Aviation English and how to prepare.

An important skill for any pilot is effective communication. This can be in the form of listening on the radio to other aircraft or air traffic control, let alone communicating your own intentions and working with colleagues both in and around aircraft. Therefor as a global standard English is the recommendation from ICAO for communication and an essential part of pilot training.

Aviation English covering a range of topic areas is tested at numerous times throughout a pilots career covering a range of topic areas with the use of relevant terminology, vocabulary, and protocols.

The language proficiency standards were established by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in 2008 and applied to flight crew licensing and signatory countries in the following years beyond.

Although one may speak English well, it is important to be able to listen and comprehend instructions given over the radio. As we operate in a smaller world than of previous years gone by various accents from controllers and pilots can vary from flight to flight, and significantly with the introduction of long range aircraft, from departure point to destination. This challenge of accents alone can play a significant part in either making a flight run smoothly or raise additional challenges at the end of the day on the other side of the globe.

Therefor any practise to observe and listen to Air Traffic Control (ATC) is a valuable strategy prior to your ICAO English test.

Through internet resources with websites such as http://www.liveatc.net/ allows individuals to listen to various control centres globally. By utilising these sites candidates can listen to ground control, control towers, and enroute centres in numerous parts of the world.

When developing these listening skills, accents from both pilots and controllers become apparent. This allows candidates to effectively tune their ears to the potential range of accents and instructions that a pilot can be exposed to on a daily basis. Ultimately making this component of the English test more achievable.

Further to ATC communication skills, a wide yet practical aviation vocabulary is essential to any prospective pilot. Reviewing aviation *IMAGES* or *SCENES* online and then *DESCRIBING and VERBALISING* them out loud all can be a valuable technique towards determining the depth of ones vocabulary.

A simple internet search with *AVIATION SCENES,* thence *IMAGES*, and verbalising out loud on random and multiple images can improve how a candidate describes a scene and the terminology that is used. This method when practised on a regular basis can help expand a candidates aviation vocabulary and flow of communication. All of which form part of the *Aviation English Proficiency Test*.

Although these techniques are suggestions, both their importance and relevance to becoming a pilot should not be underestimated. Clear and effective communication continues to be one of the key areas both tested and assessed for any pilot candidate, irrespective of their enter point within the industry.

The key is to start clicking on the keyboard to utilise the resources available to you and start applying these techniques. Subsequently, to expand and improve your own listening and communication skills as a future pilot in this rapidly developing and growing industry.

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