

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

You will be given **three (3) hours** to complete the written examination. Candidates must obtain a passing score on the Written Examination in order to be invited to participate in the Oral Examination. The written examination is weighted 50% of the final score. The following questions are for illustrative purposes only. The correct answers can be found after the last question.

I Translating Written Material

These questions assess applicants' ability to translate written selections from one language into another.

A. English to Spanish

Example 1: Applicants will be presented with a statement in English followed by four statements in Spanish. For each question, applicants must select the option that **most closely matches** the translation into Spanish.

The speaker cleared his throat before starting his speech.

- A. El orador carraspeó antes de comenzar a su discurso.
- B. El orador se aclaró la garganta después de dar comienzo a su discurso.
- C. El orador limpió su garganta antes de dar comienzo a su discurso.
- D. El orador aclara la garganta antes de dar comienzo a su discurso.

B. Spanish to English

Example 2: Applicants will be presented with a statement in Spanish followed by four statements in English. For each question, applicants must select the option that **most closely matches** the translation into English.

Si no fuera por su buena apariencia, nunca lo hubieran contratado para administrar el negocio de su familia política.

- A. If it weren't for his good status, he would never have managed to get hired to run his in-laws' business.
- B. If it weren't for his good looks, he would never have been hired to run his in-laws' business.
- C. His good looks managed to help him get hired to run his in-laws' business.
- D. He would never use his good looks to manage to run his in-laws' business.

II. Grammar and Usage

These questions assess applicants' ability to apply the basic rules of grammar, usage and sentence structure in English and Spanish.

A. Spanish

Example 3: Applicants will be presented with four sentences and must select the sentence which is **most correct** according to the rules of standard Spanish including grammar, usage and sentence structure.

- A. El museo no exhibió las obras de Monet sino que exhibió las de Picasso.
- B. El museo exhibió las obras de Monet sino que exhibió las de Picasso.
- C. El museo no exhibió las obras de Monet si no que exhibió las de Picasso.
- D. El museo no exhibió las obras de Monet sino que no exhibió las de Picasso.

B. English

Example 4: Applicants will be presented with four sentences and must select the sentence which is **most correct** according to the rules of standard English including grammar, usage and sentence structure.

- A. My friends and me saw the movie six times.
- B. My friends and me seen the movie six times.
- C. My friends and I saw the movie six times.
- D. My friends and I seen the movie six times.

III. Vocabulary

These questions, presented in English and Spanish, assess applicants' knowledge of general vocabulary including words, phrases or idioms commonly used in court situations.

A. Spanish

Example 5: Applicants must select the option which most nearly has the **SAME** meaning as the target word or phrase.

Fraternidad

- A. tesoro
- B. incienso
- C. metalúrgica
- D. hermandad

Example 6: Applicants must select the word which is closest to the **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the target word or phrase.

Obstáculo

- A. hipermetropía
- B. ámbito
- C. concienciado
- D. asistencia

B. English

Example 7: Applicants must select the option which most nearly has the **SAME** meaning as the target word or phrase.

Truncated

- A. cut short
- B. under duress
- C. misrepresented
- D. long-winded

Example 8: Applicants must select the word which is closest to the **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the target word or phrase.

Procrastinate

- A. pacify
- B. insult
- C. instigate
- D. expedite

IV Reading, Understanding and Interpreting Written Material

These questions assess applicants' ability to comprehend written material in English and Spanish. The following formats are used:

Format A: Applicants are presented with brief reading selections followed by questions pertaining to the information contained in the selections. All of the information required to answer the questions is provided in the selections.

Spanish

Example 9: Based solely upon the reading passage below, choose the option that best answers the stated question. Use only information provided in the passage, do not use any prior knowledge that you may have on the subject.

El lingüista boliviano Carlos Coello participó en los paneles dedicados a debatir los aspectos ideológicos y culturales de la identidad del idioma español. En su mesa se discutió "El español y las comunidades indígenas de hoy", para cuyo efecto Coello presentó una ponencia en la que describe los rasgos de identidad del castellano que se habla en Bolivia, influido por el aimara y el quechua, en contraposición a los del castellano que se habla en España.

Los rasgos lingüísticos de estos idiomas, a criterio del experto, repercuten de manera notable en nuestra forma de expresarnos. El extranjero menos avisado se percató de inmediato, cuando visita alguna de las ciudades de Bolivia, que la gente habla en las calles y en las plazas un castellano muy matizado y distinto del que se oye en otras latitudes de América.

Según el último Censo Nacional de Población y Vivienda en Bolivia en 2001, quienes hablan quechua en Bolivia alcanzan 2.1 millones de habitantes, y quienes hablan aimara son 1.4 millones de personas. Estos datos le dan pie a Coello para aseverar que "en términos absolutos aumentó el número de los que hablan castellano, quechua o aimara, pero, en términos relativos, en los últimos 25 años, el porcentaje de los primeros incrementó; en cambio, el de los dos últimos sufrió un pequeño decremento. Creció el número de bilingües, de los cuales la gran mayoría tiene el quechua o el aimara como lengua materna.

A criterio del lingüista Coello, ¿cuál de las siguientes razones explica las aparentes discrepancias entre el castellano boliviano y el de España?

- A. La influencia de lenguas aborígenes.
- B. La enorme distancia entre ambas naciones.
- C. La extensión de la educación a sectores rurales donde antes no llegaba.
- D. Las cada vez mayores migraciones del campo a la ciudad.

English

Example 10: Based solely upon the reading passage below, choose the option that best answers the stated question. Use only information provided in the passage, do not use any prior knowledge that you may have on the subject.

“Kendra’s Law” establishes a court procedure for ordering individuals suffering from a mental illness to accept and receive “assisted outpatient treatment” (AOT). A court order is obtained that will direct an appropriate agency to provide or arrange for services for the identified individual as outlined in a written treatment plan submitted by an examining physician. This initial order is effective for a six-month period and can be extended for successive periods of one-year increments upon a judge’s order. In cases where the patient fails to comply with the ordered treatment or poses a significant risk of harm to themselves or others, the patient may be involuntarily confined as an inpatient to a hospital or other treatment facility.

Which of the following statements regarding Kendra’s Law expresses the information contained in the above passage most accurately? Kendra’s Law:

- A. ensures that an examining physician is providing psychotherapy to individuals with a mental illness.
- B. ensures that individuals with mental illness receive "assisted outpatient treatment."
- C. orders any agency to provide services to individuals with mental illnesses.
- D. orders individuals with mental illness to receive appropriate treatment for six months.

Format B: Applicants are presented with short written sentences or passages with a word or phrase missing. From a list of four options, applicants must select the word or phrase that best fits into the sentence. Questions are in the same language as the reading selections. Applicants are not required to have any special knowledge relating to the content area covered in the selections.

English

Example 11: These questions should be answered by choosing the option that best completes the given sentence.

After hours of listening to boisterous World War II stories, the children finally escaped from their _____ grandfather.

- A. evasive
- B. spiritual
- C. garrulous
- D. nebulous

Spanish

Example 12: These questions should be answered by choosing the option that **best completes** the given sentence.

El Juez le _____ que si no comparecía lo encarcelaría.

- A. encargó
- B. adhirió
- C. ensañó
- D. advirtió

Answer Key:

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. A
- 4. C
- 5. D
- 6. D
- 7. A
- 8. D
- 9. A
- 10. B
- 11. C
- 12. D