



Upcoming Dates:

[CLAS Online
Calendar](#)

Program Updates

- Due to COVID-19 concerns, the October 16th Oral Exam has been postponed until April 2022. More details will be shared as they become available.
- The final Pop-Up Shop for 2021 will be in Mid-October. Watch for an email invite at the beginning of the month.
- The Written Exam is scheduled for November 6th. Registration will open September 27th.

Preparing for the Oral Exam—Part II

In this two-part series, we are going to present study tips and tricks for the Oral Exam, compiled by CLAS staff interpreter, Chantal Portillo.

The way you study will make a difference. Follow the premise “less (material) is more (effective).” This is good news regarding buying study materials, for it’s proven that it is more profitable to do one exercise five times than to do five exercises one time. The OJD does not have a contract with [Acebo](#) publications but several certified interpreters have used their materials to study for the Oral Exam.

Interpreting is technique and muscle memory. Repeating an exercise as many times as needed to get it perfect is the ultimate way to study. But perfect is almost impossible, so aim to repeat an exercise at least two times.

The study approach for the sight, consecutive and simultaneous portions of the exam is different for each mode. Note that recording yourself and listening to your recording afterwards is the most important step in the process of improving your interpreting technique regardless of the mode.

For sight translation one hour per exercise should be enough. First, read the text calmly once through for meaning. Take your time in this first step. Next, sight translate the text while you record yourself. Finally, listen to your recording, take notes on your errors and look them up. Repeat this process two to three times, or until you feel you have mastered the vocabulary in the text.

For simultaneous one hour per exercise should be enough. Don’t read the script before you start interpreting. Interpret the exercise while you record yourself. Once you are finished, listen to yourself and mark the script of the exercise with the omissions, additions, and errors in interpretation you detect. Once this is done, go back and repeat the exercise at least two more times, or until you feel you have overcome the challenges the exercise poses.

For consecutive you will need two hours per exercise. This is not only because the consecutive exercises are at least double in length compared to the simultaneous exercises, but also because this mode requires at least double the time to interpret since both languages are being used. The procedure will be the same as with the sight and simultaneous modes. Go into the exercise cold. Interpret while you record yourself. Go back and listen to your recording while you follow the script and single out errors in interpretation, while also paying attention to omissions and additions.

Given the time needed for each mode it makes sense to dedicate one day to sight and simultaneous practice, and another to consecutive practice. Be aware of which mode you need more practice in to decide how to divide your time, but make sure you practice all modes at least once a week. This is a very challenging exam, and you need all the practice you can get! All modes are crucial to your success!

[Click here if you missed Part I or if you want to re-read it.](#)