

PTE Reading Practice Test 25

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

C. S. Lewis, or Jack Lewis, as he preferred to be called, was born in Belfast, Ireland (now Northern Ireland) on November 29, 1898. He was the second son of Albert Lewis, a lawyer, and Flora Hamilton Lewis. His older brother, Warren Hamilton Lewis, who was known as Warnie, had been born three years A _____ in 1895.

Lewis's early childhood was relatively happy and carefree. In those days Northern Ireland was not yet B _____ by bitter civil strife, and the Lewises were comfortably off. The family home, called Little Lea, was a large, gabled house with dark, narrow passages and an overgrown garden, which Warnie and Jack played in and C _____ together. There was also a library that was crammed with books - two of Jack's favourites were *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson and *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This somewhat idyllic boyhood came to an end for Lewis when his mother became ill and died of cancer in 1908. Barely a month after her death the two boys were sent away from home to go to boarding school in England.

Lewis hated the school, with its strict rules and hard, D _____ headmaster, and he missed Belfast terribly. Fortunately for him, the school closed in 1910, and he was able to return to Ireland.

After a year, however, he was sent back to England to study. This time, the E _____ proved to be mostly positive. As a teenager, Lewis learned to love poetry, especially the works of Virgil and Homer. He also developed an interest in modern languages, mastering French, German, and Italian.

A.

1. ago
2. earlier
3. previously
4. subsequently

B.

1. plagued
2. bothered
3. pestered
4. doubted

C.

1. watched
2. instigated
3. explored
4. inspired

D.

1. unsympathetic
2. careless
3. desensitized
4. deliberative

E.

1. essence
2. understanding
3. suffering
4. Experience

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 A _____ 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 B _____ 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 C _____ 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 D _____ 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, E _____ 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.

A.

1. purveyors
2. surveyors
3. surveillance
4. persuasion

B.

1. inclusion
2. allusion

- 3. anticipation
- 4. illusion

C.

- 1. accepted
- 2. excepted
- 3. interpreted
- 4. incepted

D.

- 1. applications
- 2. implications
- 3. reservations
- 4. Rejections

E.

- 1. reduced
- 2. surpassed
- 3. surmised
- 4. Transposed

3. Read the text and answer the multiple-choice question by selecting the correct response. Only one response is correct.

The coastal location of this ancient town and university provides a lovely setting for the study of museums, their history, purpose and contemporary development. The department is based in the School of Art History and our first-class staff offer a range of full-time and part-time courses in Museum and Gallery Studies. Taught modules on the Theory and Practice of Museums are balanced with practical projects based either on the museum collections of the university, or on those to be found at a local museum or gallery. Study visits to a range of museums, art galleries, historic houses and other heritage sites in the neighbourhood are an essential part of the programme.

A. What aspect of the university does the text emphasise as important?

- 01. where the university is
- 02. which modules the university offers
- 03. how old the university is
- 04. who teaches at the university

B. Which of the following can be inferred from the text?

- 01. Dissecting specimens was not as useful as taking them to England.
- 02. Photography eventually made scientific expeditions more productive.
- 03. Naturalists themselves were often talented artists.
- 04. Artists performed a variety of tasks in early scientific explorations.

4. Read the text and answer the question by selecting all the correct responses. More than one response is correct.

When he was awarded an Honorary Degree by the University of Newcastle, even John Robertson himself must surely have looked back in wonder at his astonishing rise to success.

The year was 1910, and those assembled were to hear not only of his generosity to the University, which enabled it to contribute to the pioneering research into tropical diseases being carried out at that time, but also of his humanitarian work in southern Africa, where he was ahead of his time in improving the working conditions of local mine workers.

To those who knew John in his youth, it will have come as no surprise to hear of his success. He was now enjoying the rewards of the fierce determination, desire to succeed and extraordinary ability to acquire knowledge, which they had noticed in the young man.

A. What does the reader of this text learn about John Robertson?

- 01. He was born in Africa.**
- 02. His abilities were evident at a young age.**
- 03. He studied medicine.**
- 04. He completed his degree in 1910.**
- 05. He achieved success rapidly.**

5. Read the text and answer the question by selecting all the correct responses. More than one response is correct.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are a multi-island archipelago at the southern tip of the Bahamas chain, approximately 550 miles south-east of Florida. The islands are an overseas territory of the United Kingdom although they exercise a high degree of local political autonomy. The economy of the islands rests mainly on tourism, with some contribution from offshore banking and fishing.

Primary schooling is divided into eight grades, with most pupils entering at the age of four years and leaving at twelve. After two kindergarten years, Grades 1-6 are covered by a graded curriculum in maths, language and science that increases in difficulty as pupils get older. There is little repetition and pupils are expected to progress through primary school in their age cohorts. At the end of primary schooling, pupils sit an examination that serves to stream them in the secondary setting. Primary and secondary school enrolment is virtually universal.

There are a total of ten government primary schools on the islands. Of these, seven are large enough to organize pupils into single grade classrooms. Pupils in these schools are generally grouped by age into mixed-ability classes. The remaining three schools, because of their small pupil numbers, operate with multigrade groupings. They serve communities with small populations whose children cannot travel to a neighbouring larger primary school. Pupils in these classes span up to three grades and age groups.

As far as classroom organisation is concerned, the multigrade and monograde classrooms are similar in terms of the number of pupils and the general seating arrangements, with pupils in

rows facing the blackboard. There is no evidence that the multigrade teachers operate in a particularly resource-poor environment in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This is in contrast to studies conducted in other developing country contexts.

According to the text, which of the following statements can be concluded about primary classes in the Turks and Caicos Islands?

- 01. Multigrade classes are mostly found in smaller schools.**
- 02. Most primary pupils are in multigrade classes.**
- 03. Parents can choose to send their child to a multigrade school.**
- 04. Most primary pupils are in mixed-ability classes.**
- 05. Multigrade classes are for the youngest three grades.**