

Translator's Notes

Translator's notes

In a real life situation, professional translators sometimes have recourse to translator's notes where a text lacks clarity and it is not possible to consult its author and when there is need to inform a target audience of any issues that may affect the quality or presentation of a translation.

The use of translator's notes is permissible for all three papers, reflecting their use in a professional context to provide the target readership with an explanation or to resolve an issue in situ.

- Translator's notes are the exception rather than the rule. They should be used sparingly, and only if absolutely necessary.
- Translator's notes are not meant to be an opportunity for the translator to display their knowledge. Unnecessary translator's notes are likely to be penalised.
- In this professional exam, translator's notes should be addressed to the client and not to the examiner. Not every translation will require translator's notes.
- Translator's notes may appear at the bottom of the page as footnotes, at the end of the translation, or on a separate sheet. They do not need to be preceded with the heading 'Translator's note' (although this is standard practice in a professional context) since standard footnotes do not feature in the exam papers, and there is therefore no risk of confusion between author footnote and translator's note.
- Translator's notes may be used to indicate that there is / may be an error in the Source Text (spelling error; error in dates, figures or units quoted etc). The tone of the comment needs to be diplomatic, remembering that the assumed error may not actually be an error.
- Translator's notes may be used to indicate an ambiguity in the text which cannot be clarified (in a real-life situation, the translator would need to consult the client / the author of the Source Text).
- Translator's notes may be used when a needed equivalent cannot be traced, given the resources available at the time. The translator / candidate then needs to indicate the specific sources that could be consulted in order to solve the problem (a particular online dictionary; a website; a specialist etc). A generic translator's note such as: 'If I had access to the Internet, I could find...' would be deemed inappropriate.
- Translator's notes may be used to provide necessary information for the reader (for culture-bound notions for instance) if this information cannot be provided within the body of the translation (because it would be too cumbersome, or because it would break the flow of the text).
- Translator's notes are **not** meant to explain a translation problem or to justify the solution opted for.

6. Assessment of Translator's notes

As not all translations require translator's notes, the lack of them will not mean automatic penalisation. Translations will be eligible for Pass, Merit or Distinction grades, with or without translator's notes, as long as the candidates apply critical thought and appropriate strategies to how they translate the texts before them.

Any translator's notes used must be concisely and relevantly expressed, and **must** be essential to comprehension. They will be considered under Aspect of Performance 1, the criterion of comprehension, since the use (or not) of the translator's notes will clearly be with the intention of clarifying a point.