

Life in the UK Test Pass Rates

To settle permanently in the United Kingdom (UK) or be granted British Citizenship most people have to pass the Life in the UK Test

The current version of the Life in the UK Test was introduced for tests from 25 March 2013. The study material for the current test is taken from *Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents*, 3rd edition (ISBN 9780113413409)

Garuda Publications looked at:

1. Pass rates of those from the European Union
2. Pass rates by country
3. Pass rates of those from outside the European Union

The analysis is based on data released by the UK government on 30 April 2014 – ‘*Knowledge of language and Life in the UK test results, 2009 to 2014, 30 April 2014 FOI release 30799*’. This is the most recently published data available. The information released included pass rate data covering **the first 11 months of the current test** – April 2013 to February 2014.

Summary of findings

- The overall pass rate for the current Life in the UK test is 70%
- The overall pass rate for those from EU member countries is 86%
 - Pass rates from within the EU vary from 71% to 100%
 - For example:
 - Austria 71%
 - Belgium 75%
 - Romania 79%
 - Poland 87%
 - France 87%
 - Germany 91%
 - Malta 100% (*small sample*)
- The overall pass rate for those originally from outside the EU is 68%
 - Pass rates from outside the EU vary from 33% to 100%
 - For example:
 - Lao 33%
 - Afghanistan 40%
 - Syria 67%
 - Nigeria 69%
 - India 74%
 - Canada 95%
 - Iceland 100% (*small sample*)

Tables

The tables that follow show

- Individual pass rates by country for the European Union together with sample size
- Individual pass rates by country for All Countries together with sample size
- Individual pass rates by country for all non-EU countries

European Union member Life in the UK test results

European Union Member (Nationality of Origin)	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
Austria	17	24	71%
Belgium	42	56	75%
Bulgaria	1031	1221	84%
Croatia	46	50	92%
Cyprus	96	115	83%
Czech Republic	213	229	93%
Denmark	19	20	95%
Estonia	78	90	87%
Finland	36	42	86%
France	456	523	87%
Germany	348	382	91%
Greece	423	466	91%
Hungary	847	945	90%
Ireland	92	97	95%
Italy	724	787	92%
Latvia	332	414	80%
Lithuania	304	374	81%
Luxembourg	4	4	100%
Malta	25	25	100%
Netherlands	112	138	81%
Poland	4738	5464	87%
Portugal	349	436	80%
Romania	1620	2039	79%
Slovakia	239	273	88%
Slovenia	19	19	100%
Spain	282	316	89%
Sweden	84	98	86%
TOTAL	12,576	14,647	86%

Source data: www.gov.uk - Knowledge of language and Life in the UK test results, 2009 to 2014, 30 April 2014
FOI release 30799

Life in the UK Test pass rates by country of origin

All countries (Nationality of origin)	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
Afghanistan	426	1052	40%
Albania	300	602	50%
Algeria	320	557	57%
American Samoa	0	0	
Andorra	0	0	
Angola	51	141	36%
Antigua & Barbuda	14	26	54%
Argentina	120	131	92%
Armenia	27	51	53%
Aruba	0	1	0%
Australia	2878	2961	97%
Austria	17	24	71%
Azerbaijan	111	149	74%
Bahamas	9	10	90%
Bahrain	15	16	94%
Bangladesh	2103	4471	47%
Barbados	56	73	77%
Belarus	178	211	84%
Belgium	42	56	75%
Belize	20	29	69%
Benin	9	14	64%
Bhutan	10	13	77%
Bolivia	66	122	54%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	39	51	76%
Botswana	46	65	71%
Brazil	951	1381	69%
British Citizen	4	7	57%
British National (Overseas)	156	198	79%
British Overseas Citizen	5	6	83%
British Overseas Territories Citizenship (BOTC)	0	0	
British Protected Person	2	2	100%
British Subject	0	1	0%
Brunei Darussalam	12	12	100%
Bulgaria	1031	1221	84%
Burkina Faso	8	13	62%
Burundi	50	114	44%
Cambodia	6	12	50%
Cameroon	266	389	68%
Canada	1241	1312	95%

All countries (Nationality of origin)	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
Cape Verde	4	9	44%
Central African Republic	1	1	100%
Chad	6	11	55%
Chile	67	78	86%
China	2943	4007	73%
Colombia	430	593	73%
Comoros	2	3	67%
Congo	32	86	37%
Costa Rica	15	18	83%
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	130	191	68%
Croatia	46	50	92%
Cuba	43	71	61%
Cyprus	96	115	83%
Czech Republic	213	229	93%
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	9	24	38%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	180	379	47%
Denmark	19	20	95%
Djibouti	4	5	80%
Dominica	21	33	64%
Dominican Republic	20	40	50%
Ecuador	75	128	59%
Egypt	437	652	67%
El Salvador	4	4	100%
Equatorial Guinea	1	2	50%
Eritrea	456	905	50%
Estonia	78	90	87%
Ethiopia	145	252	58%
Fiji	255	422	60%
Finland	36	42	86%
France	456	523	87%
French Guiana	0	0	
French Metropolitan	2	2	100%
French Southern Territories	0	0	
Gabon	5	5	100%
Gambia	330	607	54%
Georgia	93	120	78%
Germany	348	382	91%
Ghana	1631	2519	65%
Greece	423	466	91%
Grenada	52	110	47%
Guatemala	18	19	95%
Guinea	43	81	53%
Guinea-Bissau	4	6	67%

All countries (Nationality of origin)	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
Guyana	78	132	59%
Haiti	4	10	40%
Honduras	10	13	77%
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China	168	242	69%
Hungary	847	945	90%
Iceland	7	7	100%
India	12615	16994	74%
Indonesia	144	192	75%
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1173	1818	65%
Iraq	741	1494	50%
Ireland	92	97	95%
Israel	207	259	80%
Italy	724	787	92%
Jamaica	919	1877	49%
Japan	694	767	90%
Jordan	170	214	79%
Kampuchea	4	7	57%
Kazakhstan	122	139	88%
Kenya	788	1046	75%
Kiribati	2	2	100%
Kosovo Resident - UN Issued Travel document	116	266	44%
Kuwait	32	67	48%
Kyrgyzstan	43	58	74%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2	6	33%
Latvia	332	414	80%
Lebanon	169	249	68%
Lesotho	4	6	67%
Liberia	33	58	57%
Libya	68	144	47%
Liechtenstein	1	1	100%
Lithuania	304	374	81%
Luxembourg	4	4	100%
Macao Special Administrative Region of China	4	4	100%
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Rep of)	37	50	74%
Madagascar	0	1	0%
Malawi	232	325	71%
Malaysia	987	1172	84%
Maldives	9	9	100%
Mali	8	12	67%
Malta	25	25	100%

All countries (Nationality of origin)	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
Martinique	0	0	
Mauritania	1	2	50%
Mauritius	742	1120	66%
Mexico	263	282	93%
Mongolia	57	82	70%
Morocco	262	448	58%
Mozambique	7	13	54%
Myanmar	197	261	75%
Namibia	36	58	62%
Nationality Currently Unknown	2	2	100%
Nauru	0	0	
Nepal	2465	4264	58%
Netherlands	112	138	81%
Netherlands Antilles	0	0	
New Zealand	1472	1506	98%
Nicaragua	3	3	100%
Niger	15	17	88%
Nigeria	5295	7696	69%
Niue	0	0	
Norway	13	14	93%
Officially Stateless	5	7	71%
Oman	7	14	50%
Pakistan	8248	13503	61%
Palau	0	0	
Palestinian Authority	74	116	64%
Panama	8	8	100%
Papua New Guinea	4	5	80%
Paraguay	6	8	75%
Peru	115	140	82%
Philippines	2212	3758	59%
Poland	4738	5464	87%
Portugal	349	436	80%
Puerto Rico	0	0	
Qatar	0	0	
Refugee - Article 1 of the 1951 Convention	9	15	60%
Refugee - Other	3	7	43%
Rep of Moldova	45	63	71%
Republic of Korea	166	204	81%
Romania	1620	2039	79%
Russian Federation	1343	1502	89%
Rwanda	44	75	59%
Samoa	2	4	50%
Sao Torme & Principe	0	0	
Saudi Arabia	43	58	74%
Senegal	22	37	59%

All countries (Nationality of origin)	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
Serbia & Montenegro	168	208	81%
Seychelles	22	37	59%
Sierra Leone	295	543	54%
Singapore	207	216	96%
Slovakia	239	273	88%
Slovenia	19	19	100%
Solomon Islands	0	0	
Somalia	527	1110	47%
South Africa	4041	4567	88%
South Korea (Rep of Korea)	325	418	78%
Spain	282	316	89%
Sri Lanka	1681	2688	63%
St Kitts & Nevis	6	13	46%
St Lucia	101	162	62%
St Vincent & the Grenadines	96	149	64%
Stateless Person (Article 1 of 1954 Convention)	13	20	65%
Sudan	176	305	58%
Suriname	3	3	100%
Swaziland	19	23	83%
Sweden	84	98	86%
Switzerland	50	51	98%
Syria Arab Republic	179	269	67%
Taiwan (Republic of China)	185	199	93%
Tajikistan	14	19	74%
Tanzania	72	137	53%
Thailand	747	1846	40%
Timor-Leste	0	0	
Togo	18	28	64%
Tonga	4	7	57%
Trinidad & Tobago	255	326	78%
Tunisia	165	342	48%
Turkey	884	1803	49%
Turkish controlled area of Cyprus	1	6	17%
Turkmenistan	27	34	79%
Tuvalu	2	2	100%
Uganda	494	713	69%
Ukraine	590	754	78%
United Arab Emirates	5	6	83%
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	35	51	69%
United Nations	0	0	

All countries (Nationality of origin)	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
United Nations	0	0	
United Rep of Tanzania	115	170	68%
United States Minor Outlying Islands	0	0	
United States of America	4094	4272	96%
United States Virgin Islands	0	0	
Unspecified Nationality	9	9	100%
Uruguay	6	6	100%
Uzbekistan	105	151	70%
Vanuatu	0	0	
Venezuela	151	176	86%
Vietnam	234	393	60%
Western Sahara	0	0	
Yemen	62	131	47%
Zambia	258	384	67%
Zimbabwe	2087	3189	65%
TOTAL	90,838	129,092	70%

Source data: www.gov.uk - Knowledge of language and Life in the UK test results, 2009 to 2014, 30 April 2014
FOI release 30799

Life in the UK Test pass rates for those whose country of origin is outside of the European Union

All nationalities of origin excluding EU and British	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
Afghanistan	426	1052	40%
Albania	300	602	50%
Algeria	320	557	57%
American Samoa	0	0	
Andorra	0	0	
Angola	51	141	36%
Antigua & Barbuda	14	26	54%
Argentina	120	131	92%
Armenia	27	51	53%
Aruba	0	1	0%
Australia	2878	2961	97%
Azerbaijan	111	149	74%
Bahamas	9	10	90%
Bahrain	15	16	94%
Bangladesh	2103	4471	47%
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Belarus	178	211	84%
Belize	20	29	69%
Benin	9	14	64%
Bhutan	10	13	77%
Bolivia	66	122	54%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	39	51	76%
Botswana	46	65	71%
Brazil	951	1381	69%
Brunei Darussalam	12	12	100%
Burkina Faso	8	13	62%
Burundi	50	114	44%
Cambodia	6	12	50%
Cameroon	266	389	68%
Canada	1241	1312	95%
Cape Verde	4	9	44%
Central African Republic	1	1	100%
Chad	6	11	55%
Chile	67	78	86%
China	2943	4007	73%
Colombia	430	593	73%
Comoros	2	3	67%
Congo	32	86	37%
Costa Rica	15	18	83%
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	130	191	68%

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Democratic Republic of the Congo	180	379	47%
Djibouti	4	5	80%
Dominica	21	33	64%
Dominican Republic	20	40	50%
Ecuador	75	128	59%
Egypt	437	652	67%
El Salvador	4	4	100%
Equatorial Guinea	1	2	50%
Eritrea	456	905	50%
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Gabon	5	5	100%
Gambia	330	607	54%
Georgia	93	120	78%
Ghana	1631	2519	65%
Greece	423	466	91%
Guatemala	18	19	95%
Guinea	43	81	53%
Guinea-Bissau	4	6	67%
Guyana	78	132	59%
Haiti	4	10	40%
Honduras	10	13	77%
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Iceland	7	7	100%
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Kenya	788	1046	75%
Kiribati	2	2	100%
Kosovo Resident - UN Issued Travel document	116	266	44%
Kuwait	32	67	48%
Kyrgyzstan	43	58	74%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2	6	33%
Lebanon	169	249	68%
Lesotho	4	6	67%

All nationalities of origin excluding EU and British	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
Liberia	33	58	57%
Libya	68	144	47%
Liechtenstein	1	1	100%
Macao Special Administrative Region of China	4	4	100%
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Rep of)	37	50	74%
Madagascar	0	1	0%
Malawi	232	325	71%
Malaysia	987	1172	84%
Maldives	9	9	100%
Mali	8	12	67%
Martinique	0	0	
Mauritania	1	2	50%
Mauritius	742	1120	66%
Mexico	263	282	93%
Mongolia	57	82	70%
Morocco	262	448	58%
Mozambique	7	13	54%
Myanmar	197	261	75%
Namibia	36	58	62%
Nationality Currently Unknown	2	2	100%
Nauru	0	0	
Nepal	2465	4264	58%
Netherlands Antilles	0	0	
New Zealand	1472	1506	98%
Nicaragua	3	3	100%
Niger	15	17	88%
Nigeria	5295	7696	69%
Niue	0	0	
Norway	13	14	93%
Officially Stateless	5	7	71%
Oman	7	14	50%
Pakistan	8248	13503	61%
Palau	0	0	
Palestinian Authority	74	116	64%
Panama	8	8	100%
Papua New Guinea	4	5	80%
Paraguay	6	8	75%
Peru	115	140	82%
Philippines	2212	3758	59%
Puerto Rico	0	0	
Qatar	0	0	
Refugee - Article 1 of the 1951 Convention	9	15	60%
Refugee - Other	3	7	43%
Rep of Moldova	45	63	71%
Republic of Korea	166	204	81%

All nationalities of origin excluding EU and British	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
Russian Federation	1343	1502	89%
Rwanda	44	75	59%
Samoa	2	4	50%
Sao Tome & Principe	0	0	
Saudi Arabia	43	58	74%
Senegal	22	37	59%
Serbia & Montenegro	168	208	81%
Seychelles	22	37	59%
Sierra Leone	295	543	54%
Singapore	207	216	96%
Solomon Islands	0	0	
Somalia	527	1110	47%
South Africa	4041	4567	88%
South Korea (Rep of Korea)	325	418	78%
Sri Lanka	1681	2688	63%
St Kitts & Nevis	6	13	46%
St Lucia	101	162	62%
St Vincent & the Grenadines	96	149	64%
Stateless Person (Article 1 of 1954 Convention)	13	20	65%
Sudan	176	305	58%
Suriname	3	3	100%
Swaziland	19	23	83%
Switzerland	50	51	98%
Syria Arab Republic	179	269	67%
Taiwan (Republic of China)	185	199	93%
Tajikistan	14	19	74%
Tanzania	72	137	53%
Thailand	747	1846	40%
Timor-Leste	0	0	
Togo	18	28	64%
Tonga	4	7	57%
Trinidad & Tobago	255	326	78%
Tunisia	165	342	48%
Turkey	884	1803	49%
Turkish controlled area of Cyprus	1	6	17%
Turkmenistan	27	34	79%
Tuvalu	2	2	100%
Uganda	494	713	69%
Ukraine	590	754	78%
United Arab Emirates	5	6	83%
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	35	51	69%
United Nations	0	0	

All nationalities of origin excluding EU and British	Number of Life in the UK test passes (April 2013 to February 2014)	Total number of Life in the UK Tests taken (April 2013 to February 2014)	Pass Rate (%)
United Nations	0	0	
United Rep of Tanzania	115	170	68%
United States Minor Outlying Islands	0	0	
United States of America	4094	4272	96%
United States Virgin Islands	0	0	
Unspecified Nationality	9	9	100%
Uruguay	6	6	100%
Uzbekistan	105	151	70%
Vanuatu	0	0	
Venezuela	151	176	86%
Vietnam	234	393	60%
Western Sahara	0	0	
Yemen	62	131	47%
Zambia	258	384	67%
Zimbabwe	2087	3189	65%
TOTAL	78,464	114,585	68%

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FOI release 30799

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