

Mock Court Interpreter Written Exam

This mock exam has a sample of the kinds of questions that you will see on the actual written exam. This mock exam is meant to illustrate the types of questions and the structure of the actual exam. It may also give you an idea of your strengths and weaknesses.

These questions will not be found on the actual exam. Answering most of the questions on the mock exam correctly is not a guarantee that you will succeed on the actual exam. This mock exam has 40 questions while the actual exam has 135. The [Written Exam Overview](#) has more information about the exam.

The section headings and instructions come from material created from [National Center for State Courts](#), who created the exam. Answers to the questions can be found on the last page.

General Vocabulary – Sentence Completion

DIRECTIONS: In each of the following items you are given an unfinished sentence. From the list of four words or phrases following each unfinished sentence, select the one that most appropriately completes the sentence. On the answer sheet, blacken the appropriate circle to indicate your choice.

EXAMPLE:

1. The man is very obese, which means he is

- A. slender
- B. important
- C. overweight
- D. famous

1. If a man is petrified of seeing his abuser again, then he is

- A. very frightened
- B. very calm
- C. fascinated
- D. vindicated

2. A person is found exonerated then the person is

- A. admonished
- B. exculpated
- C. mentally unstable
- D. released on probation

3. To find a situation futile is to think it is

- A. rewarding
- B. time-consuming
- C. difficult
- D. pointless

4. If a case is protracted, it is

- A. preliminary
- B. prolonged
- C. perforated
- D. productive

5. The police detective did such a great job handling his case, he was

- A. commended
- B. admonished
- C. insulted
- D. reported

General Vocabulary - Synonyms in Context

DIRECTIONS: In each of the following sentences there is an underlined word or phrase. From the list of four words or phrases following each sentence, select the one that is closest in meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the sentence. On the answer sheet, blacken the appropriate circle to indicate your choice.

EXAMPLE:

1. The young woman was willowy and tall.

- A. verdant
- B. muscular
- C. slender
- D. rough

6. The doctor had never heard such a unique explanation.

- A. uniform
- B. auspicious
- C. numerous
- D. singular

7. Only after having time to think about it did he realize how grievous the mistake was.

- A. serious
- B. superfluous
- C. shameful
- D. regretful

8. After being stuck in a hospital bed for three months, it felt wonderful to be ambulatory again.

- A. sedentary
- B. quiescent
- C. stationary
- D. peripatetic

9. She was too afraid to utter any kind of dissent.

- A. consider
- B. connote
- C. express
- D. accept

10. The meeting so excruciating that the chairperson avoided saying anything unnecessary to prolong it.

- A. halt
- B. inquire
- C. decrease
- D. extend

General Vocabulary – Antonyms

DIRECTIONS: In each of the following items you are given a word or phrase as the premise. From the list of four words or phrases following each premise, select the one that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word or phrase in the premise. On the answer sheet, blacken the appropriate circle to indicate your choice.

EXAMPLE:

1. contemptible

- A. irascible
- B. significant
- C. lovable
- D. treacherous

11. stoic

- A. cool
- B. detached
- C. unconcerned
- D. emotional

12. equivocate

- A. make the same
- B. tell the truth
- C. dodge
- D. hedge

13. perfunctory

- A. careful
- B. superficial

- C. cursory
- D. problematic

14. analogous

- A. similar
- B. unrelated
- C. clear
- D. serious

15. belligerent

- A. acerbic
- B. aggressive
- C. flippant
- D. peaceful

Idioms

DIRECTIONS: Each of the following sentences contains an idiomatic expression which is underlined. From the list of four words or phrases that follows each sentence, select the one that is closest in meaning to the underlined idiom in the sentence. On the answer sheet, blacken the appropriate circle to indicate your choice.

EXAMPLE:

1. He said he could complete the task standing on his head.
- A. by reversing the order of events
 - B. only with great difficulty
 - C. very easily
 - D. hanging upside down

16. It was time for her to face the music.

- A. cheer up
- B. accept punishment
- C. enjoy time off
- D. make a decision

17. All the evidence made the case seem cut and dried.

- A. hard
- B. unequivocal
- C. vague
- D. shadowy

18. He was going to get the third degree when he got home.

- A. thanked
- B. punished
- C. interrogated
- D. kicked out

19. He had a reputation for being as sharp as a tack.

- A. very intelligent
- B. angry
- C. a good dresser
- D. a quick worker

20. After smoking for 20 years, he quit cold turkey.

- A. after meals
- B. abruptly
- C. with someone's help
- D. slowly

21. His mom went ballistic when she found out

- A. got angry
- B. got excited
- C. was thrilled
- D. sped up

22. The city councilman was bought off.

- A. charitable
- B. bribed
- C. impressed
- D. killed

Sentence Completion

DIRECTIONS: In each of the following items you are given an unfinished sentence. From the list of four words or phrases following each unfinished sentence, select the one that most appropriately completes the sentence. On the answer sheet, blacken the appropriate circle to indicate your choice.

EXAMPLE:

1. When jurors are sequestered they are
- A. seated in the jury box
 - B. examined about their background
 - C. found to be biased
 - D. not allowed to go home

23. If a person is convicted of larceny, the court found that the defendant

- A. sexually assaulted someone
- B. stole something
- C. trespassed on someone's property
- D. burned down someone's property

24. A defendant may be assigned a court-appointed attorney at public expense if they can show that they are

- A. indeterminate
- B. indicted
- C. indigent
- D. intangible

25. If the judge adjourns the case, the judge is

- A. dismissing the charges
- B. postponing the case until a later date
- C. agrees that the objection is reasonable.
- D. leaving the case due to a conflict of interest.

26. If the defendant is acquitted it probably means

- A. the defense attorney didn't do a very good job
- B. the prosecution convinced the jury of their story
- C. the defense made a good argument for their client
- D. the defendant is getting the minimum sentence.

27. If the defendant has an alibi, it means the defendant

- A. has a good reason to commit the crime.
- B. has evidence that he was doing something else when the crime was committed
- C. is remorseful for having committed the crime.
- D. isn't sorry for what he has done.

Court Related Questions

DIRECTIONS: From the list of four possible answers to the questions that follow, choose the one that best answers the question. On the answer sheet, blacken the appropriate circle to indicate your choice.

EXAMPLE:

- 1. Which of the following is a crime?**
- A. sleeping on the job**
 - B. walking in the rain**
 - C. calling in sick**
 - D. robbing a bank**

28. **Comments made at the beginning of a trial by the attorneys to the jury summarizing the factual and legal issues of the case**
- A. Closing arguments
 - B. opening statements
 - C. Miranda rights
 - D. briefs
29. **When people represent themselves in court, they are appearing**
- A. pro bono
 - B. on their own recognizance
 - C. probate
 - D. pro se
30. **Who should not be involved in a pre-trial conference**
- A. judge
 - B. defense attorney
 - C. jury member
 - D. prosecuting attorney
31. **If the government brings charges against a person, the case is most likely**
- A. a civil case
 - B. a criminal case
 - C. tort case
 - D. pro se
32. **Money paid to the court before a trial to have an arrested person released from custody is**
- A. pretense
 - B. bail
 - C. fine
 - D. lien

Sequence

DIRECTIONS: Following each of the four questions below there are four sequences of events. Only one of the four sequences correctly describes the order in which specific events occur in court settings. Choose the one that has the correct sequence and blacken the appropriate circle to indicate your choice.

EXAMPLE:

1. Which of the following is the correct sequence of procedures?
- A. arrest, shoplift, issue warrant, detain
 - B. arraign, arrest, detain, release
 - C. identify suspect, detain, arrest, arraign
 - D. investigate, arraign, detain, release

- 33. Which line has a correct chronological sequence of court procedure?**
- A. Complainant call, police report, detective interview, arrest, arraignment
 - B. Complainant call, arrest, pretrial services, preliminary hearing, grand jury
 - C. Complainant call, police report, pretrial services, initial appearance
 - D. All of the above
- 34. Which line has a correct chronological sequence of court procedure?**
- A. Voir Dire, opening statement, arraignment, move for judgement acquittal
 - B. Preliminary instructions, direct examination, voir dire
 - C. Voir dire, preliminary instructions, opening statement, direct examination
 - D. None of the above

Professional Responsibility and Ethics Questions

DIRECTIONS: From the list of four possible answers to the questions that follow, choose the one that best answers the question. On the answer sheet, blacken the appropriate circle to indicate your choice.

EXAMPLE:

- 1. Which of the following is the best indicator that a person is qualified to interpret in court?**
- A. fluently bilingual and is a university professor**
 - B. accreditation as a professional translator**
 - C. years of paid work experience**
 - D. demonstrates ability to conserve meaning while interpreting complex linguistic interactions**
- 35. When interpreting consecutively and the interpreter does not hear or understand a word, he or she should**
- A. wait for the speaker to finish and then ask the judge for repetition
 - B. invent a translation in order to retain the flow of the language
 - C. immediately interrupt the speaker to avoid missing a detail
 - D. skip over the word completely
- 36. Simultaneous interpretation should be used when**
- A. concurrent sentences are given
 - B. relating proceedings to defendants
 - C. summarizing or simplifying proceedings
 - D. during witness testimony

Scenarios

DIRECTIONS: In all of the test items that follow, you are provided with a brief scenario that describes a situation and poses a problem that you might encounter while

working as an interpreter. Following the scenario is a question that asks you what you should do, or how you should solve the problem. Blacken the appropriate circle to indicate which of the four alternatives you think is the best solution or course of action.

EXAMPLE:

- 1. Your name is “Marta Schmidt” and you have been working as the interpreter in a trial for three days. The judge in the case refers to you as “Ms. Smith” when he addresses you in court and as “Martha” during informal times in the courtroom. You corrected him the first time this happened, but it has had no effect. What should you do?**
 - A. The next time he makes the mistake in the courtroom, wait for a pause in the proceedings and then correct him so everyone can hear.**
 - B. Stop him immediately whenever he uses the wrong name and tell him your correct name.**
 - C. Either speak privately with the judge to remind him again or let the matter go.**
 - D. Speak privately with the court reporter so that the reporter spells your name correctly in the court record.**

- 37. During a trial a great deal of high-level terminology is being used. The defendant you are interpreting for seems confused and doesn't understand the terms you are using and asks you what a term means. What should you do?**
 - A. Explain the term quickly without interrupting the court proceeding.
 - B. Interpret the question for the attorney to hear.
 - C. Say that you will explain the terms after court has adjourned
 - D. Ask the speaker to rephrase what he or she is saying in simpler language.

- 38. During the testimony for a witness, the witness uses a technical term and you don't know the meaning of the term or an equivalent term. You should:**
 - A. Leave the word out and not fall behind in your interpretation
 - B. Ask the attorney of the word is important.
 - C. Ask the speaker to slow down.
 - D. Inform the court that you need to consult your dictionary.

- 39. During a break in the proceedings, the attorney asks you (the interpreter) if you think his client is telling the truth. You should:**
 - A. Explain that interpreters never give an opinion.
 - B. Explain about the cultural differences.
 - C. Ask a witness for more information.
 - D. Ask the defendant directly.

- 40. You are interpreting at the witness stand, and the witness lies when he gives his answer. You know he is lying because you have interpreted for him on a prior occasion. You should:**
 - A. Tell the attorney the witness is lying
 - B. Ask for private meeting and tell the judge the witness is lying
 - C. Interpret the lie
 - D. Tell the bailiff after you finish interpreting for the witness

Answers	
1	a
2	b
3	d
4	b
5	a
6	d
7	a
8	d
9	c
10	d
11	d
12	b
13	a
14	b
15	d
16	b
17	b
18	c
19	a
20	b
21	a
22	b
23	b
24	c
25	b
26	c
27	b
28	b
29	d
30	c
31	b
32	b
33	d
34	c
35	a
36	b
37	b
38	d
39	a
40	c