Language: Its Value and Scoring- Canada

(This document # SBpGe302;
Related document @ BpGe202)

Personal Story: During my beautiful immigration journey, I visited Immigration Consultants on several occasions, and I was routinely advised to improve my language skills score. I kept the advice in mind and worked towards the language skills. This was informative and only pushed me a little to do well in language tests. However, it was much later that I looked closely at the CRS score and realized that improving one's language skills adds points to one's overall score on more than one factor, thus having an amplifying effect. I have therefore written this article for the benefit of aspirants who aspire to immigrate to Canada.

'Language' is the single most valuable factor in the CRS scoring - Core Human Capital cum Skills Transferability Factors.

Message: *It should be the responsibility of an aspiring Indian graduate Immigrant to 'max' out in the English language at level 10 and for the Francophone student to secure level 7 in French with a serious attempt to achieve level 9.*

This blog is prepared to inform the applicant of the amplification of the Language score. While the language benchmark may only have 12 levels (NCLC 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12), where 7,8,9,10 are considered, there is no increment in score between 7 and 8, however there is amplification in score between 7/8 to 9 and then again there is no increment of score between 9 and 10. The use of the language benchmark, so achieved, is used in two scoring computations , namely the Federal Skilled Worker Score Grid and then subsequently in the Comprehensive Ranking System Score. Further the score of the language bench mark is used in the Core/ Human Capital Factor and then again in the Skills Transferability factor in two sub sections (related education qualification and Foreign work experience) and yet again under the Additional points section – under Factor- French Language Skills). So, a language benchmark, potentially has an impact on four scoring sections. At this stage I am not considering that if the applicant has Canadian work experience because a typical Indian profile in India aspiring to immigrate to Canada has no straightforward pathway to gain Canadian work experience. It must be noted that within the Skills Transferability factor there is a potential of 75 points attributed to language scores and it is of significant value.

So, let's start with FSW 67 Point Score Grid. If you recollect, this is the first eligibility requirement to score >=67 / 100 to be eligible to enter the Express Entry pool.

FSW - 67 Point Grid

	Language	Education	Skilled Work	Age	Arranged Employment	Adaptability
Max	28	25	15	12	10	10
CLB 4444	16	-	-	-	-	-
CLB 5555	20	-	-	-	-	-
CLB >=6666	24	-	-	-	-	-
French >=4444	4	-	-	-	-	-

Observations: -

Language has a value of 28 % of the total score
Language has the highest value among the other factors of Education, Skilled work, Age, Arranged employment and Adaptability.

Now, let us see how the benchmark value increases as the NCLC level increases

The minimum is 4: Below level 4 – there is no value
From 4 to 5: The score increases by 4 value points (4%)
From 5 to 6: The score again increases by another 4 value points (4%)
From 6 to 7,8-12: There is no increment in value points.

Comprehensive Ranking System Grid

Let us look at the sensitivity to scores of the language benchmark levels.

A French NCLC of 5 is required when applicant applies for Work Permit under the Francophone Mobility program. However, in this case we are working out the sensitivity of CRS score for the French Language Proficiency Category and thus limiting the scenarios to NCLC 7. Furthermore, in the Indian context, if the NCLC level is 7, then it can be safely assumed that the English CLB level will be 7+. So, the scenarios we will consider are NCLC 7, 8, 9, 10 and CLB 7,8,9,10

Now, let us look at the relevant CRS Score grid.

Factors	Max	E7:F7	E8:F7	E9:F7	**E10:F7**	E7:F8	E8: f8	E9: f8	E10: f8	E7:F9	E8:F9	E9:F9	**E10:F9**	E7:F10	E8:F10	E9:F10	E10:F10
Core/HC	500																
Age	110																
Education	150																
Language	160	68+12 =80	92+12 =104	124+12 136=	136+12 =148	68+12 =80 u	92+12 =104	124+12 = 136	136+12 =148	68+24 =92u	92+24 =116u	124+24 =148	136+24 =160	68+24 =92u	92+24 =116u	124+24 =148u	136+24 =160
Canadian Work	80																
Skills Transferability	100																
Edn+	50																
Edn+ Language	50	25	25	50	50	25	25	50	50	25	25	50	50	25	25	50	50
Edn + Canadian Work	50																
Work+	50																
IN Work+ Language	50	13	13	25	25	13	13	25	25	13	13	25	25	13	13	25	25
IN Work + Ca Work	50																
Additional	600																
Sibling	15																
Fr	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Total	1200	168	192	261	**273**	168	192	261	273	180	204	273	**285**	180	204	273	285

Core				
Age	**Education**	**English**	**French**	**Ca Work**
20-29 : 110	Bachelor : 120	CLB 7 : 17	NCLC 7,8 :3	NA for an aspirant
30 : 105	Master : 135	CLB 8 : 23	NCLC 9+ :6	
	Doctorate : 150	CLB 9 : 31		
		CLB10+ :34		
Max : 110	Max: 150	136	24	

Skills Transfer		100		Additional	600
Edn	CLB 7	CLB 9		Sibling	15
Graduate/+	25	50		NCLC 7, CLB 0-4	25
				NCLC 7 + CLB 5	50
Ca work	1 yr	2 yr		Edn Ca – 1 yr	NC
Graduate/+	NC	NC		Edn Ca – 3 yr	NC
Foreign Work	CLB7	CLB9			
1-2	13	25			
3	25	50			
	Ca Work				
Foreign Work	1yr	2yr			
1-2	NC	NC			
3	NC	NC			

NC: Not considered – view typical Indian profile would not have Canadian Work experience, u = Unlikely

The values are considered are for a typical Indian profile as follows: -

 Young (20-29 years), Single (or if married without an accompanying spouse), Graduate, one year of work experience in India, English is considered as the main language and French is at least NCLC 7 with potential to upgrade to NCLC 9. Work Experience is restricted only to India because the prospective client is an Indian aspiring to go immigrate to Canada at this stage. Provincial Nominee is accordingly also not considered, and it is assumed that no eligible family members are Citizen/ PR status in Canada.

Now let us analyze the CRS Score for Language Score Sensitivity.

First let's look at the total weightage for Language Skills. Before that let us decide the total score in the CRS grid. The   CRS score is from 1200 points. However, if you look closely, 600 points are for the Core Capital and Skills Transferability and the other 600 is for Additional points which comprises additional points for French, Eligible Canadian family member and a Provincial Nominee which has a biased deciding value of 600 points. So, let's take two total scores i.e. out of 600 and out of 1200. Further, in the Indian context, where the English may be considered the main working language (if not the first language) and French an additional language, it may be safely assumed that a an applicant securing French NCLC 7 would be able to secure English 9 or more.

So now, let's continue with working out the weightage of languages.

	Main competition zone- FSW, CEC Points (Value in %)	Overall competition zone (Provincial nominee presence)	Remarks
Total Score	600	1200	
Age	110 (18%)		
Education	150		
Language Max	160	160	
Canadian Work	80 (13%)		
Skills Transferability	75* (considered 100 to computed	75	Edn+CLB9= 50 Indian Work+CLB9=50

	Skills transferability in this table)		
Additional		50	For French
Language total	160+75=235 (39%)	285	
Education total	150+75=225(37.5%)		
Most valued - Language	39%	23%	

* The maximum score in skills transferability is 100, however, because we not considering Canadian Work experience, the balance 25 value points is being set aside.

In the overall score, language is valued at 23% of the total score. However, the normal competition is within the 600-range score wherein the value of language is 39%. The other parameters are Age (18%), Education (37.5%), Language (39%). This 39% signifies the value Canada gives to language. Thus, maxing out on the Language score is a challenge which must be taken by an aspiring immigrant. Further, it is not only about CRS score, but it also has real value to navigate and operate in a competitive working environment in Canada.

The language scores from CRS Score grid is:-

	NCLC :7	NCLC: 8	**NCLC: 9**	NCLC: 10
CLB : 7	168	168	180	180
CLB : 8	192	192	204	204
CLB : 9	261	261	273	273
CLB : 10 +	**273**	273	**285**	285

It may be seen that benchmark levels from 7 to 8 have no change in score, and the scores hover at 168 and 192.
Amplification of scores take place when English levels cross over to 9 and above for the same French level of 7,8.
The Amplification of score is maximum when both English and French level cross over to level 9.

Strategy

While, crossing over to level 9 may be a challenge for most in French being a second language, responsibility should be taken to reach English level of 10, even though English level 9 secures you a significant score jump.
Further, while there is no score jump between 7 and 8, you must not target to less than level 8 in French, to at least ensure you secure the level 7 in French to secure your eligibility for the French Language Proficiency program.

We will discuss the total CRS score for a typical Indian Profile -young, graduate with 1 year work experience in India and the need to score NCLC 9 to be in a strong zone to be invited to apply for Permanent Residency.

Conclusion: It is imperative to that you target NCLC 8 to secure at least NCLC 7 and target CLB 10 and secure at least CLB9 to secure the amplified scores.