



Interpretive Statement on Language Proficiency Requirements

(as of March 1, 2026)

The purpose of this document is to assist Applicants to the NCA on how to comply with the policy as related to Language Proficiency Requirements.

NCA Assessment Policy 11 provides that all Applicants are required to demonstrate proficiency in communicating in at least one of Canada's two official languages, English and French.

Unless exempted, all NCA Applicants must take a language screening test to demonstrate language proficiency. If an Applicant does not pass the language screening test to the required NCA standard as set out in this statement, they will be assigned the requirement to pass a language test. The Applicant must successfully complete the language test, to the required NCA standard as set out in this statement, as well as any other assigned requirements, before they will be issued a Certificate of Qualification.

If the Applicant successfully passes the language screening test to the required NCA standard as set out in this statement, they will have met the NCA Language Proficiency Requirements.

1. Language Screening Test - English

In accordance with subsection 11.2.2, of the NCA Assessment Policy, an Applicant will be considered to have demonstrated the required proficiency in English if they complete a proctored Versant English Placement Test (VEPT), the cost of which is included in the assessment fee, with a minimum score of 61 overall (equivalent to a minimum of 7 in IELTS).

This language screening test must be completed before the NCA can issue an Assessment Decision. Each Applicant will have a single attempt to complete the language screening test. A detailed description of this screening test and validation summary (e.g. [VEPT-TestDescription-ValidationSummary.pdf](#)) are available as well as other useful resources to help Applicants prepare for the screening test.

2. Language Screening Test - French

At this time, applicants choosing to demonstrate their language competency in French must complete one of the approved language tests listed in 3 b), at NCA expense. The NCA is actively working to establish a French screening tool and will communicate timelines and next steps once confirmed.

3. Language Tests

In accordance with subsection 11.2.2, of the NCA Assessment Policy, the NCA accepts the following tests, which are approved by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and/or Immigration Québec. Applicants must obtain the minimum scores set out below:

a) English

- [CELP: Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program, including:](#)
 - you must take the CELPIP-General test
 - combined tests are not accepted
 - you must score a minimum of 9 in each category of Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking
- [IELTS: International English Language Testing System, including:](#)
 - you must take the General Training option
 - combined tests like the One Skills Retake test are not accepted
 - you must score a minimum of 7 in each category of Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking
- [PTE Core: Pearson Test of English Core, including:](#)
 - Reading: you must score a minimum of 78
 - Writing: you must score a minimum of 88
 - Listening: you must score a minimum of 82
 - Speaking: you must score a minimum of 84
 - combined tests are not accepted

b) French

- [TEF Canada: Test d'évaluation de français](#), including:
 - Reading: you must score a minimum of 503
 - Writing: you must score a minimum of 512
 - Listening: you must score a minimum of 503
 - Speaking: you must score a minimum of 518
 - combined tests are not accepted
- [TCF Canada: Test de connaissance du français](#), including:
 - Reading: you must score a minimum of 524
 - Writing: you must score a minimum of 14
 - Listening: you must score a minimum of 523
 - Speaking: you must score a minimum of 14
 - combined tests are not accepted

4. When Minimum Score for Language Screening is Not Met

An Applicant who does not meet the minimum score of 61 for the language screening test will be assigned the requirement to complete their choice of a language test as provided in paragraph 3. They must provide evidence of successful completion with the required score, in addition to any other assigned requirements before they are issued a Certificate of Qualification.

5. Exemption from Language Screening Test

In accordance with subsection 11.2.2, of the NCA Assessment Policy, an Applicant will be exempt from completing the NCA language screening test if they provide evidence of a valid test as provided in paragraph 3 above.

The Applicant must arrange for all documentation showing proof of the completion of language tests and scores attained to be sent directly from the testing administrator to the NCA. Test results must be less than two years old when submitted to the NCA.

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Date of last revision	Associated document(s)	Approved by Committee
May 7, 2024	NCA Assessment Policy	November 21, 2025
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