



**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**  
**Ministry of Defense**  
**Armed Forces**  
**Joint Staff**

**BH STANAG 6001**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST SPECIFICATIONS**

Sarajevo, January 2018

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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<sup>1</sup>).

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 B&H institutions. Candidates from partner nations can also take the test. Prior to attending the test for the first time, military personnel from BH AF must have at least 80 points on American Language Course Placement Test (ALCPT)<sup>2</sup>. 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 published and approved by authorized institution.

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<sup>1</sup> NATO Standardization Office, <https://nso.nato.int/nso/zPublic/ap/ATrainP-5%20EDA%20V2%20E.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> It is desirable for the test takers that are not tested by ALCPT to have certain level of English language knowledge since listening and reading tests are bi-level (Level 2, Level 3)

## 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 UN's role 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 or orders, factual narration, factual descriptions, short news broadcast;

**Level 3** - broadcast interviews on current issues, broadcast editorials, speeches, debates, and recordings of briefings, meeting, 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 L2 items.

There are 30 seconds allocated to answer a question for L3 items.

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+**, at least 50% correct answers at level 2<sup>3</sup>;

**Level 2**, at least 70% correct answers at level 2;

**Level 2+**, at least 70% correct answers at level 2 and 50% correct answers at level 3;

**Level 3**, at least 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” mark<sup>4</sup> on the certificate.

### **Lexical Aid**

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

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<sup>3</sup> Level 1+ is awarded due to the fact that all test takers are required to have at least 80 points on ALCPT not older than one year which is a strong indicator that the test taker has enough command of the language that equals to STANAG 6001 level 1.

<sup>4</sup> 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:** 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 UN's role 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 will be audio or video recorded. In case of a disagreement between the two raters, the third rater listens to the interview and gives the final rating.

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 him/her 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 conversation, 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. 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 UN's role 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 come 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 350 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+,** at least 50% correct answers at level 2<sup>5</sup>;
- Level 2,** at least 70% correct answers at level 2;
- Level 2+,** at least 70% correct answers at level 2 and 50% correct answers at level 3;
- Level 3,** at least 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“ mark<sup>6</sup> on the certificate.

### **Lexical Aid**

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

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<sup>5</sup> Level 1+ is awarded due to the fact that all test takers are required to have at least 80 points on ALCPT not older than one year which is a strong indicator that the test taker has enough command of the language that equals to STANAG 6001 level 1.

<sup>6</sup> 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 UN's role 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, 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 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 user at each level (foreign friends/colleagues etc.).

### Register and Style

Formal/Informal, Global/International English

### Format and Timing

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

The tasks are written in English.

Each task gives information about the intended audience for the text and the criteria for evaluation.

Task 1: approximately 50 words, recommended time 10 minutes;

Tasks 2 and 3: approximately 150 words each, recommended time 50 minutes;

Task 4: approximately 300 words, recommended time 60 minutes.

The test lasts 120 minutes.

## **Rating**

Test papers are rated by a minimum of two qualified raters. Rating is done holistically with an aid of an analytic rating scale. The four components of the analytic rating scale are:

- task fulfillment/achievement & content (test takers have to answer all subquestions from the task);
- structural control / Grammar (syntax, morphology) / Orthography / Mechanics (spelling, capitalization, punctuation);
- lexical control (range, appropriateness, accuracy);
- organization and style (discourse competence, appropriateness, socio-linguistic competence).

All four components in 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 cases of disagreement between the two raters a third rater adjudicates. Candidates are penalized for content irrelevant to the tasks. 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 unreadable.

## **Lexical Aid**

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

No:16-08-33-2-97-15/18  
Sarajevo, 29.01. 2018.

Head of Testing Team  
Lieutenant-Colonel  
Sabahudin Hadživdić

Head of Personnel Department  
Colonel  
Zoran Duspara

**C O N C U R S:**  
Chief of Joint Staff  
Lieutenant General  
Anto Jeleč

## BIH STANAG 6001 ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST FOR PARTNER COUNTRIES

Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina can approve administration of BH STANAG 6001 English Language Test in partner countries. In that case, format of BH STANAG 6001 Listening and Reading tests can differ from the ones administered in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The tests are adapted to the needs of a host country and can be single-level and bi-level tests. Bi-level tests can be either level 1-2 or level 2-3. Single level tests are level 3 tests. For level 3 single-level tests, it is required to pass level 1-2 bi-level test first.

### LISTENING

#### BI-LEVEL TEST (LEVEL 1-2)

##### Operations

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

##### Topics

Topics are as mentioned in Level 1 and Level 2 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 UN's role 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 can be authentic, semi-authentic and contrived. They vary in both types and content, comprising monologues, announcements, 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. Semi-authentic and contrived texts can be used for level 1 items while for level 2 items contrived texts are avoided. Semi-authentic and contrived texts can be aimed either for general public or for teaching purposes.

Examples:

Level 1 - announcements, warnings, short advertisements, basic needs such as meals, lodging, transportation, time, simple directions and instructions;

Level 2 - instructions or orders, factual narration, factual descriptions, short news broadcast. These are fully presented in the STANAG 6001 Language Proficiency Levels.

### **Addressees**

Addressees are general listeners in English-speaking countries and language students.

### **Format and Timing**

20 Level 1 texts, no longer than 1 minutes each, with comprehension evaluated by 4-option multiple-choice items. One text comprises one item.

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

There are 20 seconds allocated to answer a question for L1 items.

There are 25 seconds allocated to answer a question for L2 items.

The test lasts no longer than 70 minutes.

### **Scoring**

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

**Level 0,** less than 50% correct answers at level 1;

**Level 0+,** at least 50% correct answers at level 1;

**Level 1,** at least 70% correct answers at level 1;

**Level 1+,** at least 70% correct answers at level 1 and 50% correct answers at level 2;

**Level 2,** at least 70% correct answers at level.

### **Lexical Aid**

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

## **SINGLE-LEVEL TEST (LEVEL 3)**

### **Operations**

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

### **Topics**

Topics are as mentioned in 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 UN's role 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: broadcast interviews on current issues, broadcast editorials, speeches, debates, and recordings of briefings, meeting, 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 3 texts, no longer than 3 minutes each, with comprehension evaluated by 4-option multiple-choice items. One text comprises one item.

There are 30 seconds allocated to answer a question.

The test lasts no longer than 70 minutes.

### **Scoring**

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

**Level 2+**, at least 50% correct answers;

**Level 3**, at least 70% correct answers.

### **Lexical Aid**

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

# READING

## BI-LEVEL TEST (LEVEL 1-2)

### Operations

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

### Topics

Topics are as mentioned in Level 1 and Level 2 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 UN's role 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 can be authentic and semi-authentic written by native speakers for general readers, educated native speakers and language students. They can be intended for instructional purposes.

Examples:

Level 1 - notices, headlines, menus, receipts, tickets, printed to look authentic;

Level 2 - instructions or orders, factual narration, factual descriptions, news articles.

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

### Addressees

Addressees are general readers in English-speaking countries and language students.

### Format and Timing

20 Level 1 texts, not more than 60 words each, with comprehension evaluated by 4-option multiple-choice items. One text comprises one item.

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

The test lasts 90 minutes.

### Scoring

One point is awarded for a correct answer. There are no negative points for wrong answers.

Candidates are assessed as proficient in each of the levels as follows:

**Level 0,** less than 50% correct answers at level 1;

- Level 0+**, at least 50% correct answers at level 1;
- Level 1**, at least 70% correct answers at level 1;
- Level 1+**, at least 70% correct answers at level 1 and 50% correct answers at level 2;
- Level 2**, at least 70% correct answers at level.

### **Lexical Aid**

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

## **SINGLE-LEVEL TEST (LEVEL 3)**

### **Operations**

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

### **Topics**

Topics are as mentioned in 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 UN's role 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 come 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 3 texts, not more than 350 words each, with comprehension evaluated by 4-option multiple-choice items. One text comprises one item.

The test lasts no longer than 60 minutes.

## **Scoring**

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

**Level 2+**, at least 50% correct answers;

**Level 3**, at least 70% correct answers.

## **Lexical Aid**

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