

# Untangling The Law

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## Immigration Law: Changes in English Language Assessment

Immigration applications under the Federal Skilled Worker or Canadian Experience Class partially assess ability in English. Since 2002, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has allowed people to submit approved language tests or other written evidence of their ability in English.

Since 2004, CIC has given people a second chance to take approved language tests if the other written evidence submitted was not good enough. Beginning April 10, 2010, this second chance will no longer be available.

Can I still put in written evidence of my English language ability instead of a language test?

While the answer to this is yes, CIC recommends this only if your first language is English. If

your first language is not English, you should strongly consider taking one of CIC's approved language tests.

I have taken language courses and have a certificate; is this good enough?

Not necessarily. We have had many clients who submitted language certificates that CIC considered insufficient. One disapproved client even had a language certificate from the University of Winnipeg.

In these cases, the client was given the opportunity to take an approved language test. For applications filed after April 10, 2010, CIC will no longer give this second chance.

If I do not submit a language test, will I be refused?

The language component of an application is only one

part. Depending on your other characteristics, you may still qualify for a visa without scoring any points for language.

If you do not submit an approved language test result but submit written evidence, CIC will assess you on the basis of the written evidence.

I have lived in the Philippines all my life, should I take an English test?

Yes. While it is possible that you may have convincing evidence of your ability to communicate in English, the best way to prove this is to take an approved English test.

What English test should I take?

There are two approved English language tests:

1. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS)[www.ielts.org]
2. The Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program

(CELPPIP) [http://www.ares.ube.ca/CELPPIP/index.html]

The IELTS is the only test currently available in the Philippines. When taking it, you must choose the General Training option.

This article is prepared for general information purposes only and is intended to provide comments for readers and friends of Filipino Journal. The contents should not be viewed as legal advice or opinion. If you have

specific questions concerning immigration law, you should discuss them with a legal advisor of your choice.

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