



**SATI**

SOUTH AFRICAN  
TRANSLATORS' INSTITUTE

# South African Translators' Institute

Accreditation examination in simultaneous  
interpretation

# Prerequisites

To qualify for application for this examination, the following prerequisites are required:

- SATI membership of at least three months (student members do not qualify)
- Paid-up SATI membership fee
- A minimum of three years' experience as a simultaneous interpreter

# Examination venues and dates

- Examinations for simultaneous interpreter accreditation takes place once a year on an ad hoc basis in different centers in South Africa as the need arises.
- Candidates are required to attend the examination scheduled at a particular time and center.

# Examination procedure

- The examination involves practical interpreting.
- The examination is not done in an interpreting booth, but in a quiet room where the candidate sits at a table.
- A source recording is played to the candidate using a laptop computer while the candidate interprets into a microphone, from which a recording is made.
- A variety of topics are used for the examination.
- The text is 10 to 15 minutes long in each case.

# Examination procedure (continues)

- Candidates are informed of the subject of the text for their particular language combination a few days before the examination.
- Candidates do not see the text beforehand and are not given any other background information.
- The recordings currently used have been recorded especially for SATI examination purposes and are not taken from live situations.
- As the text is non-specialised, all candidates should be able to relate to the content.

# Preparation

- The SATI examination in simultaneous interpretation is designed for candidates who are already experts and seasoned interpreters and would like to add SATI accreditation to their qualifications.
- SATI does not train interpreters and we do not offer preparation material to prospective candidates.

# Examination

- Spoken simultaneous interpretation examinations can be taken in one language combination in one direction OR in both directions, i.e. only English to Zulu, or English to Zulu as well as Zulu to English.
- For each examination passed, an accreditation certificate is issued.

# Examination (continues)

- Currently we offer spoken simultaneous interpretation examinations in:

English <> SASL

English <> French

English <> Afrikaans

English <> German

English <> Tswana

English <> Portuguese

English <> Sotho

English <> Spanish

English <> Zulu

English <> Russian

English <> Xhosa

English to Sepedi

English to Xitsonga



# Criteria

- Accuracy and coherence of message
- Target language vocabulary and register
- Target language grammar, idiom and purity
- Interpretation technique
- Professional conduct

# Assessment procedures

Once the recordings of the candidate's interpretation have been made, these are integrated with the source recordings, copied onto a memory stick and sent to two or more examiners for assessment.

# Results

- Marking can take up to six weeks.
- Candidates will receive a report with a selection of examiners' comments.

## Note:

- Not all errors will be listed in the report.

# SATI accreditation certificates

- Successful candidates will receive a SATI accreditation certificate.
- Successful candidates' names will appear in SATI's list of accredited members.
- Successful candidates may use their accreditation status in communication with clients, i.e. in an email signature.

# Unsuccessful examination result

- If a candidate fails, it means that he/she was not able to produce work of the required standard for accreditation in interpretation on the day of the interpretation examination.
- The candidate should read the comments carefully and follow the advice given.
- An unsuccessful candidate may reapply to do the accreditation examination after one year.

# Appeal process

An appeal process is available.

- A candidate who wants to lodge an appeal should submit an application form and proof of payment within 8 weeks after having received the result.
- The original examination script will be marked by a third examiner and their report will be the final result.

# Appeal process (continues)

- No further correspondence will be entered into after the final result is made available.
- If the 'Fail' result is overturned, the candidate will be refunded for the appeal and will be considered accredited in interpretation.

# Duration of SATI accreditation

Accreditation remains valid as long as an accredited interpreter remains a member of SATI. Please note:

- Accreditation lapses when membership lapses.
- If a candidate subsequently wishes to become re-accredited, they will have to re-apply to do the examination and pass it again.





For any further information

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