

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH COURT INTERPRETER WRITTEN QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
TRANSLATION COMPONENT

What is the Translation Component?

The translation component of the written qualifying examination consists of 5 short passages in English. The candidate should write a translation into the other language(s) for which he or she is a candidate.

Sample Items on the Translation Component

1. To request this form, list your full name, date of birth, address, and marital status. Then the staff will have all the information needed to grant your request.
2. The child was confused when the car she was riding in was suddenly stopped by the police. The police told her mother that they were looking for a gang member who had snitched on his friends, then escaped from prison.
3. The department's web site includes all the information that eligible parents need to apply for assistance. Select an item on the page to see more details.
4. Six months ago, someone called the hotline and reported that John and Mary Doe were involved in selling drugs. Authorities investigated and found witnesses and other evidence to support charges of sale of narcotics.
5. Citizens of the United States are called upon to serve as members of a jury. It is both a responsibility and a privilege to participate in a trial as a juror.

Why a Translation Component is a Part of our Exam

Interpreters in Connecticut Superior Courts interpret (speak), but must also be prepared to translate (write) items into and from English and their other language(s) as a part of their daily responsibilities. Since documents associated with legal proceedings have important consequences for the parties, and the Connecticut Judicial Branch is committed to providing meaningful access to the courts for individuals with limited English proficiency, these written translations must accurately convey the complete meaning of the original written passages, without additions, omissions, or distortions.

How to Successfully Complete the Translation Component

1. Please write or print legibly. If we cannot read an item, we must mark it as incorrect.
2. Please write just one translation for an item. If you write more than one, we will grade only the last one.
3. If you need more space to complete your translation, use the back of the page.

How the Translation Component is Graded

- Accuracy and completeness of chosen units of meaning within each passage (not word for word).
- Correct general and legal vocabulary (the legal vocabulary used in the component includes only words or phrases found in broadly available printed and online materials.) Often, there are several correct options for the translation of a given unit.
- Correct or acceptable grammar and syntax in the language in which it is written.
- Correct spelling.
- Correct placement of accents and other diacritical marks, if applicable.
- Correct use of verb tenses, including the subjunctive, if applicable.

Upon a candidate's request, the grader's comments on how the candidate can improve performance on the translation component can be provided by phone.