Study → Work → Stay

PTE Study Guide

go all the way with Studyaway

UNDERSTAND THE TEST. FOLLOW THE PLAN. ARRIVE READY.

PREPARED FOR	COURSE	ISSUED
Students applying for the Student visa (subclass 500)	**The main course, with English study (ELICOS) first if needed**	**2 November 2026**

WHAT THE VISA NEEDS

This visa accepts the PTE Academic English test.
PTE tests **four skills**: speaking, writing, reading and listening. The visa reads your **Overall Score**. The score the visa needs depends on how many weeks of English study (ELICOS) come before your main course.

47 / 90

OVERALL SCORE · THE VISA REQUIREMENT
The score the visa rules set for a main course on its own, for tests taken on or after 7 August 2025.

47	39	31
MAIN COURSE ONLY	10 WEEKS OF ELICOS FIRST	20 WEEKS OF ELICOS FIRST

The college sets its own entry score, and it can be higher than the visa score. AHPRA sets 63 for nursing. Check your offer letter for the score your course needs.

WHAT THIS GUIDE IS FOR

52 / 90

THE GOAL OF THIS GUIDE
This guide trains you to score 52 overall, above the 47 the visa needs for a course on its own. The real test is **harder than practice**, so do not rely on the scores from your mock test.

The test must be sat within the 2 years before the visa application is lodged. Requirement checked 2 November 2026; sources are on page 10.

HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE · FOUR KINDS OF NOTE

KEY POINT	WATCH OUT	PRO TIP	DO THIS
worth remembering	a mark-losing trap	an easy score lift	an action to take

About this guide: this guide helps you prepare for the PTE Academic English test. This guide is general study information, not migration advice. Test rules and visa English requirements can change at any time. Studyaway checks them before this guide is issued, and again before your visa application is lodged. No outcome can be guaranteed.

What is PTE Academic?

PTE Academic is a **computer-based** English test, sat at a test centre on a computer with a headset. The test takes about **2 hours** with **no scheduled break**, in **3 parts**. Pearson scores **4 skills**: speaking, writing, reading and listening.

PART	TIME	WHAT YOU DO
1 · Speaking and Writing	76 to 84 min	Speak into a microphone and type answers, mixed together.
2 · Reading	23 to 30 min	Read passages on screen and answer questions.
3 · Listening	31 to 39 min	Listen to audio, played once only, and answer questions.

KEY POINT Speaking and Writing share **the same part**. The test switches between them inside Part 1. That is different from other English tests.

Test conditions: what it is really like

Know what to expect and you will stay calm.

- ✓ The test room holds **other people speaking at the same time**, and their voices carry. Focus on your own screen.
- ✓ Every speaking answer goes **out loud into a microphone**. It feels strange at first. Speak clearly and do not go quiet.
- ✓ A **timer** runs and you **cannot go back**. If you are stuck, pick your best answer and move on.
- ✓ Each audio plays **once**. Take notes on the **erasable noteboard** the test centre gives you.
- ✓ The test has **no scheduled break**, and the clock keeps running. Use the bathroom **before** you start.

WATCH OUT Always **wait for the microphone icon** before you speak. If you start early, your answer does not record.

General tips

- ✓ Practise on a **computer with a headset**, not your phone. The real test is on a computer.
- ✓ Use the **noteboard** on every listening and speaking task.
- ✓ Do **not** memorise whole answers. The test rewards **natural** responses.
- ✓ **Never stop and restart** when speaking. Keep going after a mistake.

WATCH THIS VIDEO

→ **The current test format, explained** · youtu.be/YKdYU0LbCy0

How to use this guide

Set up
Sign up to E2 below. Watch the test overview video on page 2. Together they take about 40 minutes.

Do your first mock
One full mock, **before any study**. It shows where you stand. Write down your score for each of the four skills.

Work the four skills
Pages 5 to 8: writing, listening, reading and speaking. Watch the videos, learn the methods, drill the tasks. Give writing and listening the most practice time.

Mock again
Another full mock under real conditions. No pausing, no breaks.

Repeat steps 4 and 5 until your mocks reach your goal score.

Fix your lowest skill
Go back to that skill's page and drill it until the next mock moves.

Book, then get ready for test day
Book once your mocks reach the target. Then follow page 9.

Do this first: set up your practice platform

Studyaway points every student to E2 Language for practice. E2 mock tests are the base of the plan on the next page.

Sign up → **Do your first mock** → **Note your four scores**

- ✓ Full timed **mock tests** that look and score like the real exam
- ✓ **Methods and video lessons** for the PTE question types
- ✓ Hundreds of **practice questions** with method lessons
- ✓ Hundreds of **grammar video lessons**

Start with the trial → e2language.com/pte

Full mock tests come with the E2 paid packages (Express+ and above).

The study plan

WHEN	WHAT TO DO	TIME	FOCUS
Day 1	**Diagnose.** Sign up to E2. Do one full mock. Note your score in each skill. The lowest two skills are the focus.	about 2 hrs	SET UP
Day 1	**Learn the writing templates.** Watch the Summarise Written Text and Essay videos. Learn one template for each.	same day	WRITING
Day 2	**Listening drills.** Write from Dictation every day. Then Fill in the Blanks and Highlight Incorrect Words.	about 2 hrs	LISTENING
Day 2	**Reading drills.** Fill in the Blanks and Re-order Paragraphs. Build speed.	same day	READING
Day 3	**Speaking and the new tasks.** Read Aloud and Repeat Sentence warm-ups. Practise the two new tasks.	about 1.5 hrs	SPEAKING
Day 3	**Mock and review.** Do another full mock. Compare it to Day 1. Fix whatever is still lowest.	same day	MOCK

Three days is the **minimum**. If your first mock is well under your goal, spread the same steps over two or three weeks and add more mocks.

Booking the test

Pearson takes PTE Academic bookings on its website: **pearsonpte.com**. The exact fee shows when you pick your centre and date.

Create your account → Choose PTE Academic → Pick a centre and date → Pay and confirm

- ✓ Book with your **passport**. The name on your booking must match it exactly.
- ✓ The college asks for the score with your enrolment, and the result goes in with the visa application. **Book early**, so the result is ready in time.
- ✓ The test must be sat **within the 2 years before** your visa application is lodged.

WATCH OUT Already holding an old PTE result? **Check its test date.** A result from a test sat more than 2 years before lodgement cannot be used, and a test taken before 7 August 2025 is read against different scores (50, 42 and 36).

DO THIS Send Studyaway your planned test date before you book. Studyaway checks it against your visa timing so the result stays usable.

1 Writing

about 2 hours

Two tasks: **Summarise Written Text** and the **Essay**. Both follow a fixed shape, so templates work well here.

EVERY QUESTION, IN FOUR STEPS

Read the task → Plan the shape → Write it → Check the count

TASK	PRACTICE TIME	PRIORITY
Summarise Written Text · one sentence of 5 to 75 words that sums up a passage	1 hour	HIGH
Essay · 200 to 300 words giving your opinion with reasons	1 hr 15	HIGH

MUST DO Write your Summarise Written Text answer as **one sentence only**. Two sentences scores **zero** for form.

WATCH OUT Going over 300 words or under 200 in the Essay costs marks. Watch the word counter.

Summarise Written Text

- ✓ Write **one sentence only**. Aim for about 30 to 40 words.
- ✓ Join ideas with linking words: **which, and, because, while**.
- ✓ Use **your own words**. Do not copy whole lines from the passage.

A one-sentence shape that works

- ✓ "The passage argues that …, because …, which means …" Practise filling it until it is automatic.

Essay

- ✓ Plan for **3 minutes**, write for **15**, check for **2**.
- ✓ Structure: **introduction, two reasons, conclusion**.
- ✓ Stay between **200 and 300 words**. Use clear, simple sentences.

WATCH THESE VIDEOS

→ **Summarise Written Text, the current rules** · youtu.be/a-ify6ZcckI

→ **Essay structure, step by step** · youtu.be/o5VoSYRweEE

2 Listening

about 2 hours

Each recording plays **once**. Keep your headphones on for the whole part, and keep the noteboard in reach.

EVERY QUESTION, IN FOUR STEPS

Listen, once → Note key words → Type your answer → Check spelling

TASK	PRACTICE TIME	PRIORITY
Write from Dictation · type the sentence exactly as you hear it	1 hr 15	HIGH
Fill in the Blanks · type the missing words while listening	20 min	HIGH
Highlight Incorrect Words · click words that differ from the audio	20 min	HIGH
Summarise Spoken Text · write a 50 to 70 word summary	20 min	MEDIUM

MUST DO Practise **Write from Dictation** the most. It scores every correct word, and it lifts your Writing score too.

PRO TIP Write from Dictation gives marks for **every correct word**. Even half the words still scores.

WATCH OUT **Spelling counts.** A misspelled word does not score, so type carefully.

How to score

- ✓ Use the noteboard for **key words, numbers, names and dates**.
- ✓ Write from Dictation: **listen to the whole sentence first**, then type.
- ✓ Fill in the Blanks: **read the text before** the audio starts.
- ✓ Summarise Spoken Text: reuse your writing template. One clear summary, 50 to 70 words.

WATCH THESE VIDEOS

→ **Write from Dictation, the method** · youtu.be/RXpJUXQ54Jw

→ **Summarise Spoken Text, template and notes** · youtu.be/AOwNXuC-aD4

3 Reading

about 1.5 hours

Time goes fast in this part. Keep moving, and do not get stuck on one question.

EVERY QUESTION, IN FOUR STEPS

Scan the question → Decide the word type → Answer → Move on

TASK	PRACTICE TIME	PRIORITY
Fill in the Blanks (Reading, and Reading and Writing) · choose or drag the right word	20 min	HIGH
Re-order Paragraphs · put the sentences in the correct order	15 min	HIGH
Multiple Choice (single and multiple answer) · pick the correct answer or answers	10 min	MEDIUM

MUST DO If you get stuck, **pick your best answer and move on**. Never spend long on one question.

WATCH OUT In Multiple Choice with **more than one answer**, a wrong pick can **lose** you a mark.

How to score

- ✓ Fill in the Blanks: decide the **type of word** you need first: noun, verb or adjective.
- ✓ Re-order Paragraphs: the first sentence will **not** start with **it, they, this or these**.
- ✓ Multiple Choice: read the options **before** the passage, so you know what to look for.

WATCH THESE VIDEOS

→ **Fill in the Blanks, grammar rules** · youtu.be/5dTI5S-FhXE

→ **Re-order Paragraphs, the method** · youtu.be/M5YK09URtdo

4 Speaking

about 1.5 hours

Seven speaking tasks, mixed with Writing inside Part 1. Speak into the microphone at a steady volume.

EVERY QUESTION, IN FOUR STEPS

Wait for the mic → Steady pace → Keep going → Use the full time

TASK	PRACTICE TIME	PRIORITY
Read Aloud and Repeat Sentence · warm up, keep a steady pace	20 min	HIGH
Describe Image and Re-tell Lecture · speak for the full time	15 min	MEDIUM
Summarise Group Discussion and Respond to a Situation	20 min	NEW

MUST DO **Wait for the microphone icon** before you speak. Anything you say before it does not record.

KEY POINT The two new tasks reward **natural, real answers**. Do not memorise scripts.

How to score

- ✓ Speak at a **steady, natural pace**. Do not rush, and do not slow down to sound careful.
- ✓ **Keep going** after a small mistake. Never stop and restart.
- ✓ Repeat Sentence plays **once**. Note key words as you listen.

The two new tasks, added August 2025

- ✓ **Summarise Group Discussion:** you hear three people talk for about three minutes, then summarise their main points.
- ✓ **Respond to a Situation:** you hear a real-life situation, then reply naturally for about 40 seconds.

WATCH THESE VIDEOS

→ **Speaking, every task type** · youtu.be/3rRY96mbizY

→ **The two new tasks, tips** · youtu.be/EgjQHJDmyZs

Test day preparation

The night before

- ✓ **Stop studying early.** Rest helps more than one extra hour of practice.
- ✓ Put your **passport and booking confirmation** somewhere easy to find.
- ✓ Set **two alarms**.
- ✓ Do not cram late. A calm, rested brain scores better.

The morning of the test

- ✓ Eat a **good breakfast**. The test runs over two hours with no food.
- ✓ Drink some water, **not too much**. The test has no toilet break.
- ✓ Wear **comfortable clothes** and bring a **jacket**. Test rooms are cold.
- ✓ Arrive **30 minutes early**.
- ✓ Bring the **passport you booked with**. Nothing else goes into the room.

WATCH OUT The name on your booking must match your **passport exactly**. Check it when you book, not on test day.

KEY POINT Remember the test conditions on page 2. Speak up, watch the timer, and stay calm.

After the test

Pearson usually releases the Score Report within 2 days. Check your **Overall Score** against the visa score on page 1, and against the score your course needs.

If the score fell short, that is not the end. Book another test, drill your lowest skill, and go again. Many students pass on their second try.

DO THIS When your result is in, **email it to info@studyaway.com.au** so it is ready for your visa application.

The one thing that matters most: mock tests

⚠ **Mock Tests:** Most important for preparation

Most students do one or two mocks and get a good score and think it is enough. **It is not.** A full mock is the closest thing to the real exam: same timing, same screen, same pressure. The more you do, the less the real test can surprise you. Do at least 4 where you get a consistent mark.

MUST DO Do **as many full mock tests as you can**, far more than two, right up to a day or two before your exam.

- ✓ Do each one **start to finish, with no breaks**, like the real thing.
- ✓ After each mock, **work on your lowest skill**, then do another.

Understand the test. Do your mocks. Keep going. If you get stuck, Studyaway can help.

Need help?

Questions about your test, your score, or your visa timing:

Email: **info@studyaway.com.au**

Book a 15 minute chat: **cal.com/studyaway/student-visa-counselling-15-min-phonecall**

WhatsApp or text message: **0414 947 297**

What Studyaway checked, and when

1. Migration Regulations 1994 (Cth), Sch 2 cl 500.213, and Migration (English Language Tests and Evidence Exemptions for Subclass 500 (Student) Visas) Instrument 2025 (LIN 25/090, F2025L00906), s 6 and Sch 1: PTE Academic 47 overall for a main course on its own, 39 with at least 10 weeks of ELICOS, 31 with at least 20 weeks, from a test sat within the 2 years before the visa application. Read 2 November 2026 on legislation.gov.au, and on the Department of Home Affairs Student visa (subclass 500) page, last updated 22 October 2026.
2. AHPRA, Accepted English language tests (page reviewed 23 April 2026): for nursing registration, PTE Academic 63 overall with Listening 58, Reading 59, Writing 60 and Speaking 76, for tests taken from 23 April 2026. Read 2 November 2026.
3. Pearson PTE, pearsonpte.com, the PTE Academic page and the test format pages. Three parts: Speaking and Writing 76 to 84 minutes, Reading 23 to 30 minutes, Listening 31 to 39 minutes. About 2 hours, results usually in 2 days. Summarise Group Discussion and Respond to a Situation added from 7 August 2025. Checked 2 November 2026. No scheduled breaks: PTE Academic Test Taker Handbook (July 2025), read 6 October 2026.
4. E2 Language, e2language.com/pte: platform features, trial and packages. Checked 2 November 2026.
5. Every video linked in this guide was checked live on 2 November 2026, with its publish date. All teach the test format in force since 7 August 2025.

✓ **Requirement figures checked 2 November 2026.** English requirements sit in legislative instruments and can change with little notice. Studyaway checks them again before your visa application is lodged. That check is part of the service.

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Prepared by Studyaway Pty Ltd. This guide gives general study information for the PTE Academic test. This guide is not migration advice, and no outcome is guaranteed. A supervising Registered Migration Agent makes migration decisions, using the law that applies at the time of each application. Requirement figures are checked before every issue of this guide.