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INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL ENGLISH EXAMINATIONS



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English for Merchant Navy Examination: General Description

| PART 1 Listening | <i>Task type:</i> Multiple choice <i>Format:</i> ten unrelated dialogues of about 30 seconds' duration, each followed by a 3-option multiple choice item |
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| (approx. 10 minutes) | 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: parts of a ship; communication; nautical terms; personnel; navigation; weather & conditions; vessels; ropes, lines & skills; ship systems; rules of the road; maintenance & repair; equipment & gear; operations; safety; duties & formalities |
| 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 |
| | <i>Functions:</i> describing duration/function/steps/order/experience/consequences/health/condition/ lengths of time/similar things/possible events; giving directions/an estimate/steering commands/a warning/a reminder/deadlines; providing options; ordering fast movement; asking for repetition/an opinion/directions; stating a preference; identifying problems/people/main ideas; expressing uncertainty/reluctance/surprise; introducing a point/bad news; listing steps; denying a suggestion; assigning responsibility; agreeing with a plan/a statement/an opinion; talking about future plans/risk; estimating time; disagreeing with a claim; checking for understanding; stressing a point/importance; making a recommendation; confirming information |
| PART 4 | Task type: Multiple choice – True/False/Doesn't say |
| Reading (10 minutes) | <i>Format:</i> Three short texts (60-100 words each) containing factual information related to the field of merchant navy; the first two texts are followed by two 3-option multiple choice questions each, while |
| (10 11111100) | 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 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 studies. Marking Scheme: 5 items x 2 points = 10 points |
| | NOTE: The candidate may be asked to complete a diagram, notes, an introduction, a guide, a radio operator's chart, orders, a log entry, a job description, a crew assignment form, a materials request, a work report, an email, loading notes, a damage report, tackle descriptions, a towing operation checklist, a crew memo, a journal entry, an inspection summary, an FAQ page, a safety drill report, a course adjustment report or a memo to a navigator. This task is based on elements of writing that the candidates will need to produce in the field of merchant navy for professional purposes. |
| Duration: 60 minutes | Marks: TOTAL: 100 points |