

Annex 5: definition and purpose of the test

The decision to address English language proficiency for pilots is long standing. This address was first made by ICAO in 1998 as a direct response to several fatal accidents in which the lack of proficiency in English was identified as a contributing factor.

Aside ICAO standardised ATC phraseology, which will be tested apart during a check flight and NOT a part of this assessment, pilots must from now demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency in plain English language.

This test must be performed in front of examiners through a registered test program. Test and examiners must be officially approved by a Licensing Authority.

The level 4 (according ICAO rating scale) is required for all descriptors :
PRONUNCIATION – STRUCTURE – VOCABULARY – FLUENCY – COMPREHENSION – INTERACTIONS.



This ICAO test IS :

- An assessment of your plain English language level in aviation operational environment
- Linked only to aviation topics and/or aviation work-related context
- based only on a practical use of the English language into the real “aviation” life.
- Designed to evaluate your ability to communicate (both ways) effectively within an aviation-related topic.

This ICAO test IS NOT:

- **A test about your grammatical knowledge, neither vocabulary.**
- **A formal translation exercise**
- **An assessment of your operational or technical skills (procedures)**
- **A TOEFL (or similar) exam**