

## Language Competence Test for Construction Workers Level B1 Voc

### Listening 1

Listen to the sentences and underline the correct response.

*Example:*

*You hear: 'How long is it?'*

*You read:*

- a. *It's twenty three kilos.*
  - b. *Only twenty three centimetres*
  - c. *I'm twenty three*
- (b. is the correct response)*

1.

- a. I'll be there at eight.
- b. OK: Monday the eighth.
- c. Yes, I ate on Monday.

2.

- a. That's very high.
- b. Is that big enough?
- c. Yes, that is alot.

3.

- a. That means it's OK to smoke on site.
- b. So you can smoke at the site entrance.
- c. You've got to be well clear to have a smoke.

4.

- a. I can't: it has to be in the morning.
- b. OK, but I can't tell you what time.
- c. So you prefer the afternoon, do you?

5.

- a. Yes, I agree. It is a long time to wait.
- b. OK, then make it heavier.
- c. It's lighter than it looks.

#### Audio script

- 1. The job starts at eight on Monday.
- 2. The lot is one hundred and twenty square meters.
- 3. Smoking is not permitted within ten metres of the site.
- 4. Can't you make the delivery in the morning?
- 5. In my opinion, there's too much weight.

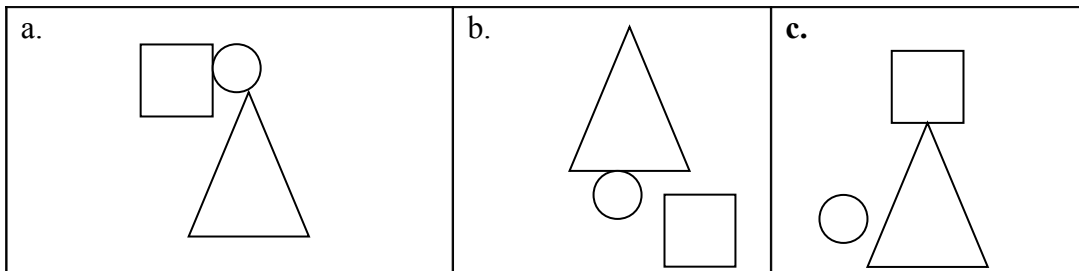
## Listening 2

Listen to the descriptions and choose the correct diagram from a, b and c. Circle the correct letter.

Example:

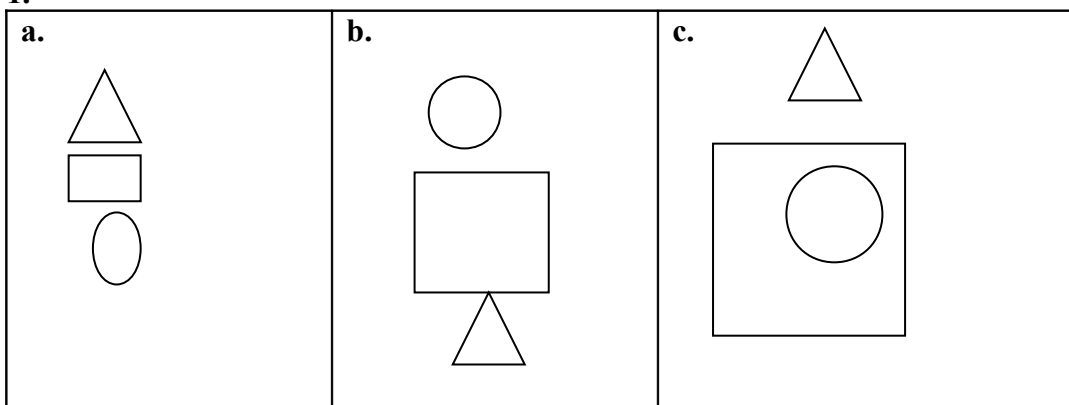
You hear: 'A triangle on top of a circle which is next to a square.'

You see:

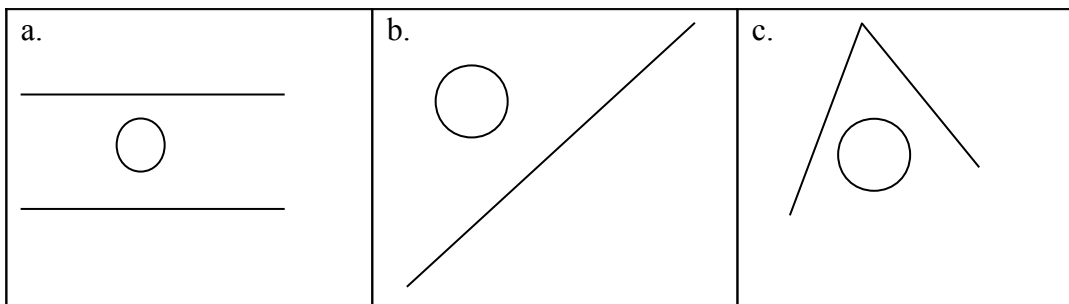


(The correct answer is b.)

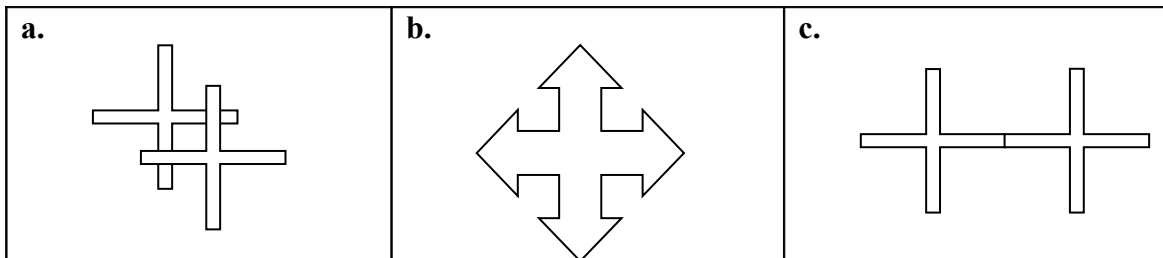
1.



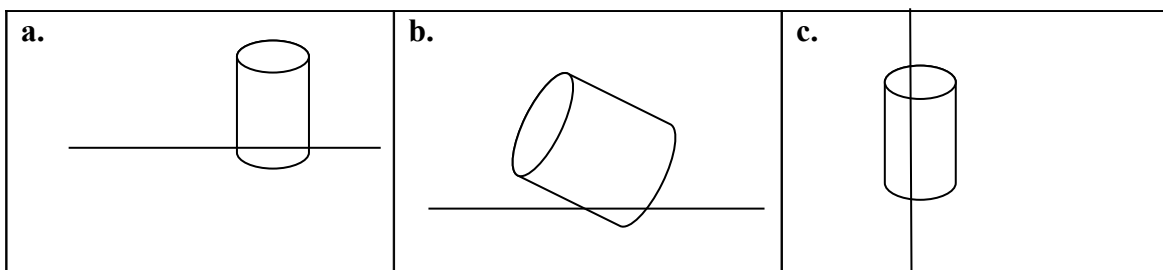
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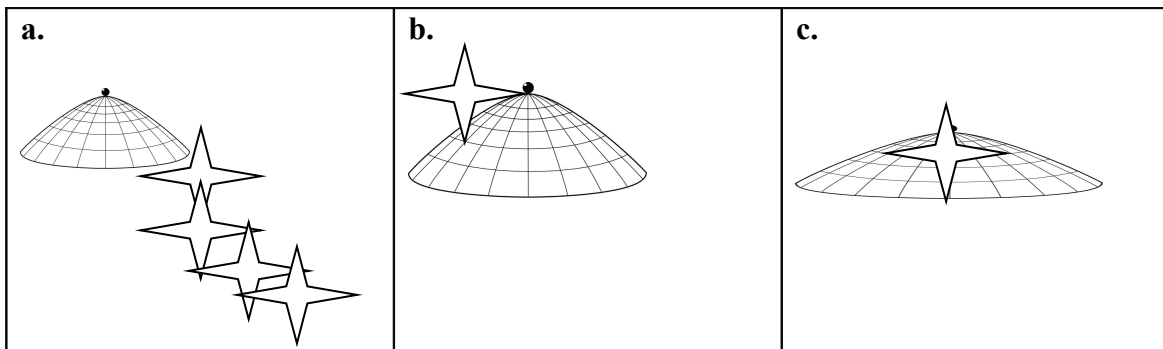
3.



4.



5.



### Audio script

1. A circle within a square below a triangle.
2. A circle between two parallel lines.
3. Two overlaid crosses placed centrally.
4. There is a cylindrical shape that is perpendicular to a base line.
5. A dome which is adjacent to one four-pointed star.

## Listening 3

Listen to the telephone message and complete the memo of the call.

### Memo of telephone call

1. \_\_\_\_\_ requires a new permit.
2. Permit application form number: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Deadline for submission of application: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Parts to complete: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Parts to be completed by owner: \_\_\_\_\_

### Audio script

[Message left on answer phone]

Oh, hi Jose, it's Gunter. There's something I need to remind you about for tomorrow. We need to apply for a new permit because of the relocation of the stairs. So, can you fill in a new U-seven – nine –B form? I'm sorry, I know it's a nuisance, but it's gotta be completed by Friday the nineteenth of October. You'll need to fill in all the sections from A-one to C-three but not section D, that'll have to be completed by the owner? OK, thanks.

## Listening 4

Listen to the dialogue and answer the questions:

1. Why are changes being made?

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2. What changes have been made to the number of electrical outlets?

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3. Why has the ceiling height been altered?

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4. What changes have been made to the position of the back door?

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5. What does regulation 15 control?

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### Audio script

Tom: Hi Bill, I've just received the new plans, and I see there are a lot of changes.

Bill: Tom, I know, but I've had to review the building codes, and talk to some people....

Tom: So these changes are because of building regulations?

Bill: I'm afraid so.

Tom: I see you've reduced the number of electrical outlets to five, but with four sockets each.

Bill: Yeah, the way we had it before, it was considered a fire hazard.

Tom: And the ceiling, you've got it lowered to three point five meters? Is that right?

Bill: Apparently, anything over three point five puts us into a different building category. So, we've made the changes to avoid a whole new lot of charges and fees.

Tom: I see. So why have you moved the back door so far back?

Bill: Regulation fifteen A: you need 12 meters between exits.

## Reading 1

Match each picture (1-5) with an instruction (a-f).  
There is one instruction that is not needed.

1. [a/w: a new sink fixture, placed upside down on the floor and a plumber is drawing around the inverted sink and producing an outline of it.]
  2. [a/w: plumber is drilling a hole in the floor. There is a saw visible.]
  3. [a/w: plumber is applying caulk (sealant) to the underside of the sink.]
  4. [a/w: plumber is attaching taps to the sink.]
  5. [a/w: plumber is connecting pipes under the sink.]
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- a. Connect the drain pipes to the plumbing lead.
  - b. Position the sink upside-down and trace its outline on the floor.
  - c. Place a length of wood across the basin as a flat surface for a spirit level.
  - d. Drill a hole large enough for a saw blade.
  - e. Caulk around the rim of the underside of the fixture.
  - f. Equip the sink with its fittings.

## Reading 2

Study the sentences and say which, from a, b and c, has the same meaning. Underline your choice.

Example:

*The building shall be constructed so that ground movement caused by land slip or subsidence will not impair the stability of the building*

- a. Ground movement causes subsidence and impairs building stability.
  - b. Construct the building so that it does not cause landslip and subsidence.
  - c. Don't build where the land may shift.
- (c is the correct answer)

1. The drill rig is equipped with a diesel engine but can be driven by an electric motor, if required.
- a. It can be powered by different types of motors.
  - b. The drill rig will only function with a diesel engine.
  - c. This drill rig can be used on engines.

2. This form should be used to report any accident with the potential to be fatal or disabling.
- a. Use this form for all kinds of accidents.
  - b. Fill in this form before reporting bad accidents.
  - c. Complete this form in the event of major injury.

3. Verandas, balconies or raised floor surfaces located more than 75cms above the floor should have guard rails not less than 1 m in height.
- a. Any structure up to 75cms above the floor needs a guardrail over 1m high.
  - b. Structures more than 75cms high need 1m guard rails.
  - c. The floor should be protected by a guard rail.

4. Powder and water are mixed by proportions of approximately four parts to one.
- a. 4 powder: 1 water
  - b. 1 powder: 4 water
  - c. equal proportions of water and powder

5. Previously the site was poorly laid out but now there are controls on site vehicles and security has been increased.
- a. Vehicles and security are poorly managed on the site.
  - b. Management of the site has improved.
  - c. There are vehicle and security problems on the site.

## Reading 3

Fill the gaps in the text (1-5) by choosing the best option from a, b and c below.

The bridge was in fair-to-poor condition and the most 1. \_\_\_\_\_ was evident on the main truss spans. It was consequently proposed to replace the bridge. However, field surveys and biological assessments of the project site identified a diverse mussel population around the bridge including several 2. \_\_\_\_\_. An assessment of the impact of the construction work on its local environment was done and in consultation with the environmental authorities the engineers decided to relocate the mussels from the 3. \_\_\_\_\_ area. One of the relocation sites was monitored one month later and the survey concluded that the relocated mussels were in 4. \_\_\_\_\_ and that mortality rates were consistent with undisturbed mussel populations. The 5. \_\_\_\_\_ will continue to be monitored for the next five years.

1.
  - a. serious deterioration
  - b. of the damage
  - c. worst problem
  
2.
  - a. other mussels
  - b. lobsters
  - c. endangered species
  
3.
  - a. best
  - b. main impact
  - c. relocation
  
4.
  - a. a bad way
  - b. high spirits
  - c. good health
  
5.
  - a. mussel population
  - b. engineers
  - c. old bridge



## Reading 4

Read the press release and answer the questions.

*U of CW*

### Press release from Union of Construction Workers

#### Crane related accidents at building sites

There has been a fatal accident involving a crane at one of the country's building sites. A worker was electrocuted on Monday when the boom of the crane he was driving made contact with a 72000 volt power distribution line. The tragedy follows closely two other separate incidents that have happened over the past month involving cranes on building sites.

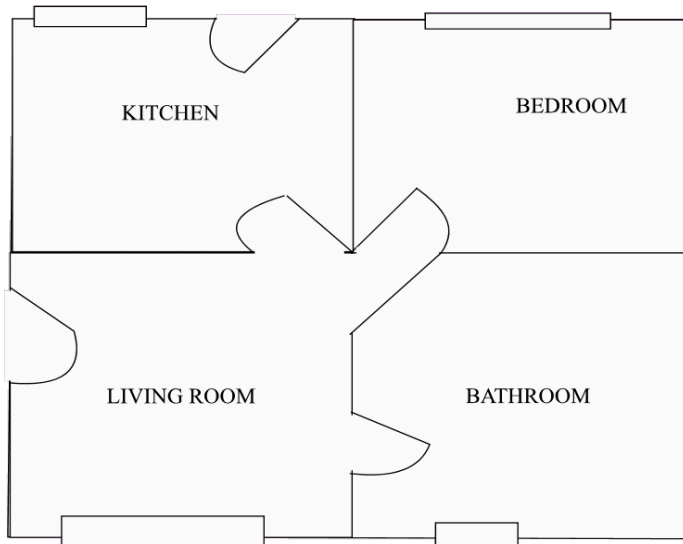
In the first incident a worker was almost killed when a three-ton concrete panel being lifted by a crane knocked over his work platform. The worker apparently escaped injury by 'riding' the platform as it fell to the ground. A week earlier, at a different site, a crane collapsed onto a building. In this incident two workers were seriously injured and an estimated €200.000 damage was caused to the building.

The UCW says that occupational health and safety regulations need to be tightened nationwide in order to protect workers against accidents involving cranes. The union's general secretary, Albert Hanssen, says, 'the recent increase in accidents reflects the fact that more cranes are in use because of the current boom in construction. However, the Government should bear the recent accidents in mind as it drafts new health and safety regulations. What we need are specific regulations for cranes, about the training of operators, about their inspection regime and about who is competent to drive them.'

1. How many accidents involving cranes have occurred over the past month?
2. What killed the crane driver?
3. What caused the damage to the building?
4. According to union's general secretary, why are there more accidents now?
5. What is the government doing at the moment?

## Writing 1

Continue the description of the diagram below. (100–150 words)



The house is a single storey bungalow. It has four rooms. There are two outside doors. One outside door gives access to the living room, ...

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## Writing 2

Use the information about types of road surfaces to respond to the question in an Internet forum.

[Design: text should look like an entry on an Internet forum]

New topic: **which road surface?**

Can anyone help me? My business partner and I are designing and building a hotel. The construction is approximately 200 metres from a main road. We need a driveway from the main road to the hotel but we don't know which would be the best type of surface to use. My business partner thinks we should use concrete. Please advise on the most suitable and most cost effective.

Author: **Wombat**

ROAD SURFACES		
Type of road surface	Information	Uses
Asphalt	Need a lot of maintenance / 15 years life	No heavy vehicles
Concrete	Different colours / 30 years life / poor weather resistance	Heavy traffic
Brick	Attractive but expensive to lay & maintain	Low-impact roads
Pavers (Concrete blocks)	expensive to maintain	Long life – not for high speed traffic

Speaking 1

**Interlocutor's copy**

Candidates should respond to any of the following questions.

1. What was your first job in the construction industry? Describe your first day.
2. What are the most difficult and easiest parts of your job?
3. What are the dangers on construction sites? Describe an accident.
4. Do you have any experience of 'builders from Hell'?
5. How often do you disagree with other people you work with? Describe a time when there was a difference of opinion.
6. How important do you think it is for construction workers to be able to work independently?
7. Do you have a favourite building? Describe it.
8. When are there communication problems on construction sites? Describe any experience you have.
9. What problems does the construction industry in your country have at the moment?
10. What are your professional aims and ambitions? What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

## Speaking 2

### Candidate's copy

Choose one of the following titles and prepare a short presentation which will be approximately five minutes long. When you have finished your presentation the examiner will ask questions.

Are there too many building regulations or not enough?

In the perfect town centre cycling is carefree, children play in the road and the car is no longer king.

'Why can't we have those curves and arches that express feeling in design? What is wrong with them? Why has everything got to be vertical, straight, unbending, only at right angles - and functional?' Charles, Prince of Wales

Globalisation means that everywhere will soon look the same.

The health and happiness of employees has a direct impact on a company's financial health.

How should we deal with cowboy builders?

What is the future for house design?