

INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL ENGLISH **EXAMINATIONS**



English for Call Centers Examination:

General Description

PART 1

Listening

(approx. 10 minutes)

Task type: Multiple choice

Format: ten unrelated dialogues of about 30 seconds' duration, each followed by a 3-option multiple

The candidates listen to a short dialogue, then choose the correct statement from three that are based on the dialogue. The recordings are dialogues between two interacting speakers (conversations,

interviews, discussions, etc.).

Task Focus: identifying detail, understanding and interpreting information, specific information, gist,

detail, main idea, function, purpose, attitude, opinion, etc.

Marking Scheme: 10 items x 2 points = 20 points

NOTE: Each part is heard twice.

PART 2

Knowledge of **Linguistic Means** (20 minutes)

Task type: Multiple choice

Format: 18 4-option multiple choice sentences

Task Focus: lexical

Marking Scheme: 18 items x 2 points = 36 points

Topic areas: call center layout; tools and equipment; work hours; skills and qualities of representatives; basic actions; phone communication; call types; leaving messages; transfers; taking payments; answering services; training; conversation cycle; inbound and outbound calls; technology; metrics; performance evaluation; performance incentives; scheduling; time management; language barriers; handling difficult and angry customers; handling unusual situations; customer relationship management; customer satisfaction survey; customer privacy; online support; managing stress; health; outsourcing; careers

PART 3

Knowledge of **Language Functions** (15 minutes)

Task type: Multiple choice

Format: 16 2-option multiple choice exchanges

Task Focus: lexico-grammatical

Marking Scheme: 16 items x 1 point = 16 points

Functions: giving directions; assurance; reminders and warnings; estimating time; agreeing with an opinion; expressing surprise, relief, preferences, confidence, sympathy, doubt and confusion; asking for details, advice, opinions and more information; identifying an error; making an apology, a recommendation and a generalization; stressing a point; changing mind; confirming and adding information; discussing pros, cons and options; describing skills, traits, possible events, work experience, progress, relationships, degree and new technology; checking for understanding; offering assistance and comfort; providing

reassurance; stating requirements

PART 4

Reading (10 minutes) Task type: Multiple choice - True/False/Doesn't say

Format: Three short texts (60-100 words each) containing factual information related to the call center field; the first two texts are followed by two 3-option multiple choice questions each, while the third text is followed by two True/False/Doesn't say questions.

Task Focus: understanding detail, specific information, implication, attitude, reference and meaning

Marking Scheme: 6 items x 3 points = 18 points

NOTE: All the texts are related to the specific field of study.

PART 5

Writing (5 minutes) Task type: A gapped text

Format: One text (100-200 words) from which five sentences, phrases, words or headings have been removed and placed in a jumbled order, together with an extra option as a distractor, above the text. Task Focus: recognition of writing features and language as required in their field of study

Marking Scheme: 5 items x 2 points = 10 points

NOTES: The candidate may be asked to complete instructions, an order form, an evaluation form, a feedback form, a memo, a résumé, a job listing, notes, a summary, a report, an incident report; a survey, a cover letter, an advertisement, a brochure, a worksheet, an email, a recommendation, a poster, a schedule or an assessment. This task is based on elements of writing that the candidates will need to produce in the call center field for professional purposes.

Duration: 60 minutes

Marks: TOTAL: 100 points