



# PTE Academic

# Essay Score

# Guide

# PTE Academic Essay Score Guide

The PTE Academic Essay task requires test takers to plan, write and review a short persuasive or argumentative essay on a given topic within 20 minutes. Practicing essay writing skills in class is a great way to prepare learners for this task. This guide will help you to better understand the PTE Academic Essay task and help you to evaluate your learners' responses.

## Understanding the scoring

The PTE Academic Essay task is scored on seven traits, each representing a separate aspect of essay quality. The most important trait is Content, it has the highest maximum raw score (3 points). If the score for content is 0 (zero), the whole essay is scored zero as no attempt was made to perform the task as required.

It is important to stress that the traits for PTE Academic need to be scored independently. Human raters can best achieve this by scoring all essays consecutively for one single trait at the time, i.e., first rate all essays for Content. Then, score all essays for the Formal requirement, next for Development, Structure and Coherence, and so on, till the last trait.

A test taker's essay will not be scored on any trait and will be awarded 0 (zero) in the following cases:

- The response is irrelevant to the prompt.
- The response is not in English.
- The response is written in capitals.
- There is no written response.

To evaluate your learners essays, use the rubrics below to score your learners' responses over each of the seven trait areas. Provide a score for each trait, then calculate the total score out of 15 and provide additional feedback focusing on areas of strength and areas for improvement.

# Essay Scoring Guidelines

## Content

Content is scored by determining if all aspects of the topic have been addressed in the response and if provided details, examples and explanations are appropriately supporting the test taker's point of view.

If the test taker does not address the topic, the response will be scored zero on all traits.

3	Adequately deals with the prompt.
2	Deals with the prompt but does not deal with one minor aspect.
1	Deals with the prompt but does not deal with a major aspect or more than one minor aspect.
0	Does not deal with the prompt.

## Form

Formal Requirement is scored by determining if the response meets the length requirement of 200-300 words. If the test taker writes fewer than 120 or more than 380 words, the response will be scored zero on all traits.

2	Length is between 200 and 300 words.
1	Length is between 120 and 199 words or between 301 and 380 words.
0	Length is less than 120 words or more than 380 words. Essay is written in capital letters, contains no pronunciation, or only consists of bullet points, or very short sentences.

## Development, structure and coherence

Development, structure and coherence are scored according to the organization of the response demonstrating good development of ideas and a logic structure.

2	Shows good development and logical structure.
1	Is incidentally less well structured, and some elements or paragraph are poorly linked
0	Lacks coherence and mainly consists of lists or loose elements.

## Grammar

Grammar is scored by examining if the response demonstrates correct grammatical usage.

2	Shows consistent grammatical control of complex language. Errors are rare and difficult to spot.
1	Shows a relatively high degree of grammatical control. No mistakes which would lead to misunderstandings
0	Contains mainly simple structures and/or several basic mistakes

## General Linguistic range

General Linguistic Range is scored by determining if the language in the response accurately and precisely conveys the test taker's ideas.

2	Exhibits smooth mastery of a wide range of language to formulate thoughts precisely, give emphasis, differentiate and eliminate ambiguity.
1	No sign that the test taker is restricted in what they want to communicate.
0	Sufficient range of language to provide clear descriptions, express viewpoints and develop arguments.

## Vocabulary range

Vocabulary Range is scored by determining if the response shows a good command of a broad lexical repertoire.

2	Good command of a broad lexical repertoire, idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms.
1	Shows a good range of vocabulary for matters connected to general academic topics. Lexical shortcomings lead to circumlocution or some imprecision.
0	Contains mainly basic vocabulary insufficient to deal with the topic at the required level.

## Spelling

Grammar is scored by examining if the response demonstrates correct grammatical usage.

2	Good command of a broad lexical repertoire, idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms.
1	Shows a good range of vocabulary for matters connected to general academic topics. Lexical shortcomings lead to circumlocution or some imprecision.
0	Contains mainly basic vocabulary insufficient to deal with the topic at the required level.

Overall score for essay: /15

Comments/Feedback: