

SAMPLE ANSWERS

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SAMPLE ANSWERS PROVIDED IN THIS DOCUMENT ARE EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS ONLY. THEY SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ANY WAY TO BE THE ONLY SOLUTION

PAPER 1: Translation from English into Persian

Ethics Questions

Question 1

You are translating a number of documents and references for a client who is applying for a job. When you contact the client to verify the spelling of her name she tells you that one or two of the references refers to her cousin, who has the same name. You have the distinct impression that the client will use all the documents for her own job application. What do you say to her and why?

I would be firm and dignified in all my dealings with my clients. At the same time, I would be polite and courteous at all times in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Given that I have no proof that the client is actually intending to use the documents for her own job application, I would not make any accusations. I might however, politely inform her that in Australia, there are laws regarding fraud which prohibit the use of false information for the purpose of misleading or deceiving others. I would also explain that if it is her intention to use the documents for these purposes, I would not be able to accept her assignment. In situations such as this, the Code of Ethics states quite clearly that we should refrain from behaviour which our colleagues might reasonably regard as unprofessional or dishonourable. In this instance, my translator colleagues may consider my involvement in an assignment for an unlawful purpose as "Infamous" conduct.

Question 2

A colleague who works for your employer asks you to check a translation of identity papers which he has completed. When you read the documents through, you realise that important factual information has been changed in the translation. When you point this out to your colleague, he says that he has made the change at the request of the client. What should you do and why?

When checking a translation, it is the translator's task to point out any inaccuracies or errors in translation. Accuracy is a very important principle in the code of ethics which must be adhered to at all times. I would attempt to resolve this issue directly with my colleague, in accordance with the Code of Ethics which states that translators should try to resolve any disputes with their colleagues in a cooperative, constructive and professional manner. I would explain to my colleague that a translator should not make any alterations or changes to any information contained in the original documents. According to the Code of Ethics under the principle of Accuracy, it states quite clearly that translators shall not alter, make additions to, or omit anything from their assigned work. I would also remind my colleague that where there is a conflict in what the employer wants and what is stipulated in the Code of Ethics, the translator should comply with the Code of Ethics. A further issue which may be relevant in situations such as this is that of infamous conduct. To be involved in an assignment where a translator is required to make deliberate changes to original details would most definitely be considered "infamous conduct" by our translator colleagues.