

English Language Proficiency for ATCO

English Language Proficiency test (further on, ELP test) is designed to assess for licensing purposes of ATCO, as required by the ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements.

ELP test assesses candidates at **3, 4, 5** ICAO language proficiency levels.

ELP test tests listening and speaking ability of the candidate. ELP test does not assess reading or writing skills.

ELP test is conducted by two examiners:

- OPE - subject matter expert Air Traffic Controller (ATCO) or Pilot (PILOT);
- ELE – English language expert.

ELP test lasts up to 60 minutes and consists of two parts:

- up to 40 minutes **for Listening part**;
- up to 20 minutes **for Speaking part**.

Listening part assesses understanding communications in both routine and non-routine situations. The recordings are based on authentic material and range from short standard pilot/controller transmissions to longer communications. Listening part comprises 5 tasks: short answer questions, table completion. Each task is rated and the score depends on the difficulty of the task. A candidate who obtains/achieves *less than 75 scores (75%) is at level 3, from 75 till 85 scores (75%-85%) – at level 4, from 86 till 100 scores (86% - 100%) – at level 5*. If the candidate does not achieve the required ICAO level 4 in **Listening** part, he/she is not admitted to the second part, **Speaking** part.

Speaking part consist of two Tasks. Both the ELE and the OPE will take on alternate roles of interlocutor and assessor. The OPE will be the interlocutor in **Task 1**. The ELE will be the interlocutor in **Task 2**. Furthermore, the ELE will give instructions to all tasks using the Interlocutor Framework.

Task 1a – Scenario - lasts up to 6-8 minutes and consists of **non-visual communication** where the candidate acts as the controller and the interlocutor plays the role of the pilot in routine and non-routine situations. The candidate will have to respond to each pilot message using either standard ICAO phraseology whenever appropriate or plain English.

Task 1b – Controller-Supervisor Conversation - lasts up to 3-4 minutes and consists of **visual (face-to-face) communication** in which the candidate gives a verbal report on the events in Task 1a to the interlocutor.

Task 2 – Picture description – lasts up to 6-8 minutes and consists of a detailed description of the picture, the candidate being able to use aviation English language and plain English language related to the situation described in the picture. Additional questions to the picture and extended questions related to aviation in general shall follow. The examiners can make more versions of tests from those 6 definite versions of tests for Speaking part, alternating between the tasks of the test.

Times given for each Task may vary, depending on the candidate's language skills enabling the rater to assess his/her competence in all areas covered by ICAO descriptors.

The final mark given to the candidate by OPE and ELE shall coincide, otherwise a third examiner shall rate the candidate after listening to the recording.

Validity of language proficiency endorsement

Level 4 – 3 years;

Level 5 – 6 years.

English Language Proficiency Test (Speaking part)

Candidate name:	Date of test:	Test version:
Assessor name:	Assessor role: OPE/ELE	

Task 1 (a). Scenario. Duration – up to 6-8 minutes

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Task 1 (a+b). Controller-Supervisor Conversation. Duration – up to 3-4 minutes

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Task 2. Picture description Duration – up to 6-8 minutes

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Final assessment *

P	S	V	F	C	I

ICAO Level**

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* The candidate should demonstrate proficiency to at least Level 4 in all skill areas of the ICAO Rating Scale in order to receive an overall Level 4 rating.

** The final mark/level given to the candidate by OPE & ELE shall coincide, otherwise a 3rd examiner shall rate the candidate after listening to the recording.