



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry of Defense
Armed Forces
Joint Staff

BH STANAG 6001
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST SPECIFICATIONS

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

BH STANAG 6001 English language test is a proficiency test which measures **STANAG 6001 Levels 1+ through 3** for listening and reading; **Levels 0 through 3** for speaking and writing. The test is an indicator that test takers that attain **Level 0, Level 0+, Level 1, Level 1+, Level 2, Level 2+ or Level 3** can perform the tasks presented in the STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels (ATrainP-5, Edition A Version 2).

The test can be taken by civilian and military personnel from Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MoD and BH AF) as well as members of other institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Candidates from partner nations can also take the test. Prior to attending the test for the first time, personnel from BH institutions must have at least 80 points on American Language Course Placement Test (ALCPT). The ALCPT result must not be older than one year.

The test is monolingual.

The certificate is valid for 3 years.

These specifications are subject to change and all changes will be approved by authorized institution.

LISTENING

Operations

They are based on tasks and accuracy requirements found in the STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels (Level 2 and Level 3).

Topics

Topics are as mentioned in Level 2 and Level 3 STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels.

General: hometown, family, traffic and transportation, leisure time and entertainment, sports, environment, politics, economics, culture, science and technology.

Military: military training and military career, jobs and duties, participation in UN, NATO and PFP operations, missions and exercises, the role of UN in peacetime.

Distressing and controversial topics are avoided and texts are not highly discipline-specific in order not to disadvantage candidates who are not familiar with the topic.

Types of Text

Texts for listening test are taken from authentic sources spoken by native speakers, intended for general and educated native listeners but not intended for instructional purposes. They vary in both types and content, comprising monologues, interactive discourse between two or more speakers, and different voices (male, female, children, adult, etc.). Recordings contain variety of accents corresponding to standard variants of English native speaker accent, and to English non-native speaker accents that approximate to the norms of native speaker accents.

Examples:

Level 2 – instructions, directions, orders, factual narration, descriptions, short news broadcast;

Level 3 - broadcast interviews on current issues, editorials, speeches, debates, and recordings of briefings, meetings, and conferences.

These are fully presented in the STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels.

Addressees

Addressees are general listeners in English-speaking countries.

Format and Timing

20 Level 2 texts, no longer than 2 minutes each, with comprehension evaluated by 4-option multiple-choice items. One text comprises one item.

20 Level 3 texts, no longer than 3 minutes each, with comprehension evaluated by 4-option multiple-choice items. One text comprises one item.

There are 25 seconds allocated to answer a question for each L2 item.
There are 30 seconds allocated to answer a question for each L3 item.

One item on each level is played only once.

The test lasts no longer than 90 minutes.

Scoring

One point is awarded for a correct answer. There are no negative points for incorrect answers. Candidates are assessed as proficient in each of the levels as follows:

Level 1+, minimum 50% correct answers at level 2¹;

Level 2, minimum 70% correct answers at level 2;

Level 2+, minimum 70% correct answers at level 2, and 50-70% correct answers at level 3;

Level 3, minimum 70% correct answers at level 2, and 70% correct answers at level 3.

Less than 50% correct answers at level 2 is indicated as “X” mark² on the certificate.

In order to attain level 3, test taker must pass level 2 and level 3.

Lexical Aid

No aids (such as reference materials, dictionaries, and electronic sources) may be brought into the testing facility.

¹ Level 1+ is awarded to the candidate who achieves between 50 and 70% at level 2.

² Since candidates are not tested at level 1, they cannot be issued certificate for level 1.

SPEAKING

Operations

The assessment aims at testing the overall ability of the candidate to communicate fluently and effectively in everyday and professional life in English. The candidate is expected to demonstrate the ability to interact using a variety of discourse patterns and strategies, appropriate grammatical structures and vocabulary, register and style.

Language competence consists of: grammar, vocabulary, fluency, discourse organization, sociolinguistic competence (registers, idiomatic expressions, cultural references).

Topics

General: basic needs such as ordering meals, obtaining lodging, shopping, hometown, family, traffic and transportation, leisure time and entertainment, sports, environment, politics, economics, culture, science and technology.

Military: military training and military career, jobs and duties, participation in UN, NATO and PfP operations, missions and exercises, the role of UN in peacetime.

Distressing and controversial topics will be avoided and texts will not be highly discipline-specific in order not to disadvantage candidates who are not familiar with the topic.

Format and Timing

It tests one test taker at a time in a form of an interview evaluated by at least two raters. One rater is interlocutor and the other one is assessor. Interlocutor conducts the interview and assessor listens to the interview and if necessary asks the test taker additional questions to help them rate the test taker's performance. Every interview is audio or video recorded. In case of rating discrepancy between the two ratings the third rater independently rates the interview, and the final level is assigned by the team based on all ratings.

Time allotted for the test is not strictly limited; however, the interview should last between 10 and 30 minutes.

The test consists of three phases.

Phase 1: Warm-up

This stage is in the form of simple direct questions about background information of the candidate to allow them to become accustomed to the interlocutors' voice, accent, and speed of delivery.

Phase 2: The Main Part

It consists of tasks for levels 1 through 3 from STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels.

Level 1:

- simple short conversations, and
- test taker asks questions.

Level 2:

- description of people, places and objects;
- narration in the past, present and future, reporting facts about current events;
- instructions, directions.

Level 3:

- supporting opinion,
- hypothesizing,
- discussion on abstract topic.

Phase 3: Wind Down

It consists of one short question with clear evidence that the interview is finished. This phase is not assessed.

Rubrics

Instructions are given by the interlocutor orally or in written form, in simple and unambiguous English.

Rating

Rating is done holistically with an aid of an analytic rating scale which is based on STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels. The four components of the analytic rating scale are: grammar, vocabulary, organization of content, fluency and pronunciation. All four components in the analytic rating scale are of equal importance.

Test takers on BH STANAG 6001 English language speaking test can be assessed as STANAG levels 0, 0+, 1, 1+, 2, 2+, 3.

READING

Operations

They are based on tasks and accuracy requirements found in the STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels (Level 2 and Level 3).

Topics

Topics are those mentioned in the Level 2 and Level 3 STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels.

General: hometown, family, traffic and transportation, leisure time and entertainment, sports, environment, politics, economics, culture, science and technology.

Military: military training and military career, jobs and duties, participation in UN, NATO and PfP operations, missions and exercises, the role of UN in peacetime.

Distressing and controversial topics are avoided and texts are not highly discipline-specific in order not to disadvantage candidates who are not familiar with the topic.

Types of text

Texts for reading tests are taken from authentic sources written by native speakers for general readers and educated native speakers and not intended for instructional purposes.

Examples: periodicals, routine business letters and reports, social notices, technical materials. These are fully presented in the STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels.

Addressees

Addressees are general readers in English-speaking countries.

Format and Timing

20 Level 2 texts, not more than 180 words, with comprehension evaluated by 4-option multiple-choice items. One text comprises one item.

20 Level 3 texts, not more than 360 words, with comprehension evaluated by 4-option multiple-choice items. One text comprises one item.

The test lasts 120 minutes.

Scoring

One point is awarded for a correct answer. There are no negative points for incorrect answers. Candidates are assessed as proficient in each of the levels as follows:

Level 1+, minimum 50% correct answers at level 2³;

Level 2, minimum 70% correct answers at level 2;

Level 2+, minimum 70% correct answers at level 2, and 50-70% correct answers at level 3;

Level 3, minimum 70% correct answers at level 2, and 70% correct answers at level 3.

Less than 50% correct answers at level 2 are indicated as “X“ mark⁴ on the certificate.

In order to attain level 3, test taker must pass level 2 and level 3.

Lexical Aid

No aids (such as reference materials, dictionaries, and electronic sources) may be brought into the testing facility.

³ Level 1+ is awarded to the candidate who achieves between 50 and 70% at level 2.

⁴ Since candidates are not tested at level 1, they cannot be issued certificate for level 1.

WRITING

Operations

They are based on tasks and accuracy requirements found in the STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels (Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3).

Topics

Topics are those mentioned in the Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels.

General: hometown, family, traffic and transportation, leisure time and entertainment, sports, environment, politics, economics, culture, science and technology.

Military: military training and military career, jobs and duties, participation in UN, NATO and PfP operations, missions and exercises, the role of UN in peacetime.

Distressing and controversial topics are avoided and texts are not highly discipline-specific in order not to disadvantage candidates who are not familiar with the topic.

Types of Tasks

Level 1 - the test taker needs to demonstrate the ability to write short notes, post cards, short personal letters, telephone messages, invitations, and similar texts requiring the use of simple sentences.

Level 2 - the test taker needs to demonstrate the ability to write texts that state facts; give instructions; describe people, places and things; narrate current, past, and future events in complete but simple paragraphs. These texts may include simple personal and routine workplace correspondence, as well as memoranda and brief reports.

Level 3 - the test taker needs to demonstrate the ability to write an essay-length argumentation, analysis, hypothesis, as well as extended explanation, narration and description on both concrete and abstract topics. These texts may include both formal and informal correspondence and documents for practical, social, and professional purposes.

Addressees

Addresses are general language users at each level (foreign friends/colleagues, superiors, etc.).

Register and Style

Formal/Informal, Global/International English

Format and Timing

It is a multi-level test consisting of three prompts on a variety of practical, social, and professional topics in informal and formal contexts.

The prompts are written in English.

Each prompt gives information about the intended audience (reader of the text produced) and the criteria for evaluation (elements on which the text produced is assessed).

Required amount of written text for each prompt is as follows:

Prompt 1: approximately 50 words ($\pm 15\%$),

Prompt 2: approximately 150 words ($\pm 15\%$),

Prompt 3: approximately 150 words ($\pm 15\%$),

Prompt 4: approximately 300 words ($\pm 15\%$).

The test lasts 120 minutes.

Rating

Test papers are rated by a minimum of two certified raters. Rating is done holistically with an aid of an analytic rating scale which is based on STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels. The four components of the analytic rating scale are:

- prompt fulfillment/accomplishment and content (test takers have to answer all sub-questions from the prompt);
- structural control/grammar (syntax, morphology)/orthography/mechanics (spelling, capitalization, punctuation);
- lexical control (range, appropriateness, accuracy);
- organization and style (discourse competence, appropriateness, socio-linguistic competence).

In order to attain level 2, test taker must pass level 1 and level 2.

In order to attain level 3, test taker must pass level 1, level 2, and level 3.

If the candidate fulfills all four components of the analytic rating scale, levels may be assigned regardless of the sample word count.

All four components of the analytic rating scale are of equal importance.

Test takers on BH STANAG 6001 English language writing test can be assessed as STANAG levels 0, 0+, 1, 1+, 2, 2+, 3.

In case of rating discrepancy between the two ratings, the third rater independently rates the writing text, and the final level is assigned by the team based on all ratings.

Candidates are penalized for content irrelevant to the prompts. For answers that are below length, the rater adjusts the rating proportionally. Poor handwriting is not particularly penalized; however, candidates may be downgraded if the paper is illegible.

Lexical Aid

No aids (such as reference materials, dictionaries, and electronic sources) may be brought into the testing facility.

Closing Remarks

With these BH STANAG 6001 English Language Test Specifications coming into power, BH STANAG 6001 English Language Test Specifications No: 16-08-33-2-52-36/20 dated 19.03. 2020. cease to apply.

No: 16-08-33-2-109-327/24
Sarajevo, 14.08.2024.

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