



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Court Language Access Services

How to Study for the Written Exam Summary

This video is going to give you some ideas on how to study for the exam, not what to study for the exam. We can't tell you the exact words or terms that are going to be on the test, but we can give you some tips on how to study and suggestions on how to take multiple choice tests.

The first tip is to time your study sessions. Most people can study for 90 minutes to two-hours before they no longer retain information. Find a time of day that works well for you to study, decide how long you will study each time you sit down, and stick to your plan. Staying up all night to study the night before the exam will not be useful here.

Our next tip is to focus your study on what you don't know. The exam is broken into two parts. Part one is general language proficiency with a particular focus on synonyms, antonyms and idioms. Part two is court terms and phrases and court interpreter ethics. If English is your first language, but you have not had much experience with court, then you may want to spend your time reviewing court terms. On the other hand, if English is not your first language, but you have some experience with court either by virtue of your job or attending court with others, than you may want to spend more time studying for the English proficiency part of the exam.

The Written Exam is a multiple choice test, and there are some key tips for taking multiple choice tests:

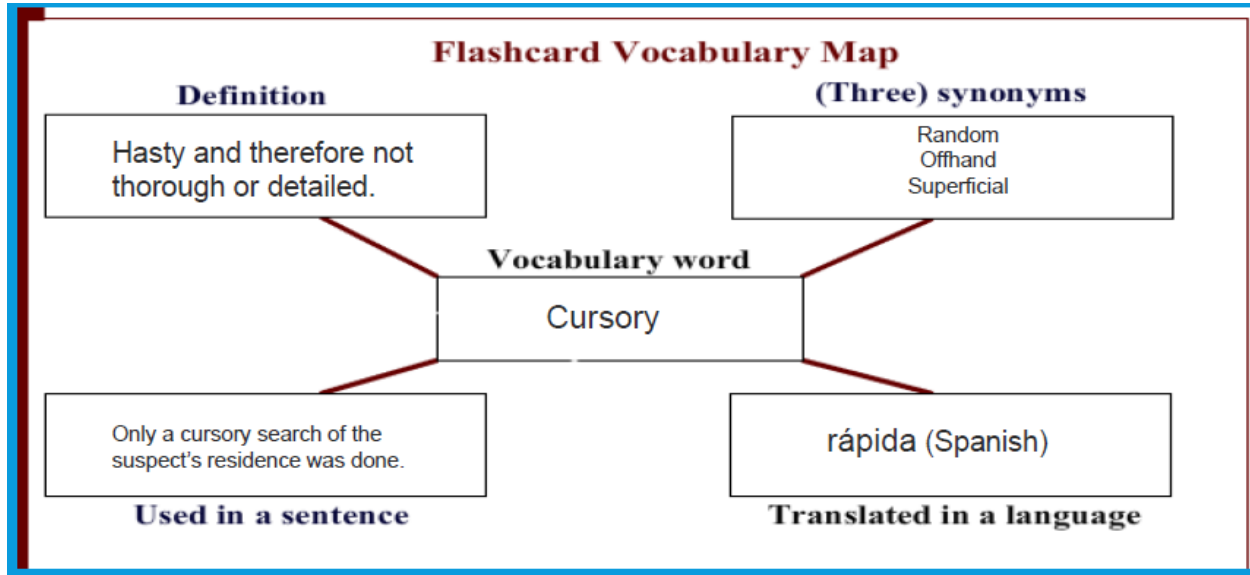
- Read the entire question before you look at the answer options. You can't answer the question properly if you don't understand what it is asking.
- Read all of the answers before you choose an answer. Sometimes there are two answers that are similar, so you want to make sure to read through all of the options before answering.
- Cross out the answers that you know are wrong. Generally, there is always one, if not two answers that you know are wrong. Once you have identified those, you can narrow your options down to three or four.
- Take an educated guess. Look at your remaining answer options, if you aren't 100% sure about the answer, read the question again and try to make a guess based on what the question is asking.
- Trust your gut. If you are unsure about the answer, but your gut is telling you that one answer is better than another, trust that intuition and choose the answer that you feel is best.
- Answer all of the questions! Even if you don't know the answer at all, mark an answer, you will have a one-in-four chance of getting it right. If you don't answer at all, you will get it wrong.

Although this is not a vocabulary test, studying vocabulary can help you prepare. A flashcard vocabulary map is one way to study vocabulary. First, you start with the vocabulary word you want to focus on. Then you look for a definition for the word. Next, find three synonyms for the word, and then use the word in a sentence. Finally, translate the word into the non-English



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Court Language Access Services

language. Even though this is an English exam, translating the word into the non-English language will help you once you start studying for the Oral Exam. Here is a sample vocabulary map:



We have other written exam study resources on our website.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office:

Email: court.interpreter.program@ojd.state.or.us

Phone: 503.731.3283