

Study Guide For Bilingual Examination

Applicable For All Languages

The purpose of this study guide is to help you prepare for the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) bilingual examination. This is an oral examination divided into three segments: 1) Answering questions frequently asked at front counter; 2) Translating questions related to CHP procedures and processes; 3a) Translating orally into the foreign language questions which are given orally in English; 3b) Translating orally into English questions which are given in a foreign language. These examinations are designed to measure the job-related bilingual skill needed to successfully communicate with the public.

This study guide contains examples of the types of questions that appear on the examination. In addition, a listing of job-related terms is included to help you prepare to answer some examination questions.

Overview

The bilingual examination is typically administered by two certified raters. This pass/fail examination consists of three segments and is administered using a conversational format. A passing score (70%) must be achieved on each segment to proceed to the following segment. In the event a passing score is not achieved on a segment, the examination will be terminated and a failing score assigned. Candidates who fail this examination can retest after six months.

Candidates are rated on the basis of their foreign language skill in grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and ability to communicate ideas regardless of the differences in pronunciation due to regional dialects. This examination does not require candidates to read or write in the foreign language.

Candidates who pass this examination with a score of 70% or better will be certified as bilingual. Candidates who pass this examination with a score of 85% or better will be certified as raters and may be called upon to administer this examination to future candidates.

Sample Questions:

Segment 1 - Answering questions frequently asked at front counter.

For Segment 1 the rater will ask you a general question in the foreign language. You are to answer the question in the foreign language. You will not be rated on the technical substance or accuracy of your response.

Rather you will be rated on how you structure your answer in terms of grammar and sentence structure. It is acceptable to provide answers that are made up but provide a plausible answer to the question.

Here is an example of the type of question you will see in Segment 1.

1. The rater will read in the foreign language: *“Good morning, can you help me check a vehicle identification number to see if the vehicle is stolen?”*

The candidate will provide a hypothetical answer in the foreign language, such as: *“Yes, the record shows that the vehicle was reported stolen in Boulder, Colorado.”*

Segment 2 - Answering questions related to CHP procedures and processes.

For Segment 2 the rater will read questions in the foreign language. Competitors will be provided with a brief outline of the correct answers which are presented in English. The competitor is to answer the questions in the foreign language while using the outlined information. Answers must be grammatically correct and presented in complete sentences.

Here is an example of the type of question you will see in Segment 2.

1. The rater will read in the foreign language: *“Can you explain the CHP policy regarding the use of cell phones while driving?”*

The candidate will be provided with the following information:

Use the following suggested responses to answer question #__.

- a. drivers prevented from using hand-held devices
- b. drivers under 18 not allowed to use cell phone
- c. law effective July 1, 2008
- d. fine, first time = \$76
- e. fine, additional offense = \$190

The candidate will provide a response, such as: *“A new law, effective July 1, 2008, prevents drivers from using hand-held cell phone devices. Also, drivers under 18 years of age are not allowed to use a cell phone while driving. The fine for a first time offense is \$76 and the fine for additional offenses is \$190.”*

Segment 3a – Translating orally into the foreign language questions which are given orally in English.

The rater will read questions in English and the competitor must translate the questions into the foreign language using correct terminology and grammar.

Direct translation, no sample question provided.

Segment 3b – Translating orally into the foreign language questions which are given orally in English.

The rater will read questions in the foreign language and the competitor must translate the questions into English using correct terminology and grammar.

Direct translation, no sample question provided.

Job-Related Terms

To help you prepare for this examination it is recommended that you know the following terms in the foreign language:

Accident	At-fault
Child safety restraint	Child seat
Citation	Cited
Citizens complaint	Collision
Commercial vehicle	CVSA inspection sticker
Damage	Driver license
Driving under the influence (DUI)	Enforce
Felony stop	Fire extinguisher
Hands-free	Hit-and-run
Impound	Inspection
Jaywalking	Jurisdiction
Labor vehicle	Legal guardian
Log book	Modified exhaust
Pedestrian	Platform scale
Reckless driving	Registration tab
Residency	Speed limit
Stranded motorist	Tinted windows
Tow	Tow truck
Tractor-trailer	Violation
Traffic court	Victim
Warrant arrest	Windshield
Windshield wipers	Wireless
Witness	