

In general surround yourself by the language. Find people to practice with and try learning new terms each day and include some exercises in your daily routine. These sites provided should be of great use:

**[www.davescafe.com](http://www.davescafe.com)**

**<http://www.agendaweb.org/>**

**<http://www.englishforum.com/00/interactive/>**

**<http://www.rong-chang.com/quiz.htm>**

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**CANAL DE PANAMÁ**

**PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY**

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

**ENGLISH TEST GUIDELINE**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Language Unit Assessment Test is a multi-purpose English test for non-native speakers of English. This test is administered to all those who apply for any position that requires knowledge or domain of the language. It's objective is to measure the participant's level of sufficiency (Basic/Intermediate or Advance) for which each language skill is tested: listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Reading and writing are both divided into two sections each. Reading has vocabulary in context and comprehension; and writing will include grammar and an essay.

## TEST MECHANICS

This is a time-bounded test, meaning that each section will be measured based on a specific time frame that can go from 15 to up to 30 minutes according to the level of difficulty. The entire test lasts an approximate 2 – 2 1/2 hours. (This might vary based on the day's attendance).

## SCORING

The test has a total of 199 points. According to the area for which you have applied you should get a minimum of points to pass and be considered. The most common areas for which applicants are tested are: Maritime - 141 points and Administrative -136 points. There might be exceptions for other positions.

Once the results are posted if someone didn't obtain a passing score he or she would only be able to re-do after six (6) months. There are only three (3) opportunities taking the test so be sure to give yourself enough time before re-scheduling.

## RECOMMENDED TOOLS FOR PREPARATION

Practicing is definitely the key. In order to improve each of the skills here are a few suggestions:

1. **Listening:** music and TV *without* sub-titles.
2. **Reading:** synonyms are the key for the vocabulary part.
3. **Writing:** practice advanced grammar (books or online quizzes) and essay writing (comparing and contrasting type).
4. **Speaking:** practice for a one-on-one interview. Be ready to ask and/or answer questions fluently, coherently and using proper vocabulary while doing so.