

## Information about the VB001 (Specialist English) exam

The aim of the VB001 (Specialist English) exam is to assess students' knowledge of general English grammar and specialized math and IT-related terminology. Below is a short description of the exam.

The exam has the following parts:

### Part 1

- **Part 1 Listening**
- **Part 2 Reading**
- **Part 3 Grammar and Vocabulary**

### Part 2

- **Part 4 Writing**

### Part 3

- **Part 5 Speaking**

### Part 1 (58 points)

#### **Listening** (15 questions in total)

**Task 1:** True/False (7 questions)

Students listen to a 3-minute recording and mark the sentences True or False.

**Task 2:** Sentence completion (8 questions)

Students listen to a 3-minute recording and complete some notes.

#### **Reading** (20 questions in total)

**Task 3:** Open cloze based on an IT text (7 questions)

Students complete a gapped text with a correct word (IT-related term).

**Task 4:** Error correction (8 questions)

Students study the lines of a text and find an extra word which should not be there.

**Task 5:** Gapped sentences (5 questions)

Students complete a text with missing sentences by choosing from a jumbled list.

#### **Grammar and vocabulary** (23 questions in total)

**Task 6:** Key word transformations (8 questions)

Students complete a sentence using a key word so that it means the same as the lead-in sentence.

**Task 7:** Word formation (6 questions)

Students form missing words from a text by changing the stem of the word given.

**Task 8:** Open cloze (9 questions)

Students complete a gapped text with a correct term. Any type of word may be omitted.

### Part 2 (12 points)

#### **Writing**

**Task 9:** Writing an email

Students write an email on a given topic in 130-150 words.

### Part 3 (30 points)

#### **Speaking**

**Task 10:** A presentation

Students deliver a 5-minute presentation on an IT topic of their choice in front of an audience using visuals.

**Task 11:** Discussion

Students choose a topic and then discuss as a group. During this task, students show that they are able to participate in a discussion, express agreement or disagreement, and use relevant vocabulary.

For this part of the exam, students need to prepare a **small handout** for other participating students as well as the examiner. The handout should contain:

- Main points from the presentation for others to review (should not be too detailed – your peers will have just seen the presentation!)
- Discussion question – make sure to think carefully about your discussion topic, as some of the discussion topics from the handout will be used in this part of the examination!

### **Assessment**

The passing score for each paper is 60%.

The passing score for *Paper 1* is 35 points out of 58.

The passing score for *Paper 2* is 7 points out of 12.

The passing score for *Paper 3* is 18 (12+6) points out of 30 (20+10).

**If you fail Part 1, you have to retake the whole exam.**

**If you fail Part 2, you need to retake only Part 2 (the writing portion of the written exam).**

**If you fail Part 3, you will be required to have an entirely new presentation. This is true even if you fail the Discussion portion of Part 3!**

The total allotted time for the entire written portion of the exam (Part 1 and 2) is 90 minutes. If you are retaking Part 2, you will have 30 minutes for the task.

### **Final assessment**

Grade Score

A 92 – 100

B 84 – 91

C 76 – 83

D 68 – 75

E 60 – 67

### **Grading of students with certificates:**

If you submit the *Certificate in Advanced English* stating that your level of English is at the B2 level, the number of points for the **Part 1** you receive will correspond to the point distribution below:

A – 58 pts.

B – 53 pts.

C – 49 pts.

D – 44 pts.

E – 39 pts.

If your certificate is at the C1 level, you will receive the maximum points unless the grade you have received for the certificate is relatively low. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.