

INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL ENGLISH EXAMINATIONS



English for Construction I (Buildings):

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 (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: building jobs and actions (careers and experience); plans; safety equipment and worksite safety; tools and equipment (hand tools, power tools, fasteners, cranes and rigging); building sites and site preparation (site investigation, site layout and excavation); building stages (foundations, formwork, floors, roofs and finishing); parts of buildings (parts of a residence/ a commercial building and stairs); materials and masonry; weatherproofing (doors and windows, insulation); concrete work; frames (timber/steel/concrete); numerical data (basic math, decimals, fractions, percentages, measurements, properties and dimensions)

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: describing importance/uses/a change in plans/experience/damage/progress/a problem/ options/benefits/attributes; making a recommendation/an apology; disagreeing with a suggestion; giving a warning/instructions/assurances; talking about amounts; correcting an error/an assumption; identifying an error; checking information/items on a list; offering options, agreeing with an opinion; expressing dissatisfaction/confusion/doubt; asking about requirements/about chronological order/for advice/for more detail/for clarification, explaining the order of events, selecting an option; discussing pros and cons/options; reacting to good news; introducing a problem; changing the subject; emphasizing a point; confirming details; stating an opinion

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 (buildings); 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).

PART 5

Writing Awareness (5 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 request form, an invoice, a review, a supply sheet, a written warning, a note, an email, a chart, an order change, a daily planner, an advertisement, a survey, an evaluation, a disciplinary write-up, a task sheet, a call record, a report, an information sheet, a progress update, an instructions, a project plan, a pamphlet, a summary or a brochure. This task is based on elements of writing that candidates will need to produce in the field of construction (buildings) for professional purposes.

Duration: 60 minutes

Marks: TOTAL: 100 points