

Language Proficiency Check Level 4: Information and Preparation

Contents

Goals	2
What do I need to do?.....	2
Why do I need the Language Proficiency Endorsement?	2
Initial English Language Proficiency Exam.....	3
Recurrent Testing in Flight	4
The ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale	5
Hints for the Listening Comprehension Part (Initial LP Exam)	6
Hints for the Listening Comprehension and Use of Standard Phraseology Part (Recurrent LP Exam)	6
Hints for the Voice-Only Part of the Speaking Ability Check (Initial LP Exam only)	7
Hints for the face-to-face part of the Speaking Ability Check (Initial and Recurrent LP Exam)	7
Further Preparation.....	8
General Preparation	8
Vocabulary.....	8

Goals

After reading this document, you should know

- how the Language Proficiency Check (LPC) is carried out and which examination procedure is applicable to your situation.
- where to find a free training unit for the listening comprehension part
- what is important during the Speaking Ability Check

What do I need to do?

Check your license for the Language Proficiency Endorsement Level 4:

No Language Endorsement:	Initial English Language (LP) Proficiency Exam
Language Endorsement expired for more than 3 years:	Initial English LP Exam
Language Endorsement expired for less than 3 years:	Recurrent Testing in Flight
Language Endorsement still valid:	Recurrent Testing in Flight

Why do I need the Language Proficiency Endorsement?

If your language proficiency entry has expired you are no longer allowed to do:

- flights in **airspaces C and D** (ATC)
- IFR flights

Initial English Language Proficiency Exam

Who: - no Language Proficiency Endorsement Level 4
- Language Proficiency Endorsement Level 4 expired longer than 3 years

Where: Examination Center (Lausanne, Bern-Belp, Zürich Flughafen, Aeroporto Locarno)

How: 2 parts, one after the other. You need to pass both parts.

1. Listening Comprehension

You will hear five different recordings of simulated unexpected situations in aeronautical communications and must answer two multiple-choice questions on each recording. Answer and question sheets are paper based. There is no required writing in the exam, however, you are free to take notes, as it is not a memory test.

2. Speaking Ability

Part 1: Voice-only communication (no visual contact between you and the interlocutor). During simulated radio and phone calls, you will need to communicate according to the written instructions given to you. This part requires standard phraseology and plain English.

Part 2: You will have to describe a picture and will be asked a couple of aviation-related questions, which you are required to answer as fully as possible. You will then be graded in 6 different language areas, in all of which you need a level 4 (of 6) in order to pass the check.

Preparation: - one-on-one preparation with flightraining.ch
- refreshing of RTF (“Voice”) knowledge
- ipc.swisspilotschool.ch (free registration)
- mock tests on FOCA homepage

Recurrent Testing in Flight

Who: - Language Proficiency Endorsement Level 4 expired no longer than 3 years
 - Language Proficiency Endorsement Level 4 still valid

Where: During a flight with a language assessor (see flightraining.ch for contact information). This can be done in combination with a JAR- or Season-Checkflight or any other flight. Either the departure and/ or destination aerodrome must be located in a CTR. The en-route part of the flight should include entry/crossing of an airspace requiring ATC clearance (e. g. crossing of CTR/TMA)

How: 2 parts, one after the other. You need to pass both parts.

1. Listening Comprehension and use of Standard Phraseology

Done during Briefing, Flight and Debriefing. The assessor checks, whether you understand him and whether you are able to communicate effectively with the ATC.

2. Speaking Ability

After the flight, you will have to describe a picture and will be asked a couple of aviation-related questions, which you are required to answer as fully as possible. You will then be graded in 6 different language areas, in all of which you need a level 4 (out of 6) in order to pass the check.

Preparation: - one-on-one preparation with flightraining.ch
 - refreshing of RTF (“Voice”) knowledge
 - lpc.swisspilotschool.ch (free registration)

The ICAO Language Proficiency Rating Scale

For the Speaking Ability part your language proficiency will be graded in 6 different areas:

- Pronunciation
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Structure
- Comprehension
- Interaction

Each of these areas is divided into 6 proficiency levels.

You need to pass **all** areas with level 4.

Hints for the Listening Comprehension Part (Initial LP Exam)

- **Read the questions first.**
- Listen to the conversations carefully.
- Answer the questions (most correct answer).
- Listen to the conversations again, check your answers.

Hints for the Listening Comprehension and Use of Standard Phraseology Part (Recurrent LP Exam)

- Don't get nervous talking english with your assessor. The first part is about listening comprehension, your speaking ability will be checked after the flight!
- Study and visualise the *Visual Approach Charts* and the *Ground Charts* of departure and destination aerodromes as well as the alternates.
- **Prepare and memorise your "First Calls"** and plan where you want to do them! Writing them down on your kneeboard can reduce stress and will improve your radio communication.
- **Listen carefully** to what the ATC tells you.
- If you are unsure about anything the ATC told you, ask him or her to repeat: **"Say again!"**
- It is better to ask multiple times than doing something wrong!
- Speak with **clear pronunciation** and a **normal speaking pace** (Not too fast!)
- Expect the unexpected!
- Do a recap of what you've learned during your VFR Voice course.

Hints for the Voice-Only Part of the Speaking Ability Check (Initial LP Exam only)

- Refresh your RTF knowledge
- Study the instructions carefully (you get two minutes time to do so)
- Switch from standard phraseology to plain English only when necessary

Hints for the face-to-face part of the Speaking Ability Check (Initial and Recurrent LP Exam)

- Errors not preventing effective communication are less important!
- If you do not know a word, try to **paraphrase** it (describe it using other, easier words). Don't get nervous if you do not know a word!
- **Ask the assessor to repeat or paraphrase** anything you did not understand.
- Talk as long as you know something more to answer the question. Stop talking once you are out of answers and ideas.
- Be creative! Your answers don't have to be „correct“, they just need to show that you fully understood the question. **Your speaking ability is checked, not your aviation knowledge!**
- You will do the talking, the assessor is only there to ask questions and listen to your answers. This is **not a conversation**.

Further Preparation

The best preparation for the Language Proficiency Check (Initial or Recurrent) is a one-on-one training session with an experienced language assessor. In one hour, you get all the information you need, the chance to practice the *Speaking Ability* part and a detailed feedback regarding your language skills. Visit flightraining.ch for more information!

Following is a list of additional ways to prepare for the LPC

General Preparation

- Book: Aviation English by Henry Emery & Andy Roberts

Vocabulary

- Key Words Sections of each chapter of the [SPHAIR Training Syllabus](#)