ECPE Examination for the Certificate of **Proficiency** in English

PRELIMINARY TEST

2009

Keep your eyes on your own test. Examinees giving or receiving answers or using notes or other aids will be disqualified, and they will fail. Examination fees will not be refunded. Examinees with cell phones, pagers, or other electronic devices should check them in with the proctor now.

Look at the TOP RIGHT of your answer sheet. Fill in the following information on the lines:

- **FULL NAME**: print your full name in this order: family name, then first name, then middle initial (MI). Use all capital letters.
- **YOUR SIGNATURE**: sign your name.
- **TEST CENTER**: print the name of the test center.
- **NATIVE LANGUAGE**: print your native language.
- **TODAY'S DATE**: print the month, day, and year.

Look at the TOP LEFT of your answer sheet. Use capital letters to fill in the following information in the blocks. Use the same spelling you used on your registration form:

- **LAST NAME**: print your main family name in the blocks, one letter per block. There are 12 blocks. If your last name is longer than 12 letters, print only the first 12 letters.
- **FIRST NAME**: print the first 7 letters of your first name.
- **MI**: print the initial of your middle name.

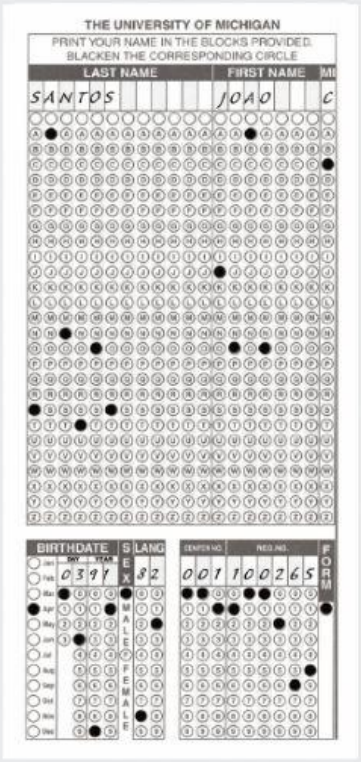
Look at the columns of CIRCLES BELOW THE BLOCKS:

- Find the letter that is the same as the letter you have printed in the block above.
- Darken the circle completely so that you cannot see the letter inside.
- Do this for all the letters of your last name, first name, and your middle initial.
- Darken only one circle in each of the columns.

Look at the BOTTOM LEFT of your answer sheet.

- **BIRTHDATE**: find the month you were born and darken the circle next to it.
- **DAY**: print the day you were born. If it is a one-digit day, write zero first. Darken the circles underneath these numbers.
- **YEAR**: print the last two digits of the year you were born. Darken the circles underneath these numbers.
- **SEX**: darken the circle "**M**" (male) or "**F**" (female).
- **LANG (LANGUAGE)**: print the 2-digit code number for your native language (the examiner will tell you the number). Darken the circles.
- **CENTER NO.**: print the 3-digit test center number (the examiner will tell you the number). Darken the circles.
- **REG. NO.**: print your 6-digit personal registration number. Include all zeros, including those at the beginning of the number. Darken the circles.
- **FORM**: Do not fill in this space.

The example below shows the correct way for Joao Costa Almeida dos Santos, born April 3, 1991, tested at center no. 001, and whose personal registration number is 100265, to fill out the information section.



This test may be machine scored, so you must follow instructions carefully:

- Do not bend or fold your answer sheet.
- Mark all your answers on the separate answer sheet, not in the test booklet.
- Use a number 2 (soft) pencil.
- Your mark must be dark enough to be picked up by the scanning machine. The scanner cannot see very light marks.
- Do not make any other marks on your answer sheet.
- If you change your mind about an answer, erase your first mark completely.
- Fill in only one circle for each problem.
- Any problem with more than one answer marked will be counted wrong.
- If you are not sure about an answer, you may guess.

When instructed to, open your test booklet and check to see that it is complete. Check the pages quickly. You should have 5 numbered pages in your test booklet. If there are pages missing from your booklet, raise your hand and a proctor will give you a replacement.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

This preliminary test was designed by the English Language Institute, University of Michigan. It contains examples of the grammar, cloze, vocabulary, and reading comprehension sections of the ECPE. It does not contain examples of the writing, listening, or interactive oral communication sections of the ECPE.

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30% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED FIBER
Indicates that the product contains recycled materials that have been consumed and decontaminated to be reintroduced in the manufacturing process.

ECOLOGO CERTIFIED
Certification from the Environmental Choice Program of Environment Canada that identifies ecological products. Considered criteria are the level of greenhouse gas emissions, water and energy consumption and the use of recycled fiber.

BIOGAS ENERGY
Gas generated from the decomposition of waste buried in a landfill and transported through a 13-km pipeline. At the mill, the captured biogas produces a good portion of the energy needed to power the paper production equipment. This green energy helps to reduce considerably greenhouse gas emissions.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR, CLOZE, VOCABULARY, AND READING SECTION INSTRUCTIONS

There are 35 multiple-choice problems in this test: 10 grammar, 10 cloze, 10 vocabulary, and 5 questions about a reading passage. You will have 30 minutes to answer all 35 problems. Do not begin this test until you have read the instructions and examples below and the test administrator has answered any questions you may have.

In each example below, the correct answer is underlined. For the actual problems, fill in the circle on your answer sheet that corresponds to your answer choice. For each problem, there are four possible answer choices. Only one is correct. Fill in only ONE circle for each problem. Any problem with more than one answer marked will be counted wrong. If you are not sure about an answer, you may guess. Answer all problems. Unanswered problems will be counted wrong. Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. If you change your mind about an answer, erase your first mark completely. Do NOT mark your answers in this test booklet. Do not make any stray marks on your answer sheet.

GRAMMAR

Choose the word or phrase that best completes the conversation or sentence.

"What is that thing?"
"That _____ a spider."

a. to call
b. for calling
c. be called
d. is called

CLOZE

Read the passage, then select the word or phrase that fills the blank in both meaning and grammar.

Long ago roads were only trails for people and animals to walk on, but today roads must be made for cars, trucks, and buses. The most modern **(1)** is often called a superhighway.

1. a. way
b. road
c. travel
d. walk

VOCABULARY

Choose the word or phrase that most appropriately completes the sentence.

The first things we study in school are very _____.

a. sturdy
b. shifty
c. trusty
d. elementary

READING

Read the passage, then answer the questions following it according to the information given in the passage.

Viruses may be considered as regular chemical molecules, since they have a strictly defined atomic structure, but on the other hand we must also consider them as being alive, since they are able to multiply in unlimited quantities.

Why does the writer say viruses are alive?

a. because they have a complex atomic structure
b. because they move
c. because they multiply
d. because they have a regular molecular structure

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR GRAMMAR GRAMMAR

1. Kyle was thrown into the situation without being prepared for _____.
   a. one
   b. such
   c. it
   d. any

2. Many math students have become too _____ on calculators.
   a. dependent
   b. depending
   c. dependable
   d. depended

3. _____ he was voted out of office, the politician regained his position as governor.
   a. A decade is more since
   b. A decade or more than before
   c. More than a decade after
   d. Although more than a decade

4. Why not _____ Susan about this issue?
   a. to ask
   b. you ask
   c. asking
   d. ask

5. The idea of _____ a group was important to her.
   a. her belonging
   b. belonging to
   c. belong to
   d. she belongs to

6. It took more time to finish the report than one _____.
   a. was thinking
   b. had thought
   c. would have thought
   d. thought

7. At seven o'clock, I _____ the hotel and checked in immediately.
   a. arrived
   b. arrived at
   c. arrived to
   d. arrived for

8. "Does your job require you to travel much?" "Yes, I'm _____ three days a week."
   a. going usually
   b. usually going
   c. usually gone
   d. usual to go

9. The new drug to treat arthritis _____ in early trials.
   a. has promised
   b. has shown promise
   c. was shown promise
   d. promised

10. Out of all the scholarship winners, James was _____ to organize his own research laboratory.
    a. one of the first
    b. the one of first
    c. the first of one
    d. first of the one

LIVEWORKSHEETS

CLOZE CLOZE CLOZE

What we typically call smog is primarily made up of ground-level ozone. Ozone can be good or bad depending on where it is located. Ozone in the stratosphere high above the Earth protects human health and the environment, **(11)** ground-level ozone is the main harmful ingredient **(12)** smog.

Ground-level ozone is **(13)** by the combination of pollutants from many **(14)**, including smokestacks, cars, paints, and solvents. When a car **(15)** gasoline, releasing exhaust fumes, or a painter paints a house, smog-forming pollutants rise into the sky. Then, wind blows these pollutants **(16)** from their sources. The smog-forming reactions occur **(17)** the pollutants are being blown through the air by the wind. This **(18)** why smog is often more severe miles away from the source of the pollutants than it is at the source.

The smog-forming pollutants literally cook in the sky. **(19)** it's hot and sunny, smog forms more easily. Just as it takes time to **(20)** a cake, it takes time to cook up smog. It usually takes several hours from the time pollutants get into the air before the smog gets really bad.

11. a. but b. yet c. because d. moreover
12. a. in b. located c. called d. emits
13. a. found b. combined c. produced d. destroyed
14. a. activities b. results c. people d. sources
15. a. emits b. burns c. inputs d. refines
16. a. away b. near c. lose d. about
17. a. to b. during c. here d. while
18. a. explains b. reason c. knows d. causes
19. a. If b. Thus c. Although d. As
20. a. burn b. eat c. cook d. bake

LIVEWORKSHEETS

VOCABULARY VOCABULARY VOCABULARY

21. Children's values often _____ those of their parents.
    a. impose
    b. identify
    c. reflect
    d. emit

22. "The political speaker who was here last week was really popular."
    "I know. I'm surprised so many people _____ for it."
    a. showed up
    b. filled up
    c. caught on
    d. turned in

23. The iron was much too hot and it _____ Mark's white shirt.
    a. scoured
    b. scorched
    c. scoffed
    d. scarred

24. The views of the candidate _____ sharply with the views of most young voters on that issue.
    a. evaluate
    b. equate
    c. distinguish
    d. contrast

25. Julie is absolutely _____ about being in the new theater production.
    a. engaged
    b. convincing
    c. ecstatic
    d. accessible

26. The director designed the plan, but the committee _____ it.
    a. implemented
    b. manufactured
    c. predominated
    d. emerged

27. Even though they didn't like dogs, our guests were very _____ of our pets.
    a. tolerant
    b. derisive
    c. enthusiastic
    d. moderate

28. She doesn't have the right _____ to work with young children.
    a. tendency
    b. temperance
    c. temperament
    d. template

29. Brian showed no _____ for cheating on the exam.
    a. remorse
    b. indulgence
    c. agitation
    d. modification

30. Mark needs to _____ himself in class more so that his questions will be answered.
    a. declare
    b. assert
    c. accentuate
    d. defend

LIVEWORKSHEETS

This passage is about fireflies.

A longtime mystery about fireflies was solved when scientists identified the chemical used to precisely control their flashing signals. Male fireflies use light to court females with well-choreographed flashes, and females respond in kind. Neurobiologists discovered that a simple gaseous molecule known as nitric oxide (NO), the same chemical that regulates the heartbeat and aids brain function in humans, helps to carry out this romantic exchange.

The firefly's abdomen contains a lantern made of photocytes, a type of specialized cell filled with a protein called luciferin that reacts with oxygen and emits light. Researchers were puzzled by the individualized, intricate flash patterns that differed by fractional seconds among the two hundred species of firefly. A nerve signal controls the pattern, but how the signal travels was unclear, as the nerve ending isn't in direct contact with the photocytes. In effect, scientists knew where the light bulb was and what made it shine, but they couldn't locate the on/off switch.

Then, a team of neurobiologists wondered if NO could be involved in the signaling process. They found that the enzyme that makes NO was both present and active in the firefly lantern. To show that it was actually involved in flashing, fireflies were exposed to increasing concentrations of NO in a closed container. At high concentrations, the fireflies glowed continuously. To find out whether NO was responsible for the lantern's glow or simply triggered the nerves to initiate flashing, the researchers removed the nerves and found that the lantern still glowed when NO was added. However, when a chemical was added to completely absorb NO, the flashing stopped—even when the lantern was directly stimulated. This implies that NO is the crucial ingredient.

31. According to the passage, how do male fireflies use light?
    a. to drive away other male fireflies
    b. to regulate their heartbeats
    c. to combine luciferin with oxygen
    d. to attract female fireflies

32. According to the passage, what roles does NO play?
    a. It triggers luciferin to initiate flashing in fireflies.
    b. It absorbs excess chemicals that stimulate flashing.
    c. It controls the presence or absence of light.
    d. It regulates the heartbeat and brain function in fireflies.

33. According to the passage, in what way are the two hundred species of fireflies different from each other?
    a. in the patterns of the chemicals in their abdomens
    b. in the patterns of their flashing
    c. in the amount of NO they have
    d. in how their nerves control flashing

34. What controls the pattern of flashing?
    a. nerve cells
    b. photocytes
    c. luciferin
    d. proteins

35. What did the team of researchers learn?
    a. NO causes luciferin to produce oxygen.
    b. NO produces an enzyme that is active in firefly lanterns.
    c. NO acts on fireflies similarly to the way it acts on humans.
    d. NO is needed for fireflies to send signals.

LIVEWORKSHEETS