ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST FOR AVIATION

G-TELP / IAES
Background Introduction
TEST OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY FOR AVIATION

The G-TELP assesses the English language ability of non-native speakers of English by presenting them with real-life situations. It was developed at the San Diego State University, U.S.A. by the International Testing Center (ITC) and has been administered as an English language proficiency test in many countries, including China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, and Mexico.

BACKGROUND

- There is an urgent need for English tests designed for aviation-specific purposes. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) states that as of March 5, 2008 all international pilots and air traffic controllers are required to demonstrate Operational Level 4 language proficiency in the use of both ICAO phraseology and plain language, otherwise they will be denied a license to operate internationally.

- The mandate was created on the basis of insufficient language proficiency on the part of flight crew or controllers, which, in turn, had played a role in numerous aviation accidents. This prompted the ICAO to develop minimum skill level requirements in the usage of the English language in an aviation context, as well as provisions for standardized language testing requirements and procedures.

- As a response to the new language testing and minimum skill requirements set by the ICAO and the need for more specialized and efficient testing for evaluating aviation English language proficiency, the G-TELP KOREA/IAES developed the English Proficiency Test for Aviation (EPTA)
G-TELP KOREA is a well-known provider of English proficiency tests used for admission and promotion of corporations and government.

Recently, it has developed the EPTA (English Proficiency Test for Aviation) for an aviation-specific that aims to evaluate English language proficiency of pilots and air traffic controllers. It has chosen as the official test for aviation personnel of the Ministry of Construction and Transportation in Korea.

IAES (International Aviation English Service) is a global Aviation English Training company, providing English language training programs and tests designed to assess and improve the English language proficiency of aviation personnel. It offers expert Aviation English Test and training courses both online and face-to-face with experienced instructors.
THE EPTA

The EPTA is a test of speaking and listening proficiency which has been specially designed to apply to the aviation context and is meant to be taken by aviation personnel who work as international pilots, air traffic controllers, and aeronautical operators.

Feather of the EPTA

Designed to comply with the ICAO language-proficiency testing requirements.

A specialized test designed to contain 100% aviation-specific materials, topics and situations.

Composed of semi direct interview and a face-to-face interview.

Assess the speaking and listening ability of the test taker through his/her responses to various work-related situations and conditions presented.

Evaluated based on the following criteria:


Purpose of the Test

The EPTA may serve many purposes, whether for an individual or for an organization. Basically, it is designed to measure the competence of pilots, air traffic controllers, and aeronautical station operators in the English language. The results of the test can be utilized in making decisions about (but not limited to) the following:

securing and maintaining a pilot or air traffic controller license;
identifying an individual’s strengths and weaknesses in the English language;
assessing or evaluating an individual’s level in oral English language proficiency;
complying with the eligibility requirement of the ICAO for aviation/aeronautical personnel to achieve a minimum level proficiency of Operational Level (Level 4)
The EPTA is criterion-referenced

Examinee's performance is evaluated based on the ICAO's pre-established descriptors and rating scale. The descriptors and the rating scale define the depth of the EPTA test, and are designed to convey a notion of the standards to be used as a frame of reference for raters to make consistent and objective evaluations of the speaker's language proficiency.

What we want to measure is

Examinee's ability to communicate effectively in an aviation context. More specifically, to enable assessment or evaluation, the rater must check for the examinee's ability to:

- Perform tasks in ways that closely approximates job-related tasks;
- Communicate effectively in radiotelephone or face-to-face situations;
- Talk about and relate common aviation-related topics and situations with accuracy and clarity;
- Use appropriate communicative strategies to resolve misunderstandings or to solve challenges in an aviation-related context;
- Handle successfully and with relative ease unfamiliar complications that may occur; and
- Use a language which is intelligible to the aeronautical community (aviation language, for EPTA purposes) Use general English, when a situation calls for it (i.e., when the ICAO standard phraseologies are not sufficient to fully describe the situation).
TEST DESIGN

The EPTA has two Parts

The EPTA employs a semi-direct part in that it is audio-mediated and/or computer-based, and an interview-type part wherein examinees are required to respond to the questions and statements of an interlocutor.

The candidate is required to listen, analyze and respond to questions and/or to give required information. These responses are recorded for later rating. The test can be completed in about 35~40 minutes and administered on an individual basis.

- Semi-direct recording part
  
  Audio mediated and/or computer based
  5 sections (refer to following)
  30 minutes
  20 questions

- Personal interview
  
  Interview with experienced native interviewer
  5-10 minutes

The type of the EPTA

- The EPTA provides 4 types of the tests.
  
  EPTA for pilot
  EPTA for Tower Controller
  EPTA for Radar Controller
  EPTA
## The Structure and Design

**Part 1. Semi-direct interview (30 min, approx.)**

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**Part 2. Personal Interview (5-10min,approx.)**

- Introduction and Casual Conversation
- Giving Information about Day-to-Day Activities
- Providing Job-Related Information
- Providing a Solution to an Abnormal Situation
- Sharing an Opinion
The Tasks Description

Part 2. Face-to-Face interview

In this part of the test, the examinee is required to answer questions and follow the instructions given by an interlocutor. The interview will be recorded, and the verbal responses given by the examinee will be used to assess his/her speaking ability.

Task 1. Introduction and Casual Conversation

This part of the interview will is to provide personal information. The examinee will be rated on his/her ability to maintain a casual conversation with the interviewer, and the degree of clarity he/she demonstrates.

Task 2. Giving Information about Day-to-Day Activities

The examinee will be asked a question that pertains to day-to-day activities. The examinee will be expected to respond by describing the activity.

Task 3. Providing Job-Related Information

In this part of the test, the examinee is asked to provide a general description of his job functions.
Part 2. Face-toFace interview

Task 4. Providing a Solution to an Abnormal Situation

In this part of the test, the examinee will be required to provide a solution to a situation depicted by the interviewer which has either happened in the past, or can conceivably occur in the future.

Task 5. Sharing an Opinion

This part of the interview will require the examinee to state an opinion about a topic or issue that the interviewer presents. The examinee will be rated on his/her ability to formulate and state convincing arguments or reasons for his/her position.
The EPTA is intended to evaluate the oral and comprehension abilities of the test taker, adhering to the holistic descriptors developed by the ICAO.

Semi-direct Interview
Task 1, 3~10 comprehension, structure, vocabulary pronunciation, fluency, interactions
Task 2 pronunciation, fluency
Face-to-Face Interview
5 tasks comprehension, structure, vocabulary, pronunciation, fluency, interactions

The result of the evaluation is translated into the following ICAO rating scale:

☑ Expert, Level 6
☑ Extended, Level 5
☑ Operational, Level 4
☑ Pre-operational, Level 3
☑ Elementary, Level 2
☑ Pre-elementary, Level 1
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