

Legal Written Test

The SC: L Written Exam is based on the Test Specifications developed from a National Job Analysis of the profession of Legal interpreting. The Legal Certification Development Task Force prepared, in conjunction with the RID Psychometrician, a survey instrument of the perceived knowledges and skills of the entry level legal interpreter. This survey was distributed to more than 200 individuals representing appropriate ethnic and geographic distribution across the United States.

The test consists of 100 multiple choice questions representing four content areas. All examination score sheets are machine graded via a scanner with results reported to the applicant within 10 business days after receiving the score sheets in the national office. The report submitted to the applicant includes a diagnostic report of the number of questions missed in each of the four content areas of the test as well as an overall number correct indicating a pass or fail score. In order to pass the Legal Written Exam the applicant must get 77 questions correct

The following is a detailed outline of the four major content areas of the examination.

I. Language

- a. Legal terms and phrases
- b. Challenges that legal language presents for accurate interpretation (e.g. double negatives, convoluted syntax, rights waiver)
- c. Powerless language forms within the judicial system and implications for the interpreting process
- d. Types of cultural and linguistic adjustments required when working with ASL and English in the judicial system
- e. Interpreting issues arising from the status of linguistic minorities in the judicial system
- f. Strategies for addressing interpreting issues associated with limited/minimal language competence
- g. Interpreting techniques used with consumers with limited/minimal language competence
- h. Strategies/techniques for determining interpretation needs
- i. Implications of age of consumer for the interpreting process

II. Judicial System

- a. Law enforcement procedures (e.g. interrogations, victim/witness statements)
- b. Miranda Warning
- c. Courtroom procedures and logistics
- d. Criminal judicial system features and processes, from point of initiation through the trial process
- e. Civil judicial system features and processes, from point of initiation through the trial process

- f. Judicial (e.g., juvenile/family court) and quasi-judicial (e.g., administrative hearings, parole)
- g. Laws regulating the right to an interpreter in the federal, state, and local judicial systems
- h. Roles and responsibilities of judicial personnel (e.g., interpreter, district attorney, judge, public defender, bailiff, reporter)

III. Team Interpreting

- a. Principals and protocol of hearing/hearing team interpreting within the legal realm
- b. Principals and protocol of Deaf/hearing team interpreting within the legal realm

IV. Professional Issues

- a. Local, state, and federal legislation regarding interpreters
- b. Ethical issues related to the interpretation in the legal realm
- c. Liability issues related to the interpretations of judicial proceedings
- d. Models of interpreting