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Court Interpreter Terminology, Procedure, Protocol,
and Ethics Fundamentals Test

Note to Local Test Developers

This quiz was developed for use in California. Some questions should be omitted or modified for use in other States.

Interpreter Profile Data

Name and address (optional—complete only if you would like a copy of your test results):

Language you interpret (if more than one, list most frequent):

Circle the choice below that best describes how often you have interpreted for the court or in a legal setting during the past year:

1-2 times/year 6-12 times/year monthly weekly daily

How long have you been interpreting in court or legal settings? _____
(years)

Circle the highest level of formal education you have been exposed to in an English-speaking country:

Grade 6 Grade 12 2-year college 4-year college Graduate studies

Circle the highest level of education you have been exposed to in the non-English language for which you most often interpret (closest U.S. equivalent):

Grade 6 Grade 12 2-year college 4-year college Graduate studies

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For each statement below, please select the best answer and circle the corresponding letter on the answer sheet.

1. Which of the following skills is LEAST important in interpreting?
 - a. memory
 - b. bilingualism
 - c. native accent
 - d. intelligence

2. The preferred method for interpreting at the witness stand is
 - a. simultaneous
 - b. consecutive
 - c. summary
 - d. paraphrase

3. A *source language* means
 - a. a native language
 - b. an official language used in the courts
 - c. a dead language from which a modern language is derived
 - d. a language from which one translates

4. If an attorney is speaking too fast or too softly, you must
 - a. continue interpreting the best you can so as not to interrupt the proceedings
 - b. raise your hand to get the speaker's attention
 - c. immediately inform the court
 - d. stop interpreting

5. *Paraphrase* or *summary* interpretation may be used
 - a. when other interpreting modes are impossible
 - b. usually during consultation in chambers
 - c. at no time
 - d. in lock-up or jail interviews only

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6. A notepad and pencil shall
 - a. always be carried
 - b. never be used at the witness stand
 - c. only be used during consecutive interpreting
 - d. always be kept out of sight

7. An interpreter may accept payment from a defendant in a criminal case
 - a. when he works past 5 p.m.
 - b. only if he wins the case
 - c. under no circumstances
 - d. if he does extra interpreting, such as assisting an attorney to communicate with family members

8. To become familiar with the particulars of a case, the interpreter must
 - a. take time to personally interview the defendant
 - b. request and review the case file
 - c. obtain the points of view of both defense and prosecuting attorneys
 - d. talk with family members

9. At the arraignment, the defendant is
 - a. confronted with the witnesses testifying against him
 - b. informed of the charges against him and asked to enter a plea
 - c. interviewed about the facts of the case
 - d. sentenced

10. During a jury trial, the court interpreter is approached by a newspaper reporter who wishes to discuss the case. The interpreter should
 - a. answer any questions the reporter has
 - b. refuse to talk to the reporter under any circumstances
 - c. explain to the reporter that he or she is not allowed to discuss a pending case
 - d. inform the reporter that there will be a fee for interview regarding this case because such work goes beyond that which the interpreter is normally required to do

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11. A court interpreter is interpreting for the defendant on the witness stand. At some point he realizes that a translation error was made earlier in the testimony. The interpreter should
 - a. immediately inform the court of the error
 - b. wait until the next break and discuss the problem with the defendant's attorney
 - c. wait until the next break and inform the judge of the problem in chambers
 - d. take no action, but make sure the mistake does not happen again

12. When an attorney says to the court, "Your Honor, my client is willing to plead to count 3," she means
 - a. the client wants to stand trial on count 3
 - b. the client wishes to plead not guilty on count 3
 - c. the client wishes to plead guilty on count 3
 - d. the client wishes a continuance to enter a plea to count 3

13. The *burden of proof* refers to the fact that
 - a. the defendant may take the stand and testify if she wishes
 - b. the prosecutor must prove the case against the defendant
 - c. witnesses must testify under oath
 - d. police may not search a residence without a warrant

14. If a witness uses a term an interpreter is unfamiliar with, the interpreter should
 - a. make an educated guess based on the context
 - b. ask the witness what he meant and inform the court
 - c. skip the unknown term and continue interpreting
 - d. inform the court of the problem and ask permission to consult a dictionary or inquire with the witness

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15. The difference between *probation* and *parole* is that
- a. *probation* is served in lieu of a jail term and *parole* is served in conjunction with early release from prison
 - b. *probation* is for first-time offenders and *parole* is for multiple offenders
 - c. *probation* is for misdemeanors and *parole* is for felonies
 - d. *probation* refers to time off for good behavior and *parole* refers to restrictions on behavior
16. The court interpreter has an obligation to
- a. make sure the defendant understands everything that is going on in the trial
 - b. inform the court if an attorney's question is likely to be too difficult for the defendant to understand
 - c. interpret everything just as it is said, without explaining or simplifying
 - d. explain complex legal concepts to the defendant
17. When an attorney cites *points and authorities*, she
- a. tells the court the precedent decisions it must follow to decide the case
 - b. informs the court of expert witnesses who will testify in the case
 - c. challenges the credibility of prosecution witnesses
 - d. explains to the defendant the charges that have been filed against him
18. If counsel misstates the facts, the interpreter should
- a. correct the attorney
 - b. tell the judge
 - c. interpret the misstatement
 - d. tell the defendant
19. If the defendant asks what the consequences are for pleading guilty, the interpreter must
- a. answer the question *only* if she knows the answer
 - b. immediately refer to the "Criminal Code Reference Book"
 - c. inform the defendant that he will find out when the time comes
 - d. refer the question to the attorney

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20. The interpreter is free to speak with any member of the jury
- a. when the jury has been impaneled
 - b. when the jury has been dismissed
 - c. only if the juror questions the interpretation
 - d. when court is not in session
21. The interpreter may give legal advice
- a. in a limited way, under certain circumstances
 - b. never under any circumstances
 - c. when the defendant explicitly asks for help
 - d. when the defendant is indigent
22. *Angel dust* is
- a. cocaine
 - b. heroin
 - c. pulverized marijuana
 - d. PCP
23. *Horse* is
- a. cocaine
 - b. heroin
 - c. LSD
 - d. opium
24. A *lid* is
- a. a measurement for buying and selling marijuana
 - b. a Peruvian strain of cocaine
 - c. a narcotic informant
 - d. a gag used to quiet unruly prisoners
25. A *mule* is
- a. stubborn person who will not confess
 - b. a person who transports narcotics for others
 - c. a person who suffers the severest penalty for drug violations
 - d. a powerful narcotic with a strong kick or effect

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26. A *pop* is
- a. kilo of marijuana
 - b. "noseful" of cocaine
 - c. a piece of narcotic paraphernalia
 - d. a narcotic injection
27. A defendant who represents himself is designated
- a. improper
 - b. "in camera"
 - c. "in loco parentis"
 - d. "in propria persona"
28. **Counts** in an indictment or information are
- a. the number of victims in a case
 - b. the allegations of distinct offenses
 - c. the number of potential witnesses in a matter
 - d. the counter charges involved in the case
29. At a preliminary hearing the magistrate may not
- a. dismiss the case
 - b. release the defendant if the evidence is insufficient
 - c. release the defendant if the evidence was illegally obtained
 - d. determine the guilt or innocence of the defendant
30. A **bench officer** is
- a. any member of the sheriff's department or marshal's office assigned to a courtroom
 - b. an officer of the court
 - c. any judge, commissioner, or referee
 - d. a person officially permitted to appear before the bench

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31. ***Probable Cause*** is
- a. a feasible excuse or reason for committing a crime
 - b. a requisite element of valid search and seizure or arrest
 - c. a precedent source of case law to support an argument
 - d. a fact, not in evidence, from which another fact, in evidence, can be derived
32. A ***motion to strike priors*** is made in order to
- a. dismiss the case
 - b. reduce the severity of the sentence
 - c. simplify the matter for the court
 - d. suppress the evidence
33. To plead ***straight up*** is
- a. to plead to the indictment or information as charged
 - b. to tell the truth
 - c. to plead guilty while standing at the counsel table
 - d. to plead guilty knowing you will go straight to prison
34. An ***adjudication hearing*** is
- a. a term used for a settlement hearing between parties
 - b. a term used for an allocation dispute
 - c. a term used for a juvenile trial
 - d. a term for division of property adjudication
35. A "voir dire" interrogation is made
- a. to hear and see prosecution witnesses
 - b. prior to the field sobriety test
 - c. to determine if the witness is lying
 - d. to determine qualifications or competency

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36. A *diversion program* is
- a. work camp for juvenile offenders
 - b. a recreation program for juvenile drug offenders
 - c. an education program for mentally disordered sex offenders
 - d. a program to obviate criminal prosecution
37. The Municipal Court does not handle
- a. murder trials
 - b. felony preliminary hearings
 - c. civil matters
 - d. hit and run cases
38. To *impanel* a jury is
- a. to sequester a jury
 - b. to swear in a jury
 - c. to choose a jury
 - d. to disqualify a whole jury
39. "**Nolo contendere**" means
- a. I won't answer
 - b. I won't fight the case
 - c. I won't do it again
 - d. I cannot understand (the proceedings)
40. To *impeach* a witness is
- a. to excuse a witness
 - b. to badger a witness
 - c. to discredit a witness
 - d. to qualify a witness

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41. A *cursory search* is
- a. a superficial search
 - b. a house search
 - c. an area search
 - d. a detailed search
42. To *waive* means
- a. to prove
 - b. to relinquish
 - c. to justify
 - d. to use
43. A *rebuttal* is
- a. a rebuke
 - b. a refutation
 - c. a rebuff
 - d. a rescission
44. To *remand* a defendant is
- a. to send back into custody
 - b. to interrogate
 - c. to release on certain conditions
 - d. to strip search
45. To *serve a subpoena* means
- a. to comply with a subpoena
 - b. to deliver a subpoena
 - c. to accept a subpoena
 - d. to prepare a subpoena for service

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46. **Summary probation** is
- a. a short probation
 - b. probation under the supervision of the Probation Department
 - c. probation without the supervision of the Probation Department
 - d. probation without conditions
47. **The defense rests** means
- a. the defense cannot proceed for lack of witnesses
 - b. the defense moves for a brief recess
 - c. the defense has finished presenting its defense
 - d. the defense is finished with the cross-examination of the prosecution witness
48. To **sustain** an objection means
- a. to uphold an objection
 - b. to make an objection
 - c. to suffer an objection
 - d. to withdraw an objection
49. A **987.5 attorney** is one who
- a. charges under \$1000 for his services regardless of the time it takes to represent his client
 - b. is voted into office by the State Bar Association
 - c. is in private practice, but is appointed to represent indigent defendants
 - d. is authorized to act as either district attorney or public defender as the need arises
50. **To be held to answer** in Superior Court means
- a. to be compelled to give a response
 - b. to be brought to trial
 - c. to remain in custody
 - d. to be sentenced in Superior Court

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Answer Recording Sheet for Written Test
[Shaded Columns Show Correct Answers]

c	1	a	b	c	d	d	26	a	b	c	d
b	2	a	b	c	d	d	27	a	b	c	d
d	3	a	b	c	d	b	28	a	b	c	d
c	4	a	b	c	d	d	29	a	b	c	d
c	5	a	b	c	d	c	30	a	b	c	d
a	6	a	b	c	d	b	31	a	b	c	d
c	7	a	b	c	d	b	32	a	b	c	d
b	8	a	b	c	d	a	33	a	b	c	d
b	9	a	b	c	d	c	34	a	b	c	d
b	10	a	b	c	d	d	35	a	b	c	d
a	11	a	b	c	d	d	36	a	b	c	d
c	12	a	b	c	d	a	37	a	b	c	d
b	13	a	b	c	d	c	38	a	b	c	d
d	14	a	b	c	d	b	39	a	b	c	d
a	15	a	b	c	d	c	40	a	b	c	d
c	16	a	b	c	d	a	41	a	b	c	d
a	17	a	b	c	d	b	42	a	b	c	d
c	18	a	b	c	d	b	43	a	b	c	d
d	19	a	b	c	d	a	44	a	b	c	d
b	20	a	b	c	d	b	45	a	b	c	d
b	21	a	b	c	d	c	46	a	b	c	d
d	22	a	b	c	d	c	47	a	b	c	d
b	23	a	b	c	d	a	48	a	b	c	d
a	24	a	b	c	d	c	49	a	b	c	d
b	25	a	b	c	d	b	50	a	b	c	d