ATA CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
Rubric for Grading
Version 2011

Exam number: _____
Exam passage: _____

Evaluation by Dimensions

Instructions: In each column, the grader marks the box that best reflects performance in that dimension, measured against the ideal performance defined for that dimension in the "Standard" row. The grader may also insert, circle, and/or cross out words in a description to make the evaluation more specific.
Note: A passage may show uneven performance across the dimensions. For example, a candidate with excellent command of the target language but limited knowledge of the source language might show *Strong* performance for *Target mechanics* but *Minimal* performance for *Usefulness / transfer*.
See also the Explanation on the reverse.

	Usefulness / transfer	Terminology / style	Idiomatic writing	Target mechanics
STANDARD	The translated text is fully usable for the purpose specified in the Translation Instructions. The meaning and sense of the source text have been fully and appropriately transferred to the translated text.	Terminology is appropriate in context. Style and register are appropriate for the topic in the target language and for the specified audience.	Translated text reads smoothly. Wording is idiomatic and appropriate for the topic in the target language and for the specified audience.	Translated text fully follows the rules and conventions of target language mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.).
Strong	☐ Translated text transfers meaning in a manner fully consistent with the Translation Instructions. Translation contains few or no transfer errors, and those present have a minor effect on meaning.	☐ Translated text contains few or no inappropriate term or style/register choices. Any errors have a minor effect on meaning.	☐ Translated text is almost entirely idiomatic and appropriate in context. Any errors have a minor effect on meaning.	☐ Translated text contains few or no errors in target language mechanics.
Acceptable	☐ Translated text transfers meaning in a manner sufficiently consistent with the Translation Instructions. Translation contains occasional and/or minor transfer errors that slightly obscure or change meaning.	☐ Translated text contains occasional and/or minor inappropriate term or style/register choices. Such errors may slightly obscure meaning.	☐ Translated text contains occasional unidiomatic or inappropriate wording. Such errors may slightly obscure meaning.	☐ Translated text contains occasional errors in target language mechanics.
Deficient	☐ Translated text transfers meaning in a manner somewhat consistent with the Translation Instructions. Translation contains more than occasional transfer errors that obscure or change meaning.	☐ Translated text contains frequent inappropriate and/or incorrect terms or style/register choices. Such errors may obscure or change meaning.	☐ Translated text contains frequent and/or obvious unidiomatic or inappropriate wording. Such errors may obscure or change meaning.	☐ Translated text contains frequent and/or obvious errors in target language mechanics.
Minimal	☐ Translated text transfers meaning in a manner inconsistent with the Translation Instructions. Translation contains frequent and/or serious transfer errors that obscure or change meaning.	☐ Translated text contains excessive inappropriate and/or incorrect terms or style/register choices. Such errors obscure or change meaning.	☐ Translated text contains excessive and/or disruptive unidiomatic or inappropriate wording. Such errors obscure or change meaning.	☐ Translated text contains excessive and/or disruptive errors in target language mechanics.

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Explanation

Each row of the table on the reverse represents a performance level. The texts in each cell describe elements of performance at the respective level for the respective dimension. Although a candidate may perform at different levels for different dimensions, the overall usefulness of the target text can be described at general levels that correspond to the dimension indicators, where *Strong* or *Acceptable* correspond to a passing score and *Deficient* or *Minimal* represent a failing score. These overall levels are also roughly equivalent to the specific levels set forth in the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Skill Level Descriptions for Translation Performance
(http://www.govtilr.org/skills/AdoptedILRTranslationGuidelines.htm).

STANDARD
The target text would require little if any editing in order to be used for the purpose specified in the Translation Instructions. (**Roughly equivalent to ILR Professional Performance Level 5**)

Strong
The target text could be published or used for professional purposes after minimal work by a bilingual editor and a target language copy editor. (**Roughly equivalent to ILR Professional Performance Level 4 or higher**)

Acceptable
A client requesting this translation could use the target text for the purpose given in the Translation Instructions after some work by a bilingual editor and/or a target language copy editor. (**Roughly equivalent to ILR Professional Performance Level 3 or 3+**)

Deficient
The target text would require extensive bilingual editing and/or target language copy editing before it could be used for the purpose given in the Translation Instructions. (**Roughly equivalent to ILR Limited Performance Level 2+**)

Minimal
This translation cannot be used for the purpose given in the Translation Instructions. It would be more economical in terms of time and money for the end user to have the text retranslated. (**Roughly equivalent to ILR Limited Performance Level 2 or lower**)

Notes: