

Report 17 – TEA Resources & Sustainability



Reports 01 – 16 have described TEA’s development and current testing practices. Year-on-year, TEA’s resources have been expanded to ensure that tests function well both now and into the future, as demand requires. In particular, the following resources give TEA the platform to serve future candidates and organisations:

<i>The Database:</i>	The development of a secure, online platform for the storing of test data allows for confidence in international test administration.
<i>Administration:</i>	The systems and policies for test administration, rating and interlocution monitoring, and centralised certification are established and help to support confidence in test reliability.
<i>Materials:</i>	The knowledge gained of task and item development (the creation of item writing frameworks, item banks, and trialling practices), and the links and collaboration with expert international colleagues, have all contributed to an assurance in ongoing materials development quality.
<i>Examiners:</i>	In training and supporting over 200 TEA Examiners, TEA has extensive experience of working with international colleagues, and TEA personnel are primed for future testing.
<i>Test Centres:</i>	With over 100 TEA Centres already in place in 25 countries, contractual commitments are in place to guarantee future candidature. The know-how of relationship development with new and existing international partners has been cultivated.
<i>Online facilities:</i>	The generation of secure servers for online examiner standardisation and recertification, as well as online certificate verification, show TEA’s commitment to supporting its international network.
<i>Customers:</i>	TEA is the favoured (or only) test used by a large number of Airlines, ATS Providers and FTO’s. It is hoped that ICAO endorsement will consolidate and extend these relationships.
<i>Accreditation:</i>	Considerable efforts have been made to seek and receive accreditation for TEA and the respective local TEA test centres by National Aviation Authorities (CAA’s).

Despite having such resources in place, the test development team recognises well that language testing is not a concrete matter and judgements and interpretations play a large part in test development. No test is perfect and ongoing exploration into improving test quality is essential. TEA is committed to future improvements and is happy to conduct ongoing research and development to do so.