

PTE Reading Practice Test 28

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:

Since the last papal reform, several _____ have been _____ to make the Western calendar more useful or _____. Very few reforms, such as the rather different decimal French Republican and Soviet calendars, had gained official _____, but each was put out of use shortly after its introduction.

1. arguments, essays, assumptions, proposals
2. expected, accomplished, overthrown, offered
3. portable, strict, regular, abnormal
4. accepted, accept, acceptance, accepting

Item 2:

Serving on a jury is normally compulsory for individuals who are _____ for jury service. A jury is _____ to be an impartial panel capable of reaching a verdict. There are often _____ and requirements, including a fluent understanding of the language and the opportunity to test juror's neutrality or otherwise exclude jurors who are perceived as likely to be less than _____ or partial to one side.

1. Qualified, equalled, capable, able
2. Used, intended, likely, failed
3. Steps, stages, procedures, necessities
4. Central, natural, supportive, neutral

Item 3:

A herbal is a book of plants, describing their appearance, their properties and how they may be used for preparing ointments and medicines. The medical use of plants is _____ on fragments of papyrus and clay tablets from ancient Egypt, Samaria and China that date back 5,000 years but document traditions far older still. Over 700 herbal remedies were detailed in the Papyrus Ebers, an Egyptian text written in 1500 BC. Around 65 BC, a Greek physician called Dioscorides wrote a herbal that was _____ into Latin and Arabic. Known as 'De materia medica', it became the most influential work on medicinal plants in both Christian and Islamic worlds until the late 17th century. An illustrated manuscript copy of the text made in Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul) _____ from the sixth century. The first printed

herbals date from the dawn of European printing in the 1480s. They provided valuable information for apothecaries, whose job it was to make the pills and potions _____ by physicians. In the next century, landmark herbals were produced in England by William Turner, considered to be the father of British botany, and John Gerard, whose illustrations would _____ the floral fabric, wallpaper and tile designs of William Morris four centuries later.

1. Recorded, registered, kept, memorized
2. Moved, translated, interpreted, removed
3. Remains, survives, leaves, suffers
4. determined, instructed, prescribed, pointed
5. stimulate, simulate, wake, inspire

Item 4:

English has been changing throughout its lifetime and it's still changing today. For most of us, these changes are fine as long as they're well and truly in the past. Paradoxically, we can be _____ about word origins and the stories behind the structures we find in our language, but we _____ a queasy distaste for any change that might be happening right under our noses. There are even language critics who are _____ that English is dying, or if not dying at least being progressively _____ through long years of mistreatment.

1. scared, cranky, worried, curious
2. have, with scare, deal, experience
3. satisfied, persuaded, reassured, convinced
4. crippled, lost, disabled, dented

Item 5:

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Friday at 1845 GMT (1445 EDT), reaching orbit 9 minutes later. The rocket lofted an uncrewed _____ of SpaceX's Dragon capsule, which is designed to one-day carry both crew and cargo to orbit. This has been a good day for SpaceX and a _____ development for the US human space flight programme,' said Robyn Ringuette of SpaceX in a webcast of the launch. In a teleconference with the media on Thursday, SpaceX's CEO, Paypal co-founder Elon Musk, said he would consider the flight 100 percent successful if it reached _____. ' Even if we prove just that the first stage functions correctly, I'd still say that's a good day for a test,' he said. ' It's a great day if both stages work correctly.' SpaceX hopes to win a NASA _____ to launch astronauts to the International Space Station using the Falcon 9. US government space shuttles, which currently make these trips, are scheduled to _____ for safety reasons at the end of 2010.

1. setup, mockup, setting, base

2. promising, hopefully, rapid, encouraging
3. track, orbit, path, trajectory
4. trust, contract, support, arrangement
5. accelerate, launch, resign, retire