



across
LANGUAGES
TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION SERVICE

The ILSAT

in 10 quick facts

1

What is the ILSAT?

The ILSAT is a dual-language audio exam to assesses English/French and one additional language competency and interpreting ability in consecutive interpretation and sight translation.

2

How can the ILSAT be useful for an interpreting career ?

The ILSAT is a requirement for The Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training, and Skills Development's Language Interpreter Services Program, for interpreters providing services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking across the province.

Numerous colleges, community agencies, and governmental institutions also require it for interpreter training and certificate programs.

3

How many languages are available?

The ILSAT is available in 70 languages for test in English and it 6 languages for test in French, including:



Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Assyrian, Bengali, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cambodian (Khmer), Cantonese, Creole, Czech, Dari, Dinka, Dutch, Farsi (Persian), Finnish, French, Low German, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Karen, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Korean, Kurdish (Bahdini), Kurdish (Sorani), Laotian, Lingala, Macedonian, Mandarin, Nepali, Nuer, Oromo, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi (Perso-Arabic), Punjabi (Gurmukhi), Rohingya, Romanian, Russian, Serbo/Croatian, Sinhala, Slovak, Slovenian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish, Twi, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese.



4

How long is it valid for?

The ILSAT accreditation is valid for life; however, interpreters ought to pursue professional interpreter training and regular continuing education.

5

How long is the test?

The test takes around 2 hours.

6

What are the components of the test?

The ILSAT has two sections:

- **Sight Translation**
English or French > Other Language
Other Language > English or French
- **Dialogue Interpretation**
English or French <> Other Language

The ILSAT assessment is based on units of meaning. Each unit has objective quality and frequency points (e.g. accuracy and completeness of information, verb tense, verb-subject agreement, gender, etc.).

7

How is it graded?

The ILSAT marking approach focuses on the accuracy and completeness of the rendition. Evaluators are trained to assign scores to each component based on Information and Language, and they offer brief remarks on the candidate's performance. The comments help the candidate identify strong or great renderings, constructive criticism, and improvement ideas to work on in order to perform effectively as a community interpreter.



Impartiality and confidentiality to assess:

The evaluator selection considers the region where the candidate was tested.

Test candidates are only identified to the evaluator by an alphanumeric code.

Evaluators are obligated to score only tests for which they are able to maintain impartiality.



What is the minimum score to pass the ILSAT?

Candidates pass the test by obtaining an average of 75% in BOTH the Information and Language Scores and in BOTH the sight translation AND the dialogue portion of the test.



How long does it take to get the results?

Results are generally provided around 3 to 4 weeks after the test date.



What are the main differences between taking the ILSAT online vs in person?

Online:

The candidate can test from the comfort of their home. The candidate is required to have access to a phone AND a computer or tablet.

In person:

The candidate needs to commute to a testing centre. Ideal for candidates for whom technology is a barrier to take the ILSAT.

In both cases, the test is overseen by a proctor to ensure test quality and a consistent testing environment.



Important:

The ILSAT does not test communication skills or the broad base of knowledge and terminology required in community, health and legal interpreting. Nor does it assess professional behavior or compliance with Interpreter Standards of Practice or Ethical Principles. The ILSAT is not a "certification" test.

