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

PRELIMINARY TEST

2010

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.

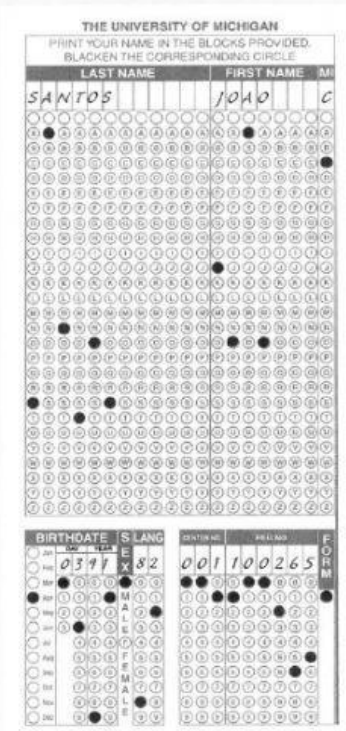
Look at the columns of CIRCLES BELOW THE BLOCKS:

- 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.

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.

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

GRAMMAR GRAMMAR GRAMMAR

1. "I've worked here for more than two years and never gotten a raise."
"_____ thought of asking for one?"
   a. Will you ever have
   b. Did you ever
   c. Have you ever
   d. Had you ever

2. Plastic _____ invented if there weren't any chemists.
   a. would never have been
   b. were never
   c. haven't ever been
   d. had never been

3. Museum exhibitions benefit the local economy _____ people into the city.
   a. to bring
   b. they bring
   c. are bringing
   d. by bringing

4. The way _____ I see it, he's better off in his new office.
   a. what
   b. how
   c. that
   d. which

5. It is commonly thought that people gain wisdom _____.
   a. they get older
   b. through age
   c. as older
   d. with age

6. "I don't think he's a strong candidate."
"You're just not seeing him _____."
   a. for who is he
   b. who he is
   c. for who he is
   d. who is he

7. "Was John at home when you called him?"
"No, he _____ for work."
   a. was already leaving
   b. had already been left
   c. had already left
   d. has already left

8. The decision _____ should be done is up to the director.
   a. of to what
   b. for what
   c. about to what
   d. as to what

9. He woke up four times _____.
   a. during the night
   b. while the night
   c. through the night
   d. the night

10. _____ the shipment to your house this weekend instead of to your office. That way you'll receive it sooner.
   a. If I send
   b. What I'll do is send
   c. Whether I'll be sending
   d. I do send

CLOZE CLOZE CLOZE

Once thought to be signs from the heavens of future events, comets now are understood to be relatively simple astronomical phenomena. Comets are celestial bodies of small mass **(11)** mainly of gases. They consist of a nucleus of ice and other similar **(12)** materials, followed by an extensive tail. The tail is formed **(13)** the comet approaches the sun, as particles from the edges of the nucleus are **(14)** off.

Comets have traditionally been regarded as **(15)** of both good fortune and imminent **(16)**. People have often pondered the nature of the events that these celestial bodies have been **(17)** to bring. In 1066 AD, a comet appeared, which greatly concerned King Harold of England. He was **(18)** towards an armed conflict with William of Normandy. His men wondered **(19)** this comet was a sign of victory or defeat. The Normans answered this question on Saturday, October 14, 1066 AD. Late that afternoon, after a fierce battle at Hastings, King Harold **(20)** dead among many hundreds of his soldiers. William had all but conquered England and changed the course of world history.

11. a. contained b. composed c. amount d. creating
12. a. to b. like c. heated d. frozen
13. a. when b. by c. from d. where
14. a. frozen b. turned c. fallen d. forced
15. a. idols b. omens c. estimates d. images
16. a. disaster b. future c. end d. occurrence
17. a. thought b. made c. trying d. beginning
18. a. relying b. afraid c. retreating d. moving
19. a. either b. that c. whether d. about
20. a. almost b. became c. lay d. found

VOCABULARY VOCABULARY VOCABULARY

21. I _____ my teacher telling my mother that I was getting an A in math.
    a. deduced
    b. overheard
    c. acquainted
    d. notified

22. Although moving to a new location may seem like the right decision now, _____ it's not a good idea.
    a. ultimately
    b. marginally
    c. subsequently
    d. terminally

23. There's been _____ amount of rainfall this year.
    a. a prevailing
    b. a dominant
    c. an inclusive
    d. an unprecedented

24. Today, a high _____ of teenagers have visited a foreign country.
    a. proportion
    b. total
    c. selection
    d. group

25. In order to compete in the global market, these two companies _____ to form an international corporation.
    a. multiplied
    b. adhered
    c. merged
    d. affiliated

26. The professor wrote comments in the paper's _____.
    a. sidelines
    b. outskirts
    c. margins
    d. surroundings

27. Please put the package in a _____ place so that I will be sure to see it.
    a. remarkable
    b. conceivable
    c. inaccessible
    d. conspicuous

28. Mary is not a close friend, but she is an _____ of mine.
    a. accomplice
    b. acquaintance
    c. adolescent
    d. attendant

29. Mike complained that his neighbor's loud music _____ with his ability to study in his apartment.
    a. interfered
    b. restricted
    c. prevented
    d. coincided

30. In order to keep the colors separate in the paint box, it's useful to put them in individual _____.
    a. compartments
    b. parameters
    c. portions
    d. intervals

The following passage is about research into viruses.

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) belongs to a certain group of viruses found in many different animals, from horses to humans. Among the viruses in this group, simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) are closest to HIV. By studying these viruses and the relationships between them, researchers hope to be able to explain their progression and gain information that may offer clues about the way viruses like HIV can be overcome.

Many biologists believe that SIV evolved in African monkeys and that some time ago there was what is called an *adaptive episode*. In other words, some of the monkeys were resistant to the virus for genetic reasons and survived the SIV epidemic, while all the others died off, or the virus became less virulent, or some combination of both things happened. Either way, there now exists a sort of equilibrium between the host and the virus.

Researchers want to study SIV in wild monkeys, but collecting the needed blood samples is problematic, due in part to the endangered species status of the monkeys. They can't be shot with tranquilizer darts, which is necessary to get a blood sample, because that could injure the animals by causing them to fall from tall trees.

To solve this problem, the researchers have turned to the lions of the Serengeti plains. Lions infected with FIV offer an almost identical parallel to SIV, except that studying their infection in the wild is far easier than tracking SIV-positive African monkeys. All researchers have to do is to sneak up on a lion napping on the ground and shoot it with a tranquilizer dart. The animal will just sleep a little deeper, without suffering any ill effects.

31. What does the passage suggest about SIV?
    a. It used to be more deadly than FIV.
    b. It was more deadly than it is now.
    c. It caused African monkeys to become an endangered species.
    d. It evolved into HIV.

32. What was the result of the **adaptive episode** mentioned in the second paragraph?
    a. SIV disappeared.
    b. Monkeys who were SIV resistant died off.
    c. Both the SIV virus and the monkeys survived.
    d. A cure for SIV was found.

33. According to the passage, which goals conflicted?
    a. protecting monkeys and learning more about SIV
    b. protecting lions and learning more about FIV
    c. studying these viruses without becoming infected
    d. protecting both monkeys and lions

34. What problem do researchers have in collecting SIV samples?
    a. It's difficult to locate monkeys hiding in trees.
    b. It is illegal to tranquilize the monkeys.
    c. The animal will probably be hurt when the samples are collected.
    d. Very few monkeys are SIV positive.

35. How did the researchers solve their collection problem?
    a. They collected a different virus from a different species.
    b. They collected the same virus from a different species.
    c. They collected a different virus from the same species.
    d. They used a different collection method on the same species.