

FAMILY IMMIGRATION RULES WEB STORY:

More partner and parent visa applicants are now required to meet the A1 English language requirement.

The exemption for applicants who are long term residents of countries with no approved A1 English test was withdrawn from 24 July 2014.

This means that if you are resident in a country with no approved A1 English test, you will now be expected to travel to another country to take the test.

You will only be exempt from the requirement if you can prove that it is not 'practicable or reasonable' for you to do so.

If you are seeking exemption for this reason you will need to provide a detailed explanation with your visa application. You should provide details of the steps you have taken to take an A1 English test and include any supporting evidence.

Applications for exemption for this reason will be considered on a case by case basis.

If your application is granted you will still need to meet the requirement when you apply for further leave in the UK, unless you are exempt for another reason (for example, if you are 65 or over).

The Home Office is working with approved providers to offer A1 tests in countries where they are not currently available. You should check if an approved A1 test is available in your country before you apply for exemption.

The exemption will continue to apply to partner and parent visa applications made by 14 August 2014 by long term residents of the following countries:

Brunei Darussalam	Kiribati
Burkina Faso	Liberia
Cape Verde	Madagascar
Central African Republic	Rwanda
Chad	Samoa
Comoros	Sao Tome Principe
Congo	Seychelles
Democratic Republic of Congo	Sierra Leone
Equatorial Guinea	Somalia
Eritrea	Swaziland
Guinea- Bissau	Togo
Haiti	Turkmenistan
Ivory Coast	Wallis and Futuna Islands

Revised Home Office guidance on the English language requirement can be found at: [English language requirement guidance](#)

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