

Associate Level Translation Examination

Marker's Guide

1. Introductory Remarks

The instructions are based on the principles of the national Certification Examination.

The Examination Coordinator provides the candidate's examination file, which consists of:

- Marker's Guide
- Marker's Agreement
- Original text
- Associate-level translation examination and list of references used by the candidate.
- Deduction Summary Sheet

2. General Guidelines

Marker assessment is independent. Marker results will be averaged with the ones of the second independent marker. Marker's are asked to discuss the translation with the other marker.

Upon conferring with each other, the markers' deductions, and the areas of error they have identified should be more or less consistent with each other. While the assessments do not need to be identical, they do need to reflect consistency in terms of following the rubric and deductions for the same errors that have been identified should not be different.

3. Preparation

1. Markers are to consider the circumstances under which the candidates translated the text:
 - They had two hours to translate the text.
 - They had no access to electronic resources; they were allowed to use paper-based dictionaries (a list of reference material is included in the candidate's package).
 - They are expected to prepare an acceptable translation that would require minimal revision.
2. Translate the original text. When you translate, please follow these guidelines:
 - a. Avoid using electronic resources, in order to mimic the candidate's examination situation.
 - b. Consider the list of dictionaries used by the candidate as a reference material. This will give you a good idea of the limited resources the candidate used to write the exam.
 - c. If you need to consult the internet to understand and/or translate the text properly, please keep this in mind when you evaluate the text, as the candidate didn't have access to extra-linguistic information available online.
3. Evaluate the translation as follows:
 - d. Use your translation as a reference to assess the candidate's exam, keeping in mind the difficulties you found without the internet.

4. Marking Guidelines

Assess fidelity, and language grammar and usage.

1. Semantic (Fidelity)

The translation must clearly transmit the message of the original text, and must be free of omissions and mistranslations. Use the following table to determine the points to be deducted under this category:

Currently deduct 5 for extremely serious issues such as meaningless translation.

Type of error	Points deducted
Meaningless translation of an entire sentence	5
Omission of a sentence or title	5
Spelling mistake changing the meaning of text	2-3
Omission of a word	2-3

Examples: Mistranslation in varying degrees. Deduct from 1 point for incorrect shade of meaning to 5 points for meaningless translation.

SOURCE: ...she was the oldest of ten children.

TARGET: ... she was the youngest of three children.

Mistranslation of phrase - Deduct 5 points

SOURCE: This rate appears to be one of the highest in the world.

TARGET: This rate appears to be the highest in the world.

Omission - Deduct 2 points

2. Language Grammar and Usage

The translation must be written with clarity and correctness, following all grammar rules and conventions of the target language.

Type of error	Points deducted
Grammatical (mechanics, sentence structure, punctuation)	3
Language usage (word order, verb tense, subject-verb agreement)	3
Spelling mistake making sentence syntactically incorrect	4
Spelling (unless it changes the meaning of the text) Deduct only for the first instance	2-3

Reward exceptionally good solutions, and encourage non-literal translations (add from 2 to 5 points).

Syntactical Examples: Errors in usage - barbarism (word that doesn't exist), spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.; some of these can also be considered semantic errors. Deduct from 1 point for minor spelling or punctuation errors to 3 points for more serious usage errors.

SOURCE: The tenets of this idea...

TARGET: The tenants of this idea...

Spelling mistake that changes meaning - Deduct 3 points

SOURCE: He will come, regardless of who else is there

TARGET: He will come, irregardless of who else is there.

Barbarism - Deduct 1 point

3. Style

Incoherence, ambiguity, literality, awkwardness, unnecessary repetition, verbosity. Deduct from 1 point for verbosity or repetition to 5 points for incoherence or extreme clumsiness.

TARGET: An environmental protection agency has singled out three effects of community noise: effects on hearing, effects on communication and effects on general well-being.

Repetition - Deduct 2 points

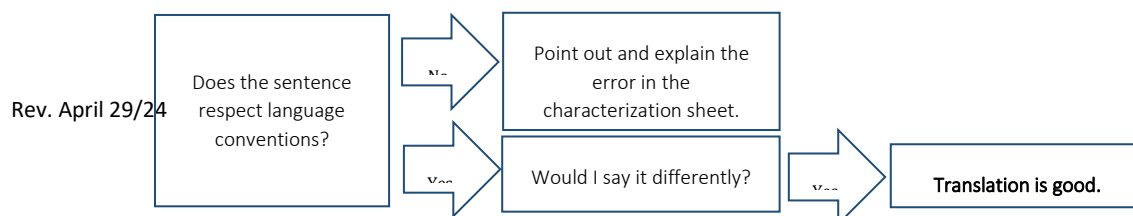
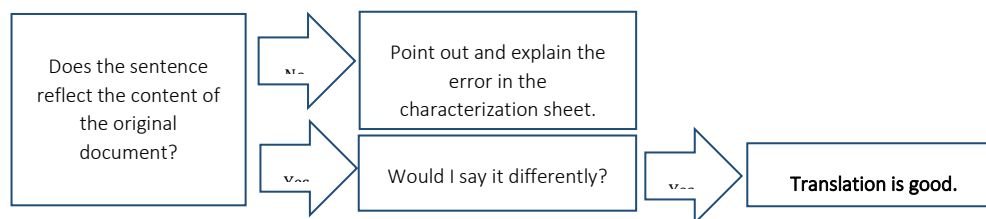
TARGET: Food aid can certainly not eliminate a structural phenomenon of dependance.

Literality - Deduct 3 points

Style is what sets a person's writing apart and makes it unique. Style **must not** be considered as a mistranslation or a grammar error. Don't confuse language conventions or usage for style. Language conventions are the surface features of writing (mechanics, usage, sentence formation, punctuation), and language usage refers to the convention of written language (word order, verb tense, subject-verb agreement).

Style is not a reason for penalizing a translation. As long as the candidate renders the message of the translation and respects the language usage and conventions, the translation should be considered suitable. If you consider that the translator didn't respect language usage and conventions, please explain your reasoning objectively.

Sometimes it's difficult to discern whether we're dealing with a mistranslation or a matter of style. If you find something that doesn't "feel quite right," and you're tempted to mark a sentence as a mistranslation, please use the following chart:



5. Mark the Translation

The marked examination will be returned to the candidate if they FAIL the exam. If they PASS, they will receive a letter notifying them of their results along with any specific comments from the markers, not a copy of the marked examination.

ATI's Council