

PTE Reading Practice Paper 21

Below is a text with blanks. Select the appropriate answer choice for each blank.

If after years of Spanish classes, some people still find it impossible to understand some native speakers, they should not worry. This does not _____ mean the lessons were wasted. Millions of Spanish speakers use neither standard Latin American Spanish nor Castilian, which predominate in US schools.

The confusion is partly political - the Spanish-speaking world is very diverse. Spanish is the language of 19 separate countries and Puerto Rico. This means that there is no one standard dialect.

The most common Spanish dialect taught in the US is standard Latin American. It is sometimes called "Highland" Spanish since it is generally spoken in the (Select- rocky/hidden/mountainous/coastal) _____ areas of Latin America. While each country retains its own (Select- thoughts/accents/infections/authority) _____ and has some unique vocabulary, residents of countries such as Mexico, Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia generally speak Latin American Spanish, especially in urban centers. This dialect is noted for its (Select-pronunciation/collection/remembering/elucidation) _____ of each letter and its strong "r" sounds. This Spanish was spoken in Spain in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and was brought to the Americas by the early colonists.

However, the Spanish of Madrid and of northern Spain, called Castilian, developed _____ (Select- problems /characteristics/ normalities/ distinguishes) that never reached the New World. These include the pronunciation of "ci" and "ce" as "th." In Madrid, "gracias" (thank you) becomes "gratheas" (as opposed to "gras-see-as" in Latin America). Another difference is the use of the word "vosotros" (you all, or you guys) as the informal form of "ustedes" in Spain.

Castilian sounds to Latin Americans much like British English sounds to US residents.

SET 2

Below is a text with blanks. Select the appropriate answer choice for each blank.

Called Chomolungma ("goddess mother of the world") in Tibet and Sagarmatha ("goddess of the sky") in Nepal, Mount Everest once went by the pedestrian name of _____

Peak XV among Westerners. That was before (Select-
urveyors/surveyors/surveillance/persuasion) _____ established that it was the
highest mountain on Earth, a fact that came as something of a surprise - Peak XV had
seemed lost in the crowd of other formidable Himalayan peaks, many of which gave the
(Select- inclusion/allusion/anticipation/illusion) _____ of greater height.

In 1852 the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India measured Everest's elevation as
29,002 feet above sea level. This figure remained the officially
(Select-accepted/excepted/incepted/intercepted) _____ height for more than one
hundred years. In 1955 it was adjusted by a mere 26 feet to 29,028 (8,848 m).

The mountain received its official name in 1865 in honor of Sir George Everest, the
British Surveyor General from 1830-1843 who had mapped the Indian subcontinent. He
had some Selectapplicationsimplicationsreservationsrejections about having his
name bestowed on the peak, arguing that the mountain should retain its local
appellation, the standard policy of geographical societies.

Before the Survey of India, a number of other mountains ranked supreme in the eyes of
the world. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Andean peak Chimborazo
was considered the highest. At a relatively unremarkable 20,561 feet (6,310 m), it is in
fact nowhere near the highest, Selectreducedsurpassedsurmisedtransposed by
about thirty other Andean peaks and several dozen in the Himalayas. In 1809, the
Himalayan peak Dhaulagiri (26,810 ft.; 8,172 m) was declared the ultimate, only to be
shunted aside in 1840 by Kanchenjunga (28,208 ft.; 8,598 m), which today ranks third.
Everest's status has been unrivaled for the last century and a half, but not without a few
threats.

Australia Higher Education Funding

The financing of Australian higher education has undergone dramatic change
since the early 1970s. Although the

Australian Government provided regular funding for universities from the late
1950s, in 1974 it full

responsibility for funding higher education – tuition fees with the
intention of making university

..... to all Australians who had the and who wished to participate in higher education.

1. assumed, started, discovered,
2. abolishing, eradicate, destroy, terminate
3. accessible, available, ready approachable
4. ability, capacity, potential, expertise

Poverty

Measuring poverty on a global scale establishing a uniform poverty level across extremely divergent

economies, which can result in only rough comparisons. The World Bank has defined the international poverty

line as U.S. \$1 and \$2 per day in 1993 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), which adjusts for differences in the

of goods and services between countries. The \$1 per day level is generally used for the developed

countries, primarily African; the \$2-per-day level is used for economies such as those of East

Asia and Latin America.

1. needed, requires, higher,
2. quality, prices, quantity, rates
3. least, most, backward, less
4. high, income, middle-income, developed, emerging

