

## ATIA Code of Ethics Sample Questions

### Case Study Sample:

#### Instructions:

1. Read the “Statement of Facts”
2. Identify **3** of the breaches of the Code of Ethics contained in the **STATEMENT OF FACTS**.
3. For each infraction:
  - a) Quote the article breached with sub-sections and/or clauses [e.g. Art 2.4 (a)]
  - b) Identify the action that constituted the breach: What did the translator do? State the fact, e.g. “The translator called a colleague incompetent.”
  - c) Suggest an alternative behaviour, i.e. what would have been an alternative course of action in compliance with the Code?

**References:** ATIA Code of Ethics [without any notes or marks on it]

#### Marking:

- 2 points for each correctly identified article (no points given if quote is not specific)
- 2 points for identifying the factual violation
- 4 points for the behaviour alternative
- 2 points for language: Language errors that impact comprehension or reduce clarity will affect your mark.

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John McMillan grew up in Brazil. His mother is from Spain and his father is from Scotland. He speaks Brazilian Portuguese, learned Spanish from his mother and English from his father. He studied three terms of biology at university in Sao Paulo but did not finish his degree. John recently passed the ATIA associate-level exam in the language combination English into Portuguese.

Since he only recently moved to Alberta and does not have an office yet, John usually works at the public library where he uses the library’s computers. \*1 Last Wednesday, when working at the library, he received a phone call and went outside for a while. When he returned, another user had taken over his computer. John got upset and started arguing with the other person. This resulted in his removal from the library. He now shares a computer with his roommate at their apartment.

On Thursday, \*2 his advertisement appears in the local paper.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Portuguese/Spanish/English Translation Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• business and immigration</li><li>• technical and legal</li><li>• We’ll beat our competitors’ prices by 5%</li></ul> <p>Call for free estimates: 965-123-4567</p>
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Friday he receives a call from a new immigrant, requiring certified translations of work references from Portuguese to English for his residency application. John accepts the work. The client leaves his originals with him. John puts the originals on a pile of other papers on the desk he shares with his roommate. \*3 While John is out shopping, the roommate comes back and shreds all the old bills on the shared desk, John’s client’s documents included. When John returns from shopping, he notices that the original documents are missing. \*4 He then calls his client and says that he never received the documents. He asks his client to bring him the papers. His client believes he lost the documents on the way.

Articles breached in the above:

- \*1 Art. 11 unsecure working conditions
- \*2 Art. 3.1, 2.5a, 3.2
- \*3 Art. 4.5
- \*4 Art. 10.2

### **Samples: Multiple Choice Questions**

A court interpreter for English and Arabic gets called to interpret at a refugee hearing.

The respondent tells the judge that he lived in a village where a lot of fighting was going on. He tells the judge that his entire family got killed. When the judge asks the interpreter to sight-translate the ID, the card indicates that the respondent lived in a part of the country where there was no fighting.

What should the interpreter do to avoid a violation of the Code of Ethics?

- a) Interpret the ID card and say nothing else.
- b) Tell the judge that the respondent is lying.
- c) Tell the respondent that he knows he is lying.
- d) Refuse to do any further interpretation in this hearing.
- e) Wait until after the hearing and tell the judge about the lie.

Correct answer: a

A medical interpreter is called to an examination of an older gentleman at a hospital. The patient understands no English. In the room are the patient, the physician, a nurse, and the interpreter. During the examination, the doctor says to the nurse, "He's an old drunk. I'd be surprised if he survives the year."

What should the interpreter do?

- a) Tell the patient, "The doctor is worried about you."
- b) Say, "The doctor thinks you drink too much alcohol."
- c) Say, "The doctor asked the nurse to bring something."
- d) Say, "He's an old drunk. I'd be surprised if he survives the year."
- e) Say nothing.

Correct answer: d

A member of ATIA who calls another member of ATIA "the worst translator ever" violates the following provisions of ATIA's Code of Ethics:

- a) Art. 5 + Art 4.1
- b) Art. 2.4b + Art. 20.1d
- c) Art. 4.6 + Art. 17.1
- d) Art. 18.3 + 2.5a
- e) Art. 20.2 + Art 2.4a

Correct answer: b