

SECTION 2: ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY RATING SCALES

Applicability

- 1.1 The following rating scale applies to Aviation English language proficiency assessments:
- (a) Level 6 – expert level;
 - (b) Level 5 – extended;
 - (c) Level 4 – operational.

Requirements

- 2.1 Applicants are assessed for aviation English language proficiency against the rating scales in clause 3 below.

Rating scales

3.1 Level 6 – Expert

- 3.1.2 The person must communicate effectively face-to-face using clear and precise English so that each of the following is the case for the person:
- (a) pronunciation, stress, rhythm and intonation, though possibly influenced by the first language or regional variation, almost never interfere with ease of understanding;
 - (b) both basic and complex grammatical structures and sentence patterns are consistently well-controlled;
 - (c) vocabulary range and accuracy are sufficient to communicate effectively on a wide variety of familiar and unfamiliar topics;
 - (d) vocabulary is idiomatic, nuanced and sensitive to register;
 - (e) able to speak at length with a natural, effortless flow;
 - (f) varies speech flow for stylistic effect, e.g. to emphasise a point;
 - (g) uses appropriate discourse markers and connectors spontaneously;
 - (h) comprehension is consistently accurate in nearly all contexts and includes comprehension of linguistic and cultural subtleties;
 - (i) interacts with ease in nearly all situations;
 - (j) is sensitive to verbal and non-verbal cues and responds to them appropriately.
- 3.1.3 The person must communicate effectively in voice-only radiotelephone communications, so that each of the following is the case for the person:
- (a) uses plain English effectively;
 - (b) receives appropriate responses to transmissions;
 - (c) responds to transmissions and takes appropriate action;
 - (d) identifies and manages communication errors and misunderstandings promptly and effectively;
 - (e) seeks clarification in the time available if the message is unclear or if there is uncertainty about the message;
 - (f) reacts appropriately to a variety of regional accents;
 - (g) communicates effectively in unexpected, stressful or non-standard situations using standard phraseology or plain English.

3.2 Level 5 – Extended

- 3.2.1 The person must communicate effectively face-to-face using clear and precise English, so that each of the following is the case for the person:
- (a) stress, rhythm and intonation, though influenced by the first language or regional variation, rarely interfere with ease of understanding;
 - (b) basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns are consistently well-controlled. Complex structures are attempted but with errors which sometimes interfere with meaning;

- (c) vocabulary range and accuracy are sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work-related topics. Paraphrases consistently and successfully. Vocabulary is sometimes idiomatic;
 - (d) able to speak at length with relative ease on familiar topics but may not vary speech flow as a stylistic device. Can make use of appropriate discourse markers or connectors;
 - (e) comprehension is accurate on common, concrete, and work-related topics and mostly accurate when the speaker is confronted with a linguistic or situational complication or an unexpected turn of events. Is able to comprehend a range of speech varieties (dialect and accent) or registers;
 - (f) interacts with ease in nearly all situations. Is sensitive to verbal and non-verbal cues and responds to them appropriately;
 - (g) responses are usually immediate, appropriate and informative. Initiates and maintains exchanges even when dealing with an unexpected turn of events. Deals adequately with apparent misunderstandings by checking, confirming or clarifying.
- 3.2.2 The person must communicate effectively in voice-only radiotelephone communications, so that each of the following is the case for the person:
- (a) uses plain English effectively;
 - (b) receives appropriate responses to transmissions;
 - (c) responds to transmissions and takes appropriate action;
 - (d) identifies and manages communication errors and misunderstandings promptly and effectively;
 - (e) seeks clarification in the time available if message is unclear or uncertainty exists;
 - (f) reacts appropriately to a variety of regional accents;
 - (g) communicates effectively in unexpected, stressful or non-standard situations using standard phraseology or plain English.

3.3 Level 4 – Operational

- 3.3.1 The person must communicate effectively face-to-face using clear and precise English, so that each of the following is the case for the person:
- (a) stress, rhythm and intonation are influenced by the first language or regional variation but only sometimes interfere with ease of understanding;
 - (b) basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns are used creatively and are usually well-controlled. Errors may occur, particularly in unusual or unexpected circumstances, but rarely interfere with meaning;
 - (c) vocabulary range and accuracy are usually sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work-related topics. Can often paraphrase successfully when lacking vocabulary in unusual or unexpected circumstances;
 - (d) produces stretches of language at an appropriate tempo. There may be occasional loss of fluency on transition from rehearsed or formulaic speech to spontaneous interaction, but this does not prevent effective communication. Can make limited use of discourse markers or connectors. Fillers are not distracting;
 - (e) comprehension is mostly accurate on common, concrete and work-related topics when the accent or variety used is sufficiently intelligible for an international community of users. When the speaker is confronted with a linguistic or situational complication or an unexpected turn of events, comprehension may be slower or require clarification strategies;
 - (f) responses are usually immediate, appropriate and informative. Initiates and maintains exchanges even when dealing with an unexpected turn of events. Deals adequately with apparent misunderstandings by checking, confirming or clarifying.
- 3.3.2 The person must communicate effectively in voice-only radiotelephone communications, so that each of the following is the case for the person:
- (a) uses plain English effectively;
 - (b) receives appropriate responses to transmissions;
 - (c) responds to transmissions and takes appropriate action;
 - (d) identifies and manages communication errors and misunderstandings promptly and effectively;

- (e) seeks clarification in the time available if message is unclear or uncertainty exists;
- (f) reacts appropriately to a variety of regional accents;
- (g) communicates effectively in unexpected, stressful or non-standard situations using standard phraseology or plain English.