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Comparison of Exams in Terms of Benefits for the Future Engineer

This article describes advantages and disadvantages of international exams for students. to motivate students to pass the English exam as soon as possible. Based on our survey, many students have never even heard about language exams and benefits it gives.

Key words: international exams; advantages; disadvantages; types of exams; exam specification; certificates.

The topic is relevant since some engineers with more than average level of English have no certificate that proves it. Our work is kind of encourage to them.

There are many reasons for taking the exam for everyone. First of all, it is proof to yourself and everyone else what you can do. Secondly, the preparations will improve language skills during process. Finally, the main purpose is to get an internationally recognised certificate that gives a lot of advantages.

As for an engineer, the proper level of English guarantees working with different programmes and programming languages, reading scientific articles or any sort of documentations without any language problems. According to the survey, conducted by HeadHunter (recent research), 59 % of employers require applicants to know English on a certain level since of work with native speakers/foreign colleagues/foreigners and technical documentation. Nowadays, those who do not speak fluent English are not well-paid.

There are several ways to prove your language level on work interview. Some employers are OK with a ten-minute conversation, but in big companies it is required to have the aforementioned certificate. It is not free to get, of course, but it is definitely worth it and it may pay back in one month of work.

Returning to the topic, all English tests look the same – depending on the passed exam, the benefits are slightly different. Some of certificates may be used in career, others can help to enter a foreign university or give an opportunity to become an exchange student. Thus, the choice of exam depends on engineer's purpose/motive.

Such exams as TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS, and Cambridge ESOL are going to be reviewed.

To begin with, Cambridge ESOL are Cambridge exams divided by language proficiency and aims of passing the exam. They do not have expiry date which means that they are valid for life. There are 5 general exams: KET, PET, FCE, CAE and CPE, but we are going to review only three of them (*as the*

KET proves the Pre-Intermediate level of English and PET provides a certificate of Intermediate English proficiency). The FCE is an upper-intermediate level English assessment, while the CAE and CPE are advanced and proficient ones respectively. Basically, the CPE is the most difficult between the three (five). Aside from the perpetuity, Cambridge exams have other benefits. For instance, passing them makes it possible to take part in international summer programs or get a students' part-time job. CAE and CPE open the doors to almost any foreign company. Besides, there are two professional exams that are necessary for business: BEC and BULATS. By the way, all of them are cheaper than TOEFL and IELTS for about 100\$. However, Cambridge exams are not enough for migration to other countries and if they are failed, the person will not receive/gain a certificate.

As for IELTS, it has two modules: Academic IELTS and General Training IELTS. The Academic IELTS certificate is used for admission to schools, colleges and universities in the UK, Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the USA and other countries where teaching is in English. The General Training IELTS (sometimes Academic IELTS) certificate is required for anyone who wishes to immigrate to Canada, Australia and New Zealand through the professional migration system. The certificate is required when obtaining a work visa to the UK, and for other purposes related to studying, living or working in an English-speaking society. Thanks to IELTS, an engineer can work in such countries as Denmark, Brazil, Italy, Poland, Turkey, Japan, Korea, China and many other countries of Europe, Asia and Latin America. The results of the exam are valid for two years.

In fact, TOEFL and TOEIC are the same exam but with one condition: the TOEFL is an academic exam and is needed for higher education, while the TOEIC is required for work. TOEFL is the American version of English, so the test is primarily in demand for studying in the United States and Canada. However, it is also accepted in Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Japan, the European Union, China, Israel and other countries. The results of both exams are valid for two years.

That is not the only point where IELTS and TOEFL are better. Some universities do not consider CAE and FCE sufficient for educating. While some institutions may accept all exams, they may prefer one over another. If there is a choice of different exams, examinees should look at specifics of the exams and pick the one that seems the best for them.

Table 1

Exams and opportunities they give

Exams / Opportunities	IELTS	TOEFL	Cambridge ESOL
Higher education	Yes	Yes	Yes
Summer programmes, Foundation year	Yes	Yes	Yes
Work	Yes	Yes	Yes
Migration	Yes	Yes	No
Forever	No	No	Yes
Price	~250\$	~250\$	~165\$

To sum up, as it is seen from the table, IELTS and TOEFL exams are better than Cambridge ones in general. If there is an instant need and enough money, they should be chosen. If perpetuity is more priority – CAE and FCE are the choice.

By the way, our university TPU is also providing students with a probability to belong a certificate. The exercises are as hard as FCE. It's free to pass as a student, it has a 2 years long term before expiration, and it gives privileges to participate in academic exchange.

If engineers still have hesitations and do not know which exam is proper for their aims, it is no problem to learn it with help of Cambridge's site[5]. Just type the exam you want to pass, the country you wish to work or study in and your purposes. For example, Indian Adhiyamaan college of engineering is open to them with CAE, a person can easily find a job in Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University (ICFAI) by passing IELTS or become a member of Church Mission Society in Kenya by passing FCE.

When writing the article, a survey was conducted between future engineers. According to the received Information, the absolute majority of respondents (96,3 %) does not have the TPU Certificate in English. However, 85,7 % would like to prove their English level (by passing the TPU exam) in the near future. Some of the interviewed are ready to pay for taking the exam (38,2 %), others are not (42,9 %).

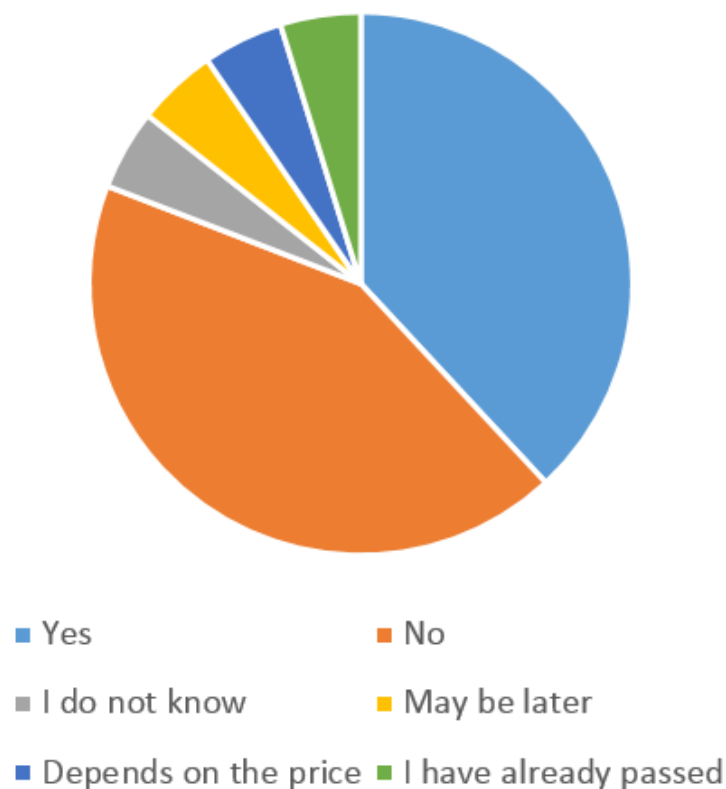


Fig. 1. Readiness for paying for an exam

As it is seen, most respondents are not ready to pay for an exam. That's a pity since they might not imagine the opportunities the passed exam gives. We hope that by this article, we are going to change their minds.

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The Problems of Localization in Videogames Based on «Uncharted» Game Series

This article describes the difficulties of the specific type of video game adaptation called localization and such aspects involved into this process as the game title, the word-play, characters' addressing, context dependence, slangs and cultural features. We regard the examples based on the game «Uncharted» and offer the recommendations.

Key words: video games; localization; localisers; blind translation; context; plot; culture.

Video games are one of the leisure activities of choice of many people around the globe. Children, teenagers and adults enjoy playing videogames just as much as reading, watching films or going to the theatre. The demand for entertainment software has prompted game publishers to translate more of their products into more languages. The process of preparation of a video game for sale is called video game localization (and the professionals, who work with it, are called localisers). During the process of translation, certain difficulties appear and, as a result, many gamers express their dissatisfaction with the level of localized products [6].

The aim of this work is to reveal the problems appearing in the process of localization of famous «Uncharted» game and to offer the solutions. The hypothesis stated by the author is that the localization is a difficult time-consuming process requiring flexible thinking and understanding of cultural differences. Thus, the following objectives have been set:

- to analyze the ways and methods of localization
- to compare English and Russian episode versions of the «Uncharted» game