

More information about ATA certification

A Guide to ATA Certification (general information about the certification program and exam, including how to register for the exam)

http://atanet.org/certification/aboutcert_overview.php#1

Exam grading

Exams are evaluated on the basis of these criteria:

Does the translation demonstrate compliance with the specifications of the Translation Instructions?

- The translation is usable and intelligible in the specified context.
- Register, style, and wording match comparable documents written in the target language.

Does the translation demonstrate understanding of the overall content, purpose, and argument of the examination passage?

- Attention to and understanding of the topic are used to help solve challenges and arrive at a correct rendering.
- Attention to and understanding of the topic help the candidate use dictionaries competently.
- Everything integral to the source text is included in the target text and nothing that is not implicitly or explicitly stated by the author is added.
- Accurate analysis of the source text ensures that the target text reflects the view, argument, or presented information on all levels (text, sentence, and word).

Does the translation demonstrate competent familiarity with translation strategies of various kinds?

- View, argument, and information are presented appropriately for the target culture.
- Syntax is appropriate to the target language; the target text does not necessarily imitate the sentence structure of the source text.
- Idioms in the source text are rendered so as to convey a comparable meaning the target text.
- Wording is as unambiguous as possible.

Does the translation demonstrate good writing in the target language?

- The target text flows smoothly and does not contain awkward expressions that mark it distinctly as a translation.
- There are few or no mechanical errors (relating to grammar, usage, spelling, or punctuation).

The ATA standard for a passing examination is a level of obvious competence with some room for growth. Candidates can obtain an idea of what this means in practical terms by consulting the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) skill level descriptions for translation performance.

A passing grade in the ATA examination is roughly equivalent to a minimum of Level 3 as described in the ILR document.

(<http://www.govtilr.org/Skills/AdoptedILRTranslationGuidelines.htm>)

Flowchart for Error Marking

http://atanet.org/certification/aboutexams_flowchart.pdf

Framework for Standardized Error Marking (explanation of error categories)

http://atanet.org/certification/aboutexams_error.php

Into-English grading standards

http://atanet.org/certification/Into_English_Grading_2013.pdf

Information about practice tests

http://atanet.org/certification/aboutpractice_test.php

Tips for candidates

http://atanet.org/certification/aboutexams_tips.php

Tips for English-into-Spanish candidates

http://atanet.org/certification/aboutexams_tips_ES.pdf

FAQs

http://atanet.org/certification/certification_FAQ.php