

Practice Test 1: Written test

Level 3

Upper Intermediate

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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 paper.

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Sections	Skills	Score points	A1	1	2	3	4	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 (5 listening 5 writing)						
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. Who are the speakers?

- A Tom's work colleagues
- B Tom's friends
- C Tom's parents

1. Who is the speaker?

- A a police officer
- B a youth club leader
- C an angry neighbour

2. Who are the speakers?

- A head teacher and student
- B parent and child
- C journalist and young person



3. What are the speakers discussing?

- A youth unemployment
 - B hobbies and interests
 - C local facilities
-

4. Where is the speaker?

- A in a factory
 - B in a supermarket
 - C at a farm
-

5. Where is the speaker?

- A in a shopping centre
 - B at a careers convention
 - C in the workplace
-

6. How does the man feel about the woman's decision?

- A He's doubtful about it.
- B He admires it.
- C He's anxious about it.



7. Who is the speaker?

- A a TV presenter
 - B an economist
 - C a charity worker
-

8. How is the girl feeling?

- A angry
 - B unwell
 - C bored
-

9. What is the speaker doing?

- A apologising
 - B persuading
 - C warning
-

10. What is the speaker really saying?

- A I think you can do any job you're interested in.
- B I think you're interested in different types of jobs.
- C I don't think you're trying very hard to get a job.

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(10 marks)



SECTION 3

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

Example. The caller is interested in a career as a social worker.

- 12 The course has been available at the university for.....
- 13 The university works with..... in the local area.
- 14 As part of the course students have to undertake.....
- 15 Applicants are more likely to get a place on the course if they have done.....
- 16 Potential students must apply for the course by.....



SECTION 3 CONTINUED

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

Example. The British Youth Parliament aims to improve *the world*.

- 17 Members must be at least years old.
- 18 Elections are held all over
- 19 The yearly meeting of the British Youth Parliament is known as their
- 20 At the moment the British Youth Parliament is trying to get rid of
- 21 If you want more information you should visit

(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

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

Example.

We are a long-established family business that provides a reliable upholstery service that repairs antique furniture. We would welcome from you for us to arrange a visit with our extensive range of fabrics.

- A an enquiry
- B some work
- C a suggestion

22.

Do you want to expand your horizons, help people in developing countries and make some great new friends? Then why not spend your summer holidays working for charity on one of our range of fantastic in South East Asia?

- A vacations
- B projects
- C adventures



23.

WorkAid is a leading non-profit organisation that helps people to volunteer overseas and make a real difference to others. You may be on a, career break or wanting to volunteer on a working holiday.

- A journey
- B charity
- C gap year

24.

Careers advice is available here every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Come and see us and get yourself back into.....

- A work
- B time
- C line

25.

The East Humberside Youth Club supports socially excluded children and young people from Hull and its surrounding areas, and helps them to fulfil their potential as capable, confident young adults through a structured of sporting, artistic and recreational activities.

- A entertainment
- B neighbourhood
- C programme

26.

Recruitment websites, employment agencies and local papers are just a few of the places you can look for vacancies. But there are also personalised techniques you can use to find the right for you.

- A way
- B job
- C advert

(5 marks)



SECTION 5

Leave
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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.

Rotherham-based Harpinder Kaur was stuck in a dead-end job, but a chance meeting with a man on a bus in Bradford changed everything, she tells James Grey.

Harpinder Kaur will never forget the first day she worked as a court interpreter. “It was a gang-related murder trial at Leeds Crown Court two years ago,” she says. “There were about 30 or 40 barristers in the room, perhaps 80 or 90 other people in the courtroom and public gallery, plus other people in the dock, so I was really nervous.”

Harpinder had been called into court to translate the testimonies of the defendants, all Punjabi speakers living in the UK. Until then, Harpinder had been working as a teacher of English as a second language in Leeds, and had been attempting, very gradually, to move into a career as a translator. Her experience in court that day lends new meaning to the phrase “thrown in at the deep end”.

“It was a difficult day, but I think I did pretty well,” she says. “At first I decided that I wouldn’t take any more bookings to work in court”. Then I thought, “This is part of my job. These people need me to help, and I can’t just say that I don’t want to do it.”

Harpinder doesn’t always enjoy what she does, and most of her work takes place in situations like courtrooms, police stations and immigration centres. It doesn’t matter whether she sympathises with the situation her clients are in, or believes they are innocent or guilty: her role is to capture the precise meaning of their words.

So, what made her pursue a career as an interpreter? “One day, when I was still teaching, I met a man on a bus reading a Chinese dictionary. When I asked him why, he told me he was planning to move to China and needed to understand the language to understand the people. It made me realise I wasn’t using the languages that I spoke. When I got home I telephoned a careers office, and an adviser suggested I try interpreting. That’s how it all began.”

Example. Where does Harpinder Kaur live?

- A Rotherham
- B Bradford
- C Leeds



27. Why did Harpinder feel nervous on her first day at work as an interpreter?

- A She'd never been in a court before.
 - B There were a lot of people there.
 - C She was intimidated by gang members.
-

28. What had her previous job been?

- A translator
 - B teacher
 - C careers advisor
-

29. How did she feel at the end of her first day in court?

- A that she'd enjoyed it very much
 - B that she would never work there again
 - C that she must continue that work
-

30. What is the most important aspect of her job?

- A sympathising with her clients' situations
 - B stopping innocent people being found guilty
 - C communicating exactly what her clients are saying
-

31. Who first recommended that she work as an interpreter?

- A a careers adviser
- B a man on a bus
- C her old teacher

(5 marks)



H 3 5 1 6 4 A 0 2 1 8

SECTION 6

Leave
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Read the web article below and answer the questions.

Innocent Water provides clean drinking water in developing countries across southern Asia. The company was founded by Cathy Cousins in 2002 when she returned to the UK from a year's travelling after university. She contracted dysentery in Bangladesh after drinking dirty water.

Despite being very sick, she realised she was "one of the few lucky ones": more than 4000 people worldwide die daily due to lack of clean drinking water. Her brainchild was to sell ethical bottled water, to concerned people who wanted it, using the profits to provide safe drinking water for remote communities.

Initially, Cathy had just a shoestring budget and a few volunteers to help her. She set up Innocent Water intending to be honest and outspoken about water supplies in developing countries.

Example. In which part of the world does Innocent Water sell its products?
Southern Asia

32. What did Cathy do before she went travelling?

33. How many lives does dirty water claim each day?

34. Who did Cathy intend would benefit from her company?

35. Who assisted Cathy at the start of the project?



SECTION 6 CONTINUED

Leave
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Read the newspaper article below and answer the questions.

A new survey of 16-24 year olds reveals that 82% of young people “cannot live” without the internet.

The research, generated by the youth charity TeenNet, also found that eight out of ten young people under 24 use the web to look for advice. About 25% of those surveyed added that online resources are so good that they don’t feel any need to discuss their problems personally.

Despite many recent examples of poor internet security, 69% of youth surveyed said they believed the internet to be a safe place “if you know what you’re doing”.

John Wright, a Professor of Psychology, believes that “the middle-aged but especially the elderly are probably most vulnerable to internet scams. Today’s youth have grown up with technology and have a deep understanding of how it works.”

Example. What age were the survey’s client group?

16-24 [years]

36. Who organized the survey?

37. What does a large percentage of young people use the internet for?

38. How many young internet users feel that the service is secure?

39. Who do professionals think are most likely to be the victim of an internet scam?

(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.

Portfolio Careers: Creating a Career out of Several Part-Time Jobs

If you have a portfolio career, you have several part-time jobs instead of one traditional full-time job. These might include part-time, temporary and free-lance employment with different employers: when combined, the jobs are the equivalent of a full-time position. A portfolio career offers more flexibility, freedom and variety than conventional employment, but involves some risk as well as requiring a high level of organisational skills.

If you opt for a portfolio career, it will usually be built around core skills or interests. For example, someone whose background is in education may teach part-time, write text books and examination materials, mark exams at certain times of the year, and perhaps train other teachers.

Most employment experts believe that James Hardy, an American management guru, was responsible for the sudden increase in the popularity of portfolio careers in the early 1990s. He suggested that individuals could gain more control over their working lives by having several small jobs rather than one big one.

Many people believe that another factor in the increasing status of portfolio careers is Harold Rivers' recent book *How to Succeed in a Workplace without Jobs*. He suggests that the lack of job security today means that we are all temporary workers. There are many reasons to consider a portfolio career: to gain better work/life balance; to experience variety and use a range of skills; to control your own work life and to seek new challenges.

One survey of portfolio careerists shows that the majority (around 65%) were satisfied with their success in establishing a new type of career. They mainly put their success down to their ability to network. But, establishing a portfolio career isn't easy for many. It can be difficult to balance the demands of different jobs and find employers willing to take you on a part-time basis. There's also the possibility of isolation if you work from home, a possible drop in earnings and the risk of being out of work for periods of time.



Example. A portfolio career consists of *several part-time jobs* rather than a full-time job.

40. A portfolio career can include different kinds of.....

41. A portfolio career would suit someone who is able to themselves well.

42. Key will usually be at the centre of a portfolio career.

43. James Hardy thought portfolio careers gave individuals more in relation to their professional lives.

44. Portfolio careers have also gained status because there is not much nowadays.

45. Most successful portfolio careerists believe that this is because they can well.

46. If you have a portfolio career, possible risks include temporary unemployment, feeling alone and less.....

(7 marks)



SECTION 8

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

47. You have read the article about portfolio careers. Write an email giving advice to a friend who is considering changing to a portfolio career. Write about 90 - 120 words and include the following information:

- the advantages of a portfolio career
- the disadvantages of a portfolio career
- how you think your friend could succeed

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

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

(10 marks)



SECTION 9

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

48. A) Your teacher gives you the following statement and asks you to write an essay.

We all have to take responsibility for the quality of life in developing countries: we can't just leave it to our governments.

Write an essay agreeing or disagreeing with this statement giving reasons and examples.

Or

48. B) You see this post in an online magazine.

Blog entries wanted!

Lots of young people are going on their two-week summer holiday soon. We want to know, where are the best places to visit? Tell us about where to go and what to see in your country!

Write a blog entry for the online magazine. Include the following information:

- a place to visit in your country
- something young people should see while they are there
- an activity they might enjoy
- Explain why your recommendations are suitable for young people.



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
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Section 1

Example: C

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

Section 2

11. The government announced today / that it will increase funding to developing countries. / In particular, / more money will be made available / to construct schools for girls. / They will focus on increasing young women's confidence / and training them / to set up their own businesses. / This initiative has been welcomed by local politicians.

Section 3

Example: social worker

12. eight years
13. social work organisations
14. (a) work placement
15. voluntary work
16. January 15th



Section 3 Continued

Example: the world

- 17. eleven
- 18. the UK/Britain
- 19. Annual Sitting / annual sitting
- 20. university (tuition) fees
- 21. the website

Section 4

Example: A

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

Section 5

Example: A

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

Section 6

Example: Southern Asia

- 32. student/at university
- 33. more than 4000 (worldwide)
- 34. remote communities
- 35. (a group of) volunteers



Section 6 Continued

Example: 16-24 (years)

- 36. TeenNet
- 37. (to look for) advice
- 38. 69%
- 39. the elderly

Section 7

Example: several part-time jobs

- 40. employment/work/jobs
- 41. organise
- 42. skills or interests
- 43. control
- 44. job security
- 45. network
- 46. money/earnings

Section 8

47. Sample answer:

I know that you're thinking of leaving your job and trying a portfolio career. On the whole I think this is a good idea, especially now not many people have permanent jobs anyway. You would have a variety of jobs, and work for different employers, so you'd use different skills. That would be really interesting. You could even work from home sometimes. But you would have to be well-organised and make sure that you didn't get isolated. To do well, you'd need to network and plan for possible periods of unemployment. Good luck!
(93 words)



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

I agree that we must take personal responsibility to improve the quality of life for people in developing countries. As far as I am concerned, we leave all kinds of things to our governments when we could actually do a great deal ourselves.

The main problems that developing countries face relate to the environment or the economy. Individuals in developed countries can help in both situations.

For example, there has recently been a huge earthquake in Haiti, and flooding in Bangladesh. Governments have been helping to rescue people from danger and get them back on their feet. But, what has helped the most are financial donations from individuals, as well as trained professionals giving up their time to go to those countries and help.

Secondly, we can choose to buy fair trade products, which directly help farmers in developing countries. By choosing where we spend our money, we can support people's livelihoods, which our governments don't always do. We can also make donations to charity, and give money to specific projects, such as schools in village communities.

In conclusion, everyone should be aware of the choices they make and take responsibility for their actions. (194 words)

48 B. Sample answer:

I think England is a great place to visit in the summer. There are so many things here for young people and I think you'll really enjoy your visit!

While you are here, you should visit London: after all, it's the capital city, full of history, and there's so much to do! You should go to Camden Market. It's a fantastic place to buy clothes, and much more unusual than the high street shops. You can also buy some cool music, and there are stalls with things from all over the world.

If you want something more active while you're on holiday, you could try a theatre school. The Globe Theatre (that's Shakespeare's old theatre!) runs summer schools that are specially designed for young people. I took part in one last year and had a real laugh – it's not too serious and you'll meet people your own age from different countries. Especially going out together in the evenings was great fun, and I'm still friends with the people I met during this summer school. London is a great holiday destination. Come and visit! (185 words)



H 3 5 1 6 4 A 0 2 1 8

TRANSCRIPTS

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This is the Pearson Test of English General Level 3. This test takes 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 in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.

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

M: What's the matter?

F: It's Tom. I don't know what to do. He just sits and watches television all evening when he should be working.

M: Yes I've noticed it's getting worse. Every time I tell him he gets angry, and shuts himself in his room. I don't know what to do.

The correct answer is C

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

F: I'm sorry to moan, but we've had several complaints this month from the local community about noise and antisocial behaviour. Don't forget that we can only keep this youth club going with the support of our neighbours, who will contact the police if the disturbance continues. Please make sure I don't have to close your club.

2. Listen to the conversation. Who are the speakers?

M: Sally, can you come to my office for a minute?

F: Is something wrong?

M: No. I wanted to congratulate you on your exam results. You're a credit to the college.

F: Thanks.

M: Your parents must be proud of you. I was wondering if I could pass your name to the local paper? They want to write an article about successful young people.

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

F: What exactly would young people like us to provide for them?

M: We'd like a place to go in the evenings, that we can really call our own.

F: What do you want to do there?

M: Play music, hang out. Perhaps things like learn to D-J, or make films. We don't want to be lectured about getting jobs and stuff.



4. Listen to the announcement. Where is the speaker?

M: Today we're promoting Fairtrade chocolate. If you go to the back of the store, you can sample a range of products. By buying Fairtrade, you can enjoy great chocolate whilst helping farmers and factory workers in developing countries.

5. Listen to the announcement. Where is the speaker?

F: I'm delighted that we have fantastic speakers at this year's event, our 30th. Starting the afternoon session is James Smith from Williams' supermarket, talking about careers in retail. If you're interested in working in fashion, go and listen to Sasha Jones at 3pm. Then, for those of you currently unemployed, there's a session called 'Getting back into the workplace'.

6. Listen to the conversation. How does the man feel about the woman's decision?

M: I can't believe you've actually given up your job to go and work in Tanzania! I wish I was brave enough to go and do something like that. What will you do there?

F: I'll be helping build a new primary school.

M: How do you feel about it?

F: Well, a bit nervous, obviously, but really excited.

7. Listen to the announcement. Who is the speaker?

M: Western governments have today announced that they will freeze interest charges on loans to developing countries for the next five years. This is welcome news to charities that have been campaigning for economic change. Live discussion will take place on our website once the programme has finished.

8. Listen to the conversation. How is the girl feeling?

F: I'm getting really sick of being told to get a proper job.

M: I know, my parents go on at me all the time too.

F: I'm just getting really annoyed at being told what to do. Anyone would think they were never young or had any fun!

M: Tell me about it! But I guess they only want you to be happy.

9. Listen to the telephone message. What is the speaker doing?

F: Hello Ria, it's Helen Jacobs here from the careers office. I really think you should come in and see us soon, especially as you missed your interview last week. Unfortunately we can't give you another appointment for two weeks, but I do think you should come in then.



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

M: I'd have thought, if you were really interested in getting a job, that you'd take anything you could get.

Section 2

11. You will hear a recording about development funding. 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.

F: The government announced today / that it will increase funding to developing countries. / In particular, / more money will be made available / to construct schools for girls. / They will focus on increasing young women's confidence / and training them / to set up their own businesses. / This initiative has been welcomed by local politicians.

Section 3

12. – 16. You will hear a telephone conversation. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the conversation. You will hear the recording twice.

M: Brigtown University, School of Social Work.

F: Hello, I'd like some information about training as a social worker.

M: The course is three years full-time or five part-time. We've offered the new Social Work degree course here for eight years.

F: Can you tell me more about it?

M: Sure. Yes of course. I'd be very happy to. We deliver the programme in conjunction with local social work organisations.

F: Great. Would I be involved with any of them?

M: Yes our students are so you would be. Part of the course involves a work placement.

F: Ok, and do I need experience to apply for the course?

M: Social work is a complex vocation that places demands on your formal knowledge as well as your practical understanding of how people operate. So, any experience of working with people is welcome. We favour applicants who've been involved in voluntary work.

F: Thanks. Do you know when the deadline is for applications? Is it soon?

M: Your form needs to be in January 15th. If you have any more questions, call the Admissions Officer directly. She's on extension 2509. Good luck!

F: Thanks. Bye.

Now listen again



Section 3 Continued

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

M: Are you a young person? Would you like to use your energy and enthusiasm to make the world a better place? If yes, the British Youth Parliament could be for you.

To join you need to be aged between 11 and 18. The British Youth Parliament holds annual elections throughout the UK, and currently has 600 elected MYPs (Members of Youth Parliament). You can stand for election or vote if you're of membership age and live in the UK. Around one million people a year vote, so you're in good company. MYPs meet each year at the Annual Sitting of the British Youth Parliament.

Use your voice for social change and decide which key youth issues the British Youth Parliament should prioritise. Currently we're campaigning for the abolition of university tuition fees, which impacts on all young people who want to enter higher education.

Get involved by joining online debates, campaigning, or even standing for election yourself! Interested? Read our Manifesto or get further information on our website.

Now listen again

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



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