

Written Test

The written test is made up of three separate sections: Listening Comprehension, Reading Comprehension and Mathematics, all of which use a multiple-choice or true/false format. Each section is administered and timed separately. Specific instructions are provided at the beginning of each section. Although most of the questions in this test battery relate to firefighting, you need no prior knowledge of the fire service to answer the questions. The candidate must receive a 70 percent in each section to pass the written test. The written test takes approximately two hours to complete.

Your score is based on the total number of correct answers, so try to answer every question on the test. This means there is no penalty for guessing, so respond to every item, even if you are not certain of the answer. When you are not certain, make your best guess and move on to the next question.

Section #1 – Listening Comprehension

This test measures how well you comprehend what you have heard. The test format is similar to listening and taking notes at a lecture on material you will be tested on later. A passage will be read to you, and you will take notes as you deem appropriate on notepaper that will be provided in the test booklet. Later in the testing session you will be asked questions about material in the passage, and you will be able to refer to your notes when answering. The questions will be in a multiple-choice true/false format.

Section #2 – Reading Comprehension

This section measures how well you understand what you read. It consists of a number of short paragraphs, each followed by some questions. All the information you need to answer the questions is contained in the paragraphs. In some instances, you may need to draw a conclusion from the information.

Section #3 – Mathematics

This section measures your ability to perform the basic math functions required of entry-level firefighters. It consists of fire-related story problems and formulas that call for you to use addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. There are also some problems that call for simple algebra, squares and square roots.

NOTE: No calculators or any electronic devices are permitted at the test site.