

English for Agriculture Examination:
General Description

<p>PART 1 Listening (approx. 10 minutes)</p>	<p>Task type: Multiple choice Format: ten unrelated dialogues of about 30 seconds' duration, each followed by a 3-option multiple choice item</p> <p>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.).</p> <p>Task Focus: <i>identifying detail, understanding and interpreting information, specific information, gist, detail, main idea, function, purpose, attitude, opinion, etc.</i></p> <p>Marking Scheme: 10 items x 2 points = 20 points</p> <p>NOTE: Each part is heard twice.</p>
<p>PART 2 Knowledge of Linguistic Means (20 minutes)</p>	<p>Task type: Multiple choice Format: 18 4-option multiple choice sentences Task Focus: <i>lexical</i></p> <p>Marking Scheme: 18 items x 2 points = 36 points</p> <p>Topic areas: the history of agriculture; plant/animal products; soil; water; seeds; plant growth; harvest; storage; feed & nutrients; housing animals; breeding; slaughter & processing; cultivation; planting & harvest equipment; beef; swine; poultry; dairy; sheep; equine industry; apiculture; classification & composition; salts & acidity; the nitrogen cycle; soil conservation; preparing; seeding & planting; climate & weather; pricing; government intervention; animal behaviour & health; animals & grain; bioengineering; cropping systems; growing seasons; weeds; pests & disease; diagnosing crop problems; agribusiness management; international trade; the futures market; sustainable farming; technological advances; organic farming; GMOs</p>
<p>PART 3 Knowledge of Language Functions (15 minutes)</p>	<p>Task type: Multiple choice Format: 16 2-option multiple choice exchanges Task Focus: <i>lexico-grammatical</i></p> <p>Marking Scheme: 16 items x 1 point = 16 points</p> <p>Functions: asking questions politely; asking about prices/condition/results; asking for clarification/repetition/advice/an explanation/suggestions/help/a recommendation/an opinion/more information; agreeing (with an opinion); checking understanding; clarifying information; requesting/giving/confirming information; correcting a misconception; disagreeing; discussing symptoms/problems; expressing confusion/concern/surprise/preference/an opinion/doubt; guessing; giving advice/compliments/an opinion; making suggestions/introductions; pointing out errors; recommending; scheduling an appointment; talking about experience/expectations/readiness; telephoning</p>
<p>PART 4 Reading (10 minutes)</p>	<p>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 agriculture; 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: <i>understanding detail, specific information, implication, attitude, reference and meaning</i></p> <p>Marking Scheme: 6 items x 3 points = 18 points</p> <p>NOTE: All the texts are related to the specific field of study.</p>
<p>PART 5 Writing Awareness (5 minutes)</p>	<p>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: <i>recognition of writing features and language as required in their field of study</i></p> <p>Marking Scheme: 5 items x 2 points = 10 points</p> <p>NOTE: The candidate may be asked to complete notes, a customer/sales receipt, a product description, a farm/crop report, a memo, a message, a resume, a letter, an order form, an order summary, an advertisement, a training log, a farmer's schedule, an email, a customer feedback form, a treatment plan, an article, a financial summary or a plan. This task is based on elements of writing that the candidates will need to produce in the field of agriculture for professional purposes.</p>
<p>Duration: 60 minutes</p>	<p>Marks: TOTAL: 100 points</p>