



Hello guys welcome aboard this is captain Alex Pope from Vector Aviation English and I'm restarting the series of podcasts with tips for the ICAO test. In this audio class I'd like to talk about some concerns I have when I'm coaching my students for the first part of the test. Just to remember, this is the part in which we have to answer questions about aviation and our personal background as a pilot. One of the things my students usually ask me in their first class is "What should I answer when they ask me this or that?" I'll give some examples of answers later but we have to keep in mind that above it all this is an English test so it's really more about "how" you answer than "what" you answer.

The most important thing here is to maintain your English level as high as possible throughout the whole test, even if that means simplifying an answer by choosing to explain complicated things at a superficial level. It usually helps to imagine that you are answering these questions to a young teenager passionate about aviation, the last thing you want is to get you lost in your own words so know your limitations and don't go too deep if you don't have sufficient English.

Another valuable tip is to keep in mind that no matter what you are talking about, answering too short in this first part should be your last option. Let me explain a little bit why you should not answer things too short: The first reason is that the examiner is trying to evaluate how well you can talk and express yourself in a conversation, it's similar to a job interview so the best thing to do here is to show yourself sufficiently communicative or even eloquent if possible. Second reason is that short answers will always cause your examiner to ask you more questions and chances are that the more questions asked the more difficult they will be, so especially on easy questions you should take more time answering them. The longer you answer a question the more in charge you are, of course that your ability to talk for longer periods of time in English will be related to your English level, nevertheless some practice can improve this.

Another thing you should pay attention is your posture in this part, I always say to my students that they should try to maintain eye contact and don't be afraid to use a little bit of gestures and to change their intonation when expressing about different subjects and situations. Many times the difference between levels of fluency are easily detected by the absence of emotion in the words coming out of someone's mouth. If your English is very very good then this shall not make a difference, but most people can benefit from a more communicative and eloquent posture as it can be the tailwind for your to achieve a higher ICAO level.



Depending on your posture the first part of the test can feel like a friendly conversation among friends or a police interrogation room. Creating empathy can only help and a communicative posture can definitely get you there.

Effective communication also has a lot to do with confidence, even the kind of confidence necessary to correct yourself when you realize you said something wrong, or to tell the examiner you didn't understand a question so it can be asked again.

Remember, this is an oral test and they want to make sure your English level is sufficient for different scenarios that could happen while you fly an aircraft abroad. It's important that you give `em something to work with and inspire some confidence but not overconfidence.

In my opinion performing well or bad in the first part can interfere a lot on how the examiner is going to evaluate you for the rest of test, you should see this as an opportunity to cause a good first impression.

So a lot of the tips we covered in this audio were not really about English but about communication effectiveness, recent university studies shows that 70% of communication between people talking face to face has to do with other things other than the words they are saying, this alone shows the importance of body language, posture and how decisive this kind of coaching can be during the preparation for any oral test.

I really think the first part of the ICAO test is way more important than most people think I believe that if you start really well you'll be seen with good eyes by the examiner even if unconsciously. There's a lot of room for expressing yourself as good as possible while simply answering questions and having a conversation about your experiences as a pilot.

So these are tips for today, I hope you enjoyed, I'm sorry it's been a while since I did the last podcast to the website and the mailing list, I became a father a few months back and I'm still adjusting.

If you don't want to miss more material like this just sign the mailing list at our website vectoringlesicao.com or book a class with us in Rio or via Skype. Shutting down the engines captain Alex Pope from Vector Aviation English in the beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro!