

Hybrid Interpreter Examination (HIE) Information for Candidates

Overview

The Hybrid Interpreter Examination (HIE) is an assessment designed to assess both a candidate's ability to interact in a professional context using two or more languages (usually English and one or more other languages), as well as their ability to interpret completely and accurately between two different languages in one or more medical-based role-play scenarios containing high level medical terminology. Each language will be assessed separately in a series of interviews, consisting of two sections each: Language comprehension (listening) and efficacy of oral communication (speech). Candidates testing in two languages will have two interviews, first in English, and then in the target language. Candidates testing in three or more languages will have additional interviews. Usually all of the interviews will take place on the same call, one immediately after the other. The assessment will also include one or more long-form scenarios where the candidate will be evaluated on their ability to understand and retain information provided in a language, the ability to clearly communicate ideas through speech, and the ability to clearly and accurately communicate or render that information in the other language. All candidates must first be assessed using a General Medicine scenario and then, if requested, an additional scenario based on specialized content (Women's Health or Pediatrics), and may also include add-on modules to test for knowledge of Interpreter Ethics, Standards of Practice, Interpreter Protocol, or Cultural Competency. The section with the role-play scenarios may occur between the language interviews, or after them.

Taking the test

You will need to be alone and in a quiet area, and you will need a pen and 2-3 sheets of blank paper for note taking. You are not allowed to use any reference materials, such as dictionaries or computers. The test usually takes about 40 to 70 minutes, depending on your pace. It is administered in one of three ways:

Live Over the Phone: Our scheduling staff will call and/or email you with times to take your test. Alternatively, your coordinator may schedule your test with us directly, and provide you with the date and time. Then, at the scheduled time, we will call you at the number provided to administer your assessment. We recommend using a reliable landline

telephone when available, as there are a limited number of repetitions allowed, and cellular phone reception issues can impede your performance. Be sure to disable call waiting as well.

Live Online via Video Proctoring (OVP): If you or your facility has requested Online Video Proctoring, please see the following explanation with [Frequently Asked Questions about Online Video Proctoring](#).

Live On-site: Some employers or training organizations may require you to take the test on-site (either over the phone or via Online Video Proctoring (OVP)), or in another proctored setting. You will be provided with the address for the testing facility during the scheduling process. Be sure to allow for extra time to find the location and get settled.

You will find additional answers to frequently asked questions about the Hybrid Interpreter Examination (HIE) below.

How it works

Each section of the test will begin with a practice exercise or example. While the practice questions will not hurt your score if answered incorrectly, correct answers may help the overall score, or shorten the test.

The first section of each language interview will be *comprehension*. In this section, you will hear a series of short readings. After each reading, you will hear a few questions related to the content of the reading. Here is an example (you will not see text during the test and will only hear audio):

“Angela withdrew \$300 dollars from the bank this morning before she took her cat to the veterinarian for a routine checkup and vaccination. The vet bill was \$200, which she paid in cash, and she gave the rest of the money to her mother.”

“Now, some questions:”

“What two places did Angela visit?” (answers: Bank and veterinarian)

“Why did Angela take her cat to the vet?” (answer: checkup or vaccination)

“How much money did Angela give her mother?” (answer: \$100)

The second section of each interview will be *efficacy of oral communication*, or speech. In this section, you will be presented with open-ended starter topics, and asked to talk for approximately 2 to 3 minutes about each topic, giving your thoughts and opinions. Keep in mind that the starter topics are just prompts to get you started, and that there are no right or wrong answers. Your responses will be evaluated based on how clearly, coherently and

fluidly you communicate, taking into account pronunciation, grammar and syntax, pace and vocabulary. Here is an example (audio only on test):

“Some school systems have proposed limiting the amount of homework that can be assigned to elementary school children, to ensure that they are not overwhelmed and have enough time for play each day. Give your opinion about how much homework you think is appropriate for elementary students. Do you think playtime is as important as homework? Please explain.”

In the role-play section of the test you will first hear a short series of instructions. After that the role-play scenario will begin. In accordance with industry standards, you **MUST** introduce yourself to the speakers in the scenarios. This introduction is also known as a pre-session. You will listen closely, taking notes, and at the end of each spoken line, you will interpret the message into the other language. You should pay attention to the overall meaning, as well as to the specific terms and concepts, and do your best to convey the messages accurately and completely. You are allowed to request repetitions (just once per line), and you may be evaluated on your use of transparency and interpreter protocol during this test. See FAQ below for additional details.

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I required to use first person interpreting?

For this test you are highly encouraged to interpret in first-person (using "I" or "me" and speaking as though you were the original speaker). Your employer may use another test or training to ensure this skill.

When are results ready? Do I receive a copy? Who else sees my results?

Results are usually sent out within five working business days (or one week, unless there are holidays). You may receive results sooner. If you ordered through the website and paid for the test yourself, you will receive a copy, and we will also send a copy to any other parties you requested on the order form. (If you did not list any other recipients on the order form, only you will receive a copy). If your employer/training program ordered and paid for the test, only they will receive a copy, which they may or may not be able to share with you, according to their own internal policy. Self-paying candidates who choose the option to enroll in the "ON-FILE" program will have their results added to a database that LanguageStat and our partner organizations may refer to when seeking talent.

Which national/regional accents are considered standard English?

LanguageStat acknowledges several standard regional/national dialects and accents in English including: Australian, British (including Scottish*), Canadian, Caribbean*, Indian*, Irish, New Zealander, US American (including regional accents: Southern, Northeastern, Mid-western, and Southwestern/Native American) and South African*. (*No points will be deducted for clear and easy to understand speech in these dialects/accents. However, if speech is deemed to impede understanding for listeners from other countries or regions, score may be lowered and/or include notes mentioning impact on communication as applicable, depending on the degree of severity.)

I have been interpreting in this language at work for years. Why do I need to take this test?

Your employer may wish to confirm or recertify your skill level for hiring, quality, safety or regulatory reasons.

How are results provided? What is a passing score?

Candidates receive several different scores (add-on modules will provide even more)- which include separate scores for listening comprehension and speaking, in both languages, as well as one for accuracy and another for terminology in the role-play portion of the test- as well as overall blended scores for each section of the test, and each language. Scores are presented as percentages, and are accompanied by an A-F ranking, corresponding to a standard US grading scale. LanguageStat recommends an 80% passing score in the listening comprehension and speaking sections (in both languages), as well as a 75% passing

score in both accuracy and terminology for the role-play portion of this test, although each organization will set their own criteria according to their needs, and some may have higher (or lower) score requirements. Notes and comments are included in the report.

How soon can I retest?

Please check with the organization (employer or training program) that requested the test to see what, if any, retest guidelines they have in place. LanguageStat recommends at least 6 months before retesting in most circumstances, but does not enforce that recommendation.

Is this test administered live or via an automated system?

The HIE is only available for live administration at this time. LanguageStat offers a variety of other tests to evaluate specific language and interpreter skills, some of which are also available via our automated administration system.

What is transparency?

Transparency is the concept that all parties involved in the interpreted session have the right to know everything that is said, and by whom. It is particularly important in medical interpreting. For example, an interpreter should inform the party expecting the interpretation of the need to intervene if a repetition or clarification is required. Transparency can take many forms depending on the format (for example, in-person interpreters might raise their hand for a repetition, whereas an over-the-phone interpreter would need to verbally intervene using a protocol). Please check with your employer or training program to see what standards and protocols for transparency they have in place. By default, transparency and protocol are not scored as part of the HIE unless the corresponding add-on module has been selected prior to the test. Your employer may use another test or training to ensure this skill.

Where can I find study materials?

[National Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Interpreters in Health Care](#) (PDFs - NCIHC)

[Interpreter Training Videos, Part 1/2](#) (YouTube - Clarity Interpreting)

[Interpreter Training Videos, Part 2/2](#) (YouTube - Clarity Interpreting)

[Medical terminology Course on iTunes U](#) (Free course, requires iTunes - Des Moines University)

[Glossary of Medical terms \(English\)](#) (Webpage - New York Presbyterian Hospital)

[English/Spanish Dictionary of Health Related Terms, 3rd edition](#) (PDF California-Mexico Health Initiative, CPRC, University of California Office of the President Office of Binational Border Health, California Department of Health Services)

These are not the only resources. You are encouraged to check with your employer or training company to see what other resources may be available, and to seek out additional language specific resources on your own.

Can I retest in just one language/section? Can I add an additional language?

You can add a third (or fourth) language, though you will need to be tested using different role-play sections as well as a separate language interview. In certain circumstances partial retesting by section may also be available. Please contact testing@languagestat.com for single language additions/retests or to discuss section specific retests. Our testing team will review your results and recommend a partial retest if indicated.