

B 101c

National Council for Vocational Awards



Word Processing – Advanced Speed and Accuracy Test (Optional)

THURSDAY 21 MAY 1998

DURATION: 10 MINUTES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Please type the passage overleaf in the allocated time. If you have completed the test piece before the 10 minutes period has elapsed, please recommence. (This will enable certification for attainment at higher speeds).
2. The figures in the right margin are not to be typed. They indicate the lines on which specified speeds are reached.
3. 99% accuracy will be required for certification of speed attained.
4. Use double line spacing and leave adequate margins.
5. Write your **Examination Number** at the top of **each sheet**.
6. The Superintendent will return your envelope to you at the conclusion of the Speed and Accuracy Test. Your print out should be included in the envelope provided for your completed **Word Processing - Advanced Examination**.

SPEED AND ACCURACY TEST

Until the early part of this century, Ireland was a buzzword in international gardening circles, a horticultural hot-spot housing some of the leading botanists of the day. We were celebrated for our botanical gardens, writers, artists and plant collectors. Our private and public gardens sheltered collections of rare and sometimes unique varieties. Our climate, mild enough to experiment with growing new and exotic species outdoors, was universally envied. At independence, we were left with some good architecture and extravagantly beautiful old gardens on grand estates whose owners were burnt out, fled the country or stayed, many of them too broke to hire the armies of gardeners needed to maintain them. Either way many wonderful Irish gardens fell into disuse and eventual dereliction as we buckled down to recreating a national identity.

The next 50 years or so were quiet ones for Irish gardening, save for some exceptional plant people in private and public employment, who saved many rare varieties from extinction and kept the flag flying at the cutting edge of horticulture. Some of the best gardens in those years of low employment and even lower wages were to be seen on urban allotments in suburban back gardens, where many old fashioned varieties of fruit, vegetables and flowers bred by the great Irish nurseries of the past were kept safe.

20 wpm

25 wpm

Any grander gardens being made at the time were either public as in Lutyens war memorial park at Islandbridge, or not open to the paying public, though many of them are now. By the early 1970s, the pall of poverty lying over the country lifted as we supped heartily from the EU honey pot. With prosperity came an inevitable renaissance, in gardening as in the other arts.

30 wpm

Armed with £4m in EU funds, the Great Gardens of Ireland Restoration Scheme is another side of the same coin. Long lost gardens and lands have been found again, and their owners encouraged to bring them back to life for opening to the public.

35 wpm

Now at the end of the 20th century, there are increasing numbers of people with money to spend on great gardening gestures. There is a sense of pride, an echo of the 18th and 19th centuries, as people all over the country once again take up the trowel, dig deep into their pockets and busy themselves making the grand gardens of the future.

40 wpm

45 wpm

Rule number one says that unless the ground has been dug, broken up, cleaned of big stones, rubble and rubbish, and has liberal amounts of body building organic humus added, very little will grow well, if at all, and this includes humble grass. For the absolute beginner with a new garden and no one to turn to, it might be as well to call in a recognised expert, just to give basic advice on soil and structure. Don't rush into anything, take your time and stroll around the area to see what does well in your local soil. Visit the Botanic Gardens or other good gardens open to the public to inspire you and decide what plants you really like.

50 wpm

55 wpm

Rule number two, if the garden is already heavily planted, the best thing to do if you are unsure, is nothing, for a year. Just keep borders weeded, grass mown, hedges trimmed, overgrown shrubs and roses pruned and get to know your garden. Keep notes on everything that appears and whether the planting combinations please you or set your teeth on edge. After a year you will be quite expert and ready to make your mark.

60 wpm

65 wpm