



Centre for
Canadian Language
Benchmarks

Centre des niveaux de
compétence linguistique
canadiens

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



Frequently asked questions for CLBPT or BTC-NCLC clients

What is a language assessment centre?

It is a place where you will be assessed in the four language skills (speaking, writing, listening and reading) to determine your level of English or French and be referred to a school for government-funded English or French courses. English courses are called Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC), while French courses are called Cours de langue pour immigrants au Canada (CLIC).

Since there are many language assessment centres across Canada, please contact the language assessment centre nearest you to make an appointment:

[English Assessment Centres](#)

[French Assessment Centres](#)

What does my language proficiency level mean?

Your language proficiency level measures your ability to speak, understand, write and read English or French in a variety of real-life communication situations. The CLB/NCLC scores are divided into 12 levels of progression (1 being beginner and 12 being advanced).

How much does a language assessment cost?

The assessment is free for those who meet the program's eligibility criteria. For more information, please contact the language assessment centre nearest you:

[English Assessment Centres](#)

[French Assessment Centres](#)

Do I need to prepare for my assessment?

No. There is no preparation material, as the CLBPT/CLBPA/BTC-NCLC assessments are only intended to assess your current language skills so that you can be placed in the appropriate level language course.

Can I take the CLB/NCLC tests if I live in Quebec?

No. Our tests are not available in Quebec. Please contact [your government](#) for more information about the registration process and programs available to newcomers near you. This page may contain other relevant information: <https://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/immigrer-installer/index.html>.

Do I have to retake the language assessment for each level?

No. You only need to take the assessment once. The assessment is only used to determine your current language level in order to direct you to the appropriate language course for your level. Once you begin language classes, your instructor will help you progress from one level to the next until you reach your personal goal.

The only reason to take a second assessment is if your initial assessment has expired (an assessment is valid for 1 or 2 years depending on the funder of the language assessment program) and you have not yet been able to begin your studies in English or French.

I would like to change schools. Do I need a new assessment?

No. You do not need to be reassessed unless your scores have expired. Please contact your nearest assessment centre to discuss your situation and to see if you simply need a new referral or if you have to do a new assessment to change schools.

Can I use the results of the assessment on my citizenship application?

No. The CLBPT/CLBPA/BTC-NCLC placement tests are NOT accepted as proof of language proficiency for the citizenship application. If you are taking a LINC/CLIC or ESL/FSL course, you can use the certificate you received at the end of your program as proof of language proficiency for your citizenship application.

For information on the language requirements to become a Canadian citizen, please visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website at

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=571&top=5>.

Why should I be assessed to study in a LINC/CLIC program if I have never learned English or French?

In order to access federally or provincially funded language training (LINC/CLIC or ESL/FSL), you must be assessed by an approved assessment centre, regardless of your level of language proficiency. The assessor will evaluate your level of proficiency in the four skills and refer you to a language program that matches your level. The assessment is the starting point for any language training program.

Do I have to take an English or French assessment in order to enroll in a LINC/CLIC program even if I have a university degree in English or French?

If you feel that you still need to improve your English or French language skills to live or work in Canada, regardless of your previous education, you will still need to take the appropriate placement test (CLBPT/CLBPA/BTC-NCLC). However, please note that your language skills may already exceed the highest level of courses offered free of charge to immigrants by the federal or provincial government (usually programs do not go higher than CLB/NCLC 8). The assessment will determine your level, according to the Canadian Language Benchmarks scale.

If I work irregular hours, can I study online?

If you are eligible, you can take LINC/CLIC classes online that provide English or French language training for newcomers. You must first be assessed at an assessment centre to determine your level on the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) scale. To participate in the program, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- You must be a permanent resident of Canada, but not a Canadian citizen.
- You must be 18 years of age or older.
- You must be at CLB level 3 or higher.

[LINC Home Study](#)

[Programme CLICenligne](#)

I am currently in a LINC/CLIC class and am also studying independently to improve my language skills as quickly as possible. Can I retake the language test to be placed in a higher class?

No. Your instructor will observe your progress in English or French as you complete the tasks in class. You can talk to your instructor to see if you are ready to move to the next level. The instructor is the only person who can advance you to the next level once you have started the language course. Please note that the time it takes to progress from one level to the next can vary greatly from person to person.

I took my test a few years ago, can I get a copy of my results?

If your results are still valid, you can contact the assessment site that administered your test to see if it is possible to get a copy of your results (the validity of test results depends on the funding source of the approved testing centre and is usually between 1 and 2 years). The assessment site will not be able to give you a copy of your results if they have expired.

What level of language proficiency do I need to have in order to attend college or university?

The CLBPT/CLBPA/BTC-NCLC assessments are low-stakes assessments and cannot be used for employment, education, immigration or citizenship purposes. We recommend that you check the language tests accepted by your college or university and choose one of the other options instead. If you wish to improve your English or French language skills before applying to a college or university, you can visit a CLBPT/CLBPA/BTC-NCLC assessment centre to take the test and be referred to a language training program. This program will serve as preparation before you take the language test accepted by the college or university you have chosen.

Could I use the results of the assessment to apply to the "Temporary resident to permanent resident pathway" program announced in April 2021?

No. The CLBPT/CLBPA/BTC-NCLC placement tests are NOT accepted evidence of language proficiency for the "Temporary resident to permanent resident pathway" program.

Approved language tests for immigration and citizenship:

English

- [CELPIP: Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program](#)
 - You must take the CELPIP-General test.
 - The General-LS test is not acceptable for Express Entry.
- [IELTS: International English Language Testing System](#)
 - You must take the General Training option.
 - the Academic option is not acceptable for Express Entry.

French

- [TEF Canada: Test d'évaluation de français, including:](#)
 - Reading
 - Listening
 - Writing
 - Speaking

They would accept **TEF results** if you wrote your test before March 1, 2020. If you wrote the test **on or after March 1, 2020**, you need to provide TEF Canada test results.

- [TCF Canada: Test de connaissance du français, including:](#)
 - Reading
 - Listening
 - Writing
 - Speaking