

## Video 1: The Oral Proficiency Exam – What to Expect on Test Day

I recently became a court interpreter for the State of California. Because I've gone through the certification process, I'm here to explain to you what tests you'll need to take and pass to become a certified or registered court interpreter, and what you to expect on test day.

To become a *Certified* Court Interpreter, you'll need to take and pass Oral Proficiency Exams, the English-only written exam, and a Bilingual Oral Interpreting Exam.

Some languages require a certification status.

In order to become a *Registered* Court Interpreter, you have to pass Oral Proficiency Exams and an English-only written exam.

For more information on certified and registered status, please see the Court Interpreters Program website:

[www.courts.ca.gov/programs-interpreters.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-interpreters.htm)

Each of the required exams is explained in this series of videos you're about to watch. Depending on where you are in the testing process, you may want to watch each video from start to finish before moving onto the next.

In this first video, I'll cover the Oral Proficiency Exams now required for California court interpreters.

Currently, the Oral Proficiency Exam is offered in more than 70 languages. *All* candidates must pass both an English Oral Proficiency Exam and a Foreign Language Oral Proficiency Exam. Please contact the Court Interpreters Program if there is no foreign language exam available in your chosen language.

Oral proficiency exams are administered in Prometric testing centers.

Before taking *your* exam, you'll need to schedule and pay by phone.

On the day of the exam, plan to arrive at the testing center at least 30 minutes prior to the test.

Also, make sure you have a valid ID with you and be prepared to go through a security checkpoint.

There are a number of items that you cannot bring into the testing center with you, including food and drinks, cell phones, and notebooks. Lockers for these items are provided at the testing center. For a full list of unauthorized items, visit Prometric's website: [www.prometric.com/california](http://www.prometric.com/california)

On the day of the test, here's what to expect:

A proctor will place a call for you via phone and verify your identity to the examiner on the other end.

Then, you will be handed the phone and the examiner will begin the conversation, and you'll complete four examination components in the language in which you're being tested.

The rating scale and passing requirement for this exam are available in the Candidate Information Bulletin located on the Prometric's Website: [www.prometric.com/california](http://www.prometric.com/california)

You'll receive your exam results via email within 14 days. If you don't pass, you can take the exam again in 90 days, but you can only take the exam twice within 365 days from your initial test date.

Remember – if your foreign language requires a certification status, you'll need to pass the Oral Proficiency Exams in English and the foreign language, as well as take and pass the English-only written exam before taking the Bilingual Oral Interpreting Exam.

For registered status, you'll need to pass the Oral Proficiency Exams in English and the foreign language, as well as take and pass the English-only written exam.

Thank you for watching. We wish you success on your exam!