Name _____ Seat Number _____

MSU-CELC

Certificate of English Language Competency

Practice Test 1 (Revised Format)



Michigan State University
English Language Center

Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Notes for Test of English Writing Ability

You may use this space to write notes or an outline for the essay. However, you **must** write the essay on the separate, lined paper provided.

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Think about it, write about it!

MSU-CELC Test of English Writing Ability

Instructions

For this section of the test, a proctor has given you a special answer form.

Using a **Number 2 pencil only**, write as much as you can, as well as you can, in an original composition on **one** of the two topics below. You have 35 minutes to complete the composition.

1. Many students participate in school clubs or team sports. These activities can be fun but are also time consuming. Write about whether or not it is beneficial to spend the extra time and effort to participate in clubs or team sports. Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

OR

2. These days, many people assume that everyone needs a mobile phone. However, as recently as 20 years ago most people lived comfortably without one. Explain whether you think having a mobile phone is actually necessary or whether it is something that is just nice to have. Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.

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Listen to this!

MSU-CELC Test of English Listening Ability

This section of the test is designed to evaluate your listening ability.

You should have three things in front of you:

- a test answer sheet
- a test booklet
- a Number 2 pencil

If you are missing any of these things, raise your hand now, and a test proctor will assist you.

Instructions for the Listening Ability section

This section has three main parts. Part 1 has short conversations and Part 2 has longer conversations. Part 3 contains a speech and a long conversation.

- There are 30 questions on the listening test. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

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Part 1—Short conversations

For each question in your test booklet, you will hear a short conversation. Each conversation has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, "**Here is the situation**."

You will listen to the conversation and choose the letter of the choice that best answers the question that appears in your test booklet. You will not hear the question; you will see it and read it. You will read it quietly to yourself. Use your pencil to mark your answer on your answer sheet.

Example X:

X. A missing textbook

Here is the situation: You are visiting your friend at his home in the evening. He is getting his things ready for school the next day, and asks his mother about one of his school books.

When did the boy last have his math book?

a. in the morning
b. in the afternoon
c. a few days ago

1. Friday night party

Here is the situation: Sarah sees her friend Chris getting ready to leave school at the end of the day on Wednesday. Another student, Mike, is having a party on Friday. Sarah asks her friend Chris about Mike's party.

What is Chris not sure about?

a. where the party will be
b. whether he can go to the party
c. whether he is invited to the party

2. Buying concert tickets

Here is the situation: Henry and Jane are both fans of the same rock band. They are discussing how to get tickets online for an upcoming concert.

Why does Henry ask Jane to buy him a ticket?

a. He does not have enough money for a ticket yet.
b. The tickets might be sold before he can buy one.
c. His boss should not know he is going to a concert.

3. Getting ready for dinner

Here is the situation: Meg and her father are talking in the kitchen before dinner. Meg's dad asks her to help.

Why does Meg want to avoid the kitchen?

a. She prefers to spend time with her sister.
b. She might eat the food before it is ready.
c. She does not want to be asked to help.

4. Looking for a book

Here is the situation: Josh is at the library and wants to check out a book, but he cannot find it. He goes to the desk to ask the librarian for help.

Why is Josh unable to find the book?

a. It is on the shelf.
b. It is not at the library.
c. It is on the librarian's desk.

5. Rescheduling a test

Here is the situation: Susie is talking to her teacher, Mr. Bennet, after class in the hallway. She would like to change her test date.

Why does Mr. Bennet refuse to give the test on Monday?

a. He wants to score all the tests before Monday.
b. He is too busy to give another test on Monday.
c. He wants Susie to take the test with her classmates.

6. Asking a friend for help

Here is the situation: Valerie is talking to her friend Justin at the end of class about an after-school event. She has just received a text message and then speaks to Justin.

What does Valerie ask Justin to do?

a. help her plan a birthday celebration
b. help with ticket sales at a sporting event
c. meet up to study with classmates at the library

7. Working in a grocery store

Here is the situation: Tom and Mary are working early one morning in a grocery store. Tom has a question for Mary.

Why does Mary want Tom to put the bananas in the front of the store?

a. The apples are old and need to be thrown away.
b. Bananas attract customers better than apples do.
c. She hopes that people will be more likely to buy them.

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Part 2—Longer conversations

In this section you will hear longer conversations. Each conversation has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, "**Here is the situation.**" Before listening to each conversation you will read 2 to 4 questions. Listen to each conversation and answer the questions that appear in your test booklet.

8-11. A surprise at the bike rack

Here is the situation: Questions 8 through 11 are based on the following conversation. Mike is a student who rides his bike to school nearly every day. Megan is a friend of his who attends the same school and often rides with him. They have just gotten out of school for the day and are walking toward the bike rack.

8. What does Megan notice?
   a. Mike's bike is missing.
   b. Part of Mike's bike is gone.
   c. Mike cannot ride his bike today.
9. What do Mike and Megan believe happened?
   a. His property was stolen.
   b. His property was broken.
   c. His property was forgotten.
10. What is Mike thankful for?
   a. He has enough money for a new bike.
   b. He still has a way to get home today.
   c. He noticed the problem right away.
11. What will Mike do next?
   a. buy new parts
   b. get a new bike
   c. walk home

12-15. Ordering a gift online

Here is the situation: Questions 12 through 15 are based on the following conversation. You are watching a TV show about one of your favorite characters, Anna Green, a high school student who is talking to her father while doing her homework on her computer. Anna and her father are in the kitchen discussing a possible birthday gift for Anna's mother.

12. What gift idea does Anna have for her mother?
   a. a new desk
   b. a cup to keep pencils in
   c. a small machine
13. How does Anna describe the gift?
   a. expensive and fancy
   b. typical of things her mother likes
   c. something new for her mother to try
14. What does Anna's father especially like about the gift?
   a. It has several functions.
   b. It can be used by the whole family.
   c. It has a low price.
15. Why does Anna say she wants to order the gift right away?
   a. to get the best price
   b. only a few are left
   c. to allow enough time for delivery

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 3—Extended discourse

In this section you will hear a speech and a long conversation. Before listening to each passage, you will have time to read the questions. Each passage has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, **"Here is the situation."** You will listen to each passage twice, and then you will answer a series of questions that appear in your test booklet.

16-23. School hiking club

Here is the situation: You have been interested in spending more time outdoors. The other day, you saw a poster at your school advertising a hiking club. It looked interesting, so you decided to attend the first meeting of the year. At the beginning of the meeting, the club president is giving some important information about the club.

16. Why were some club members unable to attend the meeting?
    a. They did not receive the text message.
    b. The choir was performing at the same time.
    c. They were promoting the club somewhere else.
17. What did the club's previous president, Jim, specialize in?
    a. drawing maps
    b. publicizing the club
    c. finding new hiking trails
18. In what way is the hiking club different from other clubs?
    a. It has existed for seven years.
    b. Boys and girls are equally represented.
    c. It involves physical activity without expensive gear.
19. Where do the hikers go after leaving the school?
    a. They climb a nearby hill.
    b. They take a shortcut through a park.
    c. They do warm-up exercises in the parking lot.
20. What is each person given before each trip?
    a. an energy bar
    b. a bottle of water
    c. a map of the route
21. What does the club do during the Baker's Dozen event in October?
    a. collect money for the club
    b. attend a regional meeting of hiking fans
    c. take a long hike, then go out for a meal together
22. What should you do if you want to hike less than five miles?
    a. come to the club a different week
    b. speak to the group leader right away
    c. take a different route back to the school
23. What does the woman say is the main goal of the hikes?
    a. having fun outdoors
    b. improving your health
    c. traveling as far as you can

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 3—Extended discourse, continued

24-30. Taking the bus to Chapel Hill

Here is the situation: You are riding the bus home from school and hear the following conversation between a brother and sister in the seats next to yours. You are curious, so you listen to what they are saying.

24. What has prevented the brother from being in a school play?
    a. He is afraid to be on stage.
    b. He does not have the right skills.
    c. He does not want to wear a costume.
25. How did the brother know his sister needed help?
    a. She was in a hurry to get on the bus.
    b. She was behaving differently than usual.
    c. She often asks for help on the school bus.
26. What does the sister want to get in Chapel Hill?
    a. some costumes to use as examples
    b. some musical instruments for the play
    c. some inexpensive materials for the play
27. Why is the brother unable to drive to Chapel Hill?
    a. He does not know how to get there.
    b. He does not have gas money.
    c. He is too young to drive.
28. What are the brother's plans for Saturday?
    a. giving a music lesson
    b. rehearsing for a show
    c. writing a song
29. What business does the brother like in Chapel Hill?
    a. a pizza store
    b. a movie theater
    c. a music store
30. What will the brother ask Simon?
    a. whether he will go to Chapel Hill
    b. whether he likes Zippo's pizza
    c. whether he can drive a car

You have now finished the listening test. Please wait for further instructions.

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