

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC SERVICE INTERPRETING 2007

WRITTEN MARKERS' REPORTS

LANGUAGE: ALBANIAN
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

No comparison with last year's group can be made as this is my first year acting as marker. The level of this group is below that expected from native speakers at degree level. In many cases, the grammatical and syntactical constructions were not very good and translations did not read very fluently. Some words were translated either as they are found in the dictionary (for instance "flexibility" and "privacy") or the English word was kept after adding the appropriate endings in Albanian (for instance in some cases "appeal" is translated as "ape!" which in Albanian means "roll-call" rather than "(court) appeal"). None of the candidates has been able to convey accurately the meaning of "subject only to a court appeal" and "parties are usually bound by the result". In some cases, candidates have made unnecessary spelling mistakes in Albanian, particularly spelling "c" instead of "ç" and "e" instead of "ë". Additionally, the use of cohesive devices is often confused which accounts for fragmented translations at times.

Recommendations to Centres

If not already in practice, candidates should be advised either in writing or orally before the exam that they may not offer alternative translations and that they need to make their mind up as to their choice of words. Additionally, they should be told to translate the letter/document as they would for the purpose the letter/document is intended, not for the marker of the exam.

Recommendations to Candidates

After translating a sentence or section read it again to make sure that: (i) no part of the original text is omitted unnecessarily; (ii) that the translated sentence/section is clear in Albanian (as in an Albanian speaker would understand the message of the sentence/section); and (iii) the meaning of the Albanian translation is faithful to the original text.

LANGUAGE: AMHARIC
OPTION(S): HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

All candidates failed to accurately translate some important medical terminology; however, a few have attempted to give translations by explaining conditions or bodily functions. With the exception of one candidate, all handwriting was poor and illegible. It seems like most of the candidates rushed to finish their work, hence the finishing of most of them is quite sloppy and scribbled. Use of vocabulary and comprehension was unexceptional. As this is my first year marking, I am unable to compare with last year's candidates. However, the standard of the written exam is quite high and requires specialist and some expert knowledge which is lacking from all of the candidates. I feel the written exam is quite difficult for the candidates. Judging from the grammar and comprehension of the translations provided by the candidates, I am left with an impression that most of the candidates' first language is other than Amharic. At degree level, I would definitely expect more from all candidates in their knowledge of medical terms, vocabulary and comprehension. In most of the written work (except one) there were substantial omissions, indicating lack of knowledge of the terminologies and failure to understand the written English itself and/or probably lack of time to complete the work.

Most candidates showed a lack of knowledge of specialist terms. I realise that some medical terminologies may not have equivalent terms in Amharic. On these occasions, candidates should at least understand the concept of the terms and give explanations of them in Amharic, for example the word "prostate" has been translated into "muscle gland" by one candidate, indicating s/he is not familiar with what a "prostate" is. There was one occasion where no effort had been made to translate the medical term "benign prostate hyperplasia", this phrase had been directly written in English (NOT IN AMHARIC) in the text. There is no direct term for this in Amharic, however, an explanation of the condition in Amharic to the effect of something like "a non serious, non increasing growth of the prostate" could have been used if the candidate had understood the condition.

Recommendations to Centres

Candidates should be encouraged to improve their vocabulary and knowledge of medical terminologies. I feel that the candidates' understanding of the English itself is poor and would recommend trying to improve their English. However, as stated above, I feel the candidates' first language is not Amharic and would recommend centres to find out what their first languages are and investigate if the option could be provided in their language and try and find stronger candidates for the Amharic option.

Recommendations to Candidates

All candidates attempted to translate the written work, however, understanding of medical terminology is lacking. Understanding the English itself is as important as your knowledge of Amharic. Try and improve your English and vocabulary in both languages. Your grammar and comprehension is generally good. The main area you need to concentrate and improve is your knowledge of medical terms. I would suggest a very good medical dictionary to help you grasp some of the most common terminologies. You are not doctors and nobody will expect you to know the meaning of all diseases and conditions, however, it would be beneficial to you to familiarise yourselves with most common conditions and disease both in English and Amharic. Your knowledge of body parts and internal organs is not of the standard expected from degree students. A revision of your high school human biology I am sure will be quite beneficial in informing you about organs and body parts.

I feel that most of you rushed to finish the written task, leading you to omit crucial words and phrases. You could practice and improve your speed of translating by translating written material from medical journals and papers. Do not spend too much time pondering on what to write – it is better that you write what you think the translation of phrases or words is rather than leaving them out completely. I can appreciate that there are some medical terminologies that do not have exact translations in Amharic and trying to find a word could take you a long time. I recommend that you at least attempt to explain the English word and/or phrase in Amharic – to do this you also need to improve your understanding of English words and phrases. Omissions of words, phrases and sentences in medicine could have serious consequences. Doctors and medical professionals need all the information they can get from a patient in order to diagnose, consult and prescribe medication and treatment. Therefore, please try not to omit anything.

Watching medical/hospital dramas on television and listening to similar radio programmes will help you understand some of the most common conditions and diseases.

Once again, practice makes perfect, so please try and practice translating articles from medical journals, reports and publications written in English into Amharic and if you are able to get hold of similar articles in Amharic it would greatly help you translating them into English.

LANGUAGE: ARABIC (Marker 1)
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

This is the first time I have marked this Diploma. This year most candidates were able to translate Task 3B from English into Arabic, though they made minor inaccuracies and errors. The main weaknesses shown were in the use of grammatical structures. There were also instances of using inappropriate words and expressions. However, translations were cohesive and coherent in most cases. A few candidates used a too informal register. I did not find many omissions or additions and some translations were rendered quite well.

Recommendations to Centres

Centres should focus on teaching and training their candidates how texts are made and how they should be translated in the light of modern translation theories that combine the linguistic component and understanding the socio-cultural aspect of the source text and the target text. Centres should concentrate on teaching specific terminology within contextualised structures in both languages (Arabic and English).

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates should familiarise themselves with reading, understanding and translating different kinds of texts, discourses and styles in both languages (Arabic and English). Candidates should be aware of the key concepts of text linguistics like the notions of cohesion, coherence, intentionality, situationality etc in order to convey the source text properly into the culture of the target text. Grammar, syntax and rhetoric are essential for understanding and producing translated texts.

LANGUAGE: ARABIC (Marker 2)
OPTION(S): ENGLISH LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Few candidates were able to convey information with complete accuracy and some of them were unable to convey the meaning from English into Arabic. Overall, grammar and syntax were good and the main areas of error were spelling, punctuation and accentuation.

The work of many candidates contained inaccuracies in relation to certain terms such as “continuous”, “litigation”, “quasi-judicial”, “common ground”, “connecting link” and “tact”. Some candidates failed to translate the abbreviation “ADR” into Arabic.

Broadly speaking, presentation and legibility were good.

Recommendations to Centres

Centres should take the following steps:

- always remind candidates to improve their punctuation, accentuation and specialist terminology;
- advise candidates to translate abbreviated words fully into the target language eg the abbreviation “ADR”; and
- encourage candidates to write their answers within the answer sheet margins.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates should make use of an English dictionary and thesaurus in order to assist them in conveying the correct translation. They should also avoid literal translations from English to Arabic language and be aware of cultural differences.

LANGUAGE: ARABIC
OPTION(S): HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Since this is my first year acting as marker, I cannot reflect on last year’s overall performance of candidates. Nevertheless comparing the candidates I came across last year (when I acted as an interlocutor) with the recorded tapes and the written tasks I received this year to mark, I sensed considerable improvement in candidates’ performance (generally in the oral tasks). Yet written translation suffers negligence, perhaps because candidates pay most of their attention to the verbal method of language transfer (since they perceive it as an *interpreting degree*).

As for the written translation, most of the candidates were able to transfer the source’s information accurately, but in a less-formal way, and they even slipped into using colloquialisms.

On the other hand, it was uplifting to see candidates’ familiarity with specialised terminology and witness how many of them were able to render the text skilfully to mirror the source’s register and style.

Perceptibly, candidates belonging to the same centre exhibited corresponding uniform levels, which could be related to the procedures used in those centres for selection and enrolling, as well as the impact instigated by experienced tutors.

Recommendations to Centres

If possible, centres should invest more resources in acquiring modern audio-labs, where candidates could spend sufficient time practicing and receiving constructive feedback from their tutors, which is a crucial requisite.

Likewise, it will pay well if supplementary sessions - dedicated to written tasks - are added (as most of the candidates do not seem established academically as linguists, and may never have received appropriate training on translation). They may be highly talented and demonstrate sensitivity as they interpret, but encouraging them to improve their writing skills should prove to be invaluable.

Recommendations to Candidates

Certainly, candidates could do better if they practiced more, focusing not only on the interpreting technique but also on written translation (bidirectional), paying special attention to formal writing particularly in their native languages.

It has been noticed that many excellent candidates while being extremely good in interpreting, perform poorly in their writing, not merely in English but also in their native language.

LANGUAGE: ARABIC
OPTION(S): LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The performance is disappointing and there has not been any noticeable improvement.

Recommendations to Centres

None.

Recommendations to Candidates

1. Work on both languages – comprehension, style, vocabulary, grammar and fluency.
2. Do not sit for this test unless you are pretty sure of mastering the skills.

LANGUAGE: ARMENIAN (EAST)
OPTION(S): ENGLISH LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Candidate mistakes included difficulty in conveying information from English into Armenian in a coherent and fluent manner and not being entirely familiar with specialist terminology. The reader could vaguely understand the general concept of the translated text but not the details. This resulted either in inaccurate translation, alternative translations or excessive paraphrasing. There was a high number of spelling and grammatical mistakes. In certain cases the syntax followed that of the source text. Presentation and legibility were not good. Spotting a particular strength proved difficult.

Recommendations to Centres

It is important to instruct candidates to refrain from using alternative translations. These confuse the reader and make the text less fluent. Candidates must have strong linguistic skills (in both English and the target language) and should make a real effort to acquire specialist terminology. Candidates should also be encouraged to keep to the syntax of the target language when translating.

Recommendations to Candidates

It is important for candidates to make sure that they have understood the source text material before beginning the translation. It is also equally important to allow sufficient time at the end to go over the translated text to ensure that the syntax, the specialist terminology and the general cohesion of the text would enable the average reader to act appropriately on the basis of the translation.

LANGUAGE: BENGALI
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Most candidates were able to comprehend and convey information from English into Bengali, although some candidates were not able to do it completely. Spelling and handwriting of some candidates were poor and illegible. Sentence structures were, in some cases, bad. Translations of terminologies were often not done or done incorrectly, eg "Alternative Dispute Resolution", "Contentious legal disputes", "quasi-judicial", etc.

Recommendations to Centres

As had often been said before, candidates should be encouraged to sit in an open court where Bengali - Bengali/Sylheti is being used. Also they should be encouraged to read Bengali newspapers, magazines and books to improve and enhance their linguistic skills.

Recommendations to Candidates

It is necessary and, indeed, essential to have proficiency in both English and Bengali. Reading Bengali newspapers, magazines and books and listening to radio would be of great help. Learn how to use a dictionary properly. Looking up a word and using the first synonym that catches the eye could be wrong. Consider if the word makes sense in the context of the text.

LANGUAGE: BENGALI
OPTION(S): HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Disappointing. Three out of four papers reflect: a) lack of preparation b) inadequate command of both general and specialist vocabulary c) a considerable number of technical faults: spelling, sentence structure and grammar.

A combination of the above factors make the end product unfit for purpose.

Recommendations to Centres

To achieve success, please, assess your candidates before entering them for the DPSI final exam. All above mentioned aspects are crucially important as the marking is strictly based on the criteria provided.

Recommendations to Candidates**Focus on:**

- General and specialist vocabulary
- Do not translate literally - translate the meaning
- Pay attention to: sentence structure, spelling and grammar in general so that it provides a coherent reading which is fit for purpose.

LANGUAGE: BENGALI
OPTION(S): LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Candidates had to translate a relatively easy text about a current issue. Most candidates did quite well - displayed improvement in their writing skills, vocabulary and knowledge of specialist terminology, although some performed very badly and their translations were not fit for the intended purpose.

One candidate had not been able to construct a single sentence properly. Information from the source text was not transferred adequately and the task left incomplete. All information from the last two paragraphs of the text to be translated was missing. One candidate had translated "The minimum age of registering a civil partnership is 16 years of age" as "To register a civil partnership (*with wrong translation of 'civil'*) one has to be above 16 years of age". Here the candidate has chosen a word from the dictionary which has no link with the task. S/he has translated "civil" as "Dewany" (translation of the Bengali word chosen by the candidate) which either means office of a financial minister or stewardship or something to do with the court, such as a civil court.

Some candidates have displayed very good work providing all information correctly and displaying good grammatical constructions and a good knowledge of the target language vocabulary and specialist terminology. This shows a good improvement.

Recommendations to Centres

Centres are doing quite well as most candidates showed improvement in their performance. Please pay attention to candidates whose ability is not up to standard yet. Tell them about the minimum required standard of the DPSI exam. Tell candidates to explain a term within brackets if the right word is not found in the source language dictionary as some current issue words are still not available in Bengali dictionaries.

Recommendations to Candidates

Try to use Bengali words wherever possible instead of transliterating English words. One aim of the examination is to check your vocabulary in the target language. Find out which word or words you should transliterate. If you do not find the appropriate word in the dictionary please explain the term as some current issue words, for example "Civil Partnership", are still not available in Bengali dictionaries.

LANGUAGE: BULGARIAN
OPTION(S): LAW AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

Most candidates were able to convey information from English into Bulgarian, albeit with minor inaccuracies and errors. Overall grammatical and syntactical constructions were good. Translations were comprehensive in most cases. Presentation and legibility were good.

Two of the candidates did extremely well and both translations were appropriately translated conveying the information with complete accuracy and excellent use of special terminology although each translation was different.

Weaknesses among most candidates were with the appropriate translation for the following terms: 'advocacy and trial', 'Britain's', 'lawsuit', 'litigants', 'quasi-judicial', 'commercial law', 'employment tribunals', 'welfare officer', 'privacy', 'subject only to a court appeal'. Two candidates put words that are not in the original text or missed words from the original text only because it sounded better in Bulgarian. Some of the examples of added words are as follows: 'without extra noise', 'approaches', 'one method', 'come to one and only result', 'the persons in question'. Some of the examples of missed words are as follows: 'efficiency', 'facilitate', and 'quasi-judicial role'. The translator needs to find the exact meaning of the English word in Bulgarian and not to add or miss words from the original text.

One candidate completely restructured all sentences as in the original text probably for originality, which resulted in missing words and information. On one occasion s/he missed the whole sentence. Interestingly enough s/he never missed the meaning.

Only one of the candidates translated 'Britain's' appropriately. 'England', 'Great Britain', but not 'Britain's' were used. It makes me think that candidates do not make any difference between 'British', 'English' and 'Great Britain'. Some of the candidates need to develop much stronger linguistic skills.

It is difficult to compare the results with last year's results because there was only one candidate last year, but the quality of the translations is much better now.

Local Government

The text was information from the General Register Office note about Civil Partnerships.

Information was conveyed from English into Bulgarian, albeit with minor inaccuracies and errors. Overall grammatical and syntactical constructions were good. Translation was fluent and comprehensive. Presentation and legibility were good. Translated with complete accuracy and excellent use of special terminology.

The main weakness was failure to find the appropriate translation for the following terms: 'legal requirement', 'approved premises' (there are better choices of words that may be used).

If the original text quotes numbers in figures then the translation should do likewise. For example: If the original text states 'fifteen' in words then the translation should not state 15 in figures. This does not change the meaning but in some cases could be very important.

Bulgarian names contain 'name', 'father's name or middle name' and 'surname or family name' but some English names have only 'name' and 'surname', when translating 'surname' should be as in Bulgarian 'surname or family name' not as in Bulgarian 'father's name or middle name'.

Recommendations to Centres

Please encourage candidates to go and sit in an open court hearing to get a better idea and put themselves in the place of the court interpreter.

Recommendations to Candidates

I would like to ask candidates to make sure first that they have read and understood the material and then go ahead with the translation.

The translator should not add or miss words from the English text because it may change the meaning of a word or statement. The translator needs to find the exact meaning of the English word in Bulgarian and not add or miss any words or information because it sounds better in Bulgarian.

The different words 'British', 'English', 'Great Britain', need to be translated as with the original meaning. Candidates need to develop much stronger linguistic skills.

It is essential for the candidate to re-read what has been written in its entirety, to see if it makes sense in the context of the situation.

Candidates should study as many original documents pertaining to their chosen topic as possible, in order to build up a bank of idiomatic terminology.

Candidates should concentrate hard on the exact meaning of the English, since serious misunderstandings can invalidate what is in other respects a fine translation.

Remember this is a translation for legal purposes and the way you translate the subject can mean justice to some and injustice to others.

LANGUAGE: CANTONESE
OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The performance this year was comparable to last year with some candidates able to achieve Merits whilst others performed poorly. This was more evident in the Local Government and English Law papers. With only very few exceptions, nearly all candidates were able to complete the task. Accurate and appropriate vocabulary was used by candidates, especially in the Health and English Law papers. A significant number of candidates who took the Local Government paper were not able to translate the term "Civil Partnership" in the context it intended. Linking "immigration controls" to being illegally here, and translating "a place of worship" were also common weaknesses amongst candidates who took the Local Government paper.

Recommendations to Centres

Candidates should be advised to read through the original text a couple of times before they embark on the task. They should also be informed that syntactical structure of the translated text as well as the use of appropriate cohesive devices are important to the overall flow of the text. Please also advise candidates that if they are unsure about certain Chinese characters, they should double-check them in their dictionaries. Many candidates were still using a mixture of traditional and simplified scripts in their texts. Please advise them on the overall presentation of their texts as many candidates have failed to use Tippex and, as a result, their texts looked quite messy.

Recommendations to Candidates

Please try not to translate the original text verbatim as it is important to structure your translated text in such a way that it will read naturally for your intended readers. Pay more attention to the use of cohesive devices so your text demonstrates coherence. Specific professional terms and vocabulary were in the text for a reason. Please ensure that they are reproduced in the context of the text. The text will be marked against its effectiveness to communicate. Please read it through to ensure you have a coherent piece of work and not a text of independent sentences.

LANGUAGE: CROATIAN
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The small number of candidates both this year and last year makes a comparison difficult, but it showed marked differences in candidates' knowledge and competence. This year's performance was particularly poor in all aspects of the language and professional competence. There was a lack of basic understanding of both languages and failure to both encode and decode the given material.

The worrying aspect was that this incompetence appeared to be covered up by indiscriminate use of a few authentic sounding and 'sophisticated' words, apparently in an attempt to create a professional sounding translation, regardless of the inaccuracies. More complicated segments were simply omitted from the final text. A disturbing aspect of this type of conduct is that in a realistic working environment it is not always practical to monitor professionals' work and indeed it is often not done at all. In a situation where neither the author, nor the audience are familiar with each other's language and commissioning is based on trust in the practitioner's competence alone, it is possible to deceive both sides with possibly very serious consequences.

Not all candidates are ready to take the exam, and the fact that an interpreting course is not compulsory (and I am not suggesting that it should be) makes it difficult to assess candidates' level of knowledge prior to the exam. It is therefore extremely important to underline the message to potential candidates that they should carefully assess their own capabilities before moving on to the exam and actual practice.

Recommendations to Centres

Language-specific tutoring may not be always possible in interpreting courses, but centres should wherever possible endeavour to enrol candidates with same language pairs. Where the tutor does not speak a candidate's language maybe marking of some of the candidate's final work could be outsourced to other centres or professionals in order to accurately judge his/her ability and suitability to take the exam.

Recommendations to Candidates

Exercise your own judgement and assess your own capabilities and weaknesses. Ask yourself would you want your nearest and dearest to have to rely on your level of competence in a life or death situation. Would you understand this translation if you had just arrived in the country and had no knowledge of English terminology, system and structures?

This is a skill and it can be learned by constant active involvement in both your languages. Obvious examples are internet research (be careful when assessing the reliability of your sources – concentrate on the government, official and university websites), newspapers in both languages – many can be found on the internet, as well as traditional methods such as dictionaries, monolingual and bilingual (if it fits in your 'baguette' bag or a large pocket it is not good enough!), glossaries etc.

Here are some examples:

"Rječnik hrvatskoga jezika" by Vladimir Anić

"Hrvatski jezični savjetnik" various authors, published by the Institute of Croatian Language and Linguistics

"Glosar ekonomskopravnoga nazivlja" by Katarina Čulina (HR < EN)

"Poslovno-upravni rjecnik" by Vladimir Ivir

Proper monolingual English dictionary, like Oxford English Dictionary or similar.

There are also some internet dictionaries, like www.design-ers.net/eh-rjecnik.asp which is useful and has a good layout, but do take care when using all dictionaries – do not just pick a word that sounds 'clever'. Each of the listed words will have its own nuances and uses. Cross-reference it within a specific context using Google if you are not sure. Number of the occurrences will give you some indication whether it is appropriate in your case. These are some short-cuts that you may find useful. However, none of these methods will work by themselves. Nothing can replace your own awareness of the language and to 'hear' when something sounds fluent and genuine, or doesn't.

For candidates who have spent a large part of their life in the UK, please go back to resources in your native tongue and learn about equivalent aspects of language, terminology and social structures that you may have not experienced whilst living in your country of origin. These have most certainly changed and evolved and you need to be familiar with these changes in order to be able to provide an accurate translation. If you go and visit, and you should, be aware of the language used around you – read signs, leaflets, information on food and medication packets, travel information, user information and manuals, customer information in hospitals and post offices – anything that will remind you and teach you about current use of everyday language that you may encounter in your interpreting practice.

Using corrupted English words in your work is unacceptable, however attractive it may be in your daily life. Be vigilant, censor yourself and force yourself to avoid mixing languages for the sake of convenience. This habit that will invariably spill over into your professional work and it is, to say the least, unfair to your clients who, after all, need your services because they cannot speak the language.

Exercise your ability to analyse the meaning of the original text. Near enough isn't good enough and, despite popular misconception, everything can be translated, if you know what it means.

LANGUAGE: CZECH
OPTION(S): LAW AND HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

Compared to last year, this year's candidate group was generally stronger at knowledge of legal terminology and kept paraphrasing to a minimum. The candidates were also more successful at expressing logical relationships between

sentences by various language devices, namely conjunctions and prepositions. However, the word order remains a weak point in this respect and some candidates simply ignored its specific role in the Czech language and instead chose to transfer the English sentence structure into Czech, thus failing to emphasise the key words, which jeopardized the message of the text. Other weaknesses were spelling and punctuation. I do not recollect such a great number of spelling and punctuation errors in any other year. In several cases it was the mixture of spelling and punctuation, namely using commas, which caused the candidate to fail the exam. Such a poor standard is not acceptable for native speakers at degree level. More attention should be paid to the context and register. Cohesion errors were often caused by ignoring the grammatical agreement between nouns and verbs or mismatch between genders or singular and plural.

Health

It is difficult to draw conclusions in relation to the candidate group when in fact I only received one script in this option. Candidate strengths included very good translation with accurate renderings and successful application of knowledge of medical terminology. The only weakness was a discrepancy between cases and one inappropriate usage of comma.

Recommendations to Centres

It is obvious the candidates were prepared well in the area of legal vocabulary. More attention should be however paid to basic grammar and its implications on cohesion and spelling. Close links between these areas should be explained as candidates are surprisingly not always aware of them. Generally, candidates should be guided towards better language awareness and different ways in which the same word behaves in different contexts.

Try to find time to review candidates' understanding of morphology and syntax. Well done with medical vocabulary.

Recommendations to Candidates

There are numbers of ways how to translate one word – look at the context. Brush up on your grammar and spelling. Pay more attention to the word order and explore its possibilities in Czech sentences. Reread the text and make sure it sounds authentic. Syntax has implications on using commas – learn the rules. A traditional grammar book such as Havránek a Jedlička's Česká mluvnice should help.

Try to revise declension and its impact on cohesion and the rules of writing commas in Czech. Do not forget that commas closely reflect syntax.

LANGUAGE: CZECH
OPTION(S): LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The text was information about the Civil Partnership Act. An important aspect of the Civil Partnership Act is that it applies to both sexes. It is necessary, therefore, to include both feminine and masculine endings in all instances where they might appear, that is in verbs, numbers and pronouns in certain languages, amongst them Czech. Candidates should remember this aspect of Czech in all their translations and take care to include them. Under normal circumstances one can think that both masculine and feminine are understood but in this case it was essential to include them both so that the reader might not be misled into thinking that the Act applies only to one sex.

Otherwise the level of language used was reasonably high, both in vocabulary and syntax. Regarding using formal language in this kind of text, the tendency might be to try to use old fashioned expressions even if there are more modern formal versions available.

Recommendations to Centres

Stress the importance of neat and clear presentation and the use of separate paragraphs. Recommend students to obtain any actual documents from local councils, especially leaflets, application forms and booklets. Try to analyse them and translate them in classes and then compile your own dictionaries.

Stress to the candidates the importance of basic grammar and punctuation and the need to re-read the text after themselves. It is necessary to look at the text impartially and to develop this ability in order to translate competently.

Recommendations to Candidates

There are not so many leaflets and booklets published in the Czech Republic to provide comparison with the English Local Government literature but there are good online dictionaries and there is of course Google where you can find out what expressions are actually used in the Czech press and literature. Reading Czech newspapers and following any new developments in local government structures would also help.

Concentrate hard on the meaning of the English and do not rush into using similar “foreign” words in Czech. Sometimes the meaning is not identical and there is a precise Czech alternative. In more and more instances, however, “foreign” words based on English are being used and it is necessary to be aware of the trend.

Read Czech newspapers and be aware of the syntax and general development of a paragraph and a whole piece of text in Czech. The word order is flexible and very important in Czech. Do not follow the English text automatically. Read the whole text and judge it on its own merit.

This aspect of candidates doing DPSI has greatly improved over the recent years and it shows that both the general level of candidates and their specialised knowledge have improved.

LANGUAGE: DARI
OPTION (S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The quality of translation was worse than last year. Almost none of the candidates were able to convey information from English into Dari and all had an inadequate knowledge of grammar and syntax. Translations were not fluent and comprehensive in all cases. In some cases the presentation and legibility was very poor.

Weaknesses among nearly all of the candidates were with the appropriate translation of certain legal terminology such as “Judicial”, “subject only to a court appeal”, “confined”, “quasi-judicial”, etc, and also sentence construction. The quality of translation was very poor.

Recommendations to Centres

Candidates need stronger linguistic skills, more awareness of the language and vocabulary and legal terminology. If candidates have never dealt with interpreting for legal issues, they should be encouraged or even it should be made compulsory to attend a few court hearings, so that they can see how language is used. This gives them a better idea about court procedure and legal terminology.

It would also be a good idea to arrange a compulsory short course or workshop to familiarise them with the concept of formal translations and also to provide them with a hand out containing legal terminology.

It is not acceptable to provide two or more alternative translations for a word or phrase, either with one in brackets, or, separated by a slash. Candidate must not “hedge their bets” in this way. It is necessary to make up one’s mind, and write just one version.

Recommendations to Candidates

All candidates should improve their linguistic abilities and knowledge of formal written Dari through different sources such as the BBC website.

Candidates should improve their knowledge of legal terminology by attending a few court hearings, where their language is used. This gives them a better idea about court procedure and how to use the legal terminology.

Candidates should prepare for the exam by studying grammar. It is very important to read the text first before starting the translation. It is essential to re-read the translation, to see if it makes sense in the context of the situation being described. Sometimes fundamental errors could be avoided with a little common sense.

Candidates should know that making good use of dictionaries or having good knowledge of vocabulary is not enough if it is not backed by correct, coherent and grammatically proper language.

- As a starting point, candidates should concentrate hard on the meaning of the English, since serious misunderstandings can invalidate what is in other respects a fine translation.
- As usual, candidate should study as many original documents pertaining to their chosen topic as possible, in order to build up a bank of idiomatic terminology.

Finally, candidates should continue to read as well as listen to general news and documentaries on the TV as well as radio. They should remember that this is interpreting/translating for legal purposes and, the way they translate/interpret the subject, can mean justice to some and injustice to others. They should pay attention to the details, as the changing of one word can give different meanings or even no meaning to the sentence or statement.

LANGUAGE: OPTION(S): ENGLISH - Task 3A Translation into English

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The overall standard was similar to last year.

ENGLISH/SCOTTISH LAW OPTION

The text was a letter written by an O/L speaker who has just appeared before the magistrates on a burglary charge, and has been refused bail. The recipient is a solicitor, whose help the prisoner is requesting for a renewed application for bail.

The aspect of the text which discriminated most clearly among candidates was that of legal terminology. The various O/L texts expressed these legal terms in a variety of ways, in many cases using paraphrases where exact equivalents do not exist. A literal translation of a paraphrase, while not gaining full marks, would be acceptable, provided it was unambiguous and did not imply a quite different legal term.

An example is "burglary", for which a single word term does not exist in many languages. "Robbing houses" is an approximation, but not exact, as it does not imply forced entry. "Burglary into a house" is tautological. "House theft" implies that the whole building is carted off, like a mobile home. These, however, were preferable to a misspelling of burglary. There were many of these, ranging from "buglery" to "buggary". Several Urdu candidates used the word "*dacoity*". This Indian word would not be known to most British readers, unless they had read a lot of Kipling. The spectacle of a band of *dacoits* prowling the streets of an English city would be rather bizarre. Other offerings for this term included: "thief in the families" or "family theft" (from Vietnamese candidates); "a broken entry" (Polish: *włamania*); "trespasser to residential home" (a Somali candidate), was ambiguous, as residential home means a home for old people; "stealing the house by breaking it" (an Albanian candidate); "stealing in my house where I live" (a Bengali candidate) seemed something of an own goal; "stealing with their particulars" or "stealing of the privates" (French - an attempted literal translation of "*chez des particuliers*"); "entering and breaking" (Brazilian-Portuguese *arrombamentos*) seemed to be putting the cart before the horse; "a residential thief" (Mandarin). A Mandarin candidate piled up several words: "burglary cases behaviour offences".

Another problem was presented by the terms for the various stages of the criminal law process.

"Magistrates Court" does not have an exact equivalent in most legal systems, but the equivalent should have been recognised in the O/L text. Some candidates used a definition e.g. "First Instance Court", but that would not be a current term in the context. "*Tribunal des juges de paix*" in the French text, resulted in answers like "judge at the peace tribunal" which, if it meant anything at all, would have a totally different meaning.

The above attempt was one of many examples of "false friends" especially common among the Latin languages. "I compared lately before the court of judges of peace" (French: "*j'ai comparu...*" etc); "four principals of accusation ... were held against me" (French: *quatre chefs d'accusation... ont été retenus contre moi*). In this case, it may be supposed that the candidate looked up "*chef*" and found "principal" in a different sense. Spanish and Portuguese candidates also suffered from this tendency: "The Peace Court" (*Juzgado de Paz*); "reclusion" was used by Portuguese (Brazilian) candidates for "imprisonment" and "denunciation" for "charge"; "preventive detention" was a semi-acceptable paraphrase for the correct term "remand". Some Portuguese candidates used "delicts" for "crimes". "*En vista de*" (Spanish = in the light of, because of) was translated literally as "In sight of" (the nature of the offence).

A Turkish candidate offered: "The Peace of Justice": an attempt at "(Court of the) Justice of the Peace"; (*Sulh Mahkemesi*) in this case, the candidate may have been influenced by the Turkish genitival construction, in which the

noun which bears the inflexional ending is the thing possessed, or pertaining to the previous noun - the reverse of the case in English. "The crime of seriousness", for "the seriousness of the crime" , offered by another Turkish candidate, may have arisen from the same cause.

Serious errors were made in attempting to find the word "bail". "Parole" was quite wrong, as it refers to a release, on promise of good behaviour, of someone already serving a sentence. "Parole on bail" (from a Spanish candidate) was also wrong, as it would be a cross between two different states. "Discharge me on bail" is a contradiction, as "discharge" means release after a court decision not to proceed with the charge. "Release with caution" (Romanian "*eliberare pe cauțiune*") was wrong, because a "caution" only refers to the police releasing someone without charge, usually a minor or young offender; this is not the same as bail. "Probation" (offered by a Brazilian) was wrong, as it refers to conditional release after conviction. "Release from arrest" was wrong, because "arrest" refers only to the period of police custody prior to charging. "Custody release application" - a literal translation of the Polish text's "*podanie o zwolnienie z aresztu*" was more acceptable, but not a current term. Similarly, "I cannot get this treatment while I am under arrest" (Romanian "... *cât timp sunt arestat*") was wrong, as the reference was to the period on remand. "In custody" , the more general term, was needed here.

Another problem was the term to use for the court event at which bail was refused. "Trial" was quite wrong here. "Hearing" was the term required. "Trial diet" (from Polish candidates) made one wonder how old the dictionary was that the candidate was using, as the "Diet of Worms" occurred hundreds of years ago.

Other mistakes were made with what took place at the hearing: "I have been convicted of four crimes of burglary" was quite wrong, as bail would not be on offer after a conviction. Such basic terms as "charge" and "convict", and the difference between them, should be known by anyone interpreting at DPSI level.

A similar confusion was present in the minds of several candidates in respect of "plead": "If I plead guilty I may be sent to prison". Here, "If I am found guilty" or "If I am convicted " was what should have been written. "If condemned " was another attempt at "convicted " , but using the wrong register. Many incorrect word choices were the result of choosing a possible translation of the O/L word, but not the right one for the context, e.g. "penalised by imprisonment " (Polish-*kara*).

Some candidates wrote sentences which a passing acquaintance with the British legal system should have shown to be impossible: "If the judge reaches a verdict and found me guilty" (Thai); "The sentences I can face if I plead guilty" (Somali).

The idea of "not having links with the community " was rendered as: "I do not have any community bondage with me" (a Hindi candidate); "I am not bound to any public discipline"(a Kurdish candidate); "I have no ethnic bondage" (Bengali).

The idea of "not being a permanent resident " was expressed by a German candidate as "of no fixed abode in this country " which does not have the same meaning as the German text: "*ich nicht meine standigen wohnsitz in diesem land habe*".

The reference to the uncle, who is put forward as a guarantor who has offered to come up with the money for bail, being a priest, resulted in some strange translations. The word "pastor", used for priest in many languages, is not a current term in English, though it might be understood . "Vicar" sounds incongruous for a nationality which would not be C of E. Some candidates looked up the word in their languages and came up with something approximate to the original metaphorical origin of "*pastor*": "My Uncle is a farmer" (Czech); "My uncle, who is a herdsman" (Slovak); "My uncle, who is a bishop" seemed unlikely for an Arab. "My Uncle is a High Priest" (Somali) likewise. "My Uncle is a Minister" was ambiguous in the context, as it could refer to a politician.

Examples of injudicious dictionary use included: "King Throne Union" for "United Kingdom" (Kurdish); "I am prone to hand in my passport" (Polish: *skłonny*, which can have that meaning, but in the text meant "prepared"; "he can demonstrate his bank statements" (Polish: *przedstawić*); "I don't have any bonds in the area (Spanish "*vinculos*"); "If I were convinced" (Slovak *usvedčený* which could mean that, but here means "convicted"); "existed a high risk (Spanish : *existia un alto riesgo*).

Grammar

The correct use of the passive was a problem for many candidates, especially for Mandarin candidates. This meant either using a passive form for an active verb: "I was appeared" or the reverse: "I am not allowed to release". Russian candidates tended not to use the passive, carrying over the Russian impersonal third person plural form, with "they": "they have brought indictment against me" (Russian: *мне предъявили обвинение*). This form gives a much too colloquial impression in English, although it is neutral style in Russian.

The commonest tense errors were:

use of future in a conditional clause: "If I will be found guilty" (all Slavonic language candidates - Russian, Polish, Czech, Slovak)

use of present simple or present continuous for present perfect: "My ankle is living in England since 20 years" ("Uncle" was intended) .

A Lithuanian mistake was with the word order of numerals: "with two our children"

Errors with modals included: "I can escape" for "I might escape"; "I could escape" (Russian candidates).

Another source of frequent errors was to use the wrong part of speech, or wrong form of a word root: "The judge fears that I will commission more robberies"; "I have been charging with thief" (Turkish); "Maybe I will recidivism again" (Kurdish).

Some Kurdish candidates were unable to handle reported speech . The section reporting the magistrate's reasons for refusing bail was put in inverted commas, which was bad enough, but made much worse by using the first person:

The judge said "I will be able to do more burglaries if I am released". What was meant, of course, was ... the judge said that I would be able ... etc. As it stands, however, it does not inspire confidence in the judge .

Style

"My other half" for "my wife" was too colloquial for a letter to a lawyer. "Do me a favour" similarly. "I beg you" (for either Spanish "Le ruego" or Russian "Я Вас очень прошу") were too effusive.

HEALTH OPTION

The text was a letter from an O/L speaking doctor in an overseas hospital, carried by an O/L speaking patient, describing the medical treatment he had recently undergone there, the letter being for the attention of a British doctor.

Vocabulary

As with the Law option, incorrect use of terminology was a frequent problem. The patient had complained of chest pains, diagnosed as angina caused by narrowing of the coronary arteries, and had undergone coronary bypass surgery, in which a vein from the patient's left leg had been used as an implant. Wildly inaccurate translations of this course of events were common: "He needs coronary heart transplant" (Urdu); "a blockage in the heart" (from a Bengali candidate) was too vague, as were "a join was made" and "an extension has been done"; "collateral bypass"; "blocked valve"; "replaced with a flash"; "the problemed artery" (Mandarin); "so we cutted off the artery" (Mandarin); "throat pain" or "aeosphagus (both offered by Bengali candidates) referred to the wrong part of the body; "surgery to divert blood" (Arabic) was worrying, but "operation to remove blood " was worse still, suggesting a *Dracula* film; "the above patient suffered from diphtheria" (another Arabic candidate) leads one to wonder how good the dictionary was which the candidate was using; "Angina" (French "*angine de poitrine*", predictably, was taken by French candidates as having a more general meaning of pain, which it has in French: "tonsillitis towards his chest"; "breast incision (Brazilian Portuguese) would imply a quite different operation, and on a woman rather than a man; "dilution" for "narrowing" (Polish: *zwężenie*) could have arisen through careless dictionary use.

There was confusion of "artery" and "vein" . Some candidates in Urdu and Arabic wrote "The artery from the patient's left leg was used". This would horrify the doctor who read the letter, as this would have caused the patient to bleed to death very quickly. Even more radical was the offering of one candidate, who referred to "removing the damaged aorta and replacing it with one from the patient's leg". That would surely be cutting edge surgery!

Others described the operation as:

"coronary vein transplant "

"angioplasty" (a quite different operation)

"bridging" (Polish "*pomostowanie*")

"he needed an exchange of coronary arteries" (Urdu)

"the defected vessel has been removed and replaced it with the patient's leg vessel"

"lead graft" or "derivation surgery (Spanish "*derivación*")

"the chest wound was seamed " (Polish)

"arterial coronation surgery "(Romanian)

"the evolution prior to surgery " (French "*evolution*")

"the surgery has been executed" (French)

"blood pipes" (Amharic)

Lengthy paraphrases are to be avoided if the correct term can be found. Thus "stitches which will dissolve in time and become part of the body" (Czech) would have been better as "soluble sutures".

Once again, Romance language candidates were prone to "false friends":

"intervention" (Spanish) for "operation"
"ground floor " (Spanish *planta*) for "general ward"
"porter of this letter " (Spanish *portador*)
"admitted in our service" (French - *admis dans notre service*)
"kinesitherapist" (French *kinésithérapeute*) for "physiotherapist"
"cicatrisation" (French - healing of a wound)
"reeducation" (French for rehabilitation)
"a sain lifestyle" (French - *style de vie sain*)
"throat infection" (French - *angine de poitrine*)
"the cares after surgery" (French - *les soins post-opératoires*)
"the evolution after the surgery was excellent" (French)
"post-operative plagues are well healed" (Romanian).

The German candidates were not immune from the "false friend" infection, as the following shows:

"Mr Leutner has been through crown-bypass surgery... for crown artery, that angina pectoris caused
"He became post operation treatment " (German *bekommen* - receive)
"the sores are very good cured ".... "the operation was made by full narcosis"

"Painkillers" were rendered as "sedatives" (Bengali) - not the same thing at all. "He was given killers" however, was much worse. "The patient was advised to eat saturated food " (Bengali) was puzzling, in the light of current concerns. "The patient was put to sleep" (Urdu) was suggestive of a pet being put down.

Grammar

Errors with articles were common, especially this year as there were many more candidates offering Polish or other Balto-Slavonic languages. Even the correct word with the wrong article is confusing if it contradicts medical facts: "the vein in the left leg was used". Here, using the definite article suggests that the patient had only one vein in his left leg, which is clearly not the case; but if it was, one would not take it away and use it in another part of the body. "The left vein in his leg" (Bengali) was not quite so bad, but was still wrong as it implied he only had two veins in the leg - a left one and a right one.

Russian candidates made errors in the order of participial clauses: "with visiting the ward physiotherapist" (*с приходившим в палату физиотерапевтом*) and with articles: "a wound was closed". Here, obviously, it was *the* wound which was closed.

A serious tense error was to use the present perfect for past perfect: "He has not been hospitalised yet" (for Polish: *nigdy wcześniej był hospitalowany*). This contradicts what the doctor says later.

Style

Some phrases were rendered in too chatty a style: "his wounds were mending very well" (Somali) "all his troubles started to go away"; "everything keeps in good working order"; "his postoperative progress was great".

Genre conventions

Some candidates translated the L-1 letter opening and closing conventional phrases word for word, e.g. "Dear Mr Solicitor" (Romanian -"*stimate domnule avocat*"); "Yours respectfully" (Romanian); "Esteemed Gentlemen" (Bengali); "The Righteous Mister/The Righteous Mistress" (Arabic); "Respectable Sir" (Farsi). The normal English expressions should be used here.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPTION

The text was a letter from an O/L speaker to a local authority enquiring about residential homes for the elderly.

Vocabulary

Errors included:

"I don't want to be a ballast on my family" (= burden; Polish-*obciążenie*)
"independent nursing homes " (Polish .. *samorządowych*... local authority)

"autarchies " (European Portuguese = local authority)
"ground children" (= grandchildren)
"my caretaker " (= carer, care worker)
"government pension" (= state pension)

Some candidates confused "home" and "house":

"elderly house" (old people's home)
"shelter home" (Cantonese)
"outpost" (Polish ... *placówka*)

Some Spanish and Portuguese candidates translated "*mis hijos*", "*filhos*", which are common gender plurals, as "my sons" where the context required "my children". "Rheumatoid arthritis" was translated as "curiosity problem" by a Bengali candidate. Urdu candidates tended to write "she is from the same country from where I belong".

Grammar

Most candidates found the text quite straightforward from the grammatical point of view.

A common error among Urdu candidates was to introduce an indirect question with "that": "I want to know that how/that when/that who/that from where" etc. followed by an inverted verb form. Urdu candidates also used "that's why" as an all-purpose connector.

"Hard" and "hardly" were confused: "I hardly breathe" (Russian - *мне бывает трудно дышать*).

Spanish candidates should not use a past tense for a Spanish subjunctive in sentences like the following: "I need a house that was closer ..." (Spanish "*que estuviera...*").

Some French candidates used "Must I share a bathroom..." (for "*devrais-je*"), which implies a certain hurt pleading tone, which is absent from the more neutral "Do I have to ..".

Recommendations to Centres

Always provide lined paper for candidates. Make sure that all candidates are aware that they are allowed to use dictionaries, though not electronic ones.

Comments on Administrative Matters

Centres should be reminded of the importance of using Royal Mail Special Delivery as instructed by the IoL Educational Trust. Centres should **not under any circumstances** use couriers. Courier companies do not have the back-up infrastructure of Royal Mail, and will sit on a parcel for weeks if they fail to deliver it first time, unsure what to do with it.. This year, a centre sent scripts by a major courier on June 21st. They went missing for a month. Upon enquiry, the courier pleaded "bad weather" . After repeated phone calls, and an online search of the courier's tracking system, the scripts were eventually received on 26th July after a delay of 5 weeks.

The same centre also sent some Task 3B scripts to the 3A examiner and vice versa; the member of staff concerned then went on leave and could not be contacted to find out where the scripts had been sent or by what method. This caused inconvenience and extra work to the IoL Educational Trust and to markers, and could have affected the moderation process and publication of results for this centre.

Recommendations to Candidates

Always check that you have finished the translation. This may involve turning over to the next page. This is always indicated by "Continued on next page" printed in large bold letters.

If you have written a rough version and also a final version, make sure that it is clear which one you intend to be marked.

Make a glossary of basic terms for your option, and their equivalents in your other language, and try to expand your vocabulary within this sphere. Remember that you are allowed to bring to the examination room a good dictionary, and you may check the spelling of words that you are not sure of. Do not assume that a specialised legal or medical term in your other language will be the same in English; this is especially so if your other language is one of the Romance group. If your other language is one which does not have equivalents of English definite and indefinite articles, make every effort to master their correct use.

LANGUAGE: FARSI
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The overall performance of candidates was almost the same as last year bearing in mind that the number of Farsi candidates was considerably less than last year. Candidates can be categorised into two different groups; those who have a good command of English but weak Farsi and those who have a good command of Farsi but weak English. There were very few who had a good command of English and Farsi. Most of them could not manage to interpret "Citizens Advice Bureau". This is because there is no straightforward term for it in Farsi. However, it was expected from the candidates that they would convey the meaning rather than get stuck with the literal meaning of the terms.

Recommendations to Centres

I think centres should try to deal with external noise eg aeroplane noise as it is distracting for candidates; for example they should conduct the exams in a different part of the college if possible.

The recording system of some centres needs improvement.

I should also mention that the candidates from one centre were noticeably professional in their interpretations which I believe reflects the way the centre trained them.

Recommendations to Candidates

As I categorised them above into two different groups I suggest to some of them that they improve their Farsi and to the others that they improve their English. In both groups they need to read some formal texts; in particular those who do not have good command of Farsi. This was quite obvious in their translations. They also need to improve their knowledge of methods and styles of translation.

LANGUAGE: FARSI
OPTION(S): LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

With the exception of a couple of good papers most candidates made the most common mistakes, ie sentence structure and clause order which are almost always different in Farsi and English. Farsi is an SOV language and the verbs must always appear at the end of the sentence. Candidates get particularly confused when there is more than one clause in a sentence and often miss one of the two or more verbs and render the sentence meaningless or vague.

Recommendations to Centres

I am under the impression that tutors concentrate mostly on the spoken part of the DPSI paper. While it is true that in real life a large percentage of work assigned to DPSI holders consists of verbal interpretation, nevertheless the paper does have a written part and if too little class work is spent on it one cannot expect better results.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates should bear in mind that written translation and verbal interpretation are quite different tasks in many aspects. In verbal interpretation it is possible to go back and correct oneself, or to provide an alternative term or even to try and clarify by explanation. In written translation candidates get one shot at the task and only one. Alternative terminologies are not accepted. There is no chance to provide explanations or to go back and correct oneself. Candidates should consider the written task as an assignment given to them by some establishment or a local authority to be published for public use as may be the case in real life. Therefore the final draft must provide the best possible choice of terminology and be written in the appropriate register, fit for the purpose.

Since Local Government is a broad subject there is no specialised dictionary for it as in Law. Therefore candidates must prepare themselves by accessing bi-lingual newspapers or brochures and pamphlets provided by local authorities in

which both Farsi and English versions are written side by side. There are also Persian short stories translated into English by Mazda Publishers, as well as a lot of internet sites which provide Farsi and English versions of their contents. Also some local authorities provide Farsi brochures which contain a lot of useful terminologies. Liverpool Council is one and I am sure there are other councils in the south.

LANGUAGE: FRENCH
OPTION(S): LAW AND HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

The performance was a lot weaker than last year, as a high proportion of candidates taking this option did not seem to have a sufficient knowledge of the French language and were well out of their depth at that level of examination. On a number of occasions, the syntax was atrocious, and nearly all candidates, but a very few, made some basic syntactical errors. Some candidates also made some very serious grammatical and spelling mistakes, and it seems that a couple of candidates wrote phonetically and produced a translation containing one mistake in almost every single word. Some sentences were so jumbled that one could not understand them as it was impossible to find the different elements relating to each other. One does not expect to see that type of error in an examination at degree level.

The title seemed to cause a problem and only a few candidates translated it accurately. Many candidates kept the abbreviation "ADR" as such, although these letters did not correspond to the words chosen to translate "Alternative Dispute Resolution"; it was obvious that they did not know how to deal with an abbreviation. A number of candidates did not seem to understand the source text overall and remained too close to it, producing some "word-for-word" renderings, especially in the title and the 1st paragraph. There were also some nonsensical renderings.

There was a lack of knowledge of legal vocabulary and basic words such as "court", "case" and "trial", for example, were incorrectly translated.

Incorrect word order and syntactical errors had a major impact on the style and only very few translations were well written. Generally, there were few errors in the register used.

Health

Apart from one candidate who produced a good translation, many candidates seem to resort to "word-for-word" translation, which sometimes produced awkward renderings. The most common mistake made was the translation of "prostate gland" which was literally translated by a number of candidates by "la glande de la prostate" (suggesting that the prostate gland has/contains another gland); a simple glance in a dictionary would have given the correct answer. "Condition" was also translated by "condition" by several candidates, although this rendering was wrong in this context.

Also, there were a number of technical errors, including some basic ones, demonstrating a lack of basic knowledge of the French language, with inadequate syntax and basic grammatical mistakes.

It was obvious that most of the candidates were not familiar enough with the medical context and did not use appropriate vocabulary, giving sometimes very odd renderings ("l'agrandissement de la prostate" for "prostate enlargement").

Some candidates did not know how to deal with the abbreviation PSA, which was sometimes kept as such, although it did not correspond to the initials of the words chosen by the candidate to translate "prostate specific antigen".

Recommendations to Centres

Candidates should know what to expect and should be made aware of the level of the examination.

They need to be competent in two languages; "getting by" is very far from professionally acceptable.

Candidates lacking basic language skills do not have a level good enough to sit the examination; language skills must be good in both languages. As well as improving their skills in their second language, they also need to keep their native language up-to-date and make sure that their spelling, grammar and syntax remain those of a native speaker. They must also get familiar with their chosen specialist subject and there are many ways of doing this: watching TV, reading newspapers, surfing on the Internet, travelling to France (it is only a short distance away) preferably away from tourist

resorts where English might be spoken, etc.

Candidates need to learn some translation techniques and should be taught for example how to deal with abbreviations, cultural differences, transfer of figures, etc.

Also, it might be a good idea to specify to candidates that they are not to write their names anywhere on the translation or the cover; although, this seems obvious, one candidate did that this year.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates should bear that the DPSI is an examination at degree level and ensure that they have strong linguistic skills before deciding to enter. Also, it is imperative to be able to write correctly in one's mother tongue. Being able to decode a text is only half of the work; the text also needs to be encoded correctly and idiomatically.

Candidates need to do plenty of general reading and reading in their specialist field to get really familiar with the subject, with the way things are worded in a legal document or a medical report for example; they can watch specialised programmes on TV, etc.

When dealing with cultural differences, they should bear in mind that there is not always an equivalent for organisations, courts, job titles and that if there is not a straightforward answer, the English word can be kept in inverted commas for example and an explanation given in brackets or a footnote written (there are various solutions).

The use of good dictionaries is essential (monolingual and bilingual, as well as specialised dictionaries such as legal or medical ones), as is the need to use logic; it is likely that something which seems out of place or very odd has probably been misunderstood.

Candidates need to make time to read the finished translation in order to ascertain that it would be understood by the target audience and to be able to correct spelling mistakes.

They should avoid "word-for-word" translation and when they are tempted to do so, they should go back to the original text to try and decode it better; once the original text has been understood, then one has a better chance of finding an appropriate solution to encode the text in the target language.

LANGUAGE: FRENCH
OPTION(S): LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The performance of candidates for this option was disappointing, the main problem being the poor quality of the candidates' written French. There were many problems to do with lexis, but also with word order, verbal structures, prepositions and syntax generally. In many cases this affected the accuracy of the text produced, and often its clarity. There were quite a few cases where the intended reader would have been hard put to work out what the text was actually about, as a number of key words were completely mishandled. This included in particular the essential "civil partnership" and "civil partner" – often rendered as "*partenariat civil*" or "*association civile*", and "*partenaire civil*", which are all totally unsuitable ("*partenaire*" is used in a business situation or to refer to sexual activity; it cannot be used to refer to one of a couple). Other mishandled lexical terms included the expression "give their notice", where candidates decided that "notice" was "*avis*" and then proceeded to write "*donner leur avis*". This actually means "give their opinion". Most candidates failed entirely to render "unless you have an entry clearance expressly for this purpose" and many produced sentences which were actually meaningless.

Recommendations to Centres

There is a clear need for candidates to improve their language skills so that they can convey the intended meaning accurately and clearly. Too many candidates only have a very approximate knowledge of French, and this needs to be worked on if they are to produce translations which serve their purpose. Candidates also need to be taught to focus on the key items and to pay particular attention to their rendering. To achieve this, candidates need to develop a much more rigorous approach when looking for equivalents and to develop the habit of checking and cross-checking instead of relying on just one source. The exercise would also be much easier if candidates had a better background knowledge of French culture: knowing about the PACS for instance (as a few candidates did) would have been helpful for this exercise.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates need to develop a proper awareness of which are the key items and notions in a text, and ensure that the translation conveys the intended meaning adequately. This means checking and cross-checking, using both bilingual and monolingual sources, rather than just picking up the first equivalent suggested in the bilingual dictionary. Where a key item is concerned, it is absolutely essential to get it right, as providing the correct information in a way that the reader can understand is the key to securing a Pass. Candidates also need to improve their basic language skills and this involves being familiar with verb forms, being able to use agreements and pronouns in a coherent fashion, knowing when to use which tense (some candidates used a conditional where a future was required for instance), knowing how to use verbal constructions with “*faire*”, knowing how to translate things like “both”, knowing in which order particular words should be put and so on. There are many grammar books on the market, some providing excellent exercises with a key, perfect for self-study. For the type of exercise involved in this examination, where the aim is to provide specific, accurate and clear information to the intended user, an approximate knowledge of French will not do.

LANGUAGE: GERMAN
OPTION(S): LAW AND HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

This text was very interesting in that there are no clear-cut renderings for “arbitration”, “mediation” and “conciliation”. These are all *Vermittler, Schlichter or Schiedsrichter*. For instance the dictionary entry for *Schlichter* is in fact arbitrator, conciliator, intermediary, mediator etc. So it was quite difficult for candidates to make meaningful distinctions and, of course, the German system works differently; the parties are not bound by the decisions of the arbitrator. However, that was no obstacle, as a translator does not need to know that. A meaningful German expression for “alternative dispute resolution” was also a challenge, but some candidates had good intuitions, with *alternative Streitbeilegungsmethoden* being one of the accepted German versions. Items like “lawsuit”, “litigation”, and “welfare officer” presented a problem. But this text was almost more about distinctions between terms: not translating “settlement”, “resolution” and “agreement” as though they are the same.

Health

This text was a very realistic one, though not desperately difficult, but it proved to be quite a challenge for the candidates. The performance of non-native German speakers was quite weak. One can only vaguely detect what the text was about. Others fared better but did not quite manage to conform fully to the conventions of the genre. However a reader would be able to act on the information.

Recommendations to Centres

It is impossible to generalise with only 7 candidates, who are drawn from 4 centres. One centre had a Fail but also a Distinction. The others had results more close together. But if a candidate’s grammatical ability is questionable, then this person has to concentrate on that and, of course, as usual, if a candidate actually conveys the opposite meaning in the target text, then that is unprofessional. Perhaps centres should draw attention to adhering to the appropriate register and style in the candidates’ translations.

Recommendations to Candidates

Still similar suggestions to last year: more care with the use of grammar and the new spelling. There are still candidates who either use **ss** throughout instead of making distinctions or those who will insist in using **ß** even when it should be **ss**. They have not been penalised for it, but the new spelling reform is in force and an intending translator should adhere to it.

LANGUAGE: GREEK
OPTION(S): HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The candidates' performance was better than that of last year's candidates. Candidates made quite a few grammatical and syntactical mistakes which are of the type non-native speakers would make. Nevertheless they managed to convey the meaning accurately in spite of certain awkward translations. In addition, terminology issues were better solved this year.

Recommendations to Centres

Candidates ought to be encouraged to read specialist parallel texts. More time should be dedicated to the teaching of grammar and syntax. If candidates are non-native Greek speakers they ought to be encouraged to attend Advanced Level Greek languages courses.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates ought to be able to use correct, coherent and grammatically proper language. They ought to read original parallel texts to keep up with developments in their subject. It would be a good idea to revise their grammar.

LANGUAGE: GUJARATI
OPTION(S): ENGLISH LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Compared to all previous years that I've had the privilege of marking, this year shows an improved performance. The candidate quality has improved to some extent, the presentation is professional and candidates have shown a grasp of the level of linguistic skills required of them. Recommendations made to centres in earlier years appear to have been implemented and they are now presenting slightly higher calibre candidates.

Recommendations to Centres

Please equip your centres with appropriate reference literature, ie good standard dictionaries (including bi-lingual dictionaries) and a list of Gujarati websites that offer current news in audio, text and video formats. I would again like centres to encourage their students to use the on-line bilingual Gujarati dictionary (www.gujaratilexicon.com) that offers spell check and a thesaurus.

Time management techniques should be taught as a part of the preparation for this type of examination. It is vital that candidates do not spend a major portion of their time on rough work only to find that they do not have sufficient time to transfer their work on the final sheets of paper.

Recommendations to Candidates

Students are urged to read on-line Gujarati newspapers that contain very useful material eg reports on current high profile court cases. Such reports yield very useful technical vocabulary not included in dictionaries that were written some time ago. Also please learn to manage your time so that you are able to do justice to the final version of your paper. It is always advisable to leave yourself some time to go over the final version and iron out inaccuracies.

LANGUAGE: HINDI
OPTION(S): LAW AND LOCAL GOVERNEMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

There are not many strong points in this year's candidates in the section of the papers I have marked. The number of candidates (5) is also a bit disappointing. Tendency to pick words/phrases out of a dictionary continues as in previous years. However, there were one or two candidates who showed genuine understanding of the task ie to get across the meaning clearly and comprehensively. The tendency to carry out verbatim translation leads to a cumbersome structure and distorted meaning. Centres need to lay more emphasis on creating a fluent discourse in the target language rather than a self-constraining line for line or clause for clause translation.

In comparison to last year there is an apparent deterioration in the candidates' performance.

Recommendations to Centres

Please pay attention to developing candidate's ability to understand the task and then carry out its translation in fluent Hindi rather than worrying about every word and phrase in the sentence. Some candidates obviously did not have sufficient language skills to complete the tasks of the examination. Selection needs to be better focused.

Recommendations to Candidates

See above in first box.

LANGUAGE: HUNGARIAN
OPTION(S): LAW AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

Task 3B of the English Law option deals with the concept of Alternate Dispute Resolution methods. ADR is a relatively well-known idea in Western-European countries but maybe less so in Eastern Europe. In Hungary there are still a few alternative translations in use; indeed, some sources choose to use the English abbreviation. It seems that candidates were neither necessarily familiar with the possible options of rendering, nor with the concept itself.

Although candidates seemed to be adequately acquainted with Hungarian legal vocabulary, there was a general deficit in the knowledge of the specialist terms. Quite often candidates were satisfied with finding a translation in a dictionary and using it without giving it more thought; however, this may also be the result of time restraints.

The original text had quite a strong impact on the Hungarian in terms of sentence building, clause construction and vocabulary. The candidates often translated a sentence clause by clause but did not render it into Hungarian.

The Hungarian texts were not to a high standard in terms of punctuation, sentence building and spelling. This is an issue to be addressed as it affects overall quality.

Local Government

Civil partnership is not a long-established concept in Hungary; as in a number of European countries, legislation is still being formulated. The fact that none of the candidates were familiar with the Hungarian term for the phrase reflects this. As opposed to the legal term, the concept was clear to the candidates.

With the exception of one candidate, the papers were, as in the case of the law option, plagued with syntactical and structural errors. While not rendering the papers incomprehensible, there were quite a few difficult sentence structures to fight one's way through.

There were quite a few inaccuracies in specialist terms and in grammar, punctuation, syntax and sometimes global cohesion. Similarly to the law option, the original left its mark on the translations in terms of structure and clause building. While this makes the texts undecipherable only on a rare occasion, it is a burden for the reader.

It has to be emphasised that there was a very pleasant exception to most of these faults.

Recommendations to Centres

Judging from the papers it seems a good idea to encourage candidates to read over their finished work and correct mistakes as a lot of errors could be avoided this way. This is obviously a question of time management as well and those candidates who find it difficult to finish the task in time may need to concentrate on this.

Some candidates gave alternative translations in their papers for which they are to be penalised. As a marker I find this especially regrettable in the case of an otherwise excellent paper. Alternative translations should be avoided in the final version.

It is vital that candidates have a good working knowledge of the specialist terminology used in their field. Terms out of place or missing may affect more than one score as they may render the reading and interpreting hard or in cases even impossible. The examiners had chosen "hot topics" in both options; it is therefore advisable that candidates follow the news and developments of their chosen field. In time the application of specialist terminology should become effortless this way.

Most of the papers did not achieve an academic standard in Hungarian. Vocabulary, punctuation, sentence structure and construction should be checked over and corrected. It is also very important that no syntactical and grammatical Anglicisms remain in the text.

The candidates' folders were clean and organised with the right and complete data.

Recommendations to Candidates

Both DPSI options dealt with topics that are fairly new for Hungarian speakers in terms of terminology and general knowledge. It is to point out that candidates were not unfamiliar with legal and political terminology. Alternative Dispute Resolution and Civil Partnerships are more and more part of the Hungarian everyday talk, yet they are not long established concepts.

Therefore it seems a good idea to try to pick up as much as one can from the press, the Internet and other sources about the "hot topics" of one's chosen option. This might mean doing seemingly useless research on an array of topics but it would pay out in an exam situation. Consciously building a specialist vocabulary is probably the best thing a translator can do for oneself. Putting this vocabulary to work results in an elegant and confident translation.

As a translator one might concentrate on the "other" language, in this case English, more than on one's native tongue, yet it is very important to produce a good Hungarian text. With a single exception the papers were not written in a good standard Hungarian. There could be many reasons for this: one is, as stated above, an overanxious attention to English that leaves no time to work on the Hungarian version. Time is an issue in an examination and care should be taken to manage it in such a manner that there is always time for a final check of the Hungarian version. Sentence structure, cohesive devices, punctuation and vocabulary should be paid attention to in order to produce a good final result.

Although it's essential, the use of a dictionary has its limitations as well. A dictionary simply cannot give all possible meanings of a word or a phrase, therefore it might not be appropriate to merely choose one, or the seemingly best word from the English-Hungarian dictionary. This can lead to very peculiar phrases and sentences. An English dictionary can also be used for cross-reference.

In recent years a new academic English-Hungarian dictionary has been published that may over time replace the classic but by now outdated dictionary written by László Országh. It is also a good idea to have specialist dictionaries handy for more accurate translations.

LANGUAGE: ITALIAN
OPTION(S): LAW AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

Compared to last year's candidates, this was a relatively poor performance. Like last year, in general candidates showed a poor grasp of the technical terminology and were also weak in terms of style as evidenced by the transliterations (see below).

Typical transliterations were litigation and litigants (*cause legali* and *parti in causa*) which quite a few incorrectly translated with *liti* and *litiganti*. A few went for *processi* to translate processes in line 3. Although this is not inaccurate, to avoid confusion in a legal context, *procedimenti* or *procedure* would have been clearer, particularly because the word *processo* had to be used straight after to translate trial.

Although the verb to suggest (line 19) can also be translated with *suggerire*, in this text, *proporre* would have been more accurate (...*si limita a proporre una soluzione...*). Quite a few candidates did not understand that commercial law refers to *diritto commerciale* and not *legge commerciale* (line 13). This was considered a serious mistake.

The following sentences in lines 15-17 caused a few problems "...the mediator's role is to intervene between the parties in a dispute, identify any common ground, and, if possible, form a connecting link between them". A number of candidates translated "ground" with a plural noun (*punti, argomenti, motivi*) which caused some confusion when reading it in Italian because the reader then does not know if then the end of the sentence refers to the parties or the ground. Something like: ...*il ruolo del mediatore è quello di intervenire tra le parti in causa, trovare punti in comune e, se possibile, creare un legame tra le parti stesse* would have been clearer.

Quite a few candidates introduced the acronym ADR without any previous reference to it. The best solution would have been to have placed ADR straight after the title at the very beginning of the text to avoid confusion when introducing it later on. Some candidates used *corti* to translate "courts" when, in fact, *tribunali* is more commonly used.

A small point but worth highlighting: in Italian the word *ricorso* is more commonly used to translate "appeal". No candidate used it. "Subject only to a court appeal" was rendered literally by many candidates (*soggetta solo ad un appello in tribunale*). Although this solution is understandable, something like *che può essere contestata solo facendo ricorso in tribunale* would have been more appropriate.

In quite a few cases, the adverbs *nonostante* and *sebbene* were not followed by the subjunctive (*nonostante abbia fatto, sebbene le parti siano vincolate*) and not the present or present indicative (*nonostante ho fatto, sebbene le parti sono vincolate*). This was considered a serious grammar mistake.

A serious problem was the links. For instance, many candidates followed the English structure when translating "tact and sensitivity being important considerations" which left an Italian reader somewhat confused. By adding *perché* (*perché tatto e sensibilità sono...*), this confusion would have been avoided and a link would have been made between the officer and these skills.

The translation of "welfare officer" caused a few problems with a few going for *ufficiale* or *funzionario* (*del benessere o di assistenza sociale*) which do not mean much in Italian. Perhaps, the best solution would have been *assistente sociale*.

Local Government

A relatively poor performance overall. The main problem was poor Italian and translation mistakes. In Italian we talk about *unioni* and not *partnership*. What's more, *partnership* is feminine and not masculine. The name of the Act needs to be left in English as it is an English instrument of law. A translator, however, can write a footnote providing a translation to help the readers. Every candidate provided a translation of the Act only.

The standard translation for "enter into" in "...the place where the civil partnership is to be entered into" is *stipulare* or *contrarre* rather than *intraprendere* or *concludere*. Some candidates used the apostrophe wrongly. For instance in *un elenco* there is no apostrophe as this is a truncation. *Un'unione civile*, however, does require an apostrophe.

The best translation for "occupation" in this context would have been *professione* rather than *occupazione* which is a transliteration. The more appropriate translation for "place of worship" is *luogo di culto* rather than *luogo* or *posto sacro*.

“Civil partners of each other” would have been better translated with *rispettivi partner civili* rather than *partner civili l'uno dell'altro* which was used by some candidates.

Recommendations to Centres

Keep stressing the importance of avoiding classical traps in Italian such as the use of apostrophe or the over-use of possessive adjectives. Do recommend students who do not have Italian as their first language to use a simple style and language in order to minimise mistakes. Make sure that students are aware of typical transliterations or automatic translations as they are misleading.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates are advised to have enough time to read their translations to make sure that they sound as if they were originally written in Italian. Candidates are advised to make use of relevant dictionaries, like the De Franchis (legal dictionary), to use the most appropriate terminology for their chosen option. In the case of the Local Government option, candidates are advised to keep abreast of developments in Italy - by reading relevant magazine, for instance - so that the right terminology can be used (as in the case of *unione*).

Those candidates who are not native Italian speakers need to make sure that their written Italian is strong enough to come up with acceptable translations. It's important to use straightforward language but also to have a strong grammatical knowledge of Italian.

LANGUAGE: KURDISH (SORANI)
OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

Overall performance this year is worse than last year and all other previous years. I could not see any strengths in any of the candidates apart from one candidate and literacy of some candidates seemed poor. Most of them failed to translate some basic legal words like “rules”, “procedures”, “dispute” etc. Some others used basic Sorani words in the wrong context. Most candidates did not realise that ADR was the abbreviation of Alternative Dispute Resolution. One candidate used the word “production” for “procedures”. Apart from one candidate, I did not find any of the candidates to be aware of the basics of Sorani grammar. This year's DPSI results are very poor. It seems to me that some candidates are not up to DPSI level.

Health

This years Health candidates were better than in previous years. One of the candidates seemed to be aware of special health terminology. However another candidate's performance was similar to that of the Law option candidates.

Local Government

Local Government candidates this year were good. They made a few grammatical mistakes but in general they did well.

Recommendations to Centres

I recommend that centres should do a few mock exams and try to test candidates' Sorani. I think it would be a good idea to have an entry exam for DPSI as most candidates this year seemed not to be educated to DPSI level. Most of them did not understand the English text and therefore failed to translate it. They did put some words together, but they could not understand the source text.

Recommendations to Candidates

Prepare for the exam. Translate whatever you can find about your field. Ask someone you can trust to edit for you. Use dictionaries, especially Kurdish-Kurdish dictionaries to improve your Sorani. Find a few grammar books and study them. Written Sorani is quite different from your spoken Sorani. Nowadays there are several good English-Kurdish dictionaries like Azadi, Oxford Word Power, Salahaddin and others. Kurdish-Kurdish dictionaries are Kurdistan, Sharazour and Hambana Borina.

You also need to read Kurdish publications, which you can easily find on the internet. Get yourself updated with new words. Kurdish (Sorani) like most languages in this world is an active language and every year new words are added to it. Listen to Kurdish programs and make a note of the new words and phrases that you hear. When you go back to Kurdistan for a holiday, visit courts, hospitals and administrative departments to update yourself with new words.

LANGUAGE: LATVIAN
OPTION(S): LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Only a small entry for Latvian. The standard is far lower, when compared to last year with candidates clearly demonstrating unfamiliarity with the subject area in both English and Latvian. This is evident from the word-for-word translation of the ST, misunderstanding of the ST, omissions and inconsistencies in terminology (eg providing three different translations for the word "notice").

Recommendations to Centres

As in previous years, I am unfamiliar with the training available to candidates in less common languages and therefore, cannot give any recommendations. Nevertheless, centres must encourage candidates to devote time to studying information that is published in both languages.

Recommendations to Candidates

Read and study materials in both languages! There is no excuse for not knowing basic terminology, given that there is a wealth of information readily available on the internet and in printed format! Being able to speak both languages does not necessarily mean that you will sail through an examination in a specialised subject.

LANGUAGE: LITHUANIAN
OPTION: LAW AND HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group**Law**

Most candidates were able to convey meaning from English into Lithuanian with only minor distortions and inaccuracies. Overall, grammar and syntax were good. Presentation and legibility, at the same time, were good. The major problem that candidates encountered was mistakes in punctuation and, in some cases, spelling. Some spelling and punctuation mistakes made cannot be expected from native speakers at degree level.

Another weakness for some candidates was accurate and appropriate translation of specialist terminology. Many candidates struggled with terms such as "litigation procedures", "subject to a court appeal", "quasi-judicial", etc.

Also, some candidates spent too much time on writing up a draft for the translation and did not leave enough time for checking and re-writing, thus resulting in failing the examination.

Some candidates provided alternative translations for certain words and phrases, not realising that this indicates their uncertainty and doubt about the meaning of these phrases.

Health

Candidates were able to convey information from English into Lithuanian with minor inaccuracies and errors. I feel that overall performance of candidates in this group was better compared to last year's. Overall grammatical and syntactical constructions were good. Again, the main downfalls were spelling and punctuation mistakes that a native speaker at a degree level should not make.

Translation of specialist terminology was good in most cases.

Recommendations to Centres

Centres should always remind their candidates to constantly improve their linguistic skills and specialist terminology.

Centres should also encourage their candidates to observe real life interpreting situations when their language is used. This will enable them to place themselves in the role of the interpreter.

Although rough copy is sometimes very helpful, centres should advise candidates not to spend too much time on writing and rewriting, as some candidates failed the examination because part of the work was not transferred from a rough copy to the final version.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates should avoid providing two (or more) alternative translations and only write one. Two or more alternative translations make the marker think that a candidate is uncertain which expression to use and therefore is providing two (or more) alternative ones.

Candidates should make use of dictionaries, glossaries and other material that is allowed during the examination. Some candidates translated quite simple expressions wrongly, which resulted in misunderstandings.

Candidates should constantly work on improving their specialist terminology.

Candidates should also use logic and common sense when translating from English and avoid literal translations.

Where possible, candidates should observe real life interpreting situations and also read and listen to general news and documentary programmes on TV and radio.

LANGUAGE: MANDARIN

OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Completion of the translated text, legibility and presentation have improved. Candidates' ability to handle linguistic difficulty was better than their ability to manage clarification of the intercultural difference between the English and the Chinese.

Law

The most common mistakes in the translation are as follows:

1. Many candidates were not able to transfer clearly the difference between "mediation" and "conciliation" because in Chinese, the two terms contain similar meanings. Some candidates made an effort to try and differentiate between the terms not only linguistically but also from the cultural point of view but most candidates just simply got the phrase from the dictionary, which was not fit for the context of the text.
2. No note or explanation of the abbreviation of "ADR".
3. No underlining of the Chinese characters to reflect the bold-typeface English words.
4. Lack of clarification of pronouns and adverbs (eg. "his" and "only" in Line 10).

Health

Most candidates translated this option well but some candidates failed to use the medical terms in Mandarin to translate

common words such as “test”/“testing”, “monitoring”, “value”, “detection” and “to be referred to”.

Local Government

There is no existence of the concept of “civil partnership” in the Chinese culture. This affected candidates’ pass rates. The reason is the same as for Point 1 above.

Recommendations to Centres

- 1) Handling intercultural differences should be highlighted at training centres. Only providing different linguistic terms may not help the reader understand the text. A footnote or a brief explanation in brackets can clear the reader’s confusion. This can also apply to the case of differentiating synonyms.
- 2) Doing some error analysis exercises such as “correcting a translation” can help candidates remember better and will enable them to use phrases and vocabulary for specific purposes more freely.

Recommendations to Candidates

Sometimes, stress during the examination may upset your performance, so your exam results may not reflect your real ability of translation. In order to help you become more focused during exams, you must read the scenarios several times before rushing into the translation. For example, details of the abbreviation “ADR” were already indicated in the scenario, but many candidates did not pay attention to it and just gave away easy marks.

Reference books:

- 1) Liu Miqing, 1999, " 文化翻译论纲 (Culture Translation) — A Series of Translation Studies in China", Hubei Education Press
- 2) Liu Jun & Hou Xiangqun, 2001, " A Coursebook for English-Chinese Translation", Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press
- 3) Yang Zjian, 2002, "English-Chinese Comparative Study and Translation", Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, pp259 - 357

LANGUAGE: PANJABI
OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

The translation standard was very low for DPSI. This year the text was regarding “Alternative Dispute Resolution”. Most candidates could not even translate the title correctly! The main reason for mistakes was improper use of vowel symbols. Only a few candidates showed a brilliant knowledge of legal terminology and vocabulary and some excellent work was produced.

Health

The text was regarding the “Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test”. It was not a difficult piece to translate but nearly all candidates translated it as “prostrate”. A very poor standard in the Health option. Candidates showed little understanding of medical terminology and explanations made of the difficult conditions and diseases.

Local Government

The text was about the “Civil Partnership Act 2004”. Again, most candidates failed to translate it. The main weakness was writing in Panjabi. Mistakes in spelling, grammar, paraphrasing and incorrect use of vowel symbols were major issues.

Recommendations to Centres

Selection of candidates should be considered carefully. There should be a degree level language test. Only those candidates who can pass this text should be allowed to enter the DPSI exam. Candidates should be fluent in both languages and written skills should be taken seriously, as so many candidates showed poor written skills. More written material should be provided.

Recommendations to Candidates

This year some candidates displayed excellent work, but most of them struggled to understand the original information and produced distorted and confusing translations. Take your time to understand the text first and take extra care with writing. Simple mistakes such as missing or misplacing a vowel symbol can lead to changing the meaning. Reading and writing in your own language should be taken into consideration when entering for DPSI exams. Listening to o/l radio, watching o/l TV and reading newspapers help to build up your terminology and vocabulary. Use of dictionaries and choosing the right word is also very important.

LANGUAGE: PASHTO
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The overall standard generally remains unchanged when compared to last year's candidate group. The performance remains at a very low level. It seems that the knowledge of a candidate who has studied the language and appreciates, to at least a bare minimum level, the basics of grammar and pronunciation would be an improvement upon that of some members of the current candidate group. To provide just a couple of examples: the word "lesson" was referred to as "listen" and "four stars" was referred to as "four stories" (oral examination).

Recommendations to Centres

Centres should strive further to strike a better balance between their need for new linguists and making sure they recruit those who are properly qualified to sit through the examination process. Since the qualification attained now is one which is at level six, it is recommended that those accepted by centres either go through the course provided and firstly, have a qualification equivalent to A-Level from an accredited institution and/or secondly, pass an entry test based on the fundamentals of the language. It would seem, through even a most rudimentary examination of the material submitted for marking, that some candidates may not have received any formal education and the aforementioned entry test would go some way in mitigating that issue.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates must have an adequate knowledge of legal terminology. Legal words were not translated. Although there are direct equivalent legal terms in Pashto for the terminology used in the examination, candidates have used their own interpretation and have made up words. Even if they do not have knowledge of the equivalent terminology, candidates could have transliterated the term with a brief explanation in brackets but unfortunately that was not the case either.

LANGUAGE: POLISH
OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

A record number of candidates this year (155 altogether, 112 taking the Law option). Unfortunately, the quantity did not translate into quality, the level of the candidates varied from very good and near perfect renditions to translations that were not written in Polish but in some non-existent language with words based on common Slavic word roots, written randomly and not connected to each other by any recognisable grammatical rules.

Many mistakes that have been highlighted in the previous written marker's reports recur persistently in all three options:

- **unfamiliarity with specialist vocabulary**
- **inability to write cohesively and coherently** which results from **keeping too close to English** and translating word for word. This covers both English vocabulary as well as English syntax and word order.

However some **improvement** has also been noted:

- there are now more translations written in good Polish, **free of spelling and punctuation mistakes**
- **legibility** has also improved – only a few isolated cases of indecipherable handwriting. Candidates must bear in mind

that if registered on the RPSI they may be asked to take statements in Polish which in turn may be used as evidence and given to another translator to be translated into English. Illegible handwriting can mean that words could be mistranslated or the meaning could be lost, therefore candidates who consistently wrote illegibly were failed as they did not convey the message.

- ability to adhere to instructions is better as well, particularly leaving margins, writing on alternate lines and on one side of paper. However there is still quite a sizeable handful of candidates who refuse to follow instructions. Providing alternative translations in brackets is penalised and much has been written about it in the past – yet candidates persist.

Law

The text described alternative dispute resolution such as arbitration, mediation and conciliation. Specialist terminology was kept to the minimum and yet many candidates managed to commit several catastrophic errors such as:

mediation translated as *meditation* (*medytacja*)

conciliation as *cease fire* (*rozejm*) or *goring* (*ugodzenie*)

contentious as *detailed* (*szczegółowy*) or *continuous* (*ciągły*)

alternative means as *alternative meanings* (*znaczenia*)

quasi judicial role as *quadruple judicial role* (*poczwórna rola sądowa*)

strict rules are not observed as *strict rules are not watched* (*false friend to observe vs. obserwować – zasady nie są (za)obserwowane*)

court-appointed welfare officer as *court official appointed by a social worker* (*pracownik sądu wyznaczony przez opiekę społeczną*)

sensitivity as *tenderness* (*czułość*)

There were a lot of problems with other phrases such as *resolution* (*uchwała* = as in *they adopted a resolution on alternative disputes*), *litigation*, *bound by the result*, *in advance*, *subject to*, *employment tribunals* (be careful when translating the word *tribunal* into Polish or *trybunał* into English – compare *European Court of Justice vs. Europejski Trybunał Sprawiedliwości* or *sądy pracy vs. employment tribunal*), *flexibility*, *confined*, *voluntary*, *conciliator* (many candidates came up with words that do not exist – e.g. *pojednawca*). Huge problems were encountered with the word *advocacy* – many candidates used the term provided in the PWN Oxford English-Polish dictionary *adwokatura* which means **all** the (defence) lawyers (“the bar”), which shows that they have not really understood what was meant in that sentence (that in legal proceedings both parties are represented by their *advocates* – lawyers who speak on their behalf). Very few candidates came up with good translations such as: *procedury prawne z udziałem adwokatów stron*.

The English text contained many complex sentences with subordinate clauses. This has caused a lot of decoding problems. Many candidates were unable to parse – that is to divide sentences into their component parts and to assign subordinate clauses to their equivalents in the main clause or previous sentences.

Let's analyse one sentence to illustrate this: ***The (1) processes (2) differ considerably from the traditional legal approaches involving (3) advocacy and trial.***

1. Candidates did not pay enough attention to English articles but articles do carry meaning which should be replicated in Polish – e.g. in the above sentence we have ***the processes*** - the translator immediately should ask themselves why *the*? What does this *the* refer to? If they analysed this sentence correctly in grammatical and syntactical terms they would have understood that *the processes* refer to *alternative means* mentioned in the previous sentence.
2. *Process* is a false friend in Polish – *proces*, which apart from *procedure* can also mean *court trial*. Therefore this sentence was often translated as ***Procesy*** *te różnią się znacznie od tradycyjnych podejść prawnych z udziałem adwokatów stron i procesów*. Such sentence is incoherent (how can court trials/procedures differ from court trials?). This mistake resulted from the failure to decode the article *the* that precedes *processes*.
3. *Involving* was very often mistranslated because candidates were unable to decode that *involving* describes *legal approaches* (*which involve*).

Many mistakes of that nature (cohesion and coherence) were also committed in other sentences:

Arbitration is used in commercial law cases where it promotes speed and efficiency changes in Polish into: *Arbitration is used in commercial law cases which promote speed and efficiency*.

Flexibility, privacy and speed are the obvious advantages – ***the*** is disregarded, the sentence is translated word for word (*Elastyczność, poufność i szybkość są oczywistymi zaletami*) resulting in a very disjointed Polish text (*zaletami czego?*). Candidates should be made aware that word order in Polish may fulfil the same role as a definite article in English (it can denote the elements known from the previous sentence), but sometimes you will need to repeat words in order to make the Polish sentence coherent. Therefore a better rendition of this sentence would be: *Oczywistymi zaletami tej metody są elastyczność, poufność i szybkość*.

The conciliator is often a court-appointed welfare officer, tact and sensitivity being important considerations. Many

candidates were unable to see the connection between those two clauses and translated them into Polish as two separate sentences without using any cohesion:

(1) *The conciliator is often a court-appointed welfare officer.*

(2) *Tact and sensitivity are important.*

Health

21 candidates. The text was about Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test.

Generally, candidates in the Health option seem to be better prepared than candidates from the other two options. Translations were generally of an acceptable standard and when mistakes were made they were not as basic as in the case of some of the Law or Local Government papers.

The main problem in this text continues to be the form of address (English *you* vs. Polish *ty* or *Pan/Pani* – please remember that *Pan/i* is usually used in correspondence to individuals, not in a general information leaflet). This problem has been highlighted in previous marker's reports so I would advise both candidates and centres to get acquainted with the remarks on that subject.

One candidate decided to use their own abbreviation for PSA: ASP. Candidates should be careful with abbreviations, medical language is very specialised, many English abbreviations are now used in lab tests (eg. RBC, WBC etc.) and Asp happens to be used to describe *Aspartic acid*. Also, it is not advisable to invent new abbreviations – we should remember that we translate for people who might be using the NHS in the UK therefore they need to know English abbreviations to be able to recognise them in other materials.

Local Government

23 candidates. The text was about the Civil Partnership Act 2004.

Proportionately (ratio of failures to passes) the weakest candidates seem to take up this option. Basic problems were encountered even in the translation of the key phrase *civil partnership*. Many inappropriate translations of the phrase: *place where the civil partnership is to be entered into* – which was translated either literally – *wejść w parnterstwo* or which was mistranslated as *where the partnership was initiated* or even in *which place/part the partnership was initiated* (w którym miejscu zapoczątkowano partnerstwo).

The most difficult fragment, however, proved to be the sentence about entry clearance. Most candidates did not understand that it means “permission to enter the UK” and were not able to decode the cause and effect structure of this sentence.

Simple phrases such as:

place of worship were mistranslated as *miejsce uwielbienia* [*place of adoration*]

same-sex as *sama płeć* = *gender itself*

nationality as *narodowość* [ethnic origin] instead of *obywatelstwo* [citizenship] (a very serious mistake – the nationality of a Pole living in Grodno, in Belarus, is Belorussian, not Polish – which has implications for his immigration status in the UK). Although *nationality* carries those two meanings, the context of the text made it clear which meaning is used here.

marital as *martial* (*wojskowy status*).

Another serious mistake was in translating modality: *written consent may be required for anyone under 18* was often rendered as *people under 18 must obtain written consent*.

Recommendations to Centres

Practice, practice, practice in language specific translation and interpreting. Both translation and interpreting are practical skills and candidates will only learn how to do it by doing it. Particular emphasis should be put on **specialist vocabulary**, especially for the Law and Local Government options. Health option candidates seem to be more familiar with the specialist vocabulary in their chosen field.

When practising written translations candidates should learn how to **decode complex texts**, specialist vocabulary on its own without the knowledge of **cohesive devices** will not suffice. Encourage candidates to study English grammar, particularly subordinate clauses. Parsing long and complex sentences is particularly important in the legal option.

A translator/interpreter will only be successful in their career if they **understand** what they are writing about and what they are saying. Encourage candidates to be inquisitive rather than to interpret/translate at all costs. Practise summarising skills to check whether they have understood the discourse.

Recommendations to Candidates

Practice, practice, practice

1. Read legal pages in "Rzeczpospolita" and other legal/medical publications in Polish.
2. Learn about English legal/health and local government systems and how they compare to Polish ones.
3. Have good dictionaries but do not rely on dictionaries alone. Best to have a good English-English dictionary and specialist dictionaries in a chosen field.
4. Think when you interpret/translate: does the text you produce make sense, is it coherent?
5. Translate for your reader – the reader MUST understand the text so sometimes you will have to change the word order and syntax.
6. In role play tasks take advantage of the brief – *przyszłam po poradę w sprawie zobowiązań wynikających z wywiadywania się z umowy podpisanej z klientem* can easily be translated as *I came to seek advice on contractual arrangements I have with one of my clients* – exactly the wording of the brief. Interpretation does not mean that you have to translate word for word. Remember that you need to translate the SENSE of the message not individual words.

LANGUAGE: PORTUGUESE (BRAZILIAN)

OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Overall performance of candidates in the Law option was once again very poor. In my opinion, this year's paper was not particularly difficult, but there seemed to be particular areas which proved a problem to most candidates. Even simple terms, such as "legal approach", "usually bound by the result", "strict rules of legal procedure", "common ground", "to facilitate a voluntary, negotiated settlement", and others became insurmountable hurdles for the vast majority of candidates. In a repeat of past years' performances, grammar, punctuation, accentuation, and even spelling featured heavily in this year's translations.

The same applies to the Health and Local Government Options, which I marked as 2nd marker.

Recommendations to Centres

Constant and realistic assessment of candidates, with constructive but also realistic criticism of their performance. If candidates are not yet quite ready to sit the examination, it is advisable that they carry on working with a view to taking the exam at a later date, rather than spend a considerable amount of money on something that they are not yet ready for.

Recommendations to Candidates

Assess your capabilities and chances realistically, and, if needed, work harder until you are ready to sit the exam. It is all too easy to be encouraged by others to "have a go", but it is a lot hard having that "go" and coming out greatly disappointed with yourself. It may do more harm than good to approach such an important and difficult examination lightly.

LANGUAGE: PORTUGUESE (BRAZILIAN)

OPTION(S): HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Health

Some translations have grammatical errors, spelling mistakes and accentuation faults. These are not acceptable at this level. Even though word order is very often quite different in Portuguese, many candidates followed the English word order in their translations, thus producing awkward sentences, occasionally obscure in meaning. Some candidates were unable to use the subjunctive in cases where it is compulsory. There were also many mistakes in the use of prepositions. Some candidates could not translate accurately words such as "highlight", "monitoring" and "segregates".

In some translations the register is too informal. Overall there were hardly any omissions or additions and some candidates produced very good translations.

Local Government

A few candidates had difficulties with specialist terminology but overall there were no major problems. "Place of worship" was, however, incorrectly translated by most candidates. There were some spelling mistakes but mostly accentuation faults. Quite a few candidates made grammatical errors namely with the subjunctive and prepositions. There were also problems with gender and number coherence. The register was sometimes too informal. There were no omissions or additions and some translations were very good.

Recommendations to Centres

It is not acceptable to provide two alternative translations for a word, candidates should write just one version.

The importance of the knowledge of specialist terminology should always be stressed, since it is vital in the DPSI.

Candidates should be reminded that they should always allow time to read the final version in the end and to change anything that does not make sense in that context.

Candidates need stronger linguistic skills in order to avoid making grammatical errors, especially basic ones. Accentuation is an important part of the Portuguese language, it should not be overlooked or avoided.

Encourage students not to rely only on their native speaker skills but to improve them by studying and reading about the topics.

Recommendations to Candidates

Some candidates were too literal in their translations, sometimes to the point of inaccuracy. It is important to bear in mind that candidates should understand both languages well and differentiate them well. It is also very important to have a good knowledge of your subject in both languages.

I would advise candidates to improve their linguistic skills, to study Portuguese grammar, namely the subjunctive, prepositions and the comparative, which posed difficulties for some candidates.

Candidates should listen as much as possible to both languages on the radio and TV as well as read newspapers and specialised materials, learn as much specialised vocabulary as possible.

LANGUAGE: PORTUGUESE (EUROPEAN)
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The number of errors was greater than those made by last year's candidates and they were basic inadmissible errors at this level.

Grammatical errors included:

- lack of noun/adjective agreements – 'arbitragem... vantajoso', 'função... limitado', 'regras... observados', 'vários... alternativa', 'lei... comerciais', 'processo... formais'
- lack of article/noun agreements – 'no tribunais', 'um conexão'
- lack of noun/verb agreements – 'variedade... reduzem', 'meios... reduz', 'partes...tem'
- lack of noun/relative pronoun/verb agreements – 'variedade as quais reduz'
- lack of knowledge that 'embora' requires a subjunctive – 'embora apresentam', 'embora é'
- lack of knowledge that the ending for the 3rd person plural of the future is '-ão' – 'iram', 'seram'
- lack of knowledge of the difference between 'e' and 'é'
- lack of knowledge of when to use 'ser' or 'estar'
- 'prepositions 'de' and 'a' used incorrectly

Vocabulary errors included:

- not knowing the difference between: 'alternative' and 'alternate', 'negotiated' and 'negotiable', 'complexities' and 'complications', 'welfare' and 'well being', 'severe' and 'rigorous', 'though' and 'through', 'there being' and 'therefore', 'thereby' and 'however', 'so much' and 'such', 'concelho' and 'conselho'
- inventing words such as 'experenciari', 'intervenir', 'advantajoso', 'stringente', 'significadamente', 'indepente', 'vantages', 'presentar', 'concialiação'
- mistranslation of the title
- the translation of 'commercial law' and 'family law', where only the better candidates used the word 'direito'

Spelling errors included:

- 'Englaterra', 'envolvimento', 'differem', 'eficiência', 'Britanha', 'variadade', 'obevio', 'servico', 'concideravelmente', 'contensioso'

Lack of accents or incorrect ones included:

- 'Grã-Bretanha', 'obvios', 'Britânicos', 'jurídicas', 'possivel', 'divorcio'

Sentence structure errors included:

- following the same word order as the Source Text which caused problems in the translation of 'bound', 'subject only to ...', 'thereby reducing expenditure', 'there being no procedural requirements'
- using a comma instead of a semi-colon or a full stop

Recommendations to Centres

Centres need to impress upon candidates the importance of being able to translate competently, as well as to interpret, given that the need to translate documents is part and parcel of many interpreting jobs, including those for the Police. Quite frankly, the written competence of many candidates this year was not good enough even to pass GCSE and they should never have been entered for this examination. The errors highlighted in the previous section illustrate this.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates must have a good written command of both English and Portuguese and should not even consider entering for an examination at this level if they lack basic knowledge of the languages. Had more use been made of dictionaries in the exam, many of the errors would have been avoided. Please see section 'Overall Performance of Candidates' as an illustration of the errors to be avoided.

LANGUAGE: PORTUGUESE (EUROPEAN)
OPTION(S): HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Health

There was only one candidate entering the exam for this option. Compared to last year's where the candidates showed a marked weakness in specialised vocabulary, this year's text was more complex and the result was good.

Local Government

This text was a leaflet issued by the General Register Office, containing information on Civil Partnerships.

With few exceptions the translations provided were disappointing. The most serious mistakes occurred in the Aspect of accuracy as candidates did not have the knowledge of specialist vocabulary. Some translations were peppered with cognates as candidates translated literally from the source text. Grammatical mistakes were made that should not be made by literate native speakers: the misuse of the Subjunctive Mood is a case in point.

The incorrect use of prepositions with or before verbs was another weakness found in some candidates' exam papers. In general, candidates' use of language did not live up to the level expected from native speakers. To add insult to injury the number of misspellings, ambiguous accentuation and faulty punctuation made some sentences incoherent. On the whole the main weakness was lack of comprehension of the source text, which led to inaccurate translations.

Some candidates used a too informal register for a document issued by a Register Office and thus, used the informal

and colloquial form of address of *você* to translate the English 'you'. However, a good number of candidates were able to complete their task appropriately and there were some very good translations.

Recommendations to Centres

It is not acceptable to provide two or more alternative translations for a word or phrase, separated by a slash. It is necessary for candidates to make up their minds and be informed that they will be penalised for it.

Candidates using ruled paper should be reminded to leave two lines of space between each line of written translation to give scope for insertion of correction marks. Also by no account should candidates write their names on the exam cover.

The knowledge of specialist terminology is vital in the DPSI to avoid misunderstandings and distortions. Some candidates were not able to translate accurately 'register office', 'legal requirement', 'give notice', 'designated office', 'registration authority'.

Candidates should be encouraged to read their translations before handing them in and if anything does not make sense in that context, it was wrongly translated. Candidates should improve their linguistics skills by updating their techniques and work with monolingual dictionaries for cross-reference. The rules of accentuation are vital particularly in verb forms as otherwise could alter the meaning of the sentence; often the third person singular of the Present Indicative 'é' is not accentuated and therefore a simple 'e' translates 'and'.

Recommendations to Candidates

It is essential that candidates read the exam text before attempting the translation. It is only by doing so that you will be able to get the context and register of the translation. To be a good interpreter you need to be competent in two languages, as you need to decode the source text and encode the target text. In order to get a DPSI qualification is not enough to be a native speaker. It requires skills that are only obtained by the acquisition of linguistic skills and these come only with dedicated work. A good interpreter needs to update their knowledge in the field chosen and read extensively as well as listening to news and documentaries.

On the question of strengths and weaknesses observed in this year's exams, candidates are reminded that the use of dictionaries as an aid for correct vocabulary will be meaningless if not supported by the correct use of grammar, spelling and accentuation. In addition to these recommendations it is essential that a written paper should be neatly presented with legible handwriting; particular attention should be paid to the position of the accents as if they are carelessly positioned it is difficult to ascertain the candidates' intentions.

LANGUAGE: ROMANIAN
OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The overall level of performance of candidates was much lower than last year. There were some excellent translations, awarded Distinction, but the majority were mediocre to poor. Many candidates did not know how to translate key words such as "bail", "liability", "reasonableness". Some did not pay enough attention to the title, thus translating it as "Resolution to Alternative Disputes".

A worrying new trend in the oral exam was that some candidates addressed the parts for whom they were interpreting with the informal "tu", rather than the formal, polite "dumnevoastra" (German: "Du" and "Sie", French "Tu" and "Vous"), which sounded very unprofessional.

Recommendations to Centres

Centres should make sure candidates are ready to take the DPSI exam. This could include testing candidates for speed for the oral examination, since the speed of interpreting is essential not only in this particular situation, but also essential in a Court of Law. Candidates must be familiar with the specialised vocabulary. There are now a number of specialised dictionaries available in Romania (the TEORA Publishing House, as well as the NICULESCU Publishing House have published a number of Legal, Economic, Financial and Technical Dictionaries).

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates should take some time before writing down the translations or doing the sight translation tests to read the whole of the task, thus avoiding small mistakes which are difficult to remedy afterwards.

For the oral exam speed of interpreting is essential. Candidates could listen to radio broadcasts reporting on trials and try to interpret at the speed at which the news items are read. This provides a good rehearsal for real situations later on in Courts of Law.

LANGUAGE: RUSSIAN

OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Candidates taking the Health option did better this year than last year, while in the Law and the Local Government the situation remains much the same. This, perhaps, can be explained partially by the fact that the real life situation described in Task 3B in the Health option would be much the same in most countries, and there was little, if anything, in the text that could be misunderstood or misinterpreted. In Law and Local Government the papers dealt with reality that has few parallels with the reality of Russian life, and candidates had to be aware of intercultural differences. In Local Government the paper dealt with Civil Partnership, which implies a marriage ceremony between two people of the same sex. Many candidates chose the very similar term in Russian, which, however, means "a common law marriage between two heterosexual people", and so was entirely inappropriate in this context. Other problems in this option arose from insufficient understanding of the language of the original, in particular "subject to immigrations controls" which many candidates translated in a way that implied the person in question was in some sort of trouble with immigration authorities. Many had trouble with translating the sentence: "You cannot register a civil partnership as part of a religious ceremony", and the result was often confusing or making little sense. The word "publicised" was, in many cases, translated as "published", which made the whole sentence unclear and distorted the meaning.

In both the Law and the Local Government options there was a high ratio of sloppy or inexact use of vocabulary. Some candidates did not pay proper attention to the fact that a prefix can substantially change the meaning of a Russian verb. Sometimes two prefixed verbs are very close in meaning but each can only be used in a certain context or phrase and cannot be a complete substitute for another.

The so-called false friends always represent a problem. The words "test", "dispute", "privacy", "legal" "final" were all poorly translated in many cases.

The Law option is, arguably, the most difficult one by virtue of the fact that the legal systems in Britain and Russia are so vastly different, making it hard to find the right terminology and, inevitably, involving a great deal of paraphrasing as a result. This year specialist terminology was not, however, the most challenging aspect of the text. Candidates appeared to find it hard to understand the actual reality beyond the words and, consequently, failed to put it across with sufficient clarity. Phrases such as "bound by the result", "subject only to a court appeal", "confined to suggesting", "contentious legal disputes", "tact and sensitivity being important considerations" were poorly translated in many cases.

Sentence structure continues to be a problem as a result of candidates keeping too close to that of the original. This results in clumsiness, lack of clarity and leads to incoherence.

Recommendations to Centres

Students ought to be encouraged to find out more about different aspects of life in Britain. When working on a text, sometimes it helps to paraphrase each sentence to ensure correct understanding.

Students often concentrate on vocabulary more than anything else. They should be reminded of the fact that words function in contexts, and even words that appear to be complete synonyms cannot be interchanged in every linguistic combination.

Sentences structure, word order and linking devices need to be addressed as a separate issue.

Recommendations to Candidates

Remember that the most important thing in any translation is its clarity and usability. If the text does not make sense, it has no value. Vocabulary is important, but not the only important thing. Sentence structure, word order and how you combine different words are equally important as they can alter the meaning in the same way as words can.

Make sure you understand the actual meaning of what you are translating. Often people translate words, i.e. the surface of the text, and not its actual meaning and content.

Beware of 'false friends'. There may be a word which sounds exactly the same in the target language, but it may either mean a different thing, or belong to a different register, or be inappropriate for this particular context.

LANGUAGE: SERBIAN
OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

This year's entry was weak in the area of finding appropriate expressions from general English. A few wrongly chosen words affected the meaning of the message from the original and distorted the message to the reader.

Not paying attention to the meaning of the whole sentence and combining literal translations of particular words and the construction of the sentences and paragraphs caused confusion and misunderstandings.

Twice, the Cyrillic letter was replaced by the combination of letters as used in the Latin alphabet.

The task was approached as a range of individual sentences, rather than as a whole text and cohesive words were not appropriately used.

Health

This year's entry demonstrated how a good knowledge and command of one's own language means a lot for the exam. Candidates' confidence plays an important part in the quality of work and can better demonstrate candidates' ability to work as an interpreter. With a good knowledge of one's own language and a creative approach to interpreting and translating, the results – the produced work – benefit from a natural sound; it is easy to understand and conveys the message in an appropriate style.

Recommendations to Centres

Law

Please emphasise the use of the appropriate alphabet during the course - that will ensure candidates do not have problems when it comes to the actual examination.

Health

Please encourage candidates to use the alphabet, in this case Cyrillic, to prove that they can work in all situations with clients from the country of origin.

Recommendations to Candidates

Law

Pay attention to the whole text. Read it to yourself once you have completed the task and try to understand it. But, assume that you do not speak English and that the only information you get comes from the translation, and that you need to use that information.

Health

Insist on learning the requirements and aspects that are marked on the exam and bear them in mind at the exam and in your professional career later. By applying all these principles, you demonstrate your professionalism. Be proud of your professional standard of interpreting and of your professional qualification gained through the course and the DPSI exam.

LANGUAGE: SOMALI
OPTION(S): LOC GOV (1ST MARKER); LAW (2ND MARKER)

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

The performance of candidates this year was very poor. Many of them do not have the skill of translating English texts into Somali. Some of them explained the meaning of words/phrases rather than finding out the equivalent meaning for them. Their translations lacked the transformation of the elements within the sentences to produce the message of the text properly. Some terms in the English text were difficult to translate for most candidates. The performance of some candidates showed that they were educationally below the level of the Diploma. Most candidates have provided texts that have not conformed to the conventions of the relevant genre. They displayed an inadequate presentation with a considerable number of technical faults such as spelling and punctuation.

Recommendations to Centres

Please see comments below.

Recommendations to Candidates

Candidates need to have some copies of previous exam papers to have a rough idea of the level of the examination they want to take. They should practice and acquire the skill of translating material from one language to another. They should learn how to provide texts that can conform fully to the conventions of the translated material. They should go to schools where translation lessons are provided to learn the skills and techniques of translating material from one language to another.

Further practice is needed using reading and listening materials in Somali. These could include websites, newspapers, radio, television and cassettes in Somali.

LANGUAGE: SPANISH
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

This year a proportionally larger number of candidates were awarded a Distinction, two or three of them were outstandingly good, which was very pleasing. The majority conveyed the information fairly accurately from English into Spanish with various degrees of success; with the customary array of examples of literal translation; English interference; use of false cognates of basic legal words as 'case' and 'Magistrate'; imprecise use of legal terminology; faulty linkage between subordinate and main clause, incorrect use of prepositions, wrong verb endings, defective tense or mood, unidiomatic use of gerund. The acronym of the subtitle was not always satisfactorily handled, in some cases left in English without a note or explanation, and totally unrelated to the Spanish version of the title.

Word-for-word or literal translation produced unnatural Spanish with excessive use of the passive voice and convoluted syntax, particularly the opening paragraph where '*Contentious legal disputes are resolved and settlements reached*' was in many cases ungrammatically resolved and, in a few others, the resulting inaccuracies were compounded by the translation of '*contentious*' as '*continuous*'.

Regarding legal terminology, the translation of '*settlement*', '*advocacy*', '*bound*', '*subject to*', '*common ground*', '*procedural*', '*parties*' caused problems. Many candidates experienced difficulties in transferring the concept '*advocacy*' and resorted either to inventing a translation: "*advocacia*" or simplifying it to "*abogado*", the latter being a preferable

solution. 'Procedure' and 'processes' were both confused with "proceso", and in one or two cases 'procedure' was rendered as "jurisprudencia". A few "arbitraciones" were also found, instead of "arbitraje" and in one case 'arbitrator' was translated as "mediador", thus confusing the two alternative means of dispute resolution. 'Parties' was translated as "partidas" i.e. 'certificates' and "partidos" i.e., 'matches' or 'political parties'. 'Commercial law', 'family law' were, invariably, literally translated, with only a few adhering to Spanish usage and rendering them by their Spanish denomination: "Derecho Comercial" and "Derecho de Familia".

Also simple, general vocabulary terms such as 'privacy', 'ultimate function' 'officer', 'experience' (v.), were inaccurately translated, normally as a result of choosing a meaning inadequate for the context: the Spanish "intimidación" is the translation of 'intimacy' and not 'privacy', and surely there is not much intimacy in a contentious dispute in or out of court. 'Ultimate' was also misinterpreted and translated almost invariably as the 'last labour' or 'last job'. 'Officer' rendered as "oficial" is a persistent mistranslation, and this year was no exception. 'Experience' was translated by many as "experienciar", which does not exist, or "sufrir", which adds an unsuitable dramatic flavour to the detached tone of the text.

The translation of 'case' needs to be considered separately. This is a constant error, the result of English interference and should be eradicated; candidates, with only a few honourable exceptions, all treated 'complexities of the case', 'present their case', 'commercial, family law cases' as "caso(s)", as if they were synonymous, when in fact they are not. The same should be said for the translation of 'Magistrate'.

A separate mention should also be made of the translation of 'employment tribunals' and 'welfare officer'. In Spain (and probably also in some Latin American countries, but certainly not everywhere) employment cases are judged in what are called "Juzgados de lo Social": some candidates opted for the use of this denomination. However if we consider that the text is referring to the British legal system, an indication that these "Juzgados" hear employment cases would have been appropriate. Another candidate, in the opposite extreme, used the denomination "Tribunales Administrativos", which is indeed correct in the UK – where industrial tribunals are administrative tribunals - but certainly this denomination would not be grasped by Spanish speakers, knowledgeable or not, for whom "administrativo" has other general and legal connotations.

The 'court-appointed welfare Officer' was generally translated as "asistente social", "oficial de los servicios sociales", or the 'welfare' component altogether ignored. In fact this Officer is not attached to the Social Services but to the Family Court Service.

None of these translations were considered incorrect but taking into account that the candidate has to demonstrate the ability to handle cultural differences, they did not score high under this criterion.

There were also some grammatical and syntactical mistakes. A number of candidates translated 'settlements reached in Britain's courts' using an impersonal structure, the verb preceded by "se", but with the verb in plural, "se llegan a acuerdos", which is utterly incorrect: in this case the verb is always singular, as it cannot agree with the object of a preposition.

Several examples of improper use of subjunctive were noticeable: the subjunctive in cases where it is not required is as much a mistake as not using it when it is mandatory.

Cohesion was also affected when using inadequate connectives: 'in that the parties will normally agree...' in particular, was wrongly translated as "en que", "en el que" or "en el cual", altering the relationship between main and subordinate clause. Another widespread mistake was the erroneous treatment of 'much as they would', considered by many as the comparative of superiority "mucho mejor que" with disastrous results regarding meaning.

Mistakes in the use of "ser" and "estar", incorrect prepositions and improper use of gerund were among the commonest. There were also several technical mistakes: many accents were missed out; some spelling mistakes and punctuation faults were noted.

Recommendations to Centres

Two or three scripts were simply an incoherent and meaningless collection of misspelled words, with no recognisable structure – possibly the worst scripts I have seen in the last few years and it was obvious the candidates did not have the required level of language. Centres should make sure the candidates entered have a command of the language in accordance with the level required by this examination.

Recommendations to Candidates

More attention should be paid when consulting dictionaries. The context and the examples that any good dictionary brings for each entry should help you choose the best term for the text you are translating. Regarding legal terminology, double-checking in a monolingual legal dictionary is a must if your knowledge of the legal system of the country is not sound.

The use of prepositions also needs constant revision and practice, not only “*por*” and “*para*” but also the use of other prepositions, e.g. “*ante*”, apparently unknown to many who used “*antes*” and changed the meaning of the phrase. Candidates should learn how to deal with acronyms.

Finally, candidates should give themselves a few minutes to revise the text and check whether they have translated all paragraphs and included them in their final copy. Several candidates omitted words, forgetting to write them over an erasure; others missed lines and whole paragraphs failing the criterion of completeness. Incomplete scripts cannot make the grade.

LANGUAGE: SPANISH
OPTION(S): HEALTH

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

- 10 papers were marked altogether.
- As in the previous year there were a lot of accentuation mistakes not acceptable at this level. It is a surprise that so many candidates just do not seem to know the rules.
- The use of punctuation was also very unsatisfactory in some papers. Notably, subject and verb were separated by a comma.
- Gerunds were used wrongly by some candidates.
- Some candidates did not keep the same paragraph structure as the one of the original, and thus their renderings were not completely coherent.
- Some candidates used the wrong register. The “*tú*” form was used in a few papers. This was not appropriate for this type of text addressed to the public.
- There were no serious technical mistranslations.

Recommendations to Centres

- Accentuation rules are important in Spanish, and a professional translator has to apply them impeccably.
- Learners should practise paraphrasing to acquire language flexibility. This should also help them to choose the appropriate register when translating.

Recommendations to Candidates

Same as above.

LANGUAGE: SPANISH
OPTION(S): LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Most candidates produced adequate translations, conveying meaning and information in full, although not always using the most appropriate terminology to translate the main concept of the original text. In fact ‘*Civil Partnership*’ caused problems to all candidates with one exception where it was accurately translated as “*Unión Civil*”. All the others choices

were in general ambiguous: “*Matrimonio Civil*” did not differentiate enough from ordinary marriage; “*Asociación Civil*”, “*Sociedad Civil*” and “*socios*” are civil and commercial law concepts, therefore by using these denominations the whole text could refer to any association without commercial aims. The translation “*Pareja de hecho*” was also used and this is completely inaccurate: “*pareja de hecho*” is a well established concept meaning ‘*common law partners*’ for which no ceremony or notification is necessary, so this translation invalidates the content and could not be accepted.

‘*Entry clearance*’ was equated to ‘*visa*’ in several cases and although they are closely related, ‘*entry clearance*’ refers to the technical aspects of obtaining a visa, and these terms could be easily differentiated in Spanish also. ‘*Registration authority*’ was misunderstood in one of the scripts and translated as “*sociedad autoritaria*” i.e. ‘*authoritarian society*’. Other words which were inaccurately translated, or completely wrong, were ‘*Act*’ translated as “*acta*”; ‘*giving their notice*’, translated as “*pasar su notificación*” and also as “*otorgar*”, and “*dar noticias*” (i.e. ‘*news*’); ‘*premises*’ translated as “*propiedades*”, ‘*prove*’ rendered as “*comprobar*” instead of “*dar prueba*”. ‘*Venue of worship*’ was translated as “*lugar de cultura*” (i.e. ‘*place of culture*’) and also “*evento de adoración*” which any Spanish speaker would have trouble to relate to the actual place mentioned in the text.

Grammar and syntax were in general adequate although in certain cases there was evidence of a complete disregard for the verb tense, resulting in impaired accuracy and meaning, for example: Present instead of Past tense in the opening sentence; Future instead of Present; Past instead of Future particularly in the case of ‘*is to be entered*’, which is misleading; etc.

‘*Must have been*’ was wrongly translated using the verbal periphrasis “*debe de*”: the use of the preposition “*de*” between the verb “*debe*” and the infinitive indicates probability and not obligation. Another example of inappropriate use of prepositions was the translation of ‘*for*’ in ‘*for a period of...*’ as “*en un período...*” resulting in considerable distortion of meaning.

Technical faults: in comparison with previous years’ scripts for this option, a decrease in spelling mistakes was noted, as well as improved use of accents, except one candidate who ignored all accents, even essential ones, resulting in confusion between words that are only differentiated by the (written) accent.

Recommendations to Centres

Candidates need to develop awareness of, and receptivity to, the context. Local Government candidates, need to be able to transfer appropriately concepts which could have implications for the readership, affecting their decision on respect of institutions and/or their rights and obligations as citizens: ‘*marriage*’, ‘*civil partnership*’, ‘*common law marriage*’ are cases in point. Intensive and extensive reading would certainly develop candidates’ responsiveness to all concepts of the original text.

Recommendations to Candidates

As a precautionary measure, candidates should not use any vocabulary that may *seem* correct, without checking the meaning first. Effective use of dictionaries, double checking in monolingual specialised dictionaries particularly when the institutions involved are not familiar or may belong also to another area of knowledge, would help to avoid pitfalls. Improving background knowledge would also prevent avoidable confusion over terms and/or institutions.

LANGUAGE: SWAHILI
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Some candidates appear to have prepared reasonably well for this exam. Others were weak on vocabulary and grammar. Generally, however, candidates’ Swahili vocabulary has improved. The main weakness, however, remains in remembering specialist law terminology. Words like “*arbitration*” and “*conciliation*” have specific meanings. Candidates should learn them during their revision.

Recommendations to Centres

Please see comments below.

Recommendations to Candidates

Read more Swahili newspapers. Ask friends to send you some papers. If a candidate's option is law, it is highly recommended that s/he should read copies of the Times every Tuesday or visit a library which keeps the Times newspaper. There is a section on law every Tuesday. Therefore legal terms eg "rape", "theft", "consumer" which have specific legal meanings can be identified and translated into Swahili as an exercise.

Candidates must read and understand the aim and purpose of the text.

The language is constantly developing and candidates should keep up to date. For example the modern greeting to friends or people of the same rank/age is "Mambo!" (How are things?). Answer "Poa" (Everything is fine).

A few visits to courts to familiarise oneself with court procedures is recommended. In the text provided for this year's examination, candidates should have spotted and been reminded of formal litigation procedures which they would already be familiar with if they had visited courts and observed these procedures in practice.

LANGUAGE: TAMIL
OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

English Law

Quite a poor performance generally, with the particular failing of lack of accuracy, remembering that this is a paper in Law. This was the only option offered last year, in Tamil.

Scottish Law

Major errors let down the performance.

Health

A very satisfactory performance slightly marred by a couple of coined terms.

Local Government

Above average performance compared to other specialisms.

Recommendations to Centres

Please see comments below.

Recommendations to Candidates

Remember that this is an examination in testing competence in both languages if you are to do justice to those who you may serve, assist in the future. So prepare by reading as wide a range as possible relative to your specialism as well as the general aspects, in both languages. There are several TV channels, in addition to BBC1, 2, ITV and Channel 4 (via cable and Sky), in Tamil as well as English. Watch, listen, learn and benefit from a tremendous range of news, current affairs and specialist documentaries.

A most common failing is where candidates do not pay sufficient attention to syntax and grammar. As prospective interpreters it is vital for you not only to have good written competence but also excellent verbal skills. This includes proper spelling, pronunciation and expression. Read quality newspapers carrying articles on your related specialisms, taking note of terminology and procedures stated. This should be done in both languages and mostly can be accomplished by visiting the local library, via the internet and subscriptions to your language newspapers! Also remember the exam is a place where you have to deliver usually on a slightly higher qualitative level than in practice, although success is assessed on suitability of your performance there. Use more than one dictionary, particularly cross language ones and double check the precise meaning of words, as some Tamil language dictionary meanings of some English terms are not quite reflective of the English word meaning! Unless one practices and works hard over this it is very difficult to become a good professional interpreter who is respected by the users of your services, and this in turn denigrates the status of interpreters in general.

LANGUAGE: TIGRINYA
OPTION(S): LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Unlike in Eritrea, the Civil Partnership Act in the UK creates a new legal relationship of civil partnership, which two people of the same sex can form by signing a registration document. The term “civil partnership” is not widely used or spoken in Eritrea, as it is not yet legalised. It is therefore important for candidates to have knowledge and familiarity with an objective of understanding the culture(s) in question. Candidates should also have an ability to translate legislative texts from one language to another because many legal terms have their own significance within a given legal system; their meaning must therefore remain clear and meaningful to the reader.

In one case the term “civil partnership” was translated as “community” which made the meaning unclear and distorted. Another problem arose where there is no direct equivalent of an English term in the target language; for example, one candidate translated “immigration” in a way that implied the person(s) in question was an asylum seeker.

Recommendations to Centres

Candidates should be encouraged to learn more about the diversity and different aspects of living in the UK. This is because candidates might have little time to prepare for work in any given situation and they must, therefore, possess the requisite skills and information to respond effectively to their clients needs in a particular context.

The translation of legislative text from one language to another could be a difficult task if the translator does not have a good knowledge of the local government system.

Candidates should be able to present the translation of the given context with good use of vocabulary, grammatical construction and good knowledge of specialist terminology.

Recommendations to Candidates

It is important to see the translation as more than a simple operation of swapping one word for another into the target language. The candidate should be able to understand the actual meaning of what he/she is translating so that the finished article will be meaningful to the reader.

Candidates need to perform consistently well throughout the translation by using appropriate words, which will be clear and meaningful to the reader.

LANGUAGE: TURKISH
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Overall, except for a few candidates who wrote at the same level as an educated person in the TL would do, I was surprised to see the level of writing found in the candidates' translations. The most common weaknesses of these candidates were:

- Grammar: lack of understanding the complex sentences in the SL, sentences not structured well
- Vocabulary: vocabulary used was not suitable for similar texts found in the TL
- Spelling: too many spelling mistakes
- Punctuation: some candidates did not use any punctuation marks at all, making it difficult to understand where the sentences begin and end
- Writing style: a formal document translated with colloquial language
- Not objective thinking when translating: sentences in the translations provided would not be found in similar documents in the TL; translations are more “word-centred” than “reader-centred”, therefore they are not cohesive.

Recommendations to Centres

- Candidates need to practise writing more in both languages.
- They should study grammar of complex sentences in both languages to comprehend them better and reflect it in their translations.
- They should be taught how to analyse sentences before translating them which will improve their writing and the structure of their sentences.
- They should be told that a good translation is NOT “substitution of words” BUT “the precise message that conveys the true meaning of the original message”. Knowledge of this can improve the accuracy of their translations and make their sentences more natural for target readers.

Recommendations to Candidates

- Acronyms should have been explained in brackets, as readers in the TL would not understand what these acronyms stand for.
- Candidates should always translate with readers in mind rather than just translate words on their own. If they had read out what they translated before submitting the exam papers, and read it through objectively as if they were the recipient, the quality would have been improved. When I looked at their work, I thought that a native speaker of the TL would not have made such sentences i.e. the sentences do not sound natural and do not facilitate a coherent reading.
- Some candidates made numerous elementary spelling mistakes. This profession requires a high level of literacy in both languages, so candidates should practise writing in both languages before taking the exam.
- Most candidates struggled when translating complex sentences into Turkish. This may be partly to do with lack of knowledge of grammar in both languages or not knowing how to analyse sentences before translating them.

LANGUAGE: UKRAINIAN
OPTION(S): LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

I cannot compare the performance of candidates to last year because this is the first year that Ukrainian has been offered as an option for the DPSI.

It looks as if candidates were native Ukrainian speakers but sometimes they used Russianisms instead of Ukrainian words. There were some spelling and grammar mistakes. The main weaknesses shown by the candidates were word for word translation of the sentences and parts of the sentences. They had difficulty translating “... *though the parties are usually bound by the result*” and “*there being no formal procedural requirements*”.

Recommendations to Centres

Candidates should be reminded by the centres to pay attention to presentation of their work and to read carefully the front-page instructions. Candidates should follow the instructions to write on alternate lines and not to write in the margin because this makes it difficult to mark the text. Advise candidates to manage time properly.

Recommendations to Candidates

Read carefully the instructions about the written examination and produce a tidy translation with good handwriting.

You should work hard to prepare for the exams. Read newspapers and articles on Ukrainian websites to familiarise yourselves with new legal terminology and specialist terms in the Ukrainian language. Continue to master your English and general knowledge in order to accurately decode the source text and encode a text in the target language.

LANGUAGE: URDU
OPTION(S): LAW, HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Law

A number of candidates failed to capture the true meaning of the heading and hence affected the meaning of the translation. This year again lack of knowledge of legal terms was evident and terms like "litigants", "quasi-judicial", "arbitration", "mediation", "conciliation" etc posed great difficulty to most candidates. Difficulty was also noticed in the translation of long sentences containing several clauses resulting in confusion and lack of clarity.

Health

Apart from the heading there were very few technical terms eg "cancer", "benign", "hyperplasia" etc. This is probably why many candidates choosing this option obtained high grades including some Distinctions.

Local Government

Again, civil partnership being a new concept, many candidates were unable to grasp its true meaning and this could be seen throughout the translation because of its recurrence. There were not many technical terms and the task was relatively easy for this level.

Overall

The usual weaknesses such as poor spelling, poor sentence structure and poor presentation are still evident and lack of comprehension of the original passage cannot be overemphasised.

Recommendations to Centres

Many candidates seem to take this exam because they have learnt Urdu in a domestic situation without formal education. Therefore they cannot write grammatically correct Urdu, their spelling is very poor, and sentences are confused and unclear. Such candidates should be encouraged to attend language proficiency courses and do a lot of reading of Urdu newspapers and magazines to build up vocabulary and idiomatic writing. Centres must also stress the need for logical presentation of their work.

Recommendations to Candidates

Good presentation is essential as an otherwise correct translation which is badly presented creates a bad impression and attracts low marks. Correct comprehension of the original passage is essential for successful rendering. Literal meanings are not always appropriate. Hence your choice of words from the dictionary is important and that means good knowledge of your subject as well as a good command of both languages is also important. Learn the art of translation and practice it under the guidance of a teacher.

LANGUAGE: VIETNAMESE
OPTION(S): ENGLISH LAW

Overall Performance of Candidates (compared to last year, where possible) and any Particular Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate Group

Like last year strong points among candidates are their writing abilities, regarding grammatical and syntactical constructions, general vocabulary, spelling and punctuation of the Vietnamese language. The target text is generally clearly written and the genre appropriate to the intended audience.

Omission of individual words or phrases is rare. Suitable choice of target words and re-structuring target sentence structures are other positive features that allow candidates to render their translations more natural and authentic. Candidates render specialised terminologies better than last year (eg "settlement", "arbitration", "mediation" or "conciliation"), either translating them correctly or paraphrasing them appropriately.

On the weak points, half of candidates have problems in decoding the central idea embedded in complicated sentence structures. Lack of awareness of the functionalities of cohesive devices or of the text coherence has also hampered candidates in decoding the complete or central meaning of the original, and, consequently, in encoding the message back into the target language. Lengthy wording and uncertain choice of target words are other pitfalls that lead to the inaccuracies in the translation.

Recommendations to Centres

Please see comments below.

Recommendations to Candidates

Proof-checking is the key to a good translation, both in translation practice and in the exam. Some candidates seem not to have proof-checked their translation before submitting it, otherwise apparent mistakes such as incoherence, inconsistency, incomprehension or incompleteness could have been avoided.

Insufficient preparation for the exam is possibly another cause for poor rendering. Three things are central for a pass mark: understanding the original correctly, correctly rendering the original and communication value of the translation. The first is about the source language, the second relates to translation study and technique and the last is about being a competent writer of the target language.

A good idea for the candidate to know whether (s)he is good at writing in Vietnamese is to ask any ordinary Vietnamese person that might not need to even know English whether the translation is clear to them. Checking the logic of the ideas in the text is another good hint, to help eliminate incoherence or incomprehension.

Last but not least, candidates should have done more practice, trying to translate various legal texts to identify typical problems and to come up with suitable strategies for the exam.