

## PTE Reading Practice Paper 23

### PTE reading writing fill in the blanks

#### A. Pinker

In a sequence of bestsellers, including *The Language Instinct* and *How the Mind Works*, Pinker

has argued the swathes of our mental, social and emotional lives may have ..... as

evolutionary adaptations, well suited to the lives our ancestors eked out on the Pleistocene

Savannah. Sometimes it seems as if nothing is ..... from being explained this way. Road

rage, adultery, marriage, altruism, our tendency to reward senior executives with corner offices

on the top floor, and the smaller number of women who become mechanical engineers—all

may have their ..... in natural selection, Pinker claims. The controversial implications are

obvious: that men and women might ..... in their inborn abilities at performing certain tasks,

for example, or that parenting may have ..... influence on personality.

1. origin, originating, originate, originated

2. protected, immune, convinced, prohibited

3. roots, values, demands, needs

4. differ, interested, complicate, indulge

5. little, many, a few, few

## **B. Video-Conferencing Technology -exam questions**

Never has the carbon footprint of multi-national corporations been under such intense scrutiny.

Inter-city train journeys and long-haul flights to ..... face-to-face business meetings contribute significantly to greenhouse gases and the resulting ..... on the environment. The Anglo-US company Teliris has introduced new video-conferencing technology and partnered with the Carbon Neutral Company, enabling corporate outfits to become more environmentally responsible. The innovation allows simulated face-to-face meetings to be held across continents without the time ..... or environmental burden of international travel. Previous designs

have enabled video-conferencing on a point-to-point, dual-location basis. The firm's VirtuaLive

technology, however, can bring people together from up to five ..... locations anywhere in

the world – with ..... transmission quality.

1. produce, generate, create, conduct

2. gases, steam, strain, affect

3. stress, limit, pressure, press

4. separate, each, respectively, single

5. unreliable, unrivaled, unrealistic, unreasonable

### **C. Social Isolation**

Sound depressing, even apocalyptic? Well, it could be the future. If government ..... are right, about 20 years from now, two out of five households will be single ..... And there is evidence the situation is already ..... According to a report, Social Isolation in America, published in the American Sociological Review in 2006, the average American today has only two close friends. Twenty-five percent of those surveyed said they do not have anyone to talk with about important things—And yet, while some are ..... a crisis in our ability to make friends, others are saying exactly the opposite. For example, MSN's Anatomy of Friendship Report, published last November, suggests that the average Briton has 54 friends -a ..... rise of 64 percent since 2003.

1. forecasts, prediction, goals, aims

2. occupancy, occupied, household, family

3. deteriorating, improving, damaging, recovering

4. declaring, requiring, announcing, releasing

5. spectacular, amazing, special, applause