

INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL ENGLISH **EXAMINATIONS**

English for Secretarial 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: office supplies/furniture/schedules/routines; reference books; office documents; assisting visitors; phone etiquette; letters and graphs; departments; phone calls; making appointments; travel arrangements; filing; record-keeping; communication; using computers; meetings and conferences; agendas; meetings minutes; employment; mail handling; telecommunication; business

abbreviations; wages; requests for payments; banking; bookkeeping

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: offering assistance/help/valuable information; giving directions/instructions/advice/a reminder/praise/good news/reassurance/a reprimand; responding to good news; explaining what is needed/how to do a task; introducing yourself; making suggestions/a complaint/comparisons/an offer/an order/a request; talking about schedules/work experience/departure times/deadlines; asking about someone's identity; asking for directions/information/advice/an example/clarification; scheduling an appointment; discussing options/sequence of events; describing duties/a process/a change/ characteristics/features; placing an order; expressing interest/surprise/hope/regret/disapproval/an opinion/preference; confirming details/information; adding/providing information; politely denying requests

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 secretarial field; 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 studies.

Marking Scheme: 5 items x 2 points = 10 points

NOTE: The candidate may be asked to complete an order form, a letter, an email, a memo, a sales receipt, a sign-in sheet, a telephone message, an agenda, minutes of a meeting, a résumé, an invitation, interview notes, a call log, an appointment sheet, a booking form, a boarding pass, customer notes, a to-do list, a program of events, or a ledger. This task is based on elements of writing that the candidates will need to produce in the field of secretarial for professional purposes.

Duration: 60 minutes

Marks: TOTAL: 100 points