

**CIOL Qualifications Diploma in Public Service Interpreting  
Written Assessors Report - November 2022**

<p>LANGUAGE: Albanian PATHWAY(S): English Law/Health</p>
<p><b>Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.</b></p> <p>The performance overall for the Written Units (Units 4 &amp; 5) was better in this exam series. Some candidates' translations had inaccuracies, but they did not lead to direct misunderstanding. They made adequate use of vocabulary and displayed no major faults in punctuation with only some errors in specialist terminology. However there was an issue of too much paraphrasing this session. Also some candidates made quite a few errors and omissions which made some texts difficult to read.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations to Centres</b></p> <p>Ensure the candidates know the rules of over paraphrasing and have them practise going over their translations to check for errors and/or omissions.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations to Candidates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentrate more on learning, revising and getting used to specialist terminology in the Pathway you have chosen.</li> <li>• Also be aware of your knowledge of vocabulary and try to expand this with, speaking, reading, listening and writing more in Albanian.</li> <li>• These exams are not easy to pass if your only skill is being bilingual. You should embark on a course to train you to be a good interpreter and translator.</li> <li>• Paraphrasing should not be relied upon too much.</li> </ul>
<p>LANGUAGE: Arabic PATHWAY(S): English Law/Health</p>
<p><b>Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.</b></p> <p>Most of the candidates need to improve their English and Arabic knowledge and proficiency levels, as I found many mistakes in spelling and grammar, in addition to the omissions, inaccuracies, distortions, and mistranslations.  Most of the candidates had difficulty with the English and Arabic source texts which showed that they should make more effort to improve their understanding of the specialist terminology, coherence, cohesion, syntax, structure, and style of complex sentences, so that they will be able to translate accurately, adequately and appropriately.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations to Centres</b></p> <p>Centres should make sure that all candidates have had enough practice of translating and typing accurately in the specialist area before attempting Units 4 &amp; 5.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations to Candidates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates are advised to be exposed more to the legal/medical jargon in English and Arabic, so that they improve their style and structure of complex sentences when translating, and accurately rendering specialist terminology.</li> </ul>

- Candidates can also download proofing programmes/software that could help reduce their spelling/grammar mistakes. However, these cannot be used during an exam so do not become reliant on them.

LANGUAGE: Farsi  
PATHWAY(S): English Law

#### Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.

In total, five candidates sat for Units 4 and 5 (writing units) in this round. A mixture of marks were allocated depending on the accuracy of performance. However, none of the candidates managed to pass both papers on this occasion.

Overall, the language skills demonstrated regarding written parts were not sufficiently adequate. The lack of specialist terminology and awareness of key terms in relation to the subject matter was common, and except for a couple of instances, the majority of candidates did not demonstrate adequate knowledge and use of the key terms.

This shortcoming resulted in a lack of coherence and ineffective communication that made the translations ineffective and unreliable in real life. The performance in Unit 4 (FARSI into ENGLISH) was stronger.

However, making fatal errors was a key element resulting in lower marks being given.

Another weakness observed during this round of exams was a lack of typing skills which resulted in the incompleteness of the papers within the time. Nevertheless, no candidate was penalised solely due to a lack of typing skills.

#### Recommendations to Centres

It is essential candidates are at the correct level (level 5 written and level 6 oral), before attempting this exam. Practising with past papers and with each other is crucial. Candidates should prepare their own glossaries and word banks and ensure a good knowledge of specialist terminology. Also, they should be practising typing in both English and Farsi.

#### Recommendations to Candidates

A couple of this year's candidates were not prepared sufficiently to the level of the exam. Being bilingual is not enough to attempt to take and pass the DPSI. This is a Level 6 qualification and as such requires a certain amount of knowledge in both source and target language, in addition to translation/interpreting skills. Therefore, the candidates preparation for the exam is an essential element.

Taking on the Preparation courses (and working with a group), using online self-study courses and trying mock exams could be considered as some steps to prepare for the actual exam.

Reading A level materials, preparing a word bank and terminology notebooks or reference materials along with ample revision revising is another step to help prepare for the actual exam.

Considering the structure of the DPSI exam in a changing world, becoming familiarised with IT and, in particular, improving typing skills is another task for the candidates to practise to help cope with the exams, including the time limit.

LANGUAGE: Mandarin/Cantonese  
PATHWAY(S): English Law/Health

#### Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.

The overall performance was excellent in both Mandarin and Cantonese in both pathways, most especially in Units 04 and 05 where the candidates have achieved good marks.

I did notice that for the Cantonese the candidates did not write in the formal Chinese for Unit 5, although the meaning was still able to be delivered.

#### Recommendations to Centres

Please ensure your candidates understand and are trained in the skills required to be an interpreter. Also giving time for candidates to practise under exam conditions is a good idea. There are past papers that can be used for this available on the CIOL website.

Candidates should also become more familiar with specialist terminology.

### **Recommendations to Candidates**

The candidates should all take formal training on both interpreting and translation skills and how to act as a professional interpreter before taking the exam. They need to become familiar with the specialist terminology in both areas.

Practising the above is essential and will help greatly when it comes to taking the exams.

Since the exams have now fully moved to online, the candidates should check their internet connection before the exam and become familiar with the Teams application.

**LANGUAGE:** Polish

**PATHWAY(S):** English Law/Health

### **Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.**

Overall, the candidates were well prepared and displayed a good knowledge of specialist terminology. They also showed a good knowledge of English grammar. Some of the grammatical errors, e.g. wrong tenses used and the lack of articles, were clearly due to lack of attention. It is important to read the text carefully and pay attention to details when translating documents.

When marking, I also noticed that the candidates' knowledge of English specialist terminology is more advanced than that of Polish specialist terminology. Some candidates struggled with choosing the right vocabulary which suggested that their level of vocabulary is limited. I suggest therefore, that candidates study by reading Polish newspapers and listening to Polish news on TV or online to build up a bank of useful terminology.

I have written in previous reports that the lack of Polish alphabet in a document looks very unprofessional. The diacritic marks of Polish are not there just for aesthetic reasons - they are an intrinsic aspect of the orthography. There are quite a few pairs of words in Polish where the only difference in meaning is the presence or lack of a diacritic marks.

There are candidates who still haven't installed Polish diacritical signs. This is considered as unacceptable. The DPSI is a professional examination at degree level, so it is important to produce a translation which is clear, coherent, reads well and looks professional.

### **Recommendations to Centres**

Centres should place greater emphasis on their candidates' knowledge of Other Language specialist terminology and please point out to the candidates that they ought to download their languages' alphabets.

### **Recommendations to Candidates**

In order to pass the DPSI examination candidates must have a good command of the structures in both languages. I also recommend that the candidates read more good quality writing in their target language in order to expand their range of vocabulary. In preparing for this exam, candidates are advised to practise their examination skills and be able to apply their knowledge and skills in an exam context. Please install the correct alphabet.

LANGUAGE: Russian  
PATHWAY(S): English Law

### Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.

Many of the difficulties candidates encountered stemmed from inadequate command of specialist terminology, inadequate understanding of (or insufficient attention to), the context, and how to translate these in a way that a Russian reader would understand. A legal document must be translated with precision and accuracy, as people will act upon the information conveyed.

Mistranslated terminology: In one paper "restraining order" was translated as "warrant of arrest". "Children of the relationship" was in one paper translated as "children of relatives"; "either party" was translated as "both parties". "Family Court" was translated literally as "семейный суд", but the Russian term is "суд по семейным делам".

Legal terms that presented difficulty: "forthwith", as in "...the defendant has been sentenced to a total of 12 months of imprisonment forthwith".

One sentence in particular presented exceptional difficulty: "The court is satisfied that it is necessary and proportionate to make this order having considered all the circumstances of this case". Here it is necessary to be familiar with Russian syntax and change the word order accordingly.

Grammar: What may look like small mistakes can generate a significant difference in meaning in Russian. Candidates should pay close attention to word endings. For example, "witness intimidation" was translated in one paper as "intimidation of witnesses". "Threat to kill" was translated with the wrong case ending (should be instrumental, not genitive). "Acts of violence or harassment" was translated as "acts of violence and harassment".

Cohesive devices: Candidates found it difficult to translate small cohesive devices, and in some case ignored them: "except", "without such an order", "in addition", "any", "the following". These all look like simple, familiar words, but in a specific context they carry precise and significant meaning. Thus, in one paper the term "found guilty of the following offences" was translated as "found guilty of the offences that will follow".

Words and phrases omitted: "served by hand", "in total of".

### Recommendations to Centres

Please ensure candidates are ready for the examination. Practise is very important most especially the use of specialist legal terminology and the proper use of the Russian language in certain circumstances.

### Recommendations to Candidates

The results suggest that some candidates were not fully prepared and ready to take this exam. There is a tendency to assume that if you have a good mastery of conversational Russian, this skill transfers easily into professional translation and interpreting, this is not the case.

It is important to master Russian legal terminology and to be familiar with Russian legal practice. English legal practice differs markedly from that in Russia, but the latter will generally be the frame of reference through which the Russian speaker will understand your translation. Therefore it is important to know how to convey equivalence between the two sets of terminology. One good way to master this is to look at some basic accounts of Russian court cases. For example, know the difference between обвиняемый (defendant), приговоренный, подсудимый, заключенный, виновный.

Useful sites:

<https://www.bbc.com/russian>

<https://www.svoboda.org/>  
<https://procrf.ru/>

Pay attention to prefixes and particles: **при/пре; не/ни; не** as part of the word and **не** as a separate word.  
Pay attention to "ы" and "и".

Make sure the Russian words you are using actually exist.

**LANGUAGE:** Spanish  
**PATHWAY(S):** English Law

#### **Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.**

There were some fine examples of specialist terminology, such as "domicilio social", "Registro Mercantil", "constituir una empresa", "portfolio", "Orden de Alejamiento emitida a tenor de lo establecido en" but also frequent use of false friends which hindered and distorted the transfer of informational content. Some examples include "ofensa" as offence, "Act" as Acta.

There were also instances found of made up words and untranslated terms, such as "creditora" instead of acreedora, "puntos penales" for penalty points, "venture" as aventura, "encoragen" for encourage, "nómina" as nominal fee.

Some candidates had insufficient language skills to decode the message and produce a meaningful text.

There were also examples of inadequate command of vocabulary, specialist terminology, grammar and syntax. Errors in prepositions, lack of number agreement, omissions, spelling and accentuation.

Decoding and encoding errors in technical terms and also in more general lexis hindered accuracy and lowered the register.

#### **Recommendations to Centres**

Centres should ensure candidates have practised throughout their courses and training. There is a vast difference between speaking a language and the ability to accurately translate on behalf of a third party. If possible, candidates should practise with each other, with a tutor to feedback on their performance.

#### **Recommendations to Candidates**

- Study past examination papers.
- Keep your knowledge up-to-date of current issues in the UK, particularly in the subjects of specialisation.
- Read the source text very carefully and try to identify key phrases, hidden "traps" and complicated clauses. Never attempt to start translating without this "workout" first.
- Beware of false friends/cognates.
- Do not think that translating allows you to use awkward expressions you would never use as a native speaker.
- Make sure that you use the appropriate register at all times.
- Be faithful to the original.
- Candidates/Translators must "read" the translated text with the eyes of a third party, without reference to the source in order to assess their translation in an objective way.
- Do not assume that a few years spent in the UK mean that you have automatically acquired enough linguistic and cultural knowledge to pass the written component of the DPSI.