

## ATA Practice Test Now Available to Nonmembers

**New this year,** the certification practice test is available to anyone, regardless of ATA membership status. ATA members will continue to pay \$50 per passage, whereas nonmembers will be charged \$90. We hope that this greater availability will boost interest both in the Association and in certification, and that a larger number of qualified candidates will pursue certification as a way of demonstrating translation competence and commitment to the profession.

### Why Is the Practice Test Part of a Sound Strategy for Pursuing ATA Certification?

**Practice tests are actual exam passages that have been retired.** Although exam texts differ from sitting to sitting and year to year, the practice sets are chosen specifically to best represent the types of passages that appear in the actual exam. Candidates can get an idea of the sort of text they will see in the exam and prepare accordingly.

**Practice tests are returned with markings and feedback.** Exam candidates are provided notice of Pass or Fail, and failed candidates also receive information about their overall score. With the practice test, the marked text itself is returned to the candidate, together with a point breakdown by

error category and a rubric that provides a more holistic performance assessment. This feedback can be quite helpful to prepare for the actual exam.

### Tips for Using the Practice Test

**Allow plenty of time.** Practice test grading turnaround depends on volume and other factors, so candidates should allow six to eight weeks to receive results. Plan ahead: by the time you register for an exam sitting, it is probably too late to get practice test results back.

**Take more than one.** Three practice test passages are available for each language pair, one in Category A (general subject matter), one in Category B (science/technology/medicine), and one in Category C (business/finance/law). If you can do only one, A is recommended, since that passage is mandatory on the exam. But consider doing a B and/or C as well. You can space them out, too: get the results back from one and apply that insight when doing another passage.

**Take the test under exam conditions.** Since candidates work on the practice test at home, they are free to take as much time and use whatever resources they want when completing it. However, it is often more instructive to duplicate the exam conditions.

Set aside 90 minutes of uninterrupted time and use only printed reference material. Allow adequate time at the end to proofread your work for careless errors. If possible, do the exam by hand. While a limited number of keyboarded sittings will be held in 2013, most candidates will still be handwriting their exams in the near future.

### When you receive your practice test results, pay close attention to the Framework for Standardized Error Marking and the Rubric for Grading forms that are included.

This feedback may tell you what areas to focus on in order to improve your prospects on the exam. For example, do you need to proofread more carefully? Should you work on target-language grammar or spelling? Could you need more or better dictionaries or glossaries?

**Upgrade old tests.** If you requested and paid for a practice test more than a year ago and never got around to translating it or having it graded, ATA Headquarters will send you a current version of the passage for the same language pair upon request.

For more information about the certification practice test, see [www.atanet.org/certification/aboutpractice\\_test.php](http://www.atanet.org/certification/aboutpractice_test.php).

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## Three Ways to Connect to ATA



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