



MICHIGAN LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

May 2021 ECCE & ECPE Test Specifications

The following tables* provide detailed information about the ECCE and ECPE revisions. Refer to the notes column to see the specific changes or an indication that there is no change to that part of the exam. The updated exams will remain at the same proficiency level, and the overall level of difficulty and standards will not change. The revised exams will be offered for the first time in May 2021. Until then, the tests will remain exactly the same.

ECCE

Description	# of Items	Time (mins)	Notes
Writing			
From a choice of two options—an email/letter or an essay—test takers write one response presenting and supporting their opinion. For the email/letter, a situation and a formal purpose for writing are briefly described, followed by instructions on what to write. For the essay, a proposal or statement is provided, followed by instructions on what to write.	1 task	30	The writing section will now come first. The stimulus will no longer include a newspaper article. The rating criteria remains the same as at present.
Listening			
Part 1 Each item consists of a short recorded conversation followed by a question. The three answer options for each item are shown as pictures.	25	45	No change apart from the number of items being reduced from 30 to 25.
Part 2 Each set consists of a short talk delivered by a single speaker followed by five questions each. The questions are printed in the booklet. There are four answer options for each item.	20		The recording will now be played twice. Each set will now consist of five items, instead of the previous four to six.
Reading			
Grammar An incomplete sentence is followed by a choice of words or phrases to complete it. There are four answer options for each item. Only one choice is grammatically correct.	15	75	No change apart from the number of items being reduced from 35 to 15.
Vocabulary An incomplete sentence is followed by a choice of words or phrases to complete it. There are four answer options for each item. Only one word has the correct meaning in that context.	14		No change apart from the number of items being reduced from 35 to 14.
Reading Part 1 Each set consists of a short reading passage followed by six comprehension questions. There are four answer options for each item.	12		No change apart from the number of items for each passage being increased from five to six.
Reading Part 2 Two sets of four short texts related to each other by topic are followed by 12 questions each. There are four answer options for each item.	24		No change apart from the number of items for each set being increased from 10 to 12.
Speaking			
Test takers participate in a structured, multi-stage task with one examiner.	1 task, 4 stages	15	No change.
TOTAL		165	Total test time unchanged

*Disclaimer: Michigan Language Assessment reserves the right to make changes to these specifications at any time without prior notice. In no event shall Michigan Language Assessment be liable for any loss or damages resulting from or in any way connected to the use of the information provided here.

Description	# of Items	Time (mins)	Notes	
Writing				
From a choice of two options—an article/proposal or an essay— test takers write one response considering and presenting multiple points of view. For the article/proposal, a situation and a purpose for writing is briefly described, followed by instructions on what to write. For the essay, a topic is briefly set up, followed by instructions on what to write. Three sources in the form of simple charts, graphs, figures, and quotations are provided, at least one of which should be incorporated into the test taker's response.	1 task	45	This task is new to ECPE. Instead of two essay options, one of the options will now be an article or a proposal. The amount of time for writing has been increased from 30 to 45 minutes. Newly-developed analytic rating criteria will consist of: task completion (including use of sources), development (including organization), language, and authorial voice (how distinctive and engaging the writing is).	
Listening				
Part 1	Each item consists of a short recorded conversation followed by a question. The question is printed in the booklet. There are four answer options for each item.	20	50	This task is new to ECPE.
Part 2	Each set consists of a short talk delivered by a single speaker followed by six questions each. The questions are printed in the booklet. There are four answer options for each item.	18		This task is new to ECPE. The recording is only played once.
Part 3	Each set consists of recorded talks followed by six comprehension questions each. The questions are printed in the booklet. There are three answer options for each item.	12		The recording will now be played twice. Each set will now consist of six items, instead of the previous five.
Reading				
Grammar	Each item consists of a sentence with a deletion followed by choices of words or phrases to complete it. There are four answer options for each item. Only one choice is grammatically correct.	16	55	No changes apart from the number of items being reduced from 40 to 16.
Cloze	Two passages with ten deletions each are followed by choices of words or phrases to complete the text. There are four answer options for each item. Test takers must choose the option that best fills each blank in terms of grammar and meaning.	20		No change.
Vocabulary	Each item consists of a sentence with a deletion followed by choices of words or phrases to complete it. There are four answer options for each item. Only one word has the correct meaning in that context.	16		No changes apart from the number of items being reduced from 40 to 16.
Reading	Each set consists of a reading passage followed by six comprehension questions. There are four answer options for each item.	18		Each set will now consist of six items, instead of the previous five.
Speaking				
	Test takers participate in a semi-structured, multi-stage task involving two or three test takers and two examiners.	1 task, 5 stages	30	No change.
TOTAL		180	Total time increased by 5 minutes	