



## SOUTH AFRICAN TRANSLATORS' INSTITUTE

# GUIDELINES: SASL INTERPRETER ACCREDITATION TESTING

Testing for SASL interpreter accreditation takes place on an ad hoc basis in different centres as the need arises. Candidates are required to attend the testing at a particular centre and time.

The test is administered by a SATI representative.

### Eligibility

Only SATI members can undergo testing for SASL interpreter accreditation. Candidates must have been members for three months before making an application.

### Procedure

The testing involves practical interpreting. The testing is done in a quiet room, in front of a panel of assessors. For interpreting from SASL, the source is played on video or DVD. For interpreting into SASL, the source recording is played to the candidate over a laptop computer. The text is 10 to 15 minutes long in each case.

Candidates are informed of the subject of the text for their particular language combination when the details of the testing session are finalised. They do not see the text beforehand and are not given any other background information. The text will be a non-specialised text that all candidates should be able to relate to.

The panel of assessors is selected by SATI and generally consists of the following persons:

- A SATI representative
- Two Deaf persons
- Two accredited SA Sign Language interpreters

The assessors each score the candidate according to a set format on the criteria given below. Each panel member is given the opportunity to motivate their score in a discussion and the panel then jointly takes a decision on whether the candidate should pass.

The panel relays their decisions to the SATI office and SATI informs candidates of the outcome – they do not receive the results on the day. Results can take several weeks to reach candidates. Candidates are given brief feedback on their strengths and weaknesses.

Accreditation remains valid only for as long as the candidate remains a member the Institute. Accredited SA Sign Language interpreters must therefore renew their membership on an annual basis. Should they fail to pay their membership fees, their accreditation lapses and they have to re-apply to be accredited.

### Criteria

The following are the criteria according to which candidates' performance is assessed:

#### Language skills

- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Idiom
- Purity

#### Content/message

- Faithfulness to message
- Accuracy
- Clarity

#### Interpreting Technique

Fluency of delivery

- Hesitation
- Backtracking
- Lag time
- Irritating Habits
- Eye contact

#### Professional conduct

- Preparation
- Knowledge of the topic
- Behaviour/dress code

Each criterion is scored out of 10; at least 8 must be obtained for a pass.