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PTE MASTERCLASS TAKEAWAY

Summarize Written Text

How to score full marks — strategy, practice passages and model answers

Writing + Reading | PTE Academic & Core | 3 practice exercises

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SUMMARIZE WRITTEN TEXT

How to score full marks?

Strategy

a **Write a clear and accurate response**
Stay true to the passage — no outside opinions or new information.

b **Do effective paraphrasing**
Use your own words wherever you can instead of copying long excerpts.

c **Identify and connect the main ideas**
Find the central idea and 2–3 supporting points, then link them logically.

d **Organise and synthesise**
Combine the ideas into one well-connected response with varied connectors.

e **Respect the form**
Academic: one sentence, 5–75 words. Core: 1–2 sentences, 25–50 words.

PTE ACADEMIC

One sentence

5—75

words

PTE CORE

One or two sentences

25—50

words

Connect ideas with **and** add | **but** contrast | **because** reason | **so** result | **while / although** concession

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PRACTICE EXERCISE 1

Exercise 1

Renewable Energy

Instructions: Read the passage below and summarize it using one sentence. Type your response in the box at the bottom of the screen. You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response is judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.

PASSAGE

Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power are becoming increasingly vital as global energy demands rise. Traditional fossil fuels release significant greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, which accelerates climate change. Transitioning to green energy reduces overall carbon emissions and protects natural ecosystems. However, high installation costs remain a significant challenge for developing nations looking to adopt these new technologies quickly.

Beyond initial financial barriers, integrating intermittent energy sources like solar and wind into existing power grids presents technical hurdles. Because power generation fluctuates based on weather conditions and time of day, governments must invest heavily in advanced battery storage technology and modern grid infrastructure to ensure a stable supply. Furthermore, fossil fuel industries continue to receive substantial subsidies in many regions, making it difficult for renewable alternatives to compete on an equal economic footing. Despite these economic and logistical obstacles, international organizations are increasing funding and policy support to help lower-income nations build sustainable power grids, ensuring that the global energy transition remains both inclusive and environmentally effective.

YOUR SUMMARY — try it before you check the sample

SAMPLE ANSWER · CAUSE AND EFFECT STRUCTURE

Renewable energy sources are becoming increasingly vital as global energy demands rise, but high installation costs remain a significant challenge for developing nations looking to adopt these new technologies quickly.

30 words · one sentence

PRACTICE EXERCISE 2

Exercise 2

The Four-Day Workweek

Instructions: Read the passage below and summarize it using one sentence. Type your response in the box at the bottom of the screen. You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response is judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.

PASSAGE

For decades, the standard working model for companies worldwide has centered on the traditional 40-hour, five-day workweek. However, recent large-scale trials conducted across various industries in Europe and North America have sparked a growing interest in the four-day workweek. Proponents argue that reducing working hours without reducing pay leads to significant improvements in employee well-being, reducing burnout, stress, and absenteeism.

Crucially, the data from these trials suggests that productivity does not suffer when hours are cut. Instead, employees often streamline their daily tasks, cut down on unnecessary meetings, and work more efficiently to meet their targets. Furthermore, companies offering flexible schedules report higher rates of staff retention and a stronger ability to attract top talent in a competitive job market. Despite these clear advantages, skeptics warn that a condensed schedule may not suit every sector, particularly service industries that require continuous, round-the-clock coverage. Nevertheless, the evidence implies that the traditional office schedule may no longer be the most effective strategy for modern workforce management.

YOUR SUMMARY — try it before you check the sample

SAMPLE ANSWER

Although critics argue that a shorter schedule may not be suitable for sectors requiring continuous coverage, widespread trials demonstrate that implementing a four-day workweek improves employee well-being and talent retention without compromising overall productivity.

34 words · one sentence

PRACTICE EXERCISE 3

Exercise 3

Urban Green Spaces

Instructions: Read the passage below and summarize it using one sentence. Type your response in the box at the bottom of the screen. You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response is judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.

PASSAGE

Urban green spaces, such as parks, community gardens, and urban forests, play a critical role in mitigating the adverse environmental impacts of rapid urbanization. As concrete infrastructure replaces natural landscapes, cities face rising ambient temperatures—a phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect—alongside worsening air quality and heightened flood risks during heavy rainfall. Trees and vegetation combat these issues by absorbing carbon dioxide, filtering harmful pollutants, and providing natural soil drainage to manage stormwater runoff.

Beyond environmental benefits, urban nature significantly enhances human health and social cohesion. Access to green areas has been consistently linked to reduced stress levels, lower risks of cardiovascular disease, and increased physical activity among city dwellers. Furthermore, well-designed public parks serve as vital communal hubs that foster social interaction and a sense of belonging within diverse neighborhoods. Consequently, urban planners are increasingly prioritizing the integration of green infrastructure into city design to build resilient, healthier communities for the future.

YOUR SUMMARY — try it before you check the sample

SAMPLE ANSWER

While rapid urbanization leads to environmental and public health challenges, integrating urban green spaces into city planning effectively mitigates these risks by filtering pollutants, reducing urban heat, and enhancing both physical and social well-being for residents.

36 words · one sentence

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