

FREE PTE STUDY PDF

PTE Summarize Written Text Template PDF with Sample Answers

The Gurully Summarize Written Text template with three variants, 12 connectors, the PTE Core paragraph template, and 25 practice passages each with a one-sentence Academic answer and a PTE Core answer.

What's inside

1. The task and how it is scored	2
2. Templates and connectors	2
3. 25 practice passages with sample answers	6

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SECTION 1

The task and how it is scored

Summarize Written Text gives you a passage of up to 300 words and 10 minutes to write one single sentence of 5 to 75 words. There are 2 items in the test, and each scores both Reading and Writing.

Trait	Points	What it checks
Content	0 to 4	Covers the main points of the passage
Form	0 to 1	One single complete sentence of 5 to 75 words. Two sentences, or a sentence outside the limit, score 0 for Form
Grammar	0 to 2	Correct grammatical structure throughout the sentence
Vocabulary	0 to 2	Appropriate word choice, including words from the passage used correctly

Tip

Aim for 35 to 60 words. That is long enough to hold three or four ideas and short enough to keep the grammar under control.

Common mistake

Writing two sentences. One full stop at the end is the single most important rule in this task.

SECTION 2

Templates

Start with the Gurully four-part template, then use the variants when a passage has a clear cause and effect or problem and solution shape.

Gurully four-part template

Pattern: [Main idea or subject] is discussed as it connects to [specific aspect], highlighting [important detail] and stressing [key point].

Example: The impact of regular exercise on mental health is discussed as it connects to the release of chemicals such as endorphins and serotonin, highlighting that physical activity can reduce symptoms of depression as effectively as medication for some people and stressing its links with better sleep, lower stress and higher self-esteem.

When to use it: Use this for most passages: it forces you to name the topic, one supporting aspect, one detail and the writer's main point in a single sentence.

Two-idea template

Pattern: [Main idea], which [supporting detail], while [second idea or contrast], and this means that [result or implication].

Example: Heat pumps move heat from one place to another using a small amount of energy, which allows them to warm a building in winter, while the same process can be reversed to cool it in summer, and this means that one device is often preferred to separate heating and cooling systems.

When to use it: Use this when the passage has two clear ideas of equal weight, such as two uses, two groups or two sides of an argument.

Cause and effect template

Pattern: Because [cause described in the passage], [subject] [effect or change], which leads to [consequence], although [limitation or counterpoint].

Example: Because the Arctic is warming at nearly twice the global average, sea ice and permafrost are melting rapidly, which leads to lost hunting platforms for polar bears, shifting species ranges and broken food chains, although human activities such as shipping and resource extraction make conservation even harder in this remote region.

When to use it: Use this when the passage explains why something happens and what follows from it, which is common in science, environment and economics texts.

Problem and solution template

Pattern: Although [problem or challenge], [who or what] [solution or response], which [benefit], so that [wider outcome].

Example: Although lion hunting once gave young Maasai warriors honour and status, the community now holds an athletic competition in running, spear throwing and high jump, which rewards the same skills without harming wildlife, so that cultural tradition and conservation can support each other and attract international recognition.

When to use it: Use this when the passage sets out a difficulty and then describes how people, technology or policy respond to it.

Connectors that join ideas inside one sentence

Connector	Use	Example
which	Adds a detail about the noun just mentioned without starting a new sentence.	Beta testing reveals bugs early, which shortens the time to market.

Connector	Use	Example
while	Joins two ideas that happen together or that contrast with each other.	Fireflies glow to attract mates, while deep-sea animals glow to hide.
although	Introduces a limitation or an opposing point inside the same sentence.	Although the process is slow, a legal name change is necessary to make a new name official.
because	Gives the reason for the main claim.	Perovskite cells cost less because they can be made with simpler methods.
and	Links two points of equal importance in a list or a pair.	Exercise improves sleep and raises self-esteem.
but	Shows a direct contrast between two short ideas.	Templates help with structure, but the content must come from the passage.
as well as	Adds a further item without repeating 'and'.	Kinesiology serves careers in sport as well as medicine.
whereas	Compares two things that differ in a clear way.	Monarch butterflies migrate over several generations, whereas many birds complete the journey alone.
so that	Explains the purpose or intended result of an action.	Businesses study their audience so that their content reaches the right people.
which means that	Draws a conclusion from the detail just given.	The bones are far older than expected, which means that domestication began earlier than thought.
in addition to	Adds a second point to the first noun phrase at the start of a clause.	In addition to monitoring wildlife, drones now deter poachers.
despite	Signals that something happens even though there is an obstacle.	Despite its remoteness, the Arctic attracts growing shipping traffic.

PTE Core: paragraph template (25 to 50 words)

Pattern: The text discusses [main idea or topic] and its significance. It elaborates on [specific point 1], explaining [brief detail], and also mentions [specific point 2]. Overall, it emphasises [broader summary or implication].

Example: The text discusses the role of beta testing in mobile app development. It elaborates on how real users reveal bugs and usability problems before launch, and also mentions that this feedback shortens the time to market. Overall, it emphasises that testing leads to better products.

Mistake	Fix
Writing two sentences, or adding a second full stop anywhere, in PTE Academic.	Form is pass or fail: one sentence with a single full stop at the end. Join ideas with 'which', 'while', 'and' or 'because' instead of starting again.
Copying whole sentences from the passage.	Keep technical terms, but rewrite supporting points in your own words with synonyms and a changed sentence structure, because copied text lowers the content and vocabulary scores.
Going over 75 words in PTE Academic or outside 25 to 50 words in PTE Core.	Use the on-screen word counter. Aim for 35 to 65 words in Academic and 30 to 48 in Core so that you have a safety margin.
Packing in minor details and examples instead of the main idea.	Read the first and last sentences of each paragraph, pick the main idea plus two or three supporting points, and leave out examples and figures.
Chaining clauses with semicolons or commas until the sentence breaks.	Use one connector per idea and keep a single subject and verb in control of the sentence. If you cannot read it aloud in one breath, cut a clause.
Starting with 'The author says that' or 'This passage is about'.	Begin with the topic itself, as in the Gurully template: '[Main idea] is discussed as it connects to [aspect]...'. This saves words and reads more naturally.
Leaving no time to check, so small grammar or spelling errors stay in.	Plan the 10 minutes: about 2 to 3 minutes to read and note key points, 4 to 5 minutes to write, and 1 to 2 minutes to proofread spelling, subject-verb agreement and the final full stop.
Adding your own opinion or information that is not in the passage.	Every idea in your summary must come from the text. Content is scored on how well you reflect the passage, not on what you know about the topic.



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SECTION 3

25 practice passages with sample answers

Read each passage, note the key points, and write your one-sentence summary before looking at the sample. Each sample gives an Academic one-sentence answer and a PTE Core paragraph answer.

Passage 1 · Bioluminescence in animals

Bioluminescence, the ability of certain animals to produce and emit light, has long intrigued scientists and captivated the public's imagination. This natural phenomenon is not only a marvel to behold but also serves various functions in the animal kingdom. One of the most well-known bioluminescent creatures is the firefly. These tiny insects produce light through a chemical reaction in their abdomen to attract mates during their nocturnal courtship displays, creating a mesmerising spectacle on warm summer evenings as they flicker and glow together. Deep beneath the ocean's surface, bioluminescence is even more common. Many marine species, including certain types of jellyfish, anglerfish and plankton, use it for a range of purposes. Some deep-sea creatures employ it as a form of camouflage, matching their light emission to the faint glow of sunlight filtering through the water above. Bioluminescence can also be a means of communication and defence. Some squids use flashes of light to communicate with each other or to deter predators, and the ability to emit sudden bursts of bluish light can startle and confuse a threat, allowing the squid to escape. Scientists have studied bioluminescent animals for many years, not only to understand the biological mechanisms behind their light production but also to develop new technologies. The enzymes and molecules responsible for bioluminescence have been used in biotechnology, leading to advances in fields such as medicine and genetics. Beyond their natural beauty, these organisms offer valuable insights and potential applications that continue to inspire scientific research and innovation.

Key points

- Bioluminescence is light produced by animals through a chemical reaction
- Uses include attracting mates, camouflage, communication and defence
- Most common in deep-sea species such as jellyfish and squids
- Its enzymes are now applied in medicine and genetics

Academic answer (53 words, one sentence): Bioluminescence, the natural ability of animals such as fireflies, deep-sea species and squids to emit light, serves crucial survival roles including attracting mates, camouflage, communication and defence, while the enzymes behind it have been applied in biotechnology, medicine and genetics, showing how a beautiful natural phenomenon continues to inspire scientific research and innovation.

PTE Core answer (42 words): Bioluminescence is the ability of animals such as fireflies, jellyfish and squids to produce their own light. They use it to attract mates, hide from predators, communicate and defend themselves. Scientists also apply the enzymes behind this light in medicine and genetics.

Passage 2 · A breakthrough in solar cells

Recent research has led to a significant breakthrough in solar cell technology, offering the potential to change the way we harness and use solar energy. This innovation promises to make solar power more efficient and accessible than ever before. Traditional solar cells, known as photovoltaic cells, have limitations when it comes to capturing sunlight and converting it into electricity. A major challenge has been maximising the absorption of sunlight across a broad spectrum of wavelengths. However, researchers have now developed a new type of solar cell that addresses this issue. The breakthrough involves the use of perovskite solar cells, a type of solar technology that has gained attention for its high efficiency and low production costs. Perovskite solar cells have the unique ability to absorb a wider range of light wavelengths, making them more effective in converting sunlight into electricity. Furthermore, perovskite solar cells can be manufactured using simpler and more cost-effective methods than traditional silicon solar cells. This means that solar panels incorporating this technology can potentially be produced at a lower cost, making solar energy more affordable and accessible to a broader range of people. Additionally, the flexibility and versatility of perovskite solar cells open up new possibilities for integration into various applications, such as wearable technology, building-integrated photovoltaics and portable electronic devices. This breakthrough not only holds promise for a more sustainable and eco-friendly future but also highlights the ongoing advances in renewable energy. As researchers continue to refine and scale up perovskite production, we may soon see a significant increase in the adoption of solar energy as a clean and efficient power source.

Key points

- Traditional silicon cells absorb only a limited range of wavelengths
- Perovskite cells absorb more wavelengths and convert sunlight more effectively
- They are cheaper and simpler to manufacture
- Flexible cells can be built into wearables, buildings and portable devices

Academic answer (55 words, one sentence): Recent advances in solar energy, marked by the development of perovskite solar cells, offer a major breakthrough in harnessing solar power, because these cells absorb a wider range of light wavelengths than traditional silicon cells and can be manufactured more cheaply and flexibly, paving the way for more affordable, accessible and widely integrated solar energy.

PTE Core answer (46 words): The text discusses a breakthrough in solar technology based on perovskite solar cells. These cells absorb a wider range of light wavelengths than silicon cells and are cheaper and simpler to produce. Overall, it emphasises that they could make solar power more affordable and widely used.

Passage 3 · Green technology and conservation

In recent years, the integration of green technology into wildlife conservation efforts has yielded promising results. This marriage of innovation and environmental protection has the potential to reshape the future of conservation. One notable result has been the development of advanced monitoring systems that employ artificial intelligence and remote sensing. These technologies enable researchers to track wildlife populations, behaviour and habitat changes with unprecedented precision. This data-driven approach not only enhances our understanding of animal ecosystems but also aids in conservation decision-making. Emerging green products, such as biodegradable materials and sustainable building practices, play a vital role in reducing human impact on natural habitats. From eco-friendly building designs that minimise disruption to ecosystems to the use of biodegradable fishing gear, these innovations help to limit the negative effects of human activities on wildlife and their environments. In addition to technological advances, conservation events and competitions have gained prominence. These events foster awareness and collaboration among researchers, conservationists and the general public, and they provide a platform for showcasing innovative conservation strategies and inspiring collective action. Furthermore, green technology contributes to the protection of endangered species. Conservationists are using drones and remote-controlled vehicles for anti-poaching patrols, ensuring the safety of vulnerable animals while deterring illegal hunting. As climate change and habitat destruction continue to threaten wildlife, the intersection of green technology, conservation research and public engagement offers hope for the preservation of our planet's biodiversity. By harnessing the power of innovation and environmental consciousness, we can strive for a more harmonious coexistence with the animal kingdom and protect fragile ecosystems for generations to come.

Key points

- AI and remote sensing track wildlife and habitats precisely
- Biodegradable materials and sustainable buildings reduce human impact
- Public events raise awareness and collaboration
- Drones and remote vehicles patrol against poaching

Academic answer (51 words, one sentence): The recent fusion of green technology with wildlife conservation, through artificial intelligence monitoring systems, biodegradable products, public engagement events and drone patrols against poaching, is reshaping conservation efforts by improving our understanding and protection of biodiversity and offering a hopeful response to the growing threats of climate change and habitat destruction.

PTE Core answer (42 words): The passage highlights how green technology is changing wildlife conservation. Artificial intelligence and remote sensing track animals precisely, biodegradable products reduce human impact, and drones patrol against poaching. Overall, it emphasises that innovation and public engagement together offer hope for protecting biodiversity.

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Passage 4 · Traditional ecological knowledge

The Navajo Nation, one of the largest indigenous tribes in North America, possesses a wealth of traditional ecological knowledge that has proven instrumental in addressing contemporary environmental challenges. Recent research has highlighted the significance of this indigenous wisdom in promoting sustainable practices and preserving the environment. The Navajo people have inhabited the south-western part of the continent for centuries and have developed a deep understanding of their natural surroundings. This knowledge encompasses sustainable land management, water conservation and the use of native plants for medicinal and cultural purposes. In recent years, the Navajo Nation has faced environmental challenges, including droughts and the impacts of climate change. The tribe's traditional ecological knowledge has become an invaluable resource in responding to these challenges. For instance, the people's historical practices of water harvesting and efficient crop cultivation have been adapted to limit the effects of prolonged droughts. Furthermore, the emphasis on native plants in traditional healing practices aligns with modern efforts to protect biodiversity and to promote indigenous flora in sustainable agriculture and medicine. Incorporating traditional ecological knowledge into contemporary environmental initiatives not only benefits the Navajo people but also contributes to broader conservation efforts. It showcases the importance of indigenous perspectives in tackling complex environmental issues and reinforces the idea that cultural heritage and sustainable environmental practices can go hand in hand. In conclusion, the traditional ecological knowledge of the Navajo Nation serves as a model for the integration of indigenous wisdom into modern conservation. It demonstrates how honouring cultural heritage can lead to innovative and sustainable solutions that benefit not only one community but the world at large.

Key points

- Navajo knowledge covers land management, water conservation and native plants
- It is now used to respond to drought and climate change
- Water harvesting and efficient crop methods have been adapted
- Indigenous perspectives strengthen wider conservation efforts

Academic answer (55 words, one sentence): The Navajo Nation's traditional ecological knowledge, developed over centuries of sustainable land management, water conservation and the use of native plants, has become crucial in responding to modern challenges such as drought and climate change, which shows that indigenous wisdom and cultural heritage can provide innovative and sustainable solutions for conservation far beyond one community.

PTE Core answer (45 words): The text discusses the traditional ecological knowledge of the Navajo Nation. It explains how centuries of experience in land management, water conservation and native plants now helps the community respond to drought and climate change. Overall, it emphasises that indigenous wisdom can guide modern conservation.

Passage 5 · Sport replaces lion hunting

The Maasai people of East Africa have long been celebrated for their distinctive culture and traditions. One of the most unique and transformative events in recent Maasai history has been the introduction of the Maasai Olympics, an initiative that combines sportsmanship with the preservation of cultural heritage. Traditionally, Maasai warriors gained honour and prestige through acts of bravery, such as lion hunting. However, as wildlife conservation efforts intensified and lion populations declined, there was a growing need to find alternative ways to demonstrate valour and leadership within the community. In response to these challenges, the Maasai Olympics was born. This event, held every two years, showcases athletic skills in sports like running, spear throwing and high jump, all inspired by traditional warrior training. The twist is that instead of hunting lions, participants now compete to protect them, as the Maasai people have recognised the importance of wildlife conservation. The event not only provides a platform for young warriors to display their physical prowess but also promotes environmental conservation and raises awareness about the importance of preserving Africa's wildlife. It sends a powerful message that cultural heritage and wildlife conservation can go hand in hand. This unique event has gained attention within Maasai communities and has also attracted international recognition. It exemplifies how innovative approaches can honour tradition while adapting to changing times. The Maasai Olympics serves as an inspiring example of how culture, sport and environmental stewardship can intersect to create a positive impact in the modern world, showing how indigenous communities can adapt and thrive while maintaining their roots and contributing to global conservation.

Key points

- Lion hunting once gave warriors honour and prestige
- Falling lion numbers created a need for an alternative
- An athletic event in running, spear throwing and high jump replaced the hunt
- The event unites cultural heritage with wildlife conservation

Academic answer (55 words, one sentence): The Maasai Olympics, a transformative event in East Africa, creatively merges traditional warrior skills with wildlife conservation by replacing lion hunting with sports such as running, spear throwing and high jump, allowing young warriors to display their prowess while protecting lions, which demonstrates that cultural heritage and environmental stewardship can coexist and earn international recognition.

PTE Core answer (40 words): The passage highlights the Maasai Olympics in East Africa. Because lion numbers were falling, the community replaced lion hunting with athletic contests in running, spear throwing and high jump. Overall, it emphasises that tradition and wildlife conservation can work together.

Passage 6 · Branding through social media

Branding is more important than some marketers think, with a large majority of consumers stating that they only buy from brands they trust. This feeling cuts across all global markets, ages and income groups. Consumers need to be aware of your brand before they can decide whether to trust you or not. When it comes to creating brand awareness, there is hardly a more effective way than using social media. Most large enterprises use social media to enhance their initiatives and to improve communication with their stakeholders. In an increasingly digitised world, people have migrated to social media, and the number of users worldwide keeps growing. Small businesses that harness this unprecedented power stand to succeed. The crucial step in building brand awareness with social media is to make sure you are targeting the right audience. Take the time to define your audience so that you can come up with content that resonates best with them. Ideally, you want to target the people who need your product or service the most. Once you determine who these people are, it becomes easier to connect and interact with them. Another important step is to take the time to do your research: know which social media platforms they are most likely to use frequently. One way to determine the right platform is to take a closer look at what product or service you offer, since visual products suit image-based platforms while professional services suit platforms built around careers and business networking. Consistency matters as well, because a brand that posts regularly and replies to comments builds familiarity, and familiarity is the first step towards trust.

Key points

- Consumers buy from brands they trust, so awareness comes first
- Social media is the most effective way to build awareness
- Define the target audience and create content that resonates with them
- Research which platforms the audience uses and post consistently

Academic answer (53 words, one sentence): Branding, a critical aspect of marketing, requires building trust through effective social media strategies in which businesses define their target audience, choose the platforms that audience actually uses and post consistent, resonant content, so that awareness grows into familiarity and then into the consumer trust that drives purchases in an increasingly digitised world.

PTE Core answer (41 words): The text discusses why branding matters and how social media builds it. Consumers buy only from brands they trust, so businesses must define their audience, choose the right platforms and post consistent content. Overall, it emphasises that awareness leads to trust.

Passage 7 · Why beta testing matters

There are over a million apps in the world, and most of them have to go through mobile beta testing to be relevant in the market. Beta testing allows you to test your app's real-world performance. This allows quality assurance teams to identify and focus on any bugs that appear, so that customers can expect the product to work without problems. Understanding the problems ahead of time makes the development team more efficient, because they can improve the quality of the product before release rather than after complaints arrive. Running a beta test on your product also decreases the time it takes to reach the market, and understanding customer expectations improves other aspects of the product and other processes. Beta testing is also the product management opportunity to get real user feedback in a real environment. It offers unique insights from the customer's experience, and it answers questions from a competitive analysis standpoint. Beta testers can record their interaction with the product and uncover issues the team was not aware of. This also allows you to review how they use the product: what challenges they encounter and what features they ignore. Every product has an expected output and flow of action. Through beta testing, you can determine how many of the expected outcomes the user actually achieves. It also expands the initial usability studies to show how the product performs in the wild, with different devices, network conditions and user habits. In short, a beta test replaces guesswork with evidence, and that evidence shapes a better launch.

Key points

- Beta testing checks real-world performance and finds bugs before launch
- Early fixes make the development team more efficient
- It shortens the time to market
- Real user feedback reveals usability problems and ignored features



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Academic answer (50 words, one sentence): Mobile beta testing ensures real-world performance by letting quality assurance teams identify bugs before release, which makes development more efficient and shortens the time to market, while genuine user feedback reveals usability problems and ignored features, so that developers can meet customer expectations and launch a stronger, more competitive product.

PTE Core answer (42 words): Beta testing is crucial for mobile app development because it identifies bugs, checks real-world performance and improves quality before launch. It also shortens the time to market and shows how real users behave. Overall, it emphasises that testing replaces guesswork with evidence.

Passage 8 · Climate change in the Arctic

Climate change has profoundly affected the Arctic region, leading to significant alterations in the habitats and behaviours of its native wildlife. The Arctic is warming nearly twice as fast as the global average, causing rapid melting of sea ice and permafrost. These environmental changes have dire consequences for species that rely on ice-covered habitats for survival. Polar bears, for instance, depend on sea ice as a platform to hunt seals. The reduction in sea ice forces them to swim longer distances and spend more time on land, where food is scarce. This leads to poorer body condition, lower reproductive rates and increased mortality. Similarly, walrus use sea ice as resting platforms between feeding bouts on the ocean floor. Ice loss compels them to haul out on land in large numbers, increasing calf mortality through trampling. Moreover, the warming climate is altering the distribution of species. Animals like the red fox are moving northward, encroaching on the territory of the Arctic fox and competing for resources. Changes in vegetation patterns due to thawing permafrost affect herbivores like caribou and musk oxen, disrupting migration patterns and food availability. Marine ecosystems are also affected, as warmer ocean temperatures and acidification impact the plankton populations that form the base of the marine food web, with cascading effects on fish, seabirds and marine mammals. Human activities encouraged by reduced ice cover, such as increased shipping and resource extraction, pose additional threats through pollution and habitat disturbance. Conservation efforts are challenged by the vastness and remoteness of the Arctic, as well as by the international cooperation required to address climate change effectively.

Key points

- The Arctic warms twice as fast as the global average, melting ice and permafrost
- Polar bears and walrus lose the ice they depend on
- Species ranges and food chains are shifting
- Shipping and extraction add pressure, and conservation is hard in such a remote area

Academic answer (56 words, one sentence): Climate change is drastically affecting the Arctic, where rapid melting of sea ice and permafrost disrupts the habitats of polar bears and walruses, shifts the ranges of species such as foxes and caribou and weakens marine food chains, while increased shipping and resource extraction add further pressure and the region's vast remoteness makes conservation especially difficult.

PTE Core answer (47 words): The text discusses how climate change is affecting Arctic wildlife. Melting sea ice and permafrost harm polar bears and walruses, shift species ranges and disrupt marine food chains. It also mentions that shipping and resource extraction add pressure, and that the remote region is hard to protect.

Passage 9 · Exercise and mental health

The profound impact of physical exercise on mental health is an area of increasing interest in both medical and psychological fields. Regular exercise is not only beneficial for physical fitness and combating disease; it also plays a significant role in enhancing mental well-being and easing the symptoms of mental health disorders. Exercise has been shown to release endorphins, often referred to as the body's natural mood lifters. These chemicals in the brain enhance our sense of well-being and can reduce the perception of pain. Beyond endorphins, exercise also stimulates the release of neurotransmitters such as serotonin and norepinephrine, which can relieve feelings of depression and anxiety. Studies have consistently demonstrated that regular physical activity can significantly reduce symptoms of depression, and for some individuals it can be as effective as antidepressant medication. Moreover, exercise is linked to better sleep, reduced stress and anxiety levels, improved memory and higher self-esteem. The benefits do not require intense training. Researchers have found that moderate activity, such as brisk walking for half an hour on most days, produces measurable improvements in mood, and that the effect is strongest when the activity is regular rather than occasional. Group exercise appears to add a further benefit, because social contact itself protects against low mood. Health professionals are therefore increasingly prescribing physical activity alongside, or sometimes instead of, other treatments. The challenge is that people who feel low often lack the motivation to begin, so support from friends, family or a structured programme is often the key to turning good intentions into a lasting habit.

Key points

- Exercise releases endorphins, serotonin and norepinephrine, which lift mood
- Regular activity can reduce depression, sometimes as effectively as medication
- It also improves sleep, memory and self-esteem
- Moderate, regular and social activity works best, but motivation is a barrier

Academic answer (52 words, one sentence): Physical exercise improves mental health because it releases mood-enhancing chemicals such as endorphins and serotonin that relieve depression and anxiety, reduce stress, promote better sleep and raise self-esteem, which is why health professionals increasingly prescribe moderate, regular activity, although people who feel low often need support to begin and maintain the habit.

PTE Core answer (40 words): Physical exercise improves mental health by releasing mood-enhancing chemicals like endorphins and serotonin. It relieves depression, reduces stress, promotes better sleep and boosts self-esteem. Moderate, regular activity works best, but people who feel low often need support to get started.

Passage 10 · The marvel of animal migration

The phenomenon of animal migration is one of the most captivating and awe-inspiring aspects of the natural world. It showcases the remarkable journeys undertaken by countless species, often spanning thousands of miles, in search of food, favourable breeding grounds or milder climates. Migration is not limited to a single type of animal; it occurs among birds, mammals, fish, insects and even some reptiles. Each species has its own strategy and adaptations for making these epic journeys. One of the most renowned migrations is that of the monarch butterfly. These fragile insects travel from the northern parts of North America to the forests of Mexico, covering thousands of miles. Their journey is a marvel of precision and timing, as several generations of butterflies are involved in completing the round trip, which means that no single insect ever sees both ends of the route. Birds such as the Arctic tern fly from one polar region to the other and back every year, while humpback whales swim between cold feeding waters and warm breeding lagoons. Scientists believe that animals navigate using a combination of the sun, the stars, the Earth's magnetic field and learned landmarks, and some species appear to inherit their route rather than learn it. Migration carries real risks, including exhaustion, predators and bad weather, and human activity has added new dangers such as lit buildings, roads and lost stopover habitats. Protecting migratory species therefore requires cooperation across countries, because an animal that is safe in one place can still be lost on its journey through another.

Key points

- Many species migrate thousands of miles for food, breeding or climate
- Monarch butterflies complete the round trip over several generations
- Animals navigate by the sun, stars, magnetism and landmarks
- Human activity adds dangers, so protection needs international cooperation

Academic answer (52 words, one sentence): Animal migration, a fascinating natural phenomenon seen in birds, mammals, fish and insects, involves journeys of thousands of miles for food, breeding grounds or milder climates, with monarch butterflies completing their route across several generations, and because animals face natural and human-made dangers along the way, protecting them requires cooperation between countries.

PTE Core answer (42 words): Animal migration is a fascinating phenomenon seen in birds, mammals, fish and insects. Monarch butterflies travel thousands of miles across generations, and animals navigate by the sun, stars and magnetic field. Overall, it emphasises that human dangers mean protection needs international cooperation.

Passage 11 · Changing your name

Changing your name is a big deal. Your identity and history are tied to your name, so the switch can be a monumental decision. Unfortunately, governments know this too, so the process of legally changing your name often involves red tape, loads of paperwork and high fees. Name change laws vary from one state or region to the next, so navigating that maze of rules, forms and hearings can be overwhelming. While a legal name change can be a bureaucratic nightmare, it is necessary for people who wish to make their new names official on passports, bank accounts, licences and employment records. People change their names for many reasons. Marriage and divorce are the most common, followed by a wish to reconnect with family heritage, to escape an unwanted association, or simply to adopt a name that feels more like their own. Some people decide to change their names for unconventional reasons too, such as wanting the same name as a fictional hero. Generally, you are allowed to choose an unusual name for an atypical reason. But some names are off limits in certain places, including names that are vulgar or offensive, names that may cause harm or public confusion, and names that contain excessive symbols or numerical characters. Courts can also refuse a change that appears designed to avoid debts or a criminal record. Once a change is approved, the real work begins, because every organisation that holds your old name must be told separately, and that process can take months to complete.



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Key points

- A name is tied to identity, so changing it is a major decision
- The legal process involves paperwork, fees and rules that vary by region
- Common reasons include marriage, heritage and personal preference
- Offensive, confusing or symbol-filled names can be refused

Academic answer (62 words, one sentence): Changing your name is a significant decision tied to identity and history, yet the legal process involves complex laws, paperwork and fees that vary from place to place, and while people may change their names for conventional or unusual reasons, authorities can still refuse names that are vulgar, harmful, confusing or full of symbols, after which every organisation must be informed separately.

PTE Core answer (48 words): Changing your name is a significant decision tied to identity and history, but legal processes involve complex laws, paperwork and fees. While reasons for name changes vary, including unconventional ones, certain names are restricted because they are vulgar, harmful or confusing, and every organisation must then be informed.

Passage 12 · How heat pumps work

When you think about cooling a hot building, you probably do not think of heat pumps. In fact, you likely think of using an air conditioner instead. But as it turns out, a heat pump can both heat and cool, and in some applications it is preferred to separate heating and cooling systems. Simply put, a heat pump is a device that uses a small amount of energy to move heat from one location to another. Heat pumps are typically used to pull heat out of the air or ground to warm a home or office building, but they can be reversed to cool a building. In a way, if you know how an air conditioner works, then you already know a lot about how a heat pump works, because the two operate in very similar ways. Both rely on a refrigerant that absorbs heat when it evaporates and releases heat when it condenses. A compressor and a valve control which direction the heat travels. The key advantage is efficiency. Because a heat pump moves heat rather than generating it by burning fuel or heating a wire, it can deliver several units of heat for every unit of electricity it uses. Ground-source systems are even more efficient, since the temperature a few metres underground stays stable all year. The drawbacks are a higher installation cost and reduced performance in very cold air, although newer models cope far better with low temperatures than older designs. For many households, a single heat pump now replaces both the furnace and the air conditioner.

Key points

- A heat pump moves heat from one place to another using little energy
- It can be reversed to cool a building, like an air conditioner
- It delivers several units of heat per unit of electricity
- Installation costs more and very cold air reduces performance

Academic answer (57 words, one sentence): Heat pumps can both heat and cool buildings by using a small amount of electricity to move heat between locations in much the same way as an air conditioner, which makes them far more efficient than systems that generate heat directly, although higher installation costs and weaker performance in very cold air remain drawbacks for some households.

PTE Core answer (47 words): Heat pumps can both heat and cool buildings by transferring heat between locations using minimal energy. Similar to air conditioners, they are versatile devices often preferred over separate heating and cooling systems for efficiency. Their drawbacks are higher installation costs and weaker performance in very cold air.

Passage 13 · An older story of cats

One of the biggest milestones in the history of the relationship between cats and humans has always been their treatment as elevated pets in ancient Egypt. As long as four thousand years ago, they were not only living alongside humans but were cherished by them, appearing in art and even being buried with care. For a long time, that is where we thought it all started, until an excavation in a village in China revealed a slightly different, much older story. An examination of bones from several cats found in the ancient village revealed something startling, especially considering that cats were not thought to have been domesticated in China until about two thousand years ago. The bones are approximately five thousand three hundred years old, and they tell a story that is much more complicated than the life of a wild cat. Chemical analysis of the bones showed that the animals had eaten a diet rich in grain-fed rodents and even grain itself, which suggests that they lived close to human stores of food. One of the cats was elderly and well fed, which is unlikely for an animal surviving on its own. The most convincing explanation is that farmers tolerated and perhaps fed the cats because they controlled the mice and rats that threatened the harvest. In this view, domestication was not a single event in one place but a gradual partnership that may have begun independently wherever people began to store grain. The cat, it seems, chose us as much as we chose it.

Key points

- Ancient Egypt was long seen as the start of cat domestication
- Bones in a Chinese village are far older than expected
- Diet analysis shows the cats lived near human grain stores
- Domestication was probably a gradual partnership based on pest control

Academic answer (57 words, one sentence): Cats were long believed to have been domesticated in ancient Egypt, but much older cat bones found in a Chinese farming village, together with evidence that the animals ate grain-fed rodents and lived close to human food stores, suggest that domestication began earlier and more gradually, as a partnership in which farmers tolerated cats that controlled pests.

PTE Core answer (45 words): Cats were long believed to have been domesticated in ancient Egypt. But far older cat bones found in a Chinese village suggest an earlier, more complex history. The animals ate grain-fed rodents, which shows that farmers tolerated cats because they controlled pests around stored food.

Passage 14 · What kinesiology studies

Kinesiology is a scientific field that studies the movement of the human body and its impact on health and overall well-being. Studying the science of body mechanics can serve as the foundation for a wide array of careers in sport, medicine and more. Kinesiology studies the mechanics of the human body in much the same way that motor mechanics study the different parts of vehicles. Just as a flat tyre or a blown fuse can affect the entire functioning of a car, things like poor joint mobility or weak muscle endurance can affect a person's overall mental and physical health. By understanding the intricate functioning of the body, kinesiology provides the big picture of how different body systems work together to produce a range of movements. As a field of study, it explores how the science of movement can affect people on physical, psychological and even sociological levels. Students of kinesiology learn anatomy, physiology, biomechanics and motor control, and then apply that knowledge to real problems. A sports scientist may use it to refine an athlete's technique and prevent injury, a physiotherapist may use it to design a rehabilitation programme after surgery, and an ergonomist may use it to redesign a workplace so that staff suffer fewer strains. Public health specialists draw on kinesiology when they plan community exercise initiatives for older adults. Because movement underpins almost everything we do, the field is growing quickly, and graduates are found in hospitals, gyms, schools, research laboratories and companies that design equipment for the human body.

Key points

- Kinesiology studies body movement and its effect on health
- The body is compared to a machine whose faulty parts affect the whole
- It covers physical, psychological and social effects of movement
- Graduates work in sport, physiotherapy, ergonomics and public health

Academic answer (53 words, one sentence): Kinesiology, the scientific study of human movement and its impact on health, examines body mechanics in much the same way that mechanics analyse vehicles, showing how joints, muscles and systems work together on physical, psychological and social levels, which provides the foundation for careers in sport, physiotherapy, ergonomics, public health and equipment design.

PTE Core answer (39 words): Kinesiology studies human body movement and its impact on health. It examines body mechanics to improve physical, mental and social well-being, much as mechanics analyse vehicles. This provides valuable insights for careers in sport, physiotherapy, ergonomics and public health.

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Passage 15 · The rise of abstract art

Abstract art emerged in the early twentieth century, breaking away from traditional representational forms. It focuses on shapes, colours and forms that do not necessarily depict reality but evoke emotions and ideas through non-figurative elements. The pioneers of this movement each contributed a unique perspective. One founding figure believed that art should express the inner self rather than imitate nature, and compared painting to music, which moves listeners without describing anything. Another focused on simplicity, using straight lines and primary colours to create a sense of harmony and balance. A third reduced art to its most basic geometric forms, arguing that a single shape on a plain background could carry as much meaning as a detailed scene. Critics at the time were often hostile, and many viewers felt that work without a recognisable subject could not be judged at all. Yet abstract art changed how art was perceived, emphasising artistic freedom and the subjectivity of interpretation. Because there was no story to read, viewers were invited to respond to colour, rhythm and texture directly. It opened the door to later movements, in which painters worked on enormous canvases and treated the act of painting itself as the subject. Abstract approaches also spread beyond painting into sculpture, architecture, graphic design and textiles, where simplified forms and bold colour became part of everyday life. Abstract art remains a vital and influential genre, continuing to challenge conventional ideas of what art can be and reminding us that meaning does not always need a picture.

Key points

- Abstract art rejects realistic depiction in favour of shape and colour
- Pioneers stressed inner expression, simplicity and basic geometry
- Early critics were hostile, but it changed how art is judged
- It influenced later movements and design fields

Academic answer (51 words, one sentence): Abstract art, which emerged in the early twentieth century when pioneering painters abandoned realistic depiction in favour of shapes, colours and basic forms that express inner feeling, transformed artistic expression by emphasising freedom and subjective interpretation, and despite early hostility it influenced later movements and spread into sculpture, architecture and design.

PTE Core answer (42 words): Abstract art emerged in the early twentieth century when pioneers abandoned realistic depiction for shapes, colours and basic forms. It emphasised emotional expression and subjective interpretation. Despite early criticism, it influenced later movements and spread into design, and it remains influential today.

Passage 16 · The bacteria inside us

The human body is home to trillions of microorganisms, most of them bacteria living in the gut. Together they are known as the microbiome, and scientists now regard this community as something close to an extra organ. The bacteria help to break down fibre that human enzymes cannot digest, producing short-chain fatty acids that feed the cells lining the intestine. They manufacture several vitamins, train the immune system to tell harmless substances from genuine threats, and crowd out harmful microbes by occupying space and consuming nutrients. Research has also linked the microbiome to conditions that seem far removed from the gut. People with obesity, type two diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease and even depression tend to have a less diverse community of bacteria than healthy people, although it is often unclear whether the difference is a cause or a consequence of the illness. Diet is the strongest influence on the microbiome. A varied intake of vegetables, fruit, whole grains and fermented foods supports diversity, whereas a diet high in sugar and processed food reduces it. Antibiotics, while sometimes essential, can wipe out beneficial species along with the harmful ones, and the community may take months to recover. Some clinics now treat stubborn intestinal infections by transferring gut bacteria from a healthy donor, with striking success rates. Scientists caution, however, that the field is young and that many commercial products promising to improve the microbiome have little evidence behind them. The safest advice remains simple: eat a wide range of plant foods and use antibiotics only when they are truly needed.

Key points

- Gut bacteria digest fibre, make vitamins and train the immune system
- Low diversity is linked to obesity, diabetes and depression
- Diet is the main influence, and antibiotics can damage the community
- Donor transfers work for some infections, but many products lack evidence

Academic answer (55 words, one sentence): The gut microbiome, a community of trillions of bacteria that digest fibre, produce vitamins and train the immune system, is now linked to conditions from obesity to depression, and because a varied plant-based diet supports its diversity while antibiotics and processed food reduce it, scientists advise eating widely and treating unproven commercial products with caution.

PTE Core answer (46 words): The text discusses the gut microbiome, the trillions of bacteria living inside us. They digest fibre, make vitamins and train the immune system, and low diversity is linked to several illnesses. Overall, it emphasises that a varied plant diet helps, while many commercial products lack evidence.

Passage 17 · Green roofs in cities

As cities grow denser and hotter, planners are looking upward for space to add greenery. A green roof is a layer of soil and plants installed on top of a building, ranging from a thin carpet of drought-tolerant succulents to a deep rooftop garden with shrubs and small trees. The idea is old, but modern waterproof membranes and lightweight growing media have made it practical on a large scale. The benefits are wide-ranging. Plants and soil absorb rainfall, so less water rushes into drains during storms, which reduces flooding and the overflow of untreated sewage into rivers. The vegetation shades the roof and cools the air through evaporation, lowering the temperature inside the building and easing the urban heat island effect that makes city centres several degrees warmer than the surrounding countryside. Insulation from the soil cuts energy use for heating and cooling, and the protective layer can double the life of the roof membrane beneath it. Green roofs also provide habitat for insects and birds in places where ground-level habitat has vanished, and studies suggest that a view of greenery improves the mood and productivity of people who work nearby. There are drawbacks. Installation costs more than a conventional roof, the structure must be strong enough to carry wet soil, and the plants need maintenance. Some cities now require or subsidise green roofs on new commercial buildings, arguing that the public benefits in flood control and cooling justify the private cost. Where this has been done, the total area of rooftop vegetation has grown rapidly.

Key points

- Green roofs are layers of soil and plants on buildings
- They absorb rain, cool the air, insulate and extend roof life
- They create habitat and improve well-being for nearby workers
- Costs, structural load and maintenance are drawbacks, so some cities subsidise them

Academic answer (55 words, one sentence): Green roofs, layers of soil and plants installed on top of buildings, absorb storm water, cool the surrounding air, insulate the structure, extend the life of the roof and create habitat for wildlife, which is why some cities now require or subsidise them despite higher installation costs, structural demands and the need for ongoing maintenance.

PTE Core answer (42 words): The passage highlights green roofs, which are layers of soil and plants on buildings. They absorb rain, cool cities, save energy and provide habitat for wildlife. Although installation is costly and the roof needs maintenance, some cities now require or subsidise them.

Passage 18 · Learning that lasts

Most students revise by rereading their notes and highlighting important lines. It feels productive, yet research in cognitive psychology shows that it is one of the least effective ways to learn. The problem is that rereading creates a sense of familiarity, and students mistake familiarity for knowledge. Two techniques consistently outperform it. The first is retrieval practice, which means closing the book and trying to recall the material from memory, whether by answering questions, writing a summary or explaining the topic aloud. The effort of pulling information out of memory strengthens the memory far more than putting information in again. Students who test themselves remember more a week later than students who spend the same time rereading, even though the testers often feel less confident at the end of the session. The second technique is spaced repetition. Instead of studying a topic intensively in one long block, the learner returns to it at increasing intervals: after a day, then a few days, then a week. Each return catches the memory just as it begins to fade, and relearning at that point makes the trace more durable. Combined, the two techniques turn revision into a series of short, spaced self-tests. Teachers can build them into lessons with quick quizzes at the start of class and cumulative questions that revisit earlier units. The methods are free and simple, but they feel harder than rereading, which is exactly why they work and why students need to be told that the difficulty is a sign of learning rather than failure.

Key points

- Rereading and highlighting feel productive but are ineffective
- Retrieval practice, or self-testing, strengthens memory more than reviewing
- Spaced repetition returns to material at growing intervals
- The methods feel harder, and that difficulty is what makes them work



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Academic answer (54 words, one sentence): Although rereading and highlighting feel productive, research shows that students learn far more through retrieval practice, which means recalling material from memory, and spaced repetition, which revisits topics at growing intervals, because the extra effort these methods demand strengthens memory, so that the difficulty students feel is a sign of learning rather than failure.

PTE Core answer (43 words): The text discusses effective revision. Rereading notes feels productive but works poorly, whereas testing yourself and returning to topics at spaced intervals build lasting memory. Overall, it emphasises that these methods feel harder, and that the difficulty is a sign of real learning.

Passage 19 · Farming with data

Precision agriculture is the use of sensors, satellite images and software to manage a farm field by field, or even plant by plant, rather than treating every hectare the same. Soil probes measure moisture and nutrients, drones photograph crops to spot stress before it is visible from the ground, and tractors guided by satellite positioning plant seeds and apply fertiliser along exact lines. The data flows into software that tells the farmer where water is needed, where pests are spreading and which parts of a field are underperforming. The main advantage is efficiency. By applying water, fertiliser and pesticide only where they are needed, farmers cut costs and reduce the run-off that pollutes rivers. Yields rise because problems are caught early, and the detailed records make it easier to meet the traceability rules demanded by supermarkets and export markets. The technology also reduces the physical burden on farmers, since much of the monitoring that once required walking the fields can now be done from a screen. There are barriers to adoption. Equipment is expensive, which favours large farms over small ones, and many rural areas lack the reliable internet connection that the systems require. Farmers worry about who owns the data collected from their land and whether equipment makers could use it against their interests. Training is another obstacle, because the tools demand skills that older farmers may not have. Governments and cooperatives are responding with shared equipment schemes and advisory services, so that the benefits do not remain limited to the largest operators.

Key points

- Sensors, drones and satellite guidance manage fields in detail
- Inputs are applied only where needed, cutting cost and pollution
- Yields rise and records support traceability
- Cost, connectivity, data ownership and skills limit adoption

Academic answer (59 words, one sentence): Precision agriculture uses sensors, drones, satellite guidance and software to manage fields in fine detail, which allows farmers to apply water, fertiliser and pesticide only where needed, raising yields while cutting costs and pollution, although high equipment prices, poor rural connectivity, concerns over data ownership and skills gaps mean that shared schemes are needed to help smaller farms benefit.

PTE Core answer (44 words): The passage highlights precision agriculture, which uses sensors, drones and software to manage fields in detail. Farmers apply water and chemicals only where needed, raising yields and cutting pollution. However, cost, poor connectivity and data concerns limit adoption, so shared schemes help smaller farms.

Passage 20 · The cost of lost sleep

Sleep is often treated as a luxury that can be trimmed when life gets busy, yet the evidence suggests it is as essential to health as food and exercise. Adults generally need between seven and nine hours a night, and many people in modern societies routinely get less. The immediate effects of short sleep are familiar: poor concentration, slower reactions and irritability. Driving after a night of very little sleep impairs performance to a degree comparable with being over the legal alcohol limit. The longer-term effects are less visible but more serious. Chronic short sleep disrupts the hormones that regulate appetite, increasing hunger and the craving for sugary food, which contributes to weight gain and raises the risk of type two diabetes. It raises blood pressure and inflammation, both linked to heart disease, and weakens the immune response, so that people who sleep poorly catch more colds and respond less well to vaccination. Sleep also plays a central role in memory, because the brain consolidates the day's learning during the night, and students who stay up to revise often remember less than those who stop and rest. Researchers have further found that during deep sleep the brain clears waste products that accumulate during waking hours, and that disrupted sleep over many years may be linked to a higher risk of dementia. The good news is that the damage is largely reversible. Regular bedtimes, a dark and cool bedroom, limited caffeine after midday and screens switched off before bed restore sleep quality for most people within a few weeks.

Key points

- Adults need seven to nine hours, but many get less
- Short sleep harms concentration and reaction time, similar to alcohol
- Chronic short sleep raises risks of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and infection
- Sleep consolidates memory and clears brain waste, and good habits restore it

Academic answer (59 words, one sentence): Although sleep is often treated as a luxury, adults need seven to nine hours because short sleep impairs concentration and reactions in the short term and, over years, raises the risks of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, infection and possibly dementia, while regular bedtimes, a dark cool bedroom and less caffeine and screen time can restore healthy sleep within weeks.

PTE Core answer (45 words): The text discusses why sleep is essential to health. Short sleep harms concentration and reaction time, and chronic lack of sleep raises the risk of obesity, heart disease and weaker immunity. Overall, it emphasises that regular bedtimes and fewer screens can quickly restore good sleep.

Passage 21 · The gig economy

The gig economy describes a labour market in which people earn money from short, flexible tasks arranged through digital platforms rather than from permanent jobs. Drivers, couriers, cleaners, designers and translators now find work through apps that match them with customers in minutes and pay them per task. Supporters argue that this model benefits everyone. Workers choose when and how much to work, which suits students, carers and people with other jobs. Customers get fast, cheap service, and platforms create income opportunities in places where traditional employment is scarce. Economists note that the flexibility also lets the labour supply expand and contract with demand, so that resources are used more efficiently. Critics see a different picture. Because gig workers are usually classed as independent contractors rather than employees, they typically receive no sick pay, holiday pay, pension contributions or minimum wage guarantee, and they bear the cost of their own vehicles, equipment and insurance. Income can be unpredictable, falling sharply when demand drops or when the platform changes its pay rates without consultation. Workers also report that algorithms rating their performance can suspend their accounts with little explanation and no appeal. Governments have begun to respond. Some have ruled that platform workers must be treated as employees, while others have created a third category with limited rights such as accident insurance and a minimum hourly rate during active work. The debate reflects a broader question about how far the protections built for factory and office work should extend to work that is arranged by software.

Key points

- Platforms match workers to short paid tasks
- Benefits include flexibility, fast service and new income sources
- Workers lack sick pay, pensions and wage guarantees and face unstable income
- Governments are creating new legal categories for platform workers

Academic answer (58 words, one sentence): The gig economy, in which digital platforms match workers to short paid tasks, offers flexibility for workers, cheap fast service for customers and efficient use of labour, but because gig workers are classed as contractors they lack sick pay, pensions and wage guarantees and face unstable income, which has led governments to create new legal protections for them.

PTE Core answer (46 words): The gig economy matches workers to short, flexible tasks through digital apps. It offers freedom to workers and fast service to customers, but gig workers usually lack sick pay, pensions and stable income. Overall, it emphasises that governments are now creating new legal protections for them.

Passage 22 · Trade along the Silk Road

The Silk Road was not a single road but a network of overland and sea routes that linked the eastern edge of Asia with the Mediterranean world for well over a thousand years. Its name comes from the Chinese silk that was its most famous export, but the routes carried far more than cloth. Caravans moved spices, paper, porcelain, glass, horses, precious metals and gemstones across deserts and mountain passes, passing goods from one group of merchants to the next, so that few traders ever travelled the entire distance. Oasis towns along the way grew wealthy by providing water, food, lodging and protection, and some became great cities in their own right. The exchange that mattered most, historians argue, was not of goods but of ideas. Religious beliefs, scientific knowledge, artistic styles, musical instruments and technologies such as papermaking and printing travelled with the merchants, transforming the societies that received them. Languages borrowed words from one another, and foods and crops spread to new regions. The routes also carried less welcome passengers, since diseases moved with the caravans and devastated populations that had no immunity. Trade along the overland routes declined when sea travel became cheaper and safer and when political instability made the land journey dangerous. Yet the legacy remains visible in the shared motifs of textiles and ceramics across the continent, in the layout of ancient cities and in the modern idea that connecting distant economies brings both prosperity and risk.



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Key points

- The Silk Road was a network of routes linking Asia and the Mediterranean
- Goods were relayed between merchants, enriching oasis towns
- Ideas, religions, technologies and languages spread along it
- Disease also travelled, and sea trade eventually replaced the land routes

Academic answer (59 words, one sentence): The Silk Road, a network of land and sea routes linking Asia with the Mediterranean for over a thousand years, carried silk, spices, paper and horses between relays of merchants, but its greatest effect was the spread of ideas, beliefs, technologies and languages, together with diseases, until cheaper sea travel and political instability caused the overland trade to decline.

PTE Core answer (44 words): The passage highlights the Silk Road, a network of routes linking Asia with the Mediterranean. Merchants relayed goods such as silk and spices, but ideas, technologies and diseases also travelled along it. Overall, it emphasises that connecting distant economies brings both prosperity and risk.

Passage 23 · Why we believe what we believe

Confirmation bias is the tendency to search for, notice and remember information that supports what we already believe, while ignoring or explaining away evidence that contradicts it. Psychologists regard it as one of the most pervasive errors in human thinking, and it affects experts as readily as novices. A doctor who forms an early diagnosis may unconsciously weigh the symptoms that fit it more heavily than those that do not. An investor who likes a company reads the positive reports and skims the warnings. A voter who supports a party remembers its successes and forgets its failures. The bias is not a sign of low intelligence. It arises because the mind seeks consistency and because examining every belief from scratch would be exhausting, so we economise by defending the beliefs we hold. Emotion strengthens the effect, since challenges to beliefs tied to identity feel like personal attacks. Social media intensifies it further by showing users content similar to what they have already approved, creating a loop in which existing views are constantly reinforced. The consequences range from poor personal decisions to polarised societies in which groups cannot agree on basic facts. Reducing the bias requires deliberate effort. Researchers recommend actively seeking out the strongest arguments against your position, asking what evidence would change your mind, and discussing decisions with people who think differently. Some organisations assign a team member to argue the opposite case before a major decision is made. None of these methods removes the bias, but they make its effects visible and therefore easier to manage.

Key points

- Confirmation bias means favouring evidence that fits existing beliefs
- It affects experts and arises from the mind's need for consistency
- Emotion and social media feeds strengthen it
- Seeking opposing arguments and views reduces its effects

Academic answer (55 words, one sentence): Confirmation bias, the tendency to notice and remember evidence that supports existing beliefs while dismissing evidence that contradicts them, affects experts and novices alike because the mind seeks consistency, and since emotion and social media feeds intensify it, people must deliberately seek the strongest opposing arguments and different viewpoints to limit its effects on decisions.

PTE Core answer (45 words): The text discusses confirmation bias, the habit of favouring evidence that supports what we already believe. It affects experts as well as novices, and emotion and social media make it stronger. Overall, it emphasises that seeking opposing arguments and different viewpoints helps to manage it.

Passage 24 · The threat of antibiotic resistance

Antibiotics are among the most important discoveries in medicine, turning once-fatal infections into minor illnesses and making surgery, chemotherapy and organ transplants possible. Yet their power is being eroded. Bacteria reproduce quickly and mutate constantly, and whenever an antibiotic is used, the few bacteria that happen to survive it pass their resistance to the next generation. Over time, the drug stops working. The process is natural, but human behaviour has accelerated it. Doctors prescribe antibiotics for viral infections such as colds, against which they are useless, often because patients demand them. Patients stop taking a course early once they feel better, leaving the toughest bacteria alive. Farmers add antibiotics to animal feed to promote growth, creating vast reservoirs of resistant microbes that reach people through food and water. In many countries, the drugs can be bought without a prescription. Meanwhile, pharmaceutical companies have largely stopped developing new antibiotics, because a drug that is taken for a week and then held in reserve earns far less than one taken daily for life. Health authorities warn that without action, routine infections and minor injuries could once again become deadly, and that the economic cost of resistant infections already runs into billions. The response has several parts: stricter rules on prescribing, public education about finishing courses, limits on agricultural use, better hospital hygiene to stop resistant strains spreading, and new funding models that reward companies for developing antibiotics even if they are rarely used. Progress is being made, but resistance continues to spread faster than new drugs arrive.

Key points

- Antibiotics made modern medicine possible, but bacteria evolve resistance
- Overprescribing, unfinished courses and farm use speed resistance up
- Companies have little incentive to develop new antibiotics
- Responses include prescribing rules, education, farm limits and new funding models

Academic answer (59 words, one sentence): Antibiotic resistance, which develops naturally as surviving bacteria pass on their defences, has been accelerated by needless prescriptions, unfinished courses, widespread agricultural use and the lack of new drugs, so health authorities are responding with stricter prescribing rules, public education, limits on farm use, better hospital hygiene and new funding models to prevent routine infections from becoming deadly again.

PTE Core answer (44 words): The text discusses antibiotic resistance, which grows when surviving bacteria pass on their defences. Overprescribing, unfinished courses and use in farming speed it up, while few new drugs are being developed. Overall, it emphasises that stricter rules, education and new funding models are needed.

Passage 25 · Moving towards a cashless society

In many countries, cash is disappearing from daily life. Cards, mobile wallets and instant bank transfers now handle most payments, and some shops and buses no longer accept notes and coins at all. Governments and banks often welcome the trend. Electronic payments are cheaper to process than cash, which must be printed, transported, counted and guarded. Every transaction leaves a record, which makes tax evasion, money laundering and robbery harder, and the data helps businesses understand their customers. For consumers, paying by phone is fast and convenient, and the risk of losing a wallet full of cash vanishes. Yet the shift carries costs that fall unevenly. Older people, those on low incomes and people living in rural areas with weak mobile coverage are more likely to rely on cash, and they can find themselves excluded when it is no longer accepted. Cash is also private, whereas electronic payments create a detailed trail of where a person goes and what they buy, raising concerns about surveillance by companies and governments. Digital systems can fail, and a power cut or a cyberattack can leave a cashless town unable to buy food. Small businesses pay fees on every card transaction that they never paid on cash. Studies also suggest that people spend more freely when they do not see physical money leave their hands. Several governments have therefore passed laws requiring shops to keep accepting cash, treating it as a public utility that guarantees access and resilience even as electronic payments continue to grow.

Key points

- Cards and mobile payments are replacing cash
- Electronic payments are cheaper, traceable and convenient
- Cashless systems exclude vulnerable groups, reduce privacy and can fail
- Some governments now require shops to keep accepting cash

Academic answer (57 words, one sentence): Cash is disappearing as cards and mobile wallets take over because electronic payments are cheaper, traceable and convenient, but since a cashless system excludes older, poorer and rural people, erodes privacy, imposes fees on small businesses and collapses when networks fail, several governments now require shops to keep accepting cash as a guarantee of access and resilience.

PTE Core answer (41 words): The passage highlights the move towards cashless payments, which are cheaper, traceable and convenient. However, they exclude vulnerable groups, reduce privacy and fail during power cuts or cyberattacks. Overall, it emphasises that some governments now require shops to keep accepting cash.

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