

## READING PASSAGE 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 27-40**, which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.

### Translating: a key to international understanding?

- A The term ‘translation’ is used for all cases where the meaning of expressions in one language (the ‘source’ language) is turned into the meaning in another (the target language), whether the medium is spoken, written, or signed. In specific professional contexts, however, a distinction is drawn between work with the spoken or signed language (interpreting), and work with the written language (translating), although certain tasks blur this distinction.
- B It is sometimes said that there is no task more complex than translation – a claim that can be readily believed when all the variables involved are taken into account. Translators not only need to know their source language well; they must also have a thorough understanding of the field of knowledge covered by the source text, and of any social, cultural, or emotional connotations that need to be specified in the target language if the intended effect is to be conveyed. The same special awareness needs to be present for the target language, so that points of special phrasing, contemporary fashions in expression, local expectations, and so on, can all be taken into account. On the whole, translators work into their mother tongue (or language of habitual use), to ensure a result that sounds as natural as possible – though some translators have argued that, for certain types of text (e.g., scientific material) where translation accuracy is more crucial than naturalness, it makes more sense for the translators to be more fluent in the source language.
- C The aim of translation is to provide semantic equivalence between source and target languages. This is what makes translation different from other linguistic activities, such as adapting, précis writing, and abstracting. However, there are many problems hidden within this apparently simple statement, all to do with what standards of ‘equivalence’ should be expected and accepted.
- D Exact equivalence is of course impossible: no translator could provide a translation that was a perfect parallel to the source text, in such respects as rhythm, puns and cultural allusions. Such a parallel is not even possible when paraphrasing within a single language: there is always some loss of information.

- E** On the other hand, there are many kinds of inexact equivalence, any of which can be successful at a certain level of practical functioning. It therefore follows that there is no such thing as a ‘best’ translation. The success of translation depends on the purpose for which it was made, which in turn reflects the needs of the people for whom it was made. A rough-and-ready translation of a letter can suffice to inform a firm of the nature of an enquiry. A translation of a scientific article requires careful attention to meaning, but little attention to stylistic features. The provision of a dubbed film script will warrant scrupulous care over the synchronisation of lip movements, often at the expense of content. Literary work requires a sensitive consideration of form as well as content, and may prompt several translations, each of which emphasises a different aspect of the original. It is easy to see that what might be ‘best’ for one set of circumstances may be entirely unsuitable for another.
- F** Several different kinds of translation have been proposed to allow for this range of possibilities. A pragmatic translation emphasises accuracy and knowledge of the subject, as required for instruction manuals and much scientific research. In an aesthetic translation, important for literary material, the focus is on preserving the emotional as well as the cognitive content of the work, and on maintaining some level of stylistic equivalence. Ethnographic or sociolinguistic translations aim to pay full attention to the cultural backgrounds of the authors and the recipients, and take into account differences between source and target languages, and the ways of life in which they are embedded. And there are various kinds of linguistic translation, where the aim is to convey the structural flavour of the original text, often in quite a literal manner, emphasising such features as archaisms, dialectisms, and levels of formality. Most translations, of course, are mixtures of these theoretical types, reflecting the complex reality of language in use.
- G** At another level, in a word-for-word translation each word in the source language is translated by a word in the target language. The result often makes no sense, especially when idiomatic constructions are used. In a literal translation, the linguistic structure of the source text is followed, but is normalised according to the rules of the target language. In a free translation, the linguistic structure of the source language is ignored, and an equivalent is found based on the meaning it conveys.
- H** Translators aim to produce a text that is as faithful to the original as circumstances require or permit, and yet that reads as if it were written originally in the target language. They aim to be ‘invisible people’ – transferring content without drawing attention to the considerable artistic and technical skills involved in the process. The complexity of the task is apparent, but its importance is often underestimated, and its practitioners’ social status and legal rights undervalued. Some countries view translation as a menial, clerical task, and pay their translators accordingly, while others regard it as a major intellectual discipline in its own right. The question of status is currently much debated, particularly in Europe, where demand for translators is rocketing, especially in relation to the European Union.

*Questions 27-29*

*Reading Passage 3 has eight paragraphs, A-H.*

*Which paragraph contains the following information?*

*Write the correct letter, A-H, in boxes 27-29 on your answer sheet.*

**27** the effect that a client's requirements have on the nature of a translation

**28** contrasting attitudes towards translators

**29** a list of the areas of knowledge studied by translators

*Questions 30-33*

*Complete the summary below.*

*Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from paragraphs C, D and E for each answer.*

*Write your answers in boxes 30-33 on your answer sheet.*

### **The goal of translation**

Translation is an attempt to create a text in the target language which displays **30** \_\_\_\_\_ with a source text. It is inevitable that not all information can be conveyed, however, so translations are best judged according to their **31** \_\_\_\_\_; for example, the translator of a business letter or scientific text does not need to consider its **32** \_\_\_\_\_ aspects, while someone dubbing a film may give a relatively low value to **33** \_\_\_\_\_.

### Questions 34-37

Look at the following features of translating (Questions 34-37) and the types of translation below.

Match each feature with the correct type of translation, **A-F**.

Write the correct letter, **A-F**, in boxes 34-37 on your answer sheet.

**34** focuses on reproducing the content accurately

**35** looks at important cultural aspects of language use

**36** follows the original grammatical structures as required by the target language

**37** focuses on meaning without necessarily using the original grammatical structures

Types of Translation	
<b>A</b>	aesthetic
<b>B</b>	ethnographic
<b>C</b>	free
<b>D</b>	literal
<b>E</b>	pragmatic
<b>F</b>	word-for-word

### Questions 38-40

Choose **THREE** letters, **A-F**.

Write the correct letters in boxes 38-40 on your answer sheet.

Which **THREE** of the following points are mentioned by the writer of the passage?

- A** The objectives of translating are always clearly different from those of interpreting.
- B** A translator may need to consider the culture of the target language.
- C** Translation is an activity which requires professional training.
- D** It is difficult to specify what constitutes a very good translation.
- E** The skill required for translation is increasingly gaining recognition.
- F** A translation should give the impression of being an original work.

27–29 段落匹配 (A–H)

题号	答案	题干翻译	精确定位句	定位句详细翻译	详细解释
27	E	客户 / 使用方的需求如何影响译文的性质	"The success of translation depends on the purpose for which it was made, which in turn reflects the needs of the people for whom it was made." (第 E 段)	"翻译是否成功取决于它被制作的目的，而目的又反映了使用者的需要。"	题干问“客户要求对翻译性质的影响”。E 段直说成功与否取决于“purpose/needs”，即客户的用途与需求会决定翻译应采用的取向与标准。
28	H	对译者的相反 / 对立态度	"Some countries view translation as a menial, clerical task ... while others regard it as a major intellectual discipline in its own right." (第 H 段)	"有些国家把翻译看作卑微的文案活儿……而另一些国家则把它视为一门重要的学术性学科。"	同一段中并列给出两种截然相反的社会看法，正是“contrasting attitudes”。
29	B	译者需要掌握 / 学习的知识领域清单	"Translators ... must also have a thorough understanding of the field of knowledge covered by the source text, and of any social, cultural, or emotional connotations ... The same special awareness needs to be present for the target language ... special phrasing, contemporary fashions in expression, local expectations, and so on." (第 B 段)	"译者不仅要懂源语，还必须深入理解源文本涉及的学科领域，以及任何社会、文化、情感内涵……在目标语这边也要具备同样的敏感度，比如特殊表达、当下行文习惯、当地期待等。"	B 段连续罗列译者需要理解的多个“领域 / 方面”，构成一份“list”。因此选 B。

30–33 概要填空 (每空不超过两个词；来自 C/D/E 段)

题号	答案	题干 (含空) 简译	精确定位句	定位句详细翻译	详细解释
30	semantic equivalence	译文力求在目标语中呈现与原文的语义对应	"The aim of translation is to provide semantic equivalence between source and target languages." (第 C 段)	"翻译的目的在于在源语与目标语之间提供语义上的等值。"	概要首句即与第 C 段完全同义；填入“semantic equivalence”。
31	purpose	因难以完全传达所有信息，翻译应按其目的来评判	"The success of translation depends on the purpose for which it was made ..." (第 E 段)	"翻译的成功与否取决于其目的....."	概要说“best judged according to their ___”，E 段明确用“purpose”解释评判基准。
32	stylistic	商务信 / 科技文不必过多考虑其文体方面	"A translation of a scientific article requires careful attention to meaning, but little attention to stylistic features." (第 E 段)	"科学论文的翻译应当格外注意意义，而对文体特征关注较少。"	与概要里的“business letter or scientific text does not need to consider its ___ aspects”精准对应“stylistic”。
33	content	电影配音可能会对内容给予较低权重	"The provision of a dubbed film script will warrant scrupulous care over the synchronisation of lip movements, often at the expense of content." (第 E 段)	"配音稿需要精心保证口型同步，这往往要牺牲内容。"	概要末句“may give a relatively low value to ___”与“at the expense of content”完全对应。

34–37 特征与翻译类型匹配

题号	答案	题干翻译	精确定位句	定位句详细翻译	详细解释
34	E (pragmatic)	侧重准确再现内容	"A pragmatic translation emphasises accuracy and knowledge of the subject, as required for instruction manuals and much scientific research." (第F段)	"实用型翻译强调准确性与学科知识(如说明书、科研)。"	"emphasises accuracy" = 准确重现内容。
35	B (ethnographic)	关注语言使用中的重要文化层面	"Ethnographic or sociolinguistic translations aim to pay full attention to the cultural backgrounds ... and the ways of life in which they are embedded." (第F段)	"民族志/社会语言学翻译着力充分关注作者与读者的文化背景以及所处的生活方式。"	与题干 "important cultural aspects of language use" 完全对应。
36	D (literal)	按目标语规范沿用原文语法结构	"In a literal translation, the linguistic structure of the source text is followed, but is normalised according to the rules of the target language." (第G段)	"直译中会遵循原文的语言结构,但按目标语规则做规范化处理。"	"followed...normalised by target rules" = "沿用结构+按目标语调整"。
37	C (free)	以意义为中心,不拘泥于原有语法结构	"In a free translation, the linguistic structure of the source language is ignored, and an equivalent is found based on the meaning it conveys." (第G段)	"意译会忽略源语的语法结构,依据其所传达的意义寻找等值表达。"	题干 "focuses on meaning without necessarily using the original grammatical structures" 与该句逐词对应。

38–40 多选(选三项)

题号	答案	选项中文	精确定位句	定位句详细翻译	详细解释
38	B	译者可能需要考虑目标语文化	"Ethnographic ... translations aim to pay full attention to the cultural backgrounds of the authors and the recipients ..." (第F段)	"民族志/社会语言学翻译要充分关注文化背景(作者与读者)。"	文中明确说要考虑文化背景与生活方式;与B项吻合。
39	D	很难界定什么是“非常好的”翻译	"It therefore follows that there is no such thing as a 'best' translation." (第E段)	"因此得出结论:并不存在'最好的'翻译。"	既然“没有最好的”,则标准难以一锤定音,符合D项。
40	F	译文应让人感觉像原本就用目标语写成	"[produce a text] that reads as if it were written originally in the target language." (第H段)	"(译者力求)让译文读起来仿佛本就用目标语写成。"	H段描述译者追求“隐身”(invisible people),使译文像原生作品,正合F项。

未选项说明(简要):

- A: 第A段说明某些任务会模糊口译与笔译的界限("certain tasks blur this distinction"),与“总是清楚不同”相反;
- C: 全文强调技能与知识,但未明确说“需要专业训练(professional training)”;
- E: H段称该职业在许多地方仍被低估/待遇低,虽“需求上升”,但并非“正获得越来越多认可”的单向判断。

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