

INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL ENGLISH EXAMINATIONS



English for Mechanical Engineering 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 (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: simple machines, hand tools & machine tools; bearings; couplings; gears & geartrains; drives; the combustion engine; patents; maths, statistics & numbers; measurements; large numbers; analyzing quantities; tables & graphs; rate processes; structural analysis; failure theory; basic physics & scientific methods; electricity; force; fluid motion; tension & compression; energy; heat &

thermodynamics; properties of materials; rotational motion; speed & torque; robotics

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: describing experience; stating a goal; making a recommendation; asking for more information; talking about necessity; reacting to good news; providing an example; making a polite request; making a suggestion; stating a preference; making an estimate; asking for clarification; checking for certainty; giving a warning; making a prediction; discussing progress/pros & cons; describing degree/lack of experience; problem solving; asking for help; providing examples; describing unexpected results; scheduling an appointment; correcting yourself/an error; talking about expectations; asking for explanations; expressing confusion; explaining differences; asking for other options; making comparisons; asking about benefits; expressing concern; estimating time

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 mechanical engineering; 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 (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 complete an encyclopedia entry, an advice column, an employee manual, an owner's manual, an abstract, an email, an internet ad, a webpage, a poster, a textbook excerpt, a conversion chart, a note, a course description, a memo, a report, a résumé, a course syllabus, a magazine article, a trade article or a scientific article. This task is based on elements of writing that the candidates will need to produce in the field of mechanical engineering for professional purposes.

Duration: 60 minutes

Marks: TOTAL: 100 points