

**UWM Translation & Interpreting Studies
Qualifying Exam Instructions**

PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL REPLY as soon as you receive the exam.

Please read the following instructions carefully. This is a two-part, two-hour exam.

- The first part is a translation of approximately 250 words in your language pair.
- The second part is a 300- to 500-word essay (approximately two typed pages), to be written in **ENGLISH**.

You are strongly encouraged to use comprehensive print dictionaries in your translation, but you may also use the internet or other online resources during the exam period.

You should allot one hour for the translation and one hour for the essay. It is best to translate in one hour and then let your translation rest while you write your essay. Please allow yourself enough time to proofread and edit both your translation and your essay.

You should complete the translation passage and essay in their entirety. We will not, however, count words in your essay.

The essay will be used to assess your readiness to produce graduate-level writing in English, as required of students in UWM's Graduate Program in Translation. A successful essay demonstrates your ability to:

- develop a coherent, structured argument; effective essays typically include a thesis statement and focused paragraphs that advance the essay's central idea or position.
- write clear, complete, and grammatically correct sentences in English.
- apply standard conventions of spelling, usage (*their* vs *they're*), and punctuation.

Regardless of the position you take in your essay, these are the primary criteria that will be used to evaluate your work.

If you have questions, please ask before beginning the exam. If you have questions after the exam, please contact the Chair of Translation & Interpreting Studies, Professor Lorena Terando (terando@uwm.edu). Good luck!

Part 1: Translation Sample Exam

Instructions: Translate everything below the line.

THINK TANK; Math Emerges Blinking Into the Glare of Popular Culture

By Paul Lewis

When more than a hundred mathematicians from around the world gathered at the Institute for Advanced Studies to discuss the work of the French-born mathematician Andre Weil, no one even mentioned his one achievement that has affected tens of thousands of people, most of whom have never heard of him.

Weil, who died in August 1998, was possibly one of the greatest mathematicians of his age, making fundamental discoveries in number theory, laying the basis for algebraic geometry and searching for what he called a Rosetta stone that would establish the unity of all branches of mathematics. But Weil was not interested in the utility of his discoveries. "If you asked Andre to justify mathematics, he would say that was like trying to explain a symphony to a deaf person," Armand Borel, a Swiss mathematician, said.

Yet Weil's math has had one significant practical consequence. It helped create the boom in sales of popular books about mathematics since 1994. That was when a young British mathematician named Andrew Wiles made headlines around the world by using an idea developed by Weil and two Japanese mathematicians to solve the most famous mathematical conundrum in history, Fermat's last theorem.

Last year Princeton University press followed up a 1994 book about the mathematical idea known as e (the base for natural logarithms) with a book about the imaginary number i (the square root of minus 1), a book of "adventures in applied mathematics" and another on the role of computers in math. Another book, published by Paulo Ribenboim, includes an account of the mathematical strategy Mr. Wiles used to prove the theorem, written for the layman.

And no less than three American writers are working on popular books about the concept of zero.

Part 2: Essay

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- develop a coherent, structured argument; effective essays typically include a thesis statement and focused paragraphs that advance the essay's central idea or position.
- write clear, complete, and grammatically correct sentences in English.
- apply standard conventions of spelling, usage (*their* vs *they're*), and punctuation.

Regardless of the position you take in your essay, these are the primary criteria used to evaluate your work.

Essay question:

[sample question unavailable; general essay topic related to translation & interpreting.]