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Candidates can also download proofing programmes/software that could help reduce their spelling/grammar mistakes. However, these cannot be used during an exam so do not become reliant on them.

LANGUAGE: Farsi
PATHWAY(S): English Law

Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.

In total, five candidates sat for Units 4 and 5 (writing units) in this round. A mixture of marks were allocated depending on the accuracy of performance. However, none of the candidates managed to pass both papers on this occasion.

Overall, the language skills demonstrated regarding written parts were not sufficiently adequate. The lack of specialist terminology and awareness of key terms in relation to the subject matter was common, and except for a couple of instances, the majority of candidates did not demonstrate adequate knowledge and use of the key terms.

This shortcoming resulted in a lack of coherence and ineffective communication that made the translations ineffective and unreliable in real life. The performance in Unit 4 (FARSI into ENGLISH) was stronger.

However, making fatal errors was a key element resulting in lower marks being given.

Another weakness observed during this round

Please ensure your candidates understand and are trained in the skills required to be an interpreter. Also giving time for candidates to practise under exam conditions is a good idea. There are past papers that can be used for this available on the CIOL website.

Candidates should also become more familiar with specialist terminology.

Recommendations to Candidates

The candidates should all take formal training on both interpreting and translation skills and how to act as a professional interpreter before taking the exam. They need to become familiar with the specialist terminology in both areas.

Practising the above is essential and will help greatly when it comes to taking the exams.

LANGUAGE: Russian
PATHWAY(S): English Law

Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.

Many of the difficulties candidates encountered stemmed from inadequate command of specialist terminology, inadequate understanding of (or insufficient attention to), the context, and how to translate these in a way that a Russian reader would understand. A legal document must be translated with precision and accuracy, as people will act upon the information conveyed.

Mistranslated terminology: In one paper "Restraining order" was translated as "warrant of arrest".
"Children of the relationship" was in one paper translated as "children of relatives"; "either party" was translated as

<https://www.svoboda.org/>
<https://procrf.ru/>

Pay attention to prefixes and particles: / ; / ; as part of the word and as a separate word.
Pay attention to " " and " ".

Make sure the Russian words you are using actually exist.

LANGUAGE: Spanish
PATHWAY(S): English Law

Overall Performance of Candidates and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses.

There were some fine examples of specialist terminology, such as "domicilio social", "Registro Mercantil", "constituir una empresa", "portfolio", "Orden de Alejamiento emitida a tenor de lo establecido en" but also frequent use of false friends which hindered and distorted the transfer of informational content. Some examples include "ofensa" as offence, "Act" as Acta.

There were also instances found of made up words and untranslated terms, such as "creditora" instead of acreedora, "puntos penales" for penalty points, "venture" as aventura, "encoragen" for encourage, "nómina" as nominal fee.

Some candidates had insufficient language skills to decode the message and produce a meaningful text.

There were also examples of inadequate command of vocabulary, specialist terminology, grammar and syntax. Errors in prepositions, lack of number agreement, omissions, spelling and accentuation.

Decoding and encoding errors in technical terms and also in more general lexis hindered accuracy and lowered the register.

Recommendations to Centres

Centres should ensure candidates have practised throughout their courses and training. There is a vast difference between speaking a language and the ability to accurately translate on behalf of a third party. If possible, candidates should practise with each other, with a tutor to feedback on their performance.

Recommendations to Candidates

Study past examination papers.

Keep your knowledge up-to-date of current issues in the UK, particularly in the subjects of specialisation.

Read the source text very carefully and try to identify key phrases, hidden "traps" and complicated clauses. Never attempt to start translating without this "workout" first.

Beware of false friends/cognates.

Do not think that translating allows you to use awkward expressions you would never use as a native speaker.

Make sure that you use the appropriate register at all times.

Be faithful to the original.

Candidates/Translators must "read" the translated text with the eyes of a third party, without reference to the source in order to assess their translation in an objective way.