



Guide for Taking and Scoring the ECPE Sample Test

Introduction

This ECPE Sample Test contains a full version of the ECPE test. Additional information about the ECPE is available at CambridgeMichigan.org.

How to Take the Test

When you take the sample test you should follow these steps.

1. You will need:
 - a. the **sample test**
 - b. the **answer sheet**
 - c. a **piece of paper** for the writing section
 - d. **access to the audio** for the listening section
 - e. **pencils**
 - f. a **timing device** such as a clock or stopwatch
 - g. at least three hours of uninterrupted time
2. Start with the writing section. Read the instructions. Then read the essay topics and begin writing. You should write your essay on a separate piece of paper. After 30 minutes, stop writing.
3. Turn to the general instructions on page 3 of the sample test. Read the instructions and fill out the answer sheet according to the instructions.
4. Turn to the listening section instructions on page 4. Once you start each section of the audio, do not pause or stop it. Play the audio files in the order presented. Mark your answers directly on the separate answer sheet, not in the test booklet. The listening section takes 35–40 minutes total.

5. Turn to the grammar, cloze, vocabulary, reading (GCVR) section instructions on page 11. You have 75 minutes for this section.
6. Use the sample speaking prompt provided to take the speaking test.

Scoring the Test

Listening and GCVR

1. Compare your answers with the answer key. If your answer matches the answer key then award yourself one point. If your answer does not match the answer key do not award yourself a point.
2. Add up all of your correct answers in the listening section. This is your listening section score.
3. Add up all of your correct answers in the GCVR section. This is your GCVR section score.
4. Read the Interpreting Your Scores section below for an explanation of what your sample test listening and GCVR scores mean.

Writing

When you have taken the sample writing test, you need to rate your essay. Please follow the instructions below.

1. Refer to the ECPE writing rating scale and writing benchmarks on the CaMLA website. The writing rating scale describes five levels of ability under three separate categories: Rhetoric, Grammar/Syntax, and Vocabulary. Your essay is awarded a numeric score derived from scores assigned to each of these three ECPE writing scoring criteria.
2. Read your essay and then refer to the performance descriptions at each point of the ECPE Writing Rating Scale as well as the benchmarks to determine three individual scores.



- A teacher or expert user of English may be able to help you decide which level best describes your ability at each of the score points.
- Read the Interpreting Your Scores section of this guide for an explanation of what your writing score means.

Speaking

When you have been able to take the sample speaking test, you need to rate your speaking. Please follow the instructions below.

- Refer to the ECPE speaking rating scale and speaking test materials on the CaMLA website. The speaking rating scale describes five levels of ability scale under three separate categories: Discourse and Interaction, Linguistic Resources, and Delivery and Intelligibility. Your speaking performance is awarded a numeric score derived from scores assigned to each of these three ECPE speaking scoring criteria. You should refer to the performance descriptions at each point of the ECPE Speaking Rating Scale to determine six individual scores.
- You should read the descriptions of the different levels on the ECPE Speaking Rating Scale and decide which level best describes your speaking on the sample test. If you recorded your test, you should listen to yourself speaking. The teacher or expert user of English who conducted your speaking test may be able to help you decide which level best describes your ability at each of the score points.
- Read the Interpreting Your Scores section of this guide for an explanation of what your speaking score means. The table below is a sample of how the six individual scores are awarded during an ECPE Speaking Test.

Interpreting Your Scores

When the ECPE is taken under examination conditions, the listening section and the grammar, cloze, vocabulary, reading (GCVR) section are scored electronically using Item Response Theory (IRT). This method ensures that the ability required to pass a section, or to receive a high score, remains the same from year to year. IRT scores are not the same as number-right scores or percentage scores, but there is very high correlation between the number of correct answers provided and the IRT scores.

Listening Section

- Scores 38 and above:** If you have strictly followed the instructions for taking the sample test, you are likely to pass the listening section of the ECPE under examination conditions.
- Scores 34–37:** You have a chance of passing the listening section of the ECPE under examination conditions but you may benefit from more lessons or more practice before you register for the examination.
- Scores 33 and below:** You are unlikely to pass the listening section of the ECPE under examination conditions and should spend more time improving your English before taking the examination.

Grammar, Cloze, Vocabulary, and Reading (GCVR) Section

- Scores 90 and above:** If you have strictly followed the instructions for taking the sample test, you are likely to pass the GCVR section of the ECPE under examination conditions.
- Scores 78–89:** You have a chance of passing the GCVR section of the ECPE under examination conditions but you may benefit from more lessons or more practice before you register for the examination.
- Scores 77 and below:** You are unlikely to pass the GCVR section of the ECPE under examination conditions and should spend more time improving your English before taking the examination.

Sample of the ECPE Speaking Score Collection Sheet

	Discourse and Interaction	Linguistic Resources	Delivery and Intelligibility
Stages 1, 2, & 3 1. Introduction 2. Explaining and Recommending 3. Consensus Reaching	① ② ③ ④ ⑤	① ② ③ ④ ⑤	① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Stages 4 & 5 4. Presenting and Convincing 5. Justifying and Defending	① ② ③ ④ ⑤	① ② ③ ④ ⑤	① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Writing Section*

- **Scores 11 and above:** If you have strictly followed the instructions for taking the sample test, you are likely to pass the writing section of the ECPE under exam conditions.
- **Scores 9–10:** You have a chance of passing the writing section of the ECPE under exam conditions, but you may benefit from more lessons or more practice before you register for the examination.
- **Scores 8 and below:** You are unlikely to pass the writing section of the ECPE under examination conditions and should spend more time improving your English before taking the examination.

Speaking Section*

- **Scores 23 and above:** If you have strictly followed the instructions for taking the sample test, you are likely to pass the speaking section of the ECPE under exam conditions.
- **Scores 19–22:** You have a chance of passing the speaking section of the ECPE under exam conditions, but you may benefit from more lessons or more practice before you register for the examination.
- **Scores 18 and below:** You are unlikely to pass the speaking section of the ECPE under examination conditions and should spend more time improving your English before taking the examination.

* This guidance is provided assuming only one rater for each performance. In an official ECPE administration, the writing and speaking sections are assessed by at least two examiners.

Passing the ECPE Overall

ECPE section scores are reported in five bands. The levels of performance, from highest to lowest, are:

ECPE Reporting System Band Scores	
	Scaled Score Per Section
Honors (H)	840–1000
Pass (P)	750–835
Low Pass (LP)	650–745
Borderline Fail (BF)	610–645
Fail (F)	0–605

ECPE test takers who achieve an average score of 650 or higher will be awarded a certificate. Additionally, those who achieve a score of 840 or higher in all four sections will be awarded a Certificate of Competency with Honors.

Look at all your scores on the sample test sections.

- If your score is 23 or higher on the speaking section, 11 or higher on the writing section, 38 or above on the listening section, and 90 or above on the GCVR section, you are likely to pass the ECPE under exam conditions.
- If your score is 19 or higher on the speaking section, 9 or higher on the writing section, 34 or above on the listening section, and 78 or above on the GCVR section, you have a chance at passing the ECPE under exam conditions.

If you are able to meet the passing standards on the sample test, then you are probably ready to take the ECPE.

Important Points to Note

1. Although the sample test is designed to be similar in difficulty to the ECPE and will give you a reasonable idea of how you should expect to score on the exam, there is no guarantee that your score on the sample test will be the same as the score you receive when you take the ECPE.
2. The writing and speaking section scores you receive when you take an ECPE under examination conditions are determined by raters who have been trained and certified according to CaMLA standards. It is possible that when you review your own writing performance or have your performance on the writing and speaking sections evaluated by someone who is not a certified CaMLA evaluator, the scores assigned might be different from those that would have been assigned by certified raters and examiners.