

PTE Reading Practice Test 26

Question 1 : Reading & Writing : Fill In The Blanks

Look at the text below with blanks. Choose the appropriate word from the provided lists for each blank.

Item 1:

Want to know what will make you happy? Then ask a total stranger — or so says a new study from Harvard University, which shows that another person's experience is often more _____ than your own best guess. The study, which appears in the current issue of *Science*, was led by Daniel Gilbert, professor of psychology at Harvard and author of the 2007 bestseller "Stumbling on Happiness," along with Matthew Killingsworth and Rebecca Eyre, also of Harvard, and Timothy Wilson of the University of Virginia. "If you want to know how much you will enjoy an experience, you are better off knowing how much someone else enjoyed it than knowing anything about the experience itself," says Gilbert. "Rather than closing our eyes and _____ the future, we should examine the experience of those who have been there. Previous research in psychology, neuroscience, and behavioral economics has shown that people have difficulty predicting what they will like and how much they will like it, which _____ them to make a wide variety of poor decisions. Interventions aimed at _____ the accuracy with which people imagine future events have been generally unsuccessful.

1. Informal, informative, positive, predictable.
2. Imagining, imitating, predicting, visualizing.
3. Leads, forces, requires, compels.
4. Reducing, improving, advancing, controlling

Item 2:

A mini helicopter modeled on flying tree seeds could soon be flying overhead. Evan Ulrich and colleagues at the University of Maryland in College Park _____ the biological world for inspiration to build a scaled—down helicopter that could mimic the properties of full—size aircraft. The complex _____ of full—size helicopters gets less efficient when shrunk, _____ that standard mini helicopters expend most of their power simply fighting to stay stable in the air. The researchers realized that a simpler aircraft designed to stay stable passively would use much less power and reduce manufacturing costs to boot. It turns out that nature _____ them to it. The seeds of trees such as the maple have a single—blade structure that _____ them to fly far away and drift safely to the ground. These seeds, known as samaras, need no engine to _____ through the air, thanks to a process called autorotation. By analyzing the behavior of the samara with high—speed cameras, Ulrich and his team were able to copy its design.

1. turned to, came across, stayed within, dropped in
2. overhaul, gauge, imagination, design
3. denying, meaning, objecting, proving
4. never leads, will drive, had beaten, is holding
5. charges, pushes, allows, hampers
6. spin, fluctuate, drift, bob

Item 3:

There has been increased research interest in the use of active video games (in which players physically interact with images on screen) as a means to _____ physical activity in children. The aim of this review was to assess active video games as a means of increasing energy expenditure and physical activity behavior in children. Studies were obtained from computerized searches of multiple electronic bibliographic databases. The last search was conducted in December 2008. Eleven studies focused on the quantification of the energy cost associated with playing active video games, and eight studies focused on the utility of active video games as an _____ to increase physical activity in children. Compared with traditional non-active video games, active video games _____ greater energy expenditure, which was similar in intensity to mild to moderate intensity physical activity. The intervention studies indicate that active video games may have the potential to increase free- living physical activity and improve body _____ in children; however, methodological limitations prevent _____ conclusions. Future research should focus on larger, methodologically sound intervention trials to provide definitive answers as to whether this technology is effective in _____ long-term physical activity in children.

1. Promote, obstruct, examine, inspect
2. Promotion, intervention, development, revision
3. Reduce, consume, elicited, spread
4. Tissue, composition, nutrition, element
5. Definitive, positive, optimistic, optimal
6. Obstructing, assessing, reviewing, promoting

Item 4:

A giant turtle made from discarded plastic trash will greet visitors to the British Science Festival this week. The plastic containers, bottles and cups were collected locally in Hull, where the event is taking place at the city's university. Standing 3.5m tall (11.5ft), the art installation _____ commissioned by the University of Hull with the aim of raising awareness of plastic waste. Professor Dan Parsons, director of the university's Energy and Environment Institute, said: 'Marine pollution is a mounting global challenge, which is _____ having devastating consequences. We have a duty to protect these fragile environments and the marine life and ecosystems which we _____ home. The university has

commissioned this installation as a physical _____ of what is ending up in the oceans, but also to ask visitors to campus to stop and think what they could do to try to reduce their own waste.'

1. has, being, have, was
2. only, already, otherwise, yet
3. settle, call, originate, go
4. reminder, receipt, reinforcement, recognition

Item 5:

The process of delegation comprises the decision to delegate, the briefing, and the follow-up. At each of these points, _____ the potential problems. When you delegate, you are delegating the right to perform an _____, you are delegating the right to make decisions. It is important to be _____, as the person to whom you delegate may have a better and faster way of completing a job than you. Despite all these, you retain the _____ responsibility. It is helpful to others if you can provide _____ feedback on their performance.

1. Learn, anticipate, summarize, think
2. Action, exercise, observation, execution
3. Smart, clever, feasible, flexible
4. Decision, complete, overall, major
5. More, constructive, critical, comprehensive