



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Court Language Access Services

Written Exam Overview Summary

The Written Exam is a 135-question multiple choice test. The test is taken on a scantron sheet. You have two hours and 15 minutes to complete the exam, meaning you can average about one minute per question and finish on time. The exam is only focused on English proficiency so there is no translation or non-English component. You need to score an 80% to pass, so you need to answer at least 108 of the 135 items correctly to get a passing score.

The Written Exam will ask you questions about basic English vocabulary - synonyms, antonyms, and idioms. You will also see questions about words and phrases you hear in court, steps in the court process, and situations that court interpreters face in court – what we call interpreter ethics.

The exam is broken into two parts. Part I is general language proficiency. There are nine sentence completion questions, eight synonyms in context questions, 21 synonyms questions, 12 antonyms questions, and 25 questions on idioms.

For sentence completion, you will be given a phrase and you will need to finish the sentence. For example:

- If a person is terrified of spiders, then they are _____.
- A. Calm
 - B. Fascinated
 - C. Afraid**
 - D. excited

On the synonyms in context questions, you will need to choose the word that means something similar to the underlined word. For example:

- The family is planning a vacation this summer.
- A. Wedding
 - B. Trip**
 - C. Picnic
 - D. Party

There are 21 questions on synonyms, the second highest question count in part one. Here you just need to choose the word that means something similar to the underlined word. For example:

- Sofa
- A. Couch**
 - B. Carpet
 - C. Bed
 - D. Door



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Antonyms come directly after the synonym questions, and you need to be careful here because in this section you are looking for words that have the opposite meaning to the underlined word. For example:

- Hot
A. Spicy
B. Warm
C. Flat
D. Cold

The final section, and the one with the most questions is about idioms. Idioms can be tricky because an idiom doesn't mean exactly what the words say, but it makes sense because you hear it all the time. For example:

- Do you need to make a pit stop before we get there?
A. Get some money
B. Empty the trash
C. Go to the bathroom
D. Change the tire

In part one you are going to be picking the answer that means the same, or is the best way to complete the sentence, or that means the opposite.

Part II of the exam is all about court related terms, and how interpreters should act in court. There are 36 questions about sentence completion, 10 court related questions, four sequence of events questions, two professional conduct questions and eight ethical scenarios.

For sentence completion, again you are given a sentence and you will need to choose the answer that best completes the sentence. For example:

- A jury should be made up of the defendant's
A. family
B. friends
C. co-workers
D. peers

Court related questions are questions about court. You will be given a question, and you need to choose the correct answer. For example:

- Which of the following is a crime?
A. sleeping on the job
B. walking in the rain
C. calling in sick
D. robbing a bank



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Sequence of events questions are asking you about the correct order of events that happen in a court process. For example:

Which of the following is the correct sequence of events?

- A. opening arguments, witness testimony, picking the jury, jury instructions
- B. picking the jury, opening arguments, jury instructions, witness testimony
- C. picking the jury, jury instructions, opening arguments, witness testimony**
- D. jury instructions, picking the jury, witness testimony, opening arguments

Professional conduct questions are questions about the way an interpreter would behave professionally in court. you may have to answer as an interpreter about court interpreting. For example:

If you don't understand one of the words that the person you are interpreting for said you should:

- A. wait for the person to finish speaking and ask them to repeat the word**
- B. skip the word entirely
- C. take a guess
- D. interrupt the speaker right away and ask them to repeat the word

Ethical scenarios are giving you a situation that you may face in court and you have to decide how you would respond to that situation. For example:

You are in court and the person you are interpreting for asks you if they should plead guilty. What should you do?

- A. Tell them what you think they should do
- B. Interpret the question out loud so that people in the courtroom can hear it
- C. Offer to get their attorney and interpret for them**
- D. Refer them to legal aid

In part II you are going to be picking the answer that completes the sentence in the best way, that lists the right order of steps in a process, is the best answer to a question, or is the best way to solve a problem.

We have other written exam study resources on our website.

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

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