


# Security



A multi-layered approach  
to security ensures the  
integrity of PTE results – before,  
during and after test day.

**We strive every day  
to create the fairest  
language testing  
experience for results  
you can trust.**




Pearson takes the security of PTE very seriously. We apply a multi-layered approach to ensure that immigration authorities, employers and institutions can rely on PTE results and to ensure test takers can be confident their PTE test is fair. When it comes to security, we leave nothing to chance.


Test security focuses on protecting the confidentiality of test content and ensuring that tests are administered in such a way that test takers are not able to gain an unfair advantage. Providing confidence that results are genuine and represent the true ability of the test taker.

Delivered through Pearson's highly secure test centers, biometric data is captured using state-of-the-art technology. Including digital photographs, palm-vein scanning and electronic signatures to authenticate test taker identity. Video and audio monitoring ensure the highest level of security. To protect test content, **PTE Academic** uses secure question bank software and unique test forms with randomized questions to minimize question exposure fraud.


## What this means for you and your institution:

-  **PTE Academic's** stringent security checks mean you can have confidence that the scores you receive are based on the work of the actual student

---

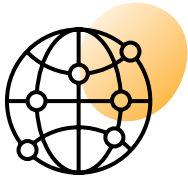
-  Accepting **PTE Academic** test takers means you reduce the risk of disruption to teaching and learning as a result of students admitted with fraudulent scores

---

-  **PTE Academic** security measures ensure greater compliance with government visa policies and therefore less risk of damage to your institution's reputation

---

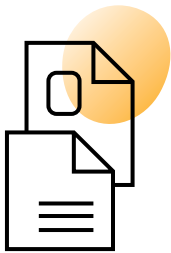
# We ensure the security of **PTE Academic** in the following ways:



## **World-wide network of secure testing centres**

PTE is taken in secure, state-of-the-art Pearson Vue test centers. Pearson Vue is a market leader when it comes to test delivery, delivering 19.5 million exams each year around the world.

Pearson Vue test centers use digital photographs, ID checks and the latest technologies to verify test takers identities. Staff are trained to ensure that all tests are taken in a secure environment. During the test, video and audio monitoring adds another layer to the security measures in place, for results you can trust.

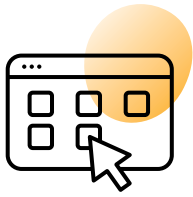


## **Randomized test forms**

Every **PTE Academic** test is built by drawing from a large pool of content and question types. So each test we produce has the same level of difficulty, but a completely different compilation of questions.

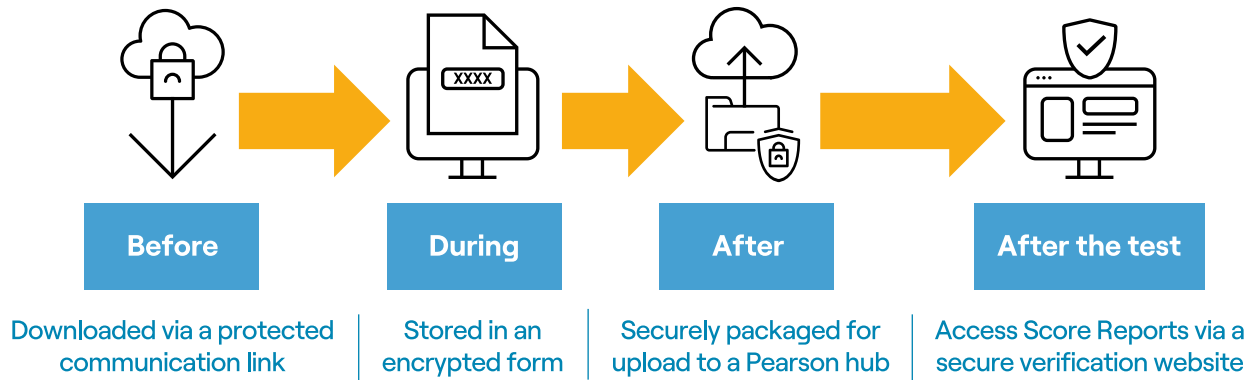
This ensures no test takers will take the same test at the same time at the same test center. In fact, it is extremely unlikely that they would have more than a few questions in common. This removes the risk of test takers comparing answers during the test.

Randomisation of **PTE Academic** also reduces the risk of test takers memorising test questions to share after the test.

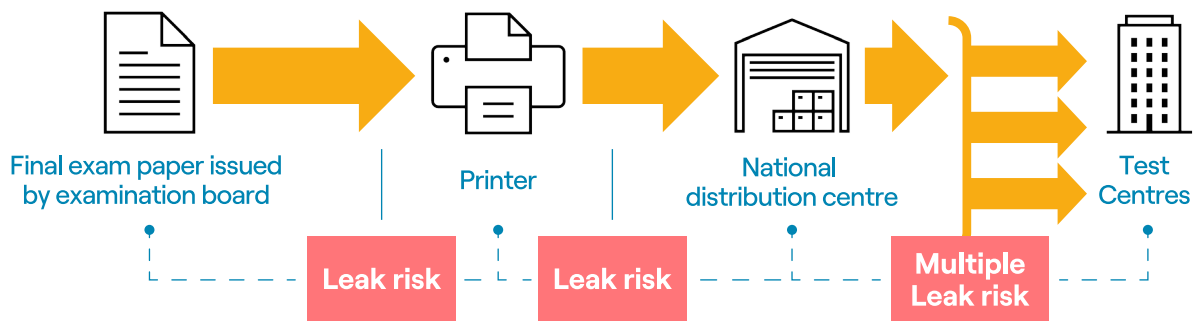


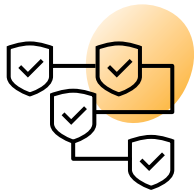
## Computerised testing

From registration through to the final delivery of results, **PTE Academic** is fully computerized. Paperless testing enhances test security by eliminating the possibility of exam papers being copied, stolen, leaked or lost. It also prevents certificates from being forged.

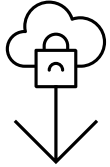


## Versus paper based testing

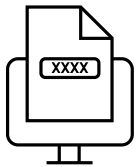




## Secure test delivery at every stage



**Before** the test, the data required to admit a test taker and deliver the test are automatically downloaded from Pearson's central hub. This is done via a protected link which is stored securely on the test center server. Biometric data is collected from the test taker at the time of admission and is stored securely on the server. The server is protected from unauthorized access by numerous safeguards (including network access restrictions and a locked server room).



**During** the appointment tests are transmitted in an encrypted form, which no one can access.

Palm scanning is used to begin the test, if the test-taker leaves their desk at any stage and when they complete their test. This ensures it is only accessed by the registered test taker.



Tests are only decrypted when the test taker starts the test. At no time during the test delivery is more than one question or response available to the system in an unencrypted form.



**After** the test, the results and biometric data are securely packaged for upload to the Pearson hub. No data remains in the test center.

**After the test**, results are verified and securely stored on the Score Report site. This site can only be accessed by test takers and Score Report users with secure login credentials.

Paper certificates are not issued to reduce the risks of forgery. By removing paper altogether **PTE Academic** can guarantee a greater level of security.



## Consistent use of test security measures across all centers

By using consistent security measures, **PTE Academic** guarantees high levels of security for all test results, no matter where the test is taken.



## Palm vein authentication

All around the world, test centers that deliver **PTE Academic** are equipped with advanced palm vein recognition technology. These devices capture and recognize the unique patterns in a test taker's palm veins using non-intrusive scanning technology. During the check-in process a comparison is made between the pattern recorded and Pearson's "No Test List". This ensures that individuals who have previously been prohibited from testing are not able to do so. Furthermore, all test taker identities are verified to begin the test, when taking breaks and when the test is completed. To ensure only the registered person is able to access their test.

The system also provides an enhanced service, known as 'one-to-many matching'. It is configured to compare each test taker's biometrics to an entire test taker database prior to the release of the test results. The system detects duplicate record creation, including proxy testing, and where duplicates are identified the results are automatically held whilst an investigation takes place.

This use of innovative technology demonstrates that **PTE Academic** is at the forefront of the fight against proxy test taking.



## Invigilator to test taker ratios

The ratio of invigilators to test takers is an important indication of the level of test security within the test room. **PTE Academic** has an invigilator to test taker ratio of 1:15 which is the lowest ratio for the delivery of high stakes tests.



## Secure online verification

Users of the **PTE Academic** Score Report site can be confident that PTE scores stored in this secure site are always verified. Only PTE scores stored in the site are guaranteed to be authentic. Both test takers and Score Report users have secure login credentials to allow them to access score data.

**PTE Academic** is entirely paperless for both the test taker delivery and the certification.

Security is at  
the heart of  
everything we do.



Our multi-layered approach to security ensures you can trust in the PTE results you receive. It is why governments, employers and over 3500 institutions around the world accept PTE as one of their trusted partners.