

sometimes, or (D) rarely or never. The Experience section is designed to gauge your experience in areas relevant to performing effectively as a Postal Service employee. In this section, the response choices vary from one question to the next.

Note: There is no “correct” answer to any question in Part D. However, Part D is scored. How it is scored is a well-guarded USPS secret.

How Test 473 Is Scored

Test 473 is scored on a 0 to 100 scale. You’ll receive one overall score in the 0 to 100 range for your exam. A passing score is 70. However, your test score is *not* the same as the number of questions you answer correctly. Each part of the test is scored separately, and then the four scores are combined, using a complex formula that the Postal Service will not disclose. Following is a closer look at how each part is scored.

Part A: Address Checking

Your score for Part A is based on the total number of items you answer correctly, *minus* one-third point for each item you answer incorrectly. No deduction is made for items you leave unanswered or blank on your answer sheet. Part A consists of a total of 60 items. Let’s assume that you answered 45 correctly and 9 incorrectly, while leaving 6 unanswered (blank). Your score for Part A would be $45 - (1/3 \text{ of } 9)$, or $45 - 3 = 42$. Your score of 42 would then be combined with your scores for the other three parts of the exam to determine your overall test score.

Part B: Forms Completion

Your score for Part B is based simply on the total number of items you answer correctly. No deduction is made for questions you answer incorrectly or for those that you leave unanswered (blank). Part B consists of a total of 30 items. Let’s say you answered 21 questions correctly. It doesn’t matter how many of the remaining 9 questions you answered incorrectly and how many you left unanswered (blank). Your score for Part B would be 21, the total number of correct answers. Your score of 21 would then be combined with your scores for the other three parts to determine your overall test score.

Part C: Coding and Memory

Your score for Part C is calculated in the same manner as that for Part A: the total number of items you answer correctly, *minus* one-third point for each item you answer incorrectly. No deduction is made for test items you leave unanswered (blank). Part C consists of a total of 72 items. So, if you answered 53 correctly and 12 incorrectly, while leaving 7 unanswered (blank), your score for Part C would be $53 - (1/3 \text{ of } 12)$, or $53 - 4 = 49$. Your score of 49 would then be combined with your scores for the other three parts to determine your overall test score.



Part D: Personal Characteristics and Experience Inventory

Part D is scored and does significantly affect your overall exam score. However, the scoring system for Part D is a well-guarded secret with the Postal Service. Part D consists of a total of 236 questions altogether. Without knowing how Part D is scored, the best approach is to make sure you answer each and every question you can as honestly as you can—and leave the rest to fate!

In the early twentieth century, U.S. retailers such as Sears and Montgomery Ward owed their success largely to the advent of Parcel Post in 1913, which made possible the operation of so-called catalog businesses. Today, the size limit for any parcel mailed from any U.S. Post Office to any destination in the United States is 130 inches (combined length and girth), and the weight limit is 70 pounds.

Applying to Take Test 473

Before you can apply for any specific Postal Service job, you must first take and pass the appropriate exam, such as Test 473. But, you cannot simply walk into an exam office any time you wish and take one of the exams. That's not how it works. First, you must determine *when* and *where* the exam that you wish to take is next being offered in your geographical area.

Vacancy Announcements

Regional postal districts schedule exams only on an *as-needed* basis. This means that they administer a particular exam—such as Test 473—only when they anticipate openings for jobs that require applicants to take that exam. When a postal district decides to provide testing for anticipated job openings, the district will issue an *announcement* indicating a time period—for example, July 1 through September 30—during which anyone who is interested may apply to take a particular exam, such as Test 473, at that district's exam office. Each announcement is identified by a unique *announcement number*. You'll need the specific announcement number when you apply to take the exam.

There are many ways to find out when Test 473 will be offered next in the city or region where you wish to work. Following are the best places to find vacancy announcements:

- ✎ The employment area of the official USPS Web site (www.usps.com/employment)
- ✎ USPS vacancy-announcement telephone "hotlines," which are recorded announcement messages
- ✎ Bulletin boards at U.S. Post Offices
- ✎ Bulletin boards at state employment development offices
- ✎ Community job-resource and vocational-training centers

Note: Beware of classified ads in newspapers that charge fees for providing information about Postal Service employment (or any U.S. government jobs, for that matter). These ads are placed by scam artists who are out to make a quick buck by selling information that is already available to the general public for free.

Postal Exam Telephone Hotline Numbers

To apply to take any Postal Service exam, you need a specific vacancy-announcement number. You can view current vacancy-announcement numbers for all U.S. states and territories at the USPS Web site (www.usps.com). You can also obtain vacancy-announcement numbers by calling the appropriate