

**PTE Practice Paper**  
**PTE Writing Practice Paper 5**

*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.*

1. What killed off the dinosaurs? The end of the Cretaceous Period saw one of the most dramatic mass extinctions the Earth has ever seen. First of all, let us learn some basic information about “nurse shark”. The fossil record shows that throughout their 160-million-year existence, dinosaurs took on a huge variety of forms as the environment changed and new species evolved that was suited to these new conditions. Others that failed to adopt went extinct. But then 66 million years ago, over a relatively short time, dinosaurs disappeared completely (except for birds). Many other animals also died out, including pterosaurs, large marine reptiles, and other sea creatures such as ammonites.

Although the number of dinosaur species was already declining, this suggests a sudden catastrophic event sealed their fate, causing unfavourable changes to the environment more quickly than dinosaurs and other creatures could adapt.

The exact nature of this catastrophic event is still open to scientific debate. The catastrophe could have been an asteroid impact, volcanic eruptions or the effect of both, together with more gradual changes in the Earth’s climate over millions of years. Whatever the causes, the huge extinction that ended the age of the dinosaur left gaps in the ecosystem that were subsequently filled by mammals and birds, allowing them to evolve rapidly.

2. Skipping Breakfast Has Drawbacks - It's no mystery why so many people routinely skip breakfast: bad timing. It comes at a time when folks can be more occupied with matters of grooming, attire and otherwise making themselves presentable for a new day. However, studies conducted both in the United States and internationally have shown that skipping breakfast can affect learning, memory and physical well-being. Students who skip breakfast are not as efficient at selecting critical information for problem-solving as their peers who have had breakfast. For school children, skipping breakfast diminishes the ability to recall and use newly acquired information, verbal fluency, and control of attention, according to Ernesto Pollitt, a UC Davis professor of pediatrics whose research focuses on the influence of breakfast on mental and physical performance. Skipping

breakfast can impair thinking in adults, also. For both children and adults, a simple bowl of cereal with milk goes a long way toward providing a sufficiently nutritious start to the day. Green-Burgeson recommends choosing a cereal that's low in sugar — less than five grams per serving — and using nonfat or one percent milk. Frederick Hirshburg, a pediatrician at UC Davis Medical Group, Carmichael, says that babies and other preschoolers rarely skip breakfast because they're usually the hungriest at the beginning of the day. Breakfast then becomes more of a "learned experience" than a response to a biological need, Hirshburg says.

3. Nurse sharks are nocturnal animals, spending the day in large inactive groups of up to 40 individuals. Hidden under submerged ledges or in crevices within the reef, the Nurse sharks seem to prefer specific resting sites and will return to them each day after the nights hunting. By night, the sharks are largely solitary. Nurse sharks spend most of their time foraging through the bottom sediments in search of food. Their diet consists primarily of crustaceans, molluscs, tunicates and other fish such as spiny lobsters, crabs, shrimps, sea urchins, octopuses, squid, marine snails and bivalves and in particular, stingrays.

Nurse sharks are thought to take advantage of dormant fish which would otherwise be too fast for the sharks to catch, although their small mouths limit the size of prey items, the sharks have large throat cavities which are used as a sort of bellows valve. In this way, Nurse sharks can suck in their prey. Nurse sharks are also known to graze algae and coral. Nurse sharks have been observed resting on the bottom with their bodies supported on their fins, possibly providing a false shelter for crustaceans which they then ambush and eat.

4. The worldwide population of wild giant pandas increased by 268 over the last decade according to a new survey conducted by the government of China. The increase in population brings the total number of wild giant pandas to 1,864. The population increase represents 16.8% rise compared to the last panda survey in 2003. Wild giant pandas, a global symbol of wildlife conservation, are found only in China's Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces.

According to the report, formally known as the Fourth National Giant Panda Survey, the geographic range of pandas throughout China also increased. The total area inhabited by wild giant pandas in China now equals 2,577,000 hectares, an expansion of 11.8% since 2003. "These results are a testament to the conservation achievements of the Chinese government," said Xiaohai Liu, executive director of programmes, WWF-China. "A lot of good work is being done around wild giant panda conservation, and the government has

done well to integrate these efforts and partner with conservation organizations including WWF.”

The report, the fourth in a series of decadal (10 years) surveys conducted by the State Forestry Administration of China, began in 2011 with financial and technical support from WWF. Much of the success in increasing the panda population comes as a result of conservation policies implemented by the Chinese government, including the Natural Forest Protection Project and Grain for Green

5. Experimental Treatment four years ago: Darek Fidyka was stabbed in the back, leaving his spinal cord severed, and his body from the chest down paralyzed. Now, after experimental treatment, Fidyka has regained some feeling in his lower body and is learning to walk again.

The researchers are looking to use less invasive techniques in the future, because undergoing brain surgery to extract the olfactory tissue isn't anyone's idea of a good time, much less for someone who is paralyzed. The BBC reports that over 100 microinjections of olfactory ensheathing cells were injected into the injury site, and strips of nerve tissue from Fidyka ankle were laid across the gap in the spinal cord, in the hopes that the cells from the olfactory bulbs would encourage regrowth. A similar procedure had been successfully tested on dogs in 2012.

Now, 19 months after the operation, Fidyka has regained sensation in parts of his lower body, and after intense physical therapy can walk using a walker. As a bonus, even with one olfactory bulb removed, Fidyka retained his sense of smell.

He told the BBC, "I think it's realistic that one day I will become independent. What I have learned is that you must never give up but keep fighting, because some door will open in life." The story is the subject of an episode of the BBC television program Panorama airing today at 10:35 pm in the UK. The study itself will be published in the journal 'Cell Transplantation' at a later date, but the researchers acknowledge that as exciting as this result is, there is still a lot more work to be done.

“Our results are very encouraging,” the medical team is quoted as saying in a statement. “However, our results need to be confirmed in a larger group of patients with a similar injury. In the meantime, we are investigating surgical techniques for more minimally invasive access to the olfactory bulb.”

***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.***

1. Can money bring happiness? What are the factors for happiness?
2. Successful sports stars and glamorous film stars are youngsters role model. Do you support it or not?
3. The information revolution has changed the ways of mass communication and had some negative and positive effects on individuals' lives as well as on society.
4. If you get an opportunity to start a day which will be celebrated every year, which one it would be and why?
5. Do Sports & Games create disturbance in students' lives. Discuss.