

INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL ENGLISH EXAMINATIONS



English for "Construction II - Roads and Highways"

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

choice item

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 (15 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: types of roads and intersections; materials; numbers and measurements; tools, equipment and machinery; basic actions; soil; landscapes; surveying, plans and setting out lines; earthworks, pipes and drainage; flexible pavement; rigid pavement; curbs and sidewalks; bridges; fencing; site safety; traffic control and signage; street furniture; testing materials; road maintenance

PART 3

Knowledge of Language Functions (10 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/a reminder/instructions; talking about deadlines/numbers/time/prices/completion/future events; listing options/requirements; stating an exception; estimating numbers; suggesting a replacement; predicting needs; providing options; making comparisons/a recommendation/an appointment; asking about results/about progress/about experience/about costs; asking for advice/for clarification/for repetition; describing progress/road damage; expressing a concern/confusion; offering solutions; disagreeing with an opinion; correcting an error; confirming information; delivering bad news; discussing prices/pros and cons; supporting an opinion; changing a plan

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 field of "Construction II – Roads and Highways"; 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 field of construction (buildings).

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PART 5

Writing Awareness (15 minutes) Task type: A gapped or jumbled text of approx. 200 words

Format: Gapped text – a text with five gaps to be filled with either one sentence from a choice of three or, one pair of sentences from a choice of six or, an appropriate word or, information from two short texts. Jumbled text – seven or eight paragraphs, of which five are to be organized into a 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

NOTE: The candidate may be asked to fill in a work order form, schedule, an email, a project summary, a sign out sheet, an informational letter, a list, work notes, directions notes, a manager's report, a test report, a landscape assessment report, a progress report, a site survey, plan notes, project details, a plan adjustment form, a damage report, a status report, an inspection report, a road condition report, project updates, a checklist, a recommendation, interviewer's notes, a safety report, an accident report, a project bid. This task is based on elements of writing that candidates will need to produce in the field of "Construction II – Roads and Highways" for professional purposes.

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Duration: 60 minutes

Marks: TOTAL: 100 points