



**National Accreditation Authority
for Translators and Interpreters LTD**

**National Accreditation Authority for Translators
and Interpreters (NAATI)**

ETHICAL COMPETENCY TEST

SAMPLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EXAMPLE MATERIAL



TYPE A - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How does the AUSIT code of Ethics define 'Accuracy' and provide an example that demonstrates why this principle is one of the most important principles.

Accuracy means being faithful to the message in the source language which involves not adding extra meaning, not omitting information or meaning and not distorting the message. It is also means accurately conveying the tone of the message. If you were interpreting for a doctor and you left out information concerning instructions on taking medicine or distorted the seriousness of a disease or sickness the patient has, it could have devastating health consequences for the patient. If you are interpreting at a business meeting and you made a mistake with money and for example interpreted \$10,000 instead of \$1,000 dollars your clients would not be impressed with this and you could get into a lot trouble. If you interpret for a client at the police station and you omitted information that could prove he was innocent, the consequences for him would be jail time.

(133 words)

How does the AUSIT Codes of Ethics define 'Professional Conduct'? Give an example of how Professional Conduct is displayed by practitioners.

Professional conduct means translators and interpreters should abide by the AUSIT Code of Ethics and conduct. They should take responsibility for their work, provide a high quality service, be honest and be fair will all their clients. They should disclose any conflict of interest or be prepared to withdraw from a job if they think they cannot be impartial. Professional conduct is displayed through a number of ways for example preparing for assignments, completing assignments, not being late for assignments. Clients should be advised if there is a reason that may hinder or delay the completion of a job. Unless there is a specific cultural reason practitioners should not accepts gifts or other benefits from clients.

(116 words)



Confidentiality is one of the main ethical principles that interpreters and translators are required to observe. Define Confidentiality according the AUSIT Code of Ethics and provide an example of when disclosure would be permissible.

Confidentiality means that you should not disclose any information that you learn about during the course of your work. Practitioners should also not take advantage of any information that they learn about during the course of their work. The only times when a practitioner can breach the rule of confidentiality and disclose information is with the permission of their client, and when the law requires them to disclose information. This may happen in a health care or high security setting when to not disclose information would be posing a serious health risk or putting the client and others in serious danger.

(101 words)

EXAMPLE MATERIAL



TYPE B - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

You are interpreting at a Centrelink office where an officer is interviewing a LOTE speaking female client about her job skills. Your interpreting is interrupted all the time by the client's husband who gives answers to all the questions asked before his wife has a chance to speak. To your dismay, the Centrelink officer allows this situation to go on. Describe what course of action you would take and identify the relevant ethical principle explaining how it applies to this scenario.*

The relevant ethical principle that applies to this scenario is professional conduct and accuracy. Since I am being constantly interrupted I would find it difficult to listen and focus on my client and would thus find it difficult to interpret the message accurately and completely. I would interrupt the session to explain to the husband that my role is to interpret for his wife and his interjections are distracting. I would do this in a calm, polite and professional manner. I would also let my other client, the Centrelink officer know what I have said. I could ask her if she wants me to interpret for the husband only and let her decide.

(113 words)

You are interpreting between a police officer and a man who has been charged with stealing. It is clear to you, that he is not telling the truth to the police officer. What is the course of action that you would take, identify the relevant ethical principle and explain how it applies to this scenario.

I would interpret everything that the man who is being charged says even if he is lying and not telling the truth. It is my job to convey the message and interpret accurately in the same tone and register that he is using. It is not my job to give my opinion to the police officer that I think he is lying. This is just my opinion. If it were a more serious situation and his lying was a risk to his own life or others it may be a different situation and I may have to disclose information that I know. The main principle in this scenario is impartiality which means I would keep my opinions and beliefs to myself. Even though I might not like people who don't tell the truth I shouldn't let this interfere with my job as an interpreter. It is the policeman's job to cross examine him and find out the truth, not mine.

(158 words)

* Language Other than English



After completing an assignment, you are about to issue your invoice to the client when she rings and asks for a discount arguing that you are still a novice professional because you were certified less than a year ago. How would you respond, identify the relevant ethical principle and explain how it applies to this scenario.

The principles of professional conduct and professional solidarity are involved in this scenario. As a professional I will respond in a polite way but insist that no discount will be given. I will show evidence of my NAATI certification as an interpreter or translator which proves that I am qualified and competent to undertake the job at the rate already agreed on. I will explain the payment is at the market rate and similar to what other professionals in my industry charge. By doing this I am upholding the marking value for my skills and upholding the reputation and professionalism of the industry. The relevant principle would be professional conduct and maintaining professional relationships.

(103 words)

A car hire company contacts you about their most recent advertising brochure. They've been told that their own version sounded 'old-fashioned' and now ask you for a translation that is a bit more 'groovy' or 'hip'. Furthermore, they do not want to spend any more time or money on updating the source document and request that you simply change the tone and wording of the brochure yourself. Describe what course of action you would take, identify the relevant ethical principle in this scenario and explain how it applies to this scenario.

As a translator my job is to translate the source text into the target language accurately and faithfully ensuring the tone and register remain the same. If my client wants to change the tone and the wording to make it sound more 'hip' they must do this in the source text first. This will cost them more money. I will advise my client about the role of a translator. I will do this in a respectful way to ensure we maintain a good working relationship. The relevant ethical principle includes accuracy, clarity of role boundaries and maintaining professional relationships.

(107 words)



You have been requested to translate a legal document from English into your LOTE. The document is poorly drafted in English. You have the feeling that it was written by someone who does not have English as their native language. Some of the legal words used are incorrect and there are several grammatical errors throughout the document. Describe how you would handle the situation, identify the relevant ethical principle and explain how it applies to this scenario.*

I will discuss the problem with my client first, explaining the issue and my role as a translator which is to translate accurately which means I should not distort or change the meaning of the text. If I do this and the information is incorrect the target audience will be misled and this may have consequences for them. I would strongly advise my client, especially in regards to incorrect legal terms, that the document be checked first by someone in the legal profession to ensure the accuracy of the source text. This will also ensure that I deliver a quality service to the client. The principle in this scenario is accuracy and professional conduct.

(95 words)

* Language Other than English



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