



PTE Express

Score Guide

Test Taker

Your score is more than just a number – it’s your signal to universities that you’re ready to take the next step.

This guide is here to help you understand how your score works, how it’s used by institutions, and how it supports your academic goals.



Contents

How Scoring Works	3
How Universities Use Your Score	3
Recommended Cut Scores by Degree Type	4
How Your Score Aligns Globally	4
CEFR Concordance Table	4
CEFR Descriptors	5

How Scoring Works

When you take PTE Express, you'll receive:

- **An Overall Score** – your general English proficiency.
- **Individual Skill Scores** – Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing.

Scores are reported on a 10–90 scale. This scale is aligned with international standards and helps universities interpret your results clearly and fairly.

You'll receive:

- An uncertified score within minutes of finishing your test.
- A certified score within 48 hours, after a security review by our experts. This security check is to make sure that the test was taken fairly and without issue, so institutions can trust your results.

How Universities Use Your Score

Every university sets its own admissions criteria – and that's a good thing. It means your score can be used flexibly depending on the program you're applying to.

Here's how institutions might use your score:

- 1. Overall Score Only:** Some universities set a minimum overall score for admission. This is the most common approach.
- 2. Overall Score + Skill Scores:** Others may look at your overall score alongside your individual skill scores. For example:
 - A communications program might require a higher Speaking score.
 - A research-heavy course might prioritize Reading and Writing.
 - A foundation program might accept a lower score in one skill if your overall score meets the requirement.
- 3. Flexible Combinations:** Some institutions use a combination of scores to get a full picture of your strengths. This helps them support you better once you arrive.

Your test includes spoken and written samples, captured during the test itself.

These are shared with university admissions teams alongside your certified score, helping institutions feel confident in your scores.

Recommended Cut Scores by Degree Type

We recommend the following overall scores to universities for their programs, but remember to check with your specific university for their specified requirements:

Degree/Course Type	Recommended Overall Score
Degree Preparation	36–50
Undergraduate Degrees	51–60
Postgraduate Degrees	57–67

How Your Score Aligns Globally

PTE Express scores are aligned with the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) - a global standard used by universities, employers, and governments to describe language ability.

This alignment helps institutions understand what you can do with the language, not just how well you scored.

CEFR Concordance Table

CEFR Level	PTE Express Score Range
<A1	10–21
A1	22–29
A2	30–35
A2+	36–42
B1	43–50
B1+	51–58
B2	59–66
B2+	67–75
C1	76–84
C2	85–90

CEFR Descriptors

PTE Express Score Range	CEFR Level	Level Descriptor	What This Means for You
10–29	A1 or below	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.	Likely not suitable for academic study.
30–42	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g., very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/ her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.	Likely still below academic level.
43–58	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics, which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.	May need extra support for university.
59–75	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/ her field of specialization. Can interact with a degree of oral fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with other speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.	Likely ready for academic study.

76-84	C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts and recognize implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.	Ideal for postgraduate study and teaching.
85-90	C2	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarize information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.	Highly proficient and comfortable in all academic settings.

Your score is a tool - not a barrier. It helps universities understand your readiness and gives you a chance to show your strengths.

If your score isn't quite where you want it to be, don't worry. You can improve your skills and try again. And because PTE Express is fast, affordable, and taken from home, you're in control of your journey.