

INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL ENGLISH **EXAMINATIONS**



English for Firefighter 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

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: fires; firefighters and their qualities, roles and health; fire departments; clothing, equipment and tools; equipment maintenance; types of buildings and parts of buildings; common hazards; safety procedures; fuel classifications; fire extinguishers; sprinkler and detection systems; water supplies, hydrants and hoses; ladders; communications and radio procedures; responding to a fire; fire suppression; search and victim removal; motor vehicle rescue; medical response; disaster and terrorist response; salvage and cause determination; prevention and awareness; knots and ropes; measurements

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: adding information; agreeing with an opinion; answering a phone; asking about job experience/for more information; confirming information; correcting a misconception/oneself; describing experience/a plan/consequences/a challenge/importance/severity; emphasizing a point; expressing surprise/confidence/empathy/frustration/doubt/confusion/a preference/amazement/agreement/urgency/ relief; giving a warning/a reminder/instructions/a compliment; making an estimate/a suggestion/a comparison/an apology; showing understanding; stressing a point; talking about benefits/ possibilities/condition; trying to remember something; wishing someone luck

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 firefighting; 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 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 quiz, a form, an evaluation, an email, an article, a company assignment request, an equipment replacement request, a training scenario, an incident report, a disciplinary report, a consultation request, a message, notes, a proposal, an inspection summary, study notes, a maintenance form, a memo, an advertisement, a doctor's note or a press release. This task is based on elements of writing that the candidates will need to produce in the field of firefighting for professional purposes.

Duration: 60 minutes

Marks: TOTAL: 100 points

