

Assessment criteria for Sophister translations

Grade	Mark	Comprehension and Conveyance of Sense	Style/Appropriacy
F	0-39	Comprehension of even basic linguistic items is impeded. The translation as a whole makes little sense.	No sense of style whatsoever. Often sounds like nonsense.
III	40-49	Comprehension of original significantly impeded, sometimes even with fairly everyday vocabulary and structures. Completely unable to cope with specialized vocabulary. There should nevertheless be an overall understanding of the context or the situation.	Highly literal rendering which often makes poor sense in English. Virtually no sense of style. However, it should not all be nonsense.
	40-44	Directionless: virtually no attempt to work round perceived problems.	
	45-49	Slight attempt to work round perceived problems.	
II.2	50-59	General comprehension of a fair range of vocabulary and structures, although there will be quite noticeable gaps. Unable to cope with specialized vocabulary but some attempt should be made to overcome this.	Tends to awkwardness in English and literality of rendering, although this should not significantly impede the sense at this level. Should show some evidence of a sense of style.
	50-54	Gaps problematical and compromise sense. Some nonsensical turns of phrase in English and very often unnatural sounding.	
	55-59	<u>Some</u> plausible attempt to work around lack of knowledge.	Tends to avoid nonsensical constructions, but the over-literal style sometimes makes the sense difficult to follow. Unnatural in a number of places.
II.1	60-69	Full comprehension of a wide range of vocabulary and structures. Specialized vocabulary presents some problems, but should show clear plausible attempt to overcome these problems.	English style (apart from problems caused by comprehension) clear and precise: should sound natural except in difficult syntactical constructions. The odd awkwardness is to be expected.
	60-64	A slight tendency to literalism which nevertheless does not impede clear comprehension.	

	65-69	Highly plausible.	Should show quite a few 'mot juste' versions (although not uniform) and clear attempt to convey stylistic effect.
I	70-75	Virtually no problems of comprehension except with the most highly specialized vocabulary. Where there are nominal problems, judicious paraphrase or other devices prevent any impediment to comprehension.	Shows flair for stylistic manipulation of English. Should sound as if text were written in English except where the language is placed under severe pressure of comprehension.
	76+	Comprehension of original presents virtually no identifiable problems of any kind. Sense fully conveyed, including ambiguities where these exist in original.	Should give the feeling that the translation cannot be improved upon (although one or two natural failings should be allowed!)