

SUPERPTE 

**PTE Academic
Practice Test 1**

SUPERPTE 
Part 1: Writing

Part 1: Writing

Writing sections 3-6 contain a number of individually-timed items. Test takers are required to write two summaries and one essay OR three summaries and one essay OR two summaries and two essays.

Section	Item type	Time allowed
Section 3-4	2 Summarize written text	20 minutes
Section 5	Summarize written text OR Write essay	10 minutes or 20 minutes
Section 6	Write essay	20 minutes

Answers are at the end.



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Summarize written text – Item 1

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 will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.

The original scone was round and flat, usually as large as a medium-sized plate. It was made with unleavened oats and baked on a griddle (or girdle, in Scots), then cut into triangular sections for serving. Today, many would call the large round cake a bannock, and call the triangles scones. In Scotland, the words are often used interchangeably.

When baking powder became available to the masses, scones began to be the oven-baked, well-leavened items we know today. Modern scones are widely available in British bakeries, grocery stores, and supermarkets. A 2005 market report estimated the UK scone market to be worth £64m, showing a 9% increase over the previous five years. The increase is partly due to an increasing consumer preference for impulse and convenience foods.

Scones sold commercially are usually round, although some brands are hexagonal as this shape may be tessellated for space efficiency. When prepared at home, they may take various shapes including triangles, rounds and squares. Baking scones at home is often closely tied to heritage baking. They tend to be made using family recipes rather than recipe books, since it is often a family member who holds the "best" and most-treasured recipe.

Summarize written text – Item 2

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 will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.

Often the choice of mascot reflects a desired quality; a common example of this is the "fighting spirit," in which a competitive nature is personified by warriors or predatory animals.

Mascots may also symbolize a local or regional trait, such as the Nebraska Cornhuskers' mascot, Herbie Husker: a stylized version of a farmer, owing to the agricultural traditions of the area in which the university is located. Similarly, Pittsburg State University uses Gus the Gorilla as its mascot, "gorilla" being an old colloquial term for coal miners in the Southeast Kansas area in which the university was established.

In the United States, controversy surrounds some mascot choices, especially those using human likenesses. Mascots based on Native American tribes are particularly contentious, as many argue that they constitute offensive exploitations of an oppressed culture. However, several Indian tribes have come out in support of keeping the names. For example, the Utah Utes and the Central Michigan Chippewas are sanctioned by local tribes, and the Florida State Seminoles are supported by the Seminole Tribe of Florida in their use of Osceola and Renegade as symbols. FSU chooses not to refer to them as mascots because of the offensive connotation. This has not, however, prevented fans from engaging in "Redface"—dressing up in stereotypical, Plains Indian outfits during games, or creating offensive banners saying "Scalp 'em" as was seen at the 2014 Rose Bowl.

Some sports teams have "unofficial" mascots: individual supporters or fans that have become identified with the team. The New York Yankees have such an individual in fan Freddy Sez. Former Toronto Blue Jays mascot BJ Birdie was a costumed character created by a Blue Jays fan, ultimately hired by the team to perform at their home games.

Write essay – Item 1

You will have 20 minutes to plan, write and revise an essay about the topic below. Your response will be judged on how well you develop a position, organize your ideas, present supporting details, and control the elements of standard written English. You should write 200-300 words.

Company Top level Authorities should or should not take employees suggestions or ideas to take any decisions. Discuss.

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Write essay – Item 2

You will have 20 minutes to plan, write and revise an essay about the topic below. Your response will be judged on how well you develop a position, organize your ideas, present supporting details, and control the elements of standard written English. You should write 200-300 words.

Large shopping malls are replacing small shops. What is your opinion about this? Discuss with appropriate examples.

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PTE Academic Practice Test 1 Answers

Part 1: Writing

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Summarize text – Item 1

The original scone was round and flat, usually as large as a medium-sized plate. It was made with unleavened oats and baked on a griddle (or girdle, in Scots), then cut into triangular sections for serving. Today, many would call the large round cake a bannock, and call the triangles scones. In Scotland, the words are often used interchangeably.

When baking powder became available to the masses, scones began to be the oven-baked, well-leavened items we know today. Modern scones are widely available in British bakeries, grocery stores, and supermarkets. A 2005 market report estimated the UK scone market to be worth £64m, showing a 9% increase over the previous five years. The increase is partly due to an increasing consumer preference for impulse and convenience foods.

Scones sold commercially are usually round, although some brands are hexagonal as this shape may be tessellated for space efficiency. When prepared at home, they may take various shapes including triangles, rounds and squares. Baking scones at home is often closely tied to heritage baking. They tend to be made using family recipes rather than recipe books, since it is often a family member who holds the "best" and most-treasured recipe.

Sample response:

Initially the scones were made from unleavened oats and were round and flat in shape. When baking powder became common, scones began to be baked in ovens and have a huge market now. Commercial scones are usually round or hexagonal, while the ones made at home can take any creative shape.

Summarize text – Item 2

Often the choice of mascot reflects a desired quality; a common example of this is the "fighting spirit," in which a competitive nature is personified by warriors or predatory animals.

Mascots may also symbolize a local or regional trait, such as the Nebraska Cornhuskers' mascot, Herbie Husker: a stylized version of a farmer, owing to the agricultural traditions of the area in which the university is located. Similarly, Pittsburg State University uses Gus the Gorilla as its mascot, "gorilla" being an old colloquial term for coal miners in the Southeast Kansas area in which the university was established.

In the United States, controversy surrounds some mascot choices, especially those using human likenesses. Mascots based on Native American tribes are particularly contentious, as many argue that they constitute offensive exploitations of an oppressed culture. However, several Indian tribes have come out in support of keeping the names. For example, the Utah Utes and the Central Michigan Chippewas are sanctioned by local tribes, and the Florida State Seminoles are supported by the Seminole Tribe of Florida in their use of Osceola and Renegade as symbols. FSU chooses not to refer to them as mascots because of the offensive connotation. This has not, however, prevented fans from engaging in "Redface"—dressing up in stereotypical, Plains Indian outfits during games, or creating offensive banners saying "Scalp 'em" as was seen at the 2014 Rose Bowl.

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Sample response:

Mascots usually represent a characteristic or a local feature, such as the fighting spirit or a farmer. The use of Native American tribes as mascots is often controversial, though there are several examples of mascots which have been approved by the tribes. Usually the mascots are official symbols, though supporters and fans can sometimes become unofficial mascots.

Write Essay – Item 1

Do you think a company's top-level authorities should take employee suggestions before taking any major decision? Discuss with supporting arguments.

Sample response

Corporate culture has undergone several major shifts in the last decade and has become very open compared to the past. Some people even think that a company's senior executives should consult the employees before taking any major decision. However, I do not find merit in this opinion. In this essay, I will elaborate my point of view further.

At the outset, I would acknowledge that there is a definite advantage in seeking employee opinion on certain matters. If the matter concerns employee working conditions, then taking feedback from them, will help the executives draft policies that are easily acceptable to employees. This will also promote a sense of inclusion and belonging towards the company in the hearts of the employees.

However, if the management starts consulting the employees for every matter, it will only harm the company in the long run. Several major decisions need to be made quickly. Subjecting them to a process of opinion gathering will only delay the decision and as a result the company might lose an opportunity. Furthermore, large numbers do not necessarily equate to more experience or specialized knowledge. Senior executives have often spent decades in their roles and have faced the situations before. They are capable of looking into a matter in a way that others cannot.

In the light of these arguments, it would be wrong to expect any advantages out of employee opinion on every matter. However, their view should definitely be sought on issues that concern them directly.

Write Essay – Item 2

Large shopping malls are replacing small shops. What is your opinion about this? Discuss with appropriate examples.

Sample response

Change is the only constant in this world! Nowhere is this seen more than in the commercial setup. The small neighbourhood shops of yesterday are being replaced by large swanky shopping malls at a fast rate. I believe, this can be to everyone's advantage, if only the interests of small shopkeepers are also considered. In this essay, I will explain this further.

At the outset, we can acknowledge the important role that small shops have played in our society. All of us have a memory associated with the local coffee shop or our small neighbourhood grocery shop. Even after all these years, I fondly remember the gentle barber who would offer me free candy, every time I visited him for a haircut. But, the times have changed now. A fast-paced life demands more efficient shopping solutions and that is where malls become so convenient. At a single place and in a single visit, one can take care of weekly or even monthly shopping needs. Often, the large scale also allows them to provide these products and services at a cheaper rate than any small individual shop.

However, it should not be ignored that a small shop often represents a family's sole livelihood. Many of these shops have been in a family for decades and any loss of business would be devastating to the families. This is where local councils and governments can play an important role. Local shop keepers who are affected by the malls should be provided alternate employments.

In conclusion, shopping malls are a necessary and unavoidable development, but it should not be at the cost of the income of small shop owners.

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