself and verify the identity of the test taker.

When test takers arrive at a Pearson VUE test center on the day of the test, they must adhere to a strict identification policy that requires valid (non-expired) government-issued identification to be presented. For high confidence in test taker's authenticity, Pearson uses the most sophisticated identity verification measures used in the testing industry today. Test takers are asked to provide a digital signature and have their photograph taken, after which their palm vein pattern is captured and verified using PalmSecure™ biometric technology.

Advanced biometric matching is performed to verify test taker identity upon entry to and exit from the testing room (including breaks), to re-verify identity subsequently when tests are retaken and also to detect test takers attempting to create multiple records or use an impersonator. The photo captured by Pearson on the test day also appears on the score report.

PTE Academic also includes a Personal Introduction (a voice print), giving test takers an opportunity to record a short statement about themselves, which can also be used by institutions as an additional identification verification.

#### Designed and built to be secure

Security is also an integral part of the design and build of PTE Academic. To protect test content, PTE Academic uses secure item banking software, a secure platform that stores all information relevant to every item in the bank.

Pearson's systems generate randomized test forms, making it highly unlikely that more than one test taker in the same room is using the same test form. This also significantly reduces the impact of attempts to predict questions. If it is discovered that the integrity of a PTE Academic test item or test form has been compromised, for example in the unlikely event of it being published on a website or being made known to a set of test takers, it is immediately removed from the live bank to prevent anyone from gaining unfair advantage based on prior knowledge.

For more information about PTE Academic test integrity, download the white paper *Integrity and security* in PTE Academic from [www.pearsonpte.com](http://www.pearsonpte.com)

#### Convenience and flexibility

Delivered through Pearson VUE's test center network, PTE Academic will be available during the launch period in a minimum of 20 territories. These include China, India, the US, Japan, South Korea, Australia, the UK, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Canada with the number of centers offering the test continuing to grow.

Test takers simply register online and schedule their test using a 'choose and book' system, giving them the flexibility to take the test where and when it is convenient.

#### Targeted preparation for test takers

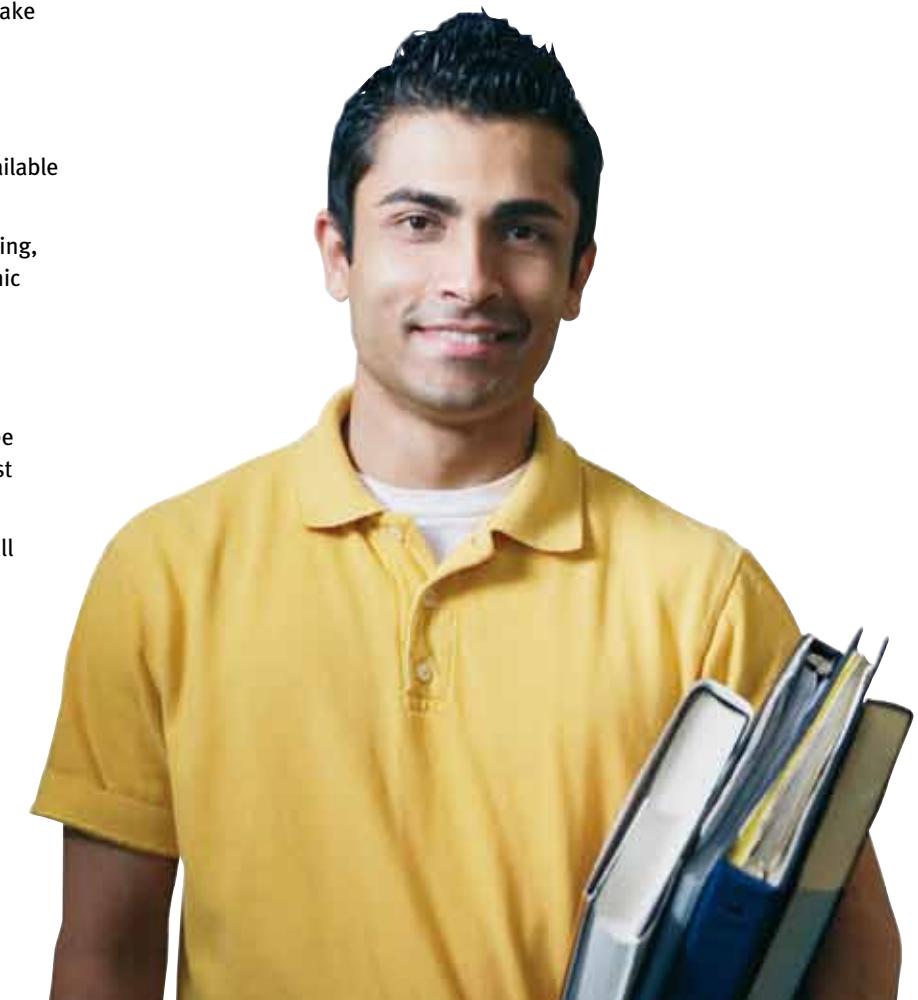
A variety of dedicated test preparation materials will be available for test takers. These include:

- a fully-scored practice test with same-day score reporting, providing an authentic predictor of official PTE Academic test performance
- an unscored online practice test with sample answers
- a free test tutorial providing an overview of the test, instruction on each item type that the test taker will see on the test and tips on how to navigate through the test
- *The Official Guide to PTE Academic* providing detailed information including administration, descriptions of all item types, analysis of sample answers, test-taking strategies and a wealth of practice items on CD-ROM

For more information about test preparation, visit [www.pearsonpte.com/resources](http://www.pearsonpte.com/resources)

“PTE Academic is a great leap forward; it brings testing into the 21st century, in terms of both its multimodal approach and its many novel security features.”

Professor Geoffrey Pullum  
Head of Linguistics and English Language  
University of Edinburgh  
United Kingdom



“Having had students from 90 countries, the colleges in our group have seen significant differences in quality in respect to the same standard. It is important to be able to rely on a robust test that takes away the risk of assessor subjectivity. We particularly like the automated scoring system and are pleased to recognize PTE Academic.”

Christopher Campbell, Chairman & Managing Director  
Academies Australasia Group of Colleges

#### International research by leading language experts

PTE Academic’s development is supported by numerous research initiatives conducted by an international team of leading researchers and experts in language studies and applied linguistics. The results of these and other initiatives are also being used to inform the development of PTE Academic. Research is taking place in the following areas:

- Standard setting with the Common European Framework (CEF)
- Vocabulary development reflecting CEF as a function of the PTE Academic test scores
- Sensitivity review of PTE Academic items

#### Worldwide field test

Pearson conducted an extensive global field test for PTE Academic. Conducted in two phases, this field test included more than 10,000 test takers speaking 126 different languages from 158 home countries.

Pearson researchers collected information on gender, age, country of birth, first language and the amount of experience participants already had with English.

Pearson received valuable feedback about the full range of innovative and integrated item types and obtained direct feedback on test takers’ experience and perceptions of the test. Test takers appreciated the variety of questions and acknowledged that PTE Academic’s authentic content reflects what they would be likely to encounter in an academic setting.

For further information visit [www.pearsonpte.com](http://www.pearsonpte.com) to download the white paper *PTE Academic Global Field Test*.

#### Technical Advisory Group

PTE Academic has been developed with the highest standards in test design and construction to ensure an accurate measure of test takers’ English language proficiency. A Technical Advisory Group, comprised of experts from both language testing and psychometrics, provides feedback, advice and critical assessment.

Test Format	
Format	Computer-based test measuring all four language areas: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing 20 integrated and often innovative item types
Content	Authentic academic test content from a variety of international contexts and scenarios
Duration	A maximum of three hours A single test session
Availability	During the launch period, PTE Academic will be available in 34 territories including China, India, the US, Japan, South Korea, Australia, the UK, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Canada
Registration	Register online and schedule a test using a flexible ‘choose and book’ system
Scores	Typically available within five business days





### Renowned recognizing institutions

PTE Academic has received positive feedback from institutions around the world. Many prestigious institutions have agreed to accept PTE Academic test scores as a measure of the academic English skills of international applicants to their programs.

Visit [www.pearsonpte.com](http://www.pearsonpte.com) for a complete list of recognizing institutions and to find out more about PTE Academic.

### Accepting PTE Academic scores

Colleges, universities, government organizations and other institutions interested in accepting PTE Academic scores may visit [www.pearsonpte.com](http://www.pearsonpte.com) to complete and submit an online agreement. For more information or to request a webinar or personal visit, send an email to one of the following addresses:

#### North and South America

[usreco@pearson.com](mailto:usreco@pearson.com)

#### Canada

[canreco@pearson.com](mailto:canreco@pearson.com)

#### United Kingdom and Ireland

[ukireco@pearson.com](mailto:ukireco@pearson.com)

#### Europe, Middle East, Africa and India

[emaireco@pearson.com](mailto:emaireco@pearson.com)

#### Asia Pacific, Australia and New Zealand

[apacreco@pearson.com](mailto:apacreco@pearson.com)

### About Pearson

Pearson is an international media company with world-leading businesses in education, business information, consumer publishing and testing.

Pearson Language Tests (PLT) is part of Pearson plc. PLT delivers a suite of English language tests designed to assess the English language usage of students who are speakers of other languages. Pearson Tests of English include Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic), Pearson Test of English General (PTE General) and Pearson Test of English Young Learners (PTE Young Learners).

The new test is endorsed by, and is the preferred test of, the Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC®), the owners of the GMAT®.

To learn more about Pearson, visit [www.pearsonville.com](http://www.pearsonville.com) for an interactive introduction to Pearson products and services.

## MoreInformation

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