Requirements for an ICAO compliant English Language Proficiency Test

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- RMIT English Worldwide

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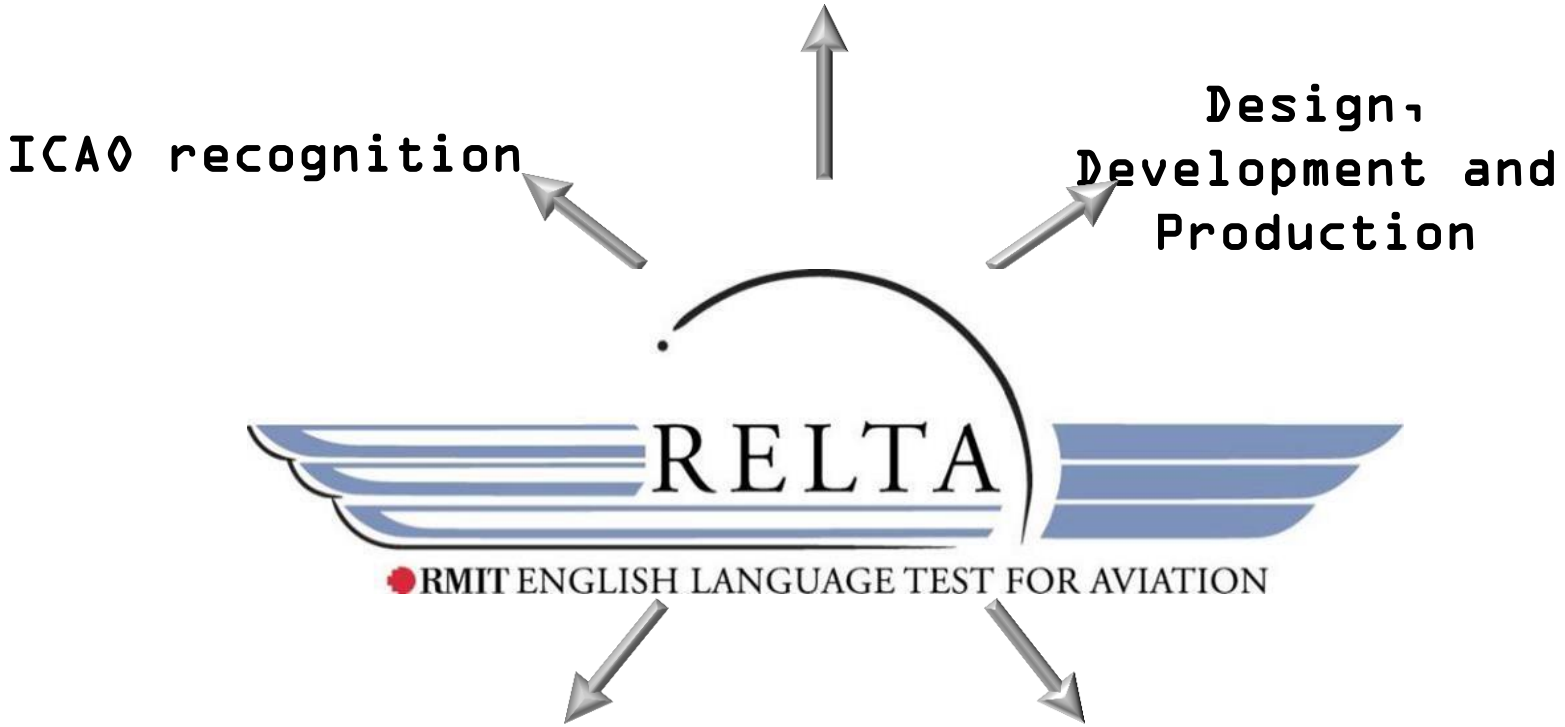
ICAO English Language Proficiency Requirements (Doc 9835)



RMIT UNIVERSITY

- RMIT: Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University
- Established in 1887
- Over 70,000 students
- Leader in technology, design, global business, communication, global communities, health solutions etc…
- Aviation industry related courses: Aerospace Engineering, Aerospace Maintenance, Aviation Management and Flight Training

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45 years of experience in providing English language training and testing solutions for academic and professional purposes

25 years of experience in providing Aviation English training and testing solutions for Aviation industry personnel in over 25 countries worldwide

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The RELTA journey

1990 to 2004: Aviation English training and testing for a number of Asian airlines

2004: First edition of ICAO Document 9835

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2004 to 2006: The design and development process of RELTA

Stage 1: Needs analysis and test specifications

Stage 2: Test task writing and item writing—Draft 1

Stage 3: Test trials, review and modifications
—Drafts 2, 3 and 4

Stage 4: Formal test trials and statistical analysis

Foundation - ICAO Doc 9835

Language assessment expertise - applying linguistic theories and practices to achieve valid and reliable language proficiency test results

Aviation industry expertise - ensuring relevant, authentic and accurate aviation work related contexts for language proficiency test results

Collaboration with Qantas and Air Services Australia and dedicated subject matter experts at RMIT

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Responding to ICAO Doc 9835 requirements

Language assessment and subject matter expertise to develop a valid and reliable testing solution

- rationale for test development and how it meets the tests purpose
- language test design and construct principles
- the target language and language domains used in the test tasks
- methodology used to engage the test taker's areas of language proficiency
- expertise of the test task and item writers
- analysis methodology to evaluate test trial data to ensure consistent and reliable

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RELTA Format

35 minute listening test

25 minute speaking test

- RELTA Listening is computer delivered on line
- RELTA Speaking is an online computer application and delivered by an accredited RELTA Examiner and rated separately by two accredited RELTA Raters.

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RELTA Listening

Computer delivered on line

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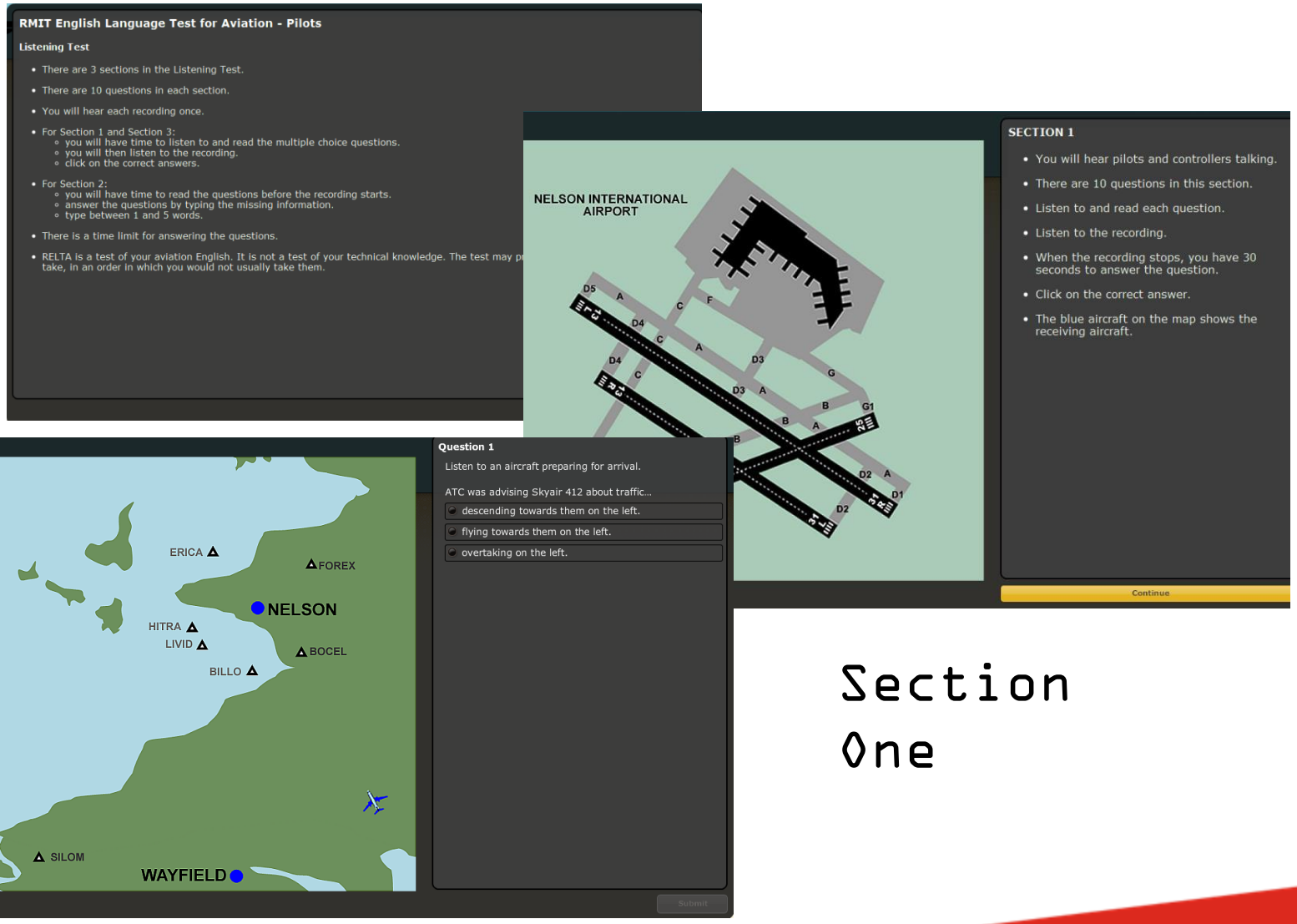
RELTA Listening



Section One

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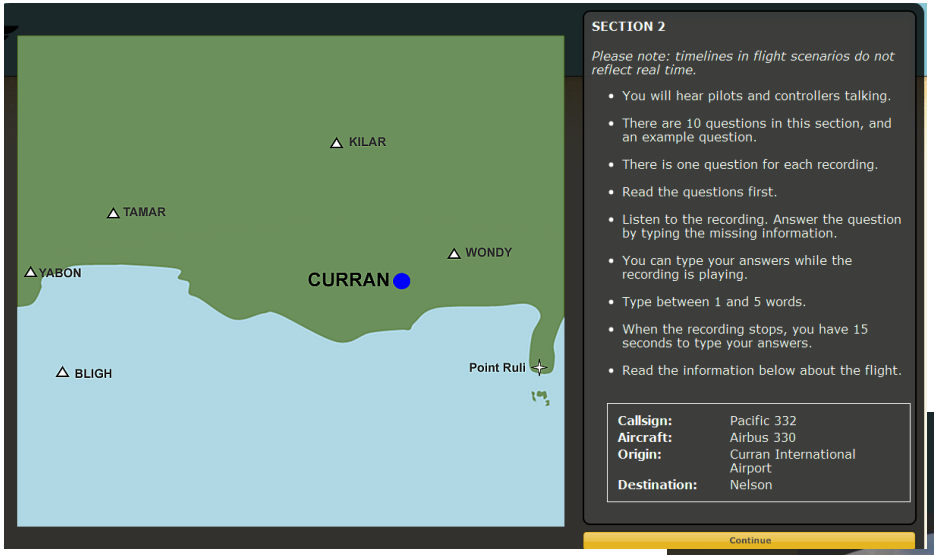
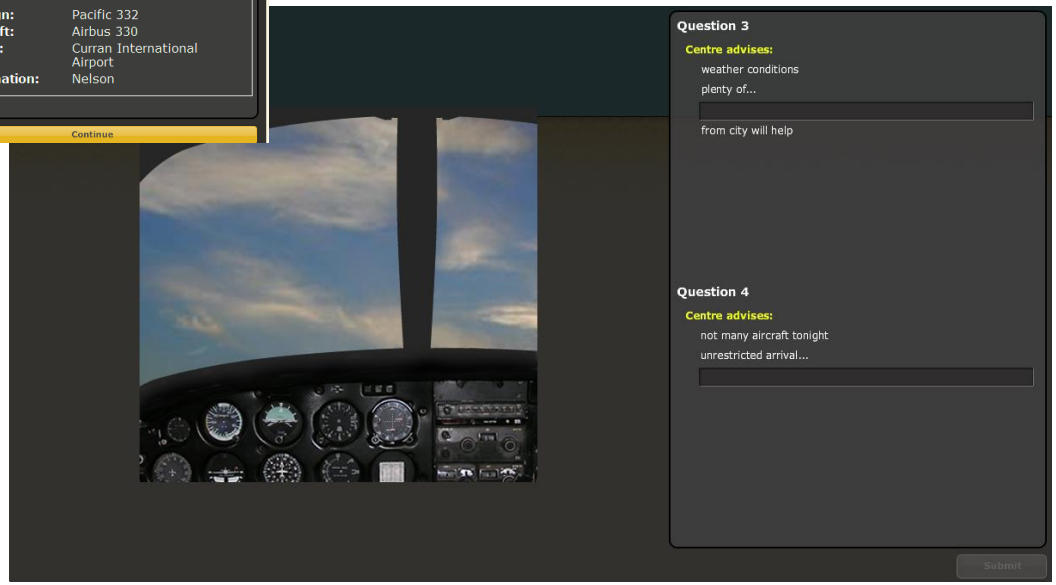
RELTA Listening





Section Two

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RELTA Listening

Section Three

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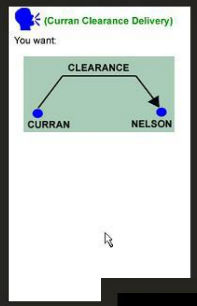
RELTA Speaking

Speaking Test - Pilots

- There are **3** sections in the Speaking Test.
- In **Sections 1** and **2** you will take on the role of a pilot and communicate with air traffic control (ATC) and cabin crew.
- In **Section 3** you will be interviewed about the events from **Section 2** and will discuss your experience and ideas about aviation-related topics.
- Your voice will be recorded.
- The photographs on the screen indicate what you, as the pilot, see from the flight deck for each step in the test.
- During the test, follow the prompts on the right of the screen.
- **Speak** only when you see this symbol:
- You only need to **listen** when you see this symbol:
- You only need to **look at** or **read** information when you see this symbol:
- The **examiner** will control when the next screen is displayed.
- Speak clearly into the microphone.

Instructions for Speaking Test - Section 2

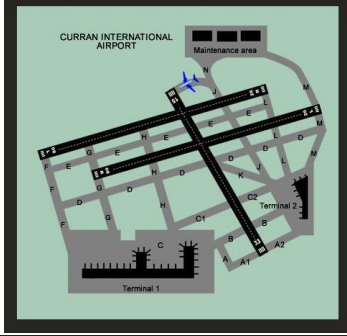
- In this part of the test you will need to listen to and respond to several controllers at **Curran International Airport** in routine and **non-routine** communications.
- You will communicate **directly** with the examiner, who will take on the role of **all** the air traffic controllers.
- You may hear transmissions from other aircraft.
- Your voice will be recorded.



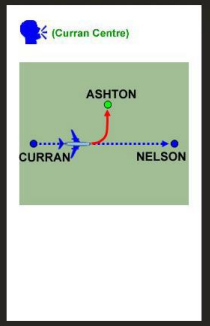
Before **Section 2** begins, **STUDY** the information below.

The examiner will ask you some questions. Answer each question by referring to the information.

SPEAK clearly. Your voice will be recorded.



Aircraft:	Airbus 330
Location:	Holding Point, RWY15
Origin:	Curran
Destination:	Nelson
POB:	211
Local time:	3.20pm



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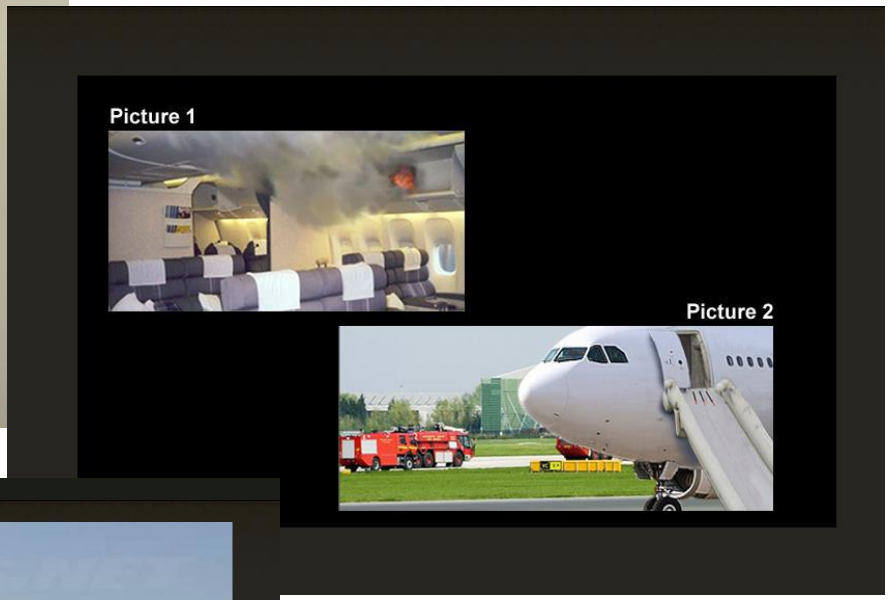
RELTA Speaking

Section Three



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Three types of RELTA to reflect aviation work-related scenarios of Aviation professionals

- RELTA for pilots (IFR)
- RELTA for light aircraft (VFR)
- RELTA for Air Traffic Controllers
  - Tower
  - Approach
  - Rou

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Late 2005: Launched RELTA for ATC

Mid 2006: Launched RELTA for Pilots

Mid 2007: Launched RESET – RMIT Expert Speaker Evaluation Tool

Early 2008: Launched RELTA for Light Aircraft Pilots

2005 onwards: Ongoing review taking into account results from trialling as well as recommendations from stakeholders

Updating the test bank in 6 monthly cycles: 2–3 new test versions added to test bank each quarter, following useability checks, trialling adjustment and subsequent statistical evaluation.

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Responding to ICAO Doc 9835 requirements

Language assessment and subject matter expertise to implement a valid and reliable testing solution

- ensuring test versions provide equal results and are sufficient
- security systems in place to protect the test from being compromised
- qualifications of all testing personnel
- test guidelines and instructions for test-takers
- familiarisation process provided for test-takers
- delivery process of the test
- record keeping of the test results

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2012: Submission accepted by ICAO AELTS for evaluation of RELTA for Pilots

2013 to 2015: Provided AELTS with evidence of compliance to Doc 9835

Modified and enhanced RELTA in response to ICAO recommendations

Ongoing review, test trials and data analysis

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2015: **RELTA for Pilots fully recognised by ICAO**

2015 onwards: Continue internal review, test trials and data analysis policy

Continue to provide evidence to AELTS to maintain ICAO compliance

Committed to support ICAO by actively participating in I-HELPP initiative

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Celebrates 10 year anniversary

Achieved ICAO recognition

Over 29,000 Aviation professionals from
25 countries have used RELTA to achieve
ICAO English language proficiency requirements

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