



# MICHIGAN LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

## ECPE

### 2021 Revision & Example Test Items



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ECPE CEFR Level **C2**

 Cambridge Assessment  
English

 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Description		# of Items	Time (mins)	Notes
<b>Writing</b>				
	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).
<b>Listening</b>				
<b>Part 1</b>	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.
<b>Part 2</b>	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.
<b>Part 3</b>	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.
<b>Reading</b>				
<b>Grammar</b>	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.
<b>Cloze</b>	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.
<b>Vocabulary</b>	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.
<b>Reading</b>	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.
<b>Speaking</b>				
	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.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>180</b>	<b>Total time increased by 5 minutes.</b>

# Example Items for the Revised 2021 Test

## Writing

Test takers choose one of the two tasks offered and are asked to include one piece of information from the prompt to support their response.

### Example 1

<p><b>Global e-Commerce Sales: Next 3 Years</b> <i>—a 2019 study</i></p> <p>\$3 billion    \$4 billion    \$5 billion</p>	<p><b>6,500/year</b></p> <p><b>Jobs in London eliminated due to technology</b></p> <p><i>—a recent news report</i></p>	<p><i>“We’ve received many complaints from customers because we don’t offer same-day delivery.”</i></p> <p><i>—Helen Grier, online business owner</i></p>
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### Task 1: Article

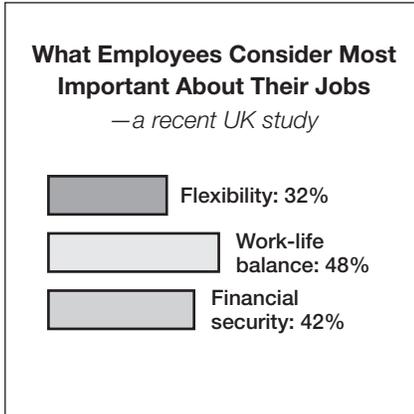
A delivery company in your city is planning to start using robots to deliver packages to homes and businesses. Many people are concerned about this idea. Write an article for a local news website explaining the impact of the delivery company’s decision and what you think about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

### Task 2: Essay

Online shopping has made many products accessible to more people. What positive and negative effects might this have? Write an essay addressing this topic and explain your opinion about it. Include at least one piece of information given above to support your response.

## Writing, Continued

### Example 2



### Task 1: Proposal

A local company wants to allow its employees to make decisions about their working hours and create their own schedules for coming into the office. Some people at the company think that this is not a good idea. Write a proposal to the president of the company evaluating the different opinions on this issue, and explain what you think about it.

### Task 2: Essay

Some people believe that an employee's wellness is connected to their working conditions. What do you think are the positive and negative effects that a company's working conditions might have on employees? Write an essay addressing this topic and discuss what you think about it.

## 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.

#### Example 1 Audio [ audio recording: ]

**W2:** Did you register for the engineering course yet?

**M2:** I think I might. Looks like it's going to be pretty tough.

**W2:** Well, the deadline was yesterday, so--

**M2:** [interrupting W2, surprised] What?! I thought we had 'til next week.

**W2:** You should talk to the professor. There might be a waitlist.

**M2:** Right, I have an appointment off campus later, but I could change it. This really can't wait.

1. What will the man probably do later?

- A. meet with a professor
- B. sign up for classes
- C. complete an assignment
- D. go to an appointment

#### Example 2 Audio [ audio recording: ]

**M1:** Here's my report for Wednesday, you'll need that for—  
[abruptly changes topic] Oh! I emailed you the results of last week's focus group. Carol wanted to see them—can you go over them with her?

**W1:** Yeah, I'll put it on my calendar right now. I've already told your clients I'm standing in for you this week.

**M1:** What else... [trails off] What am I forgetting? I'll be back next Monday, if there's any—[W1 interrupts M1]

**W1:** [Laughing] It'll be fine, Mark!

2. What are the speakers discussing?

- A. a report the man needs to write
- B. preparations for the man's time off
- C. the duties of the woman's new job
- D. problems the man is having at work

#### Example 3 Audio [ audio recording: ]

**M1:** Thanks again for helping out! We need all the volunteers we can get.

**W2:** My pleasure! What will I be doing?

**M1:** Well...we need help passing out flyers, answering phones, and putting out chairs. What sounds good to you?

**W2:** Hmm, I spend SO MUCH time talking at my job during the day, so...

**M1:** Ah, got it. Well, the storage room for the furniture is over there, OK?

3. Why does the woman mention her job?

- A. to ask to change her schedule
- B. to request payment for her work
- C. to explain her preference for a task
- D. to show her skill for a position

## Listening Continued

### 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.

#### Example Audio [ audio recording: ]

**N:** *Listen to a speaker at a literary event.*

**W1:** *Thank you all for coming – I think we’re in for a treat. To the rest of the world, Frank Delmont is an award-winning novelist, but to those of us here tonight, he’s a member of our community. I’ve known Frank for a long time – [laughs] ever since I hired him! Did you know he wrote his first book, Agents of Coincidence, while he was employed at this very library? In fact, I remember seeing him hard at work in the break room during lunch, making notes on a draft while he ate.*

*It came as no surprise that the book was a hit! And Frank could have used his new fame as an opportunity to move to a larger city, but instead he stayed in Mansfield and helped start the Writer’s Workshop, a summer program for teen authors. It’s in its thirteenth year – the biggest yet! [with increasing enthusiasm/pride] Graduates of the program have gone on to distinguished writing programs at universities all over the country, and some have even had their own literary successes. If anyone is interested, we have an entire section of books by local authors downst- [changes train of thought]*

*That reminds me! My apologies; I’ve gotten a little off track. [return to more formal “announcement” tone] After the event tonight, we’re having a reception with complimentary refreshments on the lower level, provided by The Greenwood Café. Copies of Frank’s most popular books will be on sale at the table in the back, and we’re planning on saving some time for book signing after the main event. [warmly] And that brings me to the reason we’re all here: to hear Frank talk about his latest book, Summer in the Arctic. Everyone, please welcome Frank Delmont!*

#### Example Questions

- What is the speaker’s main purpose?
  - to explain a change to a program
  - to talk about a new book
  - to advertise a writing workshop
  - to introduce a local author
- What does the speaker imply about members of the audience?
  - They are writers themselves.
  - They are from the same town.
  - They are unfamiliar with Frank Delmont.
  - They are visiting from all over the country.
- How did the speaker meet Frank Delmont?
  - They worked in the same place.
  - She saw him in a café.
  - She edited his first book.
  - They attended the same university.
- What does the speaker say about the Writer’s Workshop?
  - It happens in the winter.
  - It has more participants this year.
  - It is a new program.
  - It is for college students.
- What does the speaker say about refreshments?
  - They are upstairs.
  - They are high quality.
  - They are on a table in the back.
  - They are free of charge.
- What will the audience probably do next?
  - have some treats
  - listen to a presentation
  - register for a workshop
  - purchase a book

## Listening Continued

### 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.

#### Example Audio [ audio recording: ]

**M1A:** *By now, you've probably heard that an extremely rare illuminated manuscript from the 1300s, known as a Book of Hours, was found in a home in Chicago. While the find is exciting, the origins and historical significance of an illuminated manuscript are less clear to the public. Kelly Waters visited the Berrian University Special Collections Library to learn more about these works of art. Kelly?*

**W1:** *Illuminated – the word comes from Latin. In most contexts, it means “lit up,” and it’s an apt description of these beautiful works of art. The name refers not only to the reflection of light off the sheets of gold used to decorate the manuscripts but also to the enlightenment to be gained from the text, which would contain prayers, songs, and other religious content. The artistic techniques used in such works have captured the attention of art history devotees for hundreds of years. Dr. Richard Laramie, a historian here at Berrian University, is joining me today to shed some light on how these beautiful creations came to be. Dr. Laramie, what can you tell us about how these masterpieces were made?*

**M1B:** *Well, to begin, it was a very complicated process. Illustrators – usually monks – had to make all their paints, or pigments, by hand, often using colorful substances that modern science now tells us were not very safe, like mercury and lead. And illustrators worked with gold leaf or ground gold, which was really the centerpiece of an illumination and very difficult to work with successfully. These illustrators were serious artists. But unlike painters and sculptors, they didn’t receive any fame or glory for their work, despite the fact that they were amazingly skilled. We can use various clues to identify the monasteries where manuscripts were created, but it’s hard to know anything about the specific artist himself.*

**W1:** *The Book of Hours that was found recently has been traced back to a French monastery in the late 1300s. What about this period, and this kind of book, is unique?*

**M1B:** *A Book of Hours was a religious text containing calendars with information about the Catholic saints to which each day of the year was dedicated. But despite that focus, they were the first kind of illuminated manuscript made for private citizens, instead of for church or monastery collections. The Book of Hours that was found is small, but that’s typical – people carried these volumes around*

*with them. Despite its size, it’s VERY heavily decorated. It features ornamental initials – where the first letter of each page is painted much larger and more decoratively than the rest of the text. This feature came into fashion in the 7th century. The pages are made of paper, not parchment; using paper was starting to become more common at the time. And it has the characteristic gold leaf as well, of course. This was an expensive book back in the late 1300s. Today, of course, it’s priceless.*

**W1:** *Obviously, we can never know exactly how many illuminated manuscripts were made—so we’ll never know how many others are still out there, packed in boxes or hidden in away in attics.*

1. What recent event involving a rare manuscript does the first speaker refer to?
  - A. a surprising discovery
  - B. a record-breaking sale
  - C. a gift to a university
2. According to Dr. Laramie, what made the illustrators different from other highly skilled artists?
  - A. their religious faith
  - B. the way they made their paints
  - C. the lack of recognition for their work
3. What key feature is shared by both the *Book of Hours* and earlier illuminated manuscripts?
  - A. their beautifully decorated pages
  - B. their use by individual citizens
  - C. their substantial size and weight
4. What does Dr. Laramie say about the value of the *Book of Hours*?
  - A. Its value cannot be determined.
  - B. It should be heavily insured.
  - C. Recent news stories have increased its value.
5. What does the reporter imply about similar illuminated manuscripts?
  - A. They should be stored carefully.
  - B. Few are displayed for the public to see.
  - C. More may be discovered in the future.
6. What is the main purpose of this report?
  - A. to educate listeners about an art form
  - B. to announce the discovery of an ancient book
  - C. to explain a set of religious beliefs



## 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.

1. If Jessica \_\_\_\_\_ classes this semester as last semester, she will be able to graduate this summer.
  - A. took as many as
  - B. will take so many
  - C. would take more
  - D. takes as many
  
2. The directions do not say how many total miles \_\_\_\_\_ to drive.
  - A. do we have
  - B. we have
  - C. have we
  - D. having
  
3. Her latest novel is the fictionalized account of the life of a nineteenth-century poet \_\_\_\_\_ in the founding of the university.
  - A. that is playing the role
  - B. who goes on to play a role
  - C. is playing on a role
  - D. going to play in a role

## Reading Continued

### 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.

**This passage is about a U.S. Olympic athlete.**

In the 1948 London Olympics, spectators gathered to watch two giants in track and field compete in the high jump finals. Alice Coachman, of the United States, jumped 1.68 meters on her first attempt, (1) breaking a 16-year-old Olympic record. Coachman's (2), London's own Dorothy Tyler, also jumped 1.68 meters. However, because it was (3), Tyler took the silver medal, while Coachman won the gold.

Getting to the Olympics wasn't an easy (4) for Coachman, though. Raising ten children in a rural southern town, her parents couldn't afford expensive training equipment. (5), because she was African American during a time when racial discrimination was rampant, Coachman was (6) from using any of her city's training facilities. Not discouraged, she crafted her own hurdles (7) sticks and rags and practiced (8) barefoot. Years later, she even won several university-level championships performing shoeless. Coachman's teachers (9) her extraordinary talents and introduced her to coaches at Tuskegee Preparatory School, where (10), putting her on the path toward her stellar Olympic performance. As Coachman received her medal from King George VI, she set another record: becoming the first African American woman to have earned the gold.

1. A. hastily  
B. instantly  
C. recently  
D. formerly
2. A. contender  
B. competitor  
C. contestant  
D. entrant
3. A. on her second attempt  
B. a longer time  
C. not as high  
D. a different person
4. A. stunt  
B. adventure  
C. feat  
D. deed
5. A. Therefore  
B. Yet  
C. Additionally  
D. Still
6. A. exiled  
B. barred  
C. locked  
D. eliminated
7. A. out of  
B. according to  
C. through its  
D. off some
8. A. running in  
B. by running  
C. to running  
D. having run
9. A. accepted  
B. imagined  
C. recognized  
D. envisioned
10. A. she ended up enrolling  
B. the Olympics were held  
C. she first practiced jumping  
D. she coached students



## Reading Continued

### 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.

1. Airline passengers may \_\_\_\_\_ up to twenty-four hours before their flight's scheduled departure.
  - A. check in
  - B. check out
  - C. check with
  - D. check on
  
2. At the beginning of university, Ron made \_\_\_\_\_ decision to study history, and he hasn't regretted it.
  - A. a candid
  - B. a unanimous
  - C. an innate
  - D. a spontaneous
  
3. The changes to the office layout were designed to improve efficiency and be \_\_\_\_\_ disruptive.
  - A. minimally
  - B. scarcely
  - C. narrowly
  - D. silently

## Reading Continued

Each set consists of a reading passage followed by six comprehension questions. There are four answer options for each item.

### This passage is about horses.

It seems impossible to imagine the American continents without horses. Nevertheless, modern horses are actually a fairly recent import to the New World, having been brought by Spanish explorers in 1519. Since then, their role in American societies has been fundamental. They are present as working animals on farms and ranches, friends and pets to many people, but also exist in wild herds in many countries in the Americas, including the United States.

In a way, these herds are following paths created by their ancestors, because despite their importation in the 1500s, horses actually originated in North America. By about 4 million years ago horses populated the American continents, and approximately 2.5 million years ago they crossed the Bering land bridge between Alaska and Russia to expand into Asia and then Europe.

They and the counterparts they left behind evolved independently until the end of the Quaternary period, approximately 10,000 years ago, at which point the world's wildlife landscape changed dramatically. The Late Quaternary Extinction, marked by a period of climate change, eliminated between 70 percent and 80 percent of the large mammal species in the Americas. Unlike their saber-tooth cat predators (among many others), horses lived on in the populations that had split off millennia before, and after several thousand years, returned to the land they had come from.

So are horses immigrants to the Americas, or are they a native species whose territorial occupation has merely experienced an interruption? The answer has recently been redefined. The horses that went extinct in North America and those that returned are members of the same genus, *Equus*, but different species. Fossil evidence shows some difference in the two species' physical characteristics. However, newer technology that analyzes fossil DNA shows that the two species are actually genetically identical. As with differences in humans' physical appearances, the horses' different characteristics are merely variations within their single species.

The distinction isn't merely an academic one; there are real consequences to the way horses are classified. In the U.S., as in other countries, native wildlife receives environmental protections that immigrant species are not afforded. Given that horses are hardly at risk of extinction today, it's easy to assume that this classification doesn't matter. But if horses are recognized as a native species, they will be in a better position to withstand any potential threats in the future.

- What is the main purpose of the passage?
  - to illustrate how horses came to populate all the continents
  - to argue for stronger animal welfare laws
  - to describe the identification of a new horse species
  - to introduce an issue of wildlife classification
- In the third sentence of paragraph 1, what does **their** refer to?
  - societies'
  - horses'
  - Spanish explorers'
  - American continents'
- What difference between horses and saber-toothed cats does the passage point out?
  - The two species originated in different locations.
  - Horse populations were not entirely eliminated.
  - The two species had opposite reactions to climate change.
  - Saber-toothed cats did not populate South America.
- Why does the article mention human differences?
  - to support claims about horses' intelligence
  - to explain the abilities some horses display
  - to illustrate genetic findings about horses
  - to describe various roles horses have played in history
- In the second sentence of paragraph 5, which word could best replace **afforded**?
  - expected
  - survived
  - managed
  - provided
- What implication in the passage does the author likely disagree with?
  - Horses' large population numbers protect them from harm.
  - Horses have played a significant role in American society.
  - Climate change was responsible for a mass extinction.
  - Horses were a food source for large cats.

## Speaking

Test takers participate in a semi-structured, multi-stage task involving two or three test takers and two examiners.

*(Examiners Only)*

### **Choosing Place for Employee Party**

- The two (three) of you are employees at a company. You need to choose a place for an employee party.
- You are on the selection committee.
- Four (six) places have made it to the final selection process.
- Each of you will be given descriptions of two of the four (six) places.
- You will need to describe the two places you are given to the other member(s) of the committee so that you both (all) know the four (six) places. The goal is for you both (all) to know about the four (six) places.

**Examiner 2 is the owner of the company.**

*(Examiners and Test Takers)*

**Test Taker 1**

### **Choosing Place for Employee Party**

#### **Little Italy Restaurant**

**The following list provides some information about Little Italy Restaurant:**

- Italian meal at a restaurant
- after work on Monday
- company spends \$7,500
- salad, main dish, and dessert served
- 45-minute ride in private bus
- employees given restaurant cookbook
- restaurant has poor service

#### **Downtown Theater**

**The following list provides some information about Downtown Theater:**

- watch movie at a theater
- after work on Thursday
- company spends \$2,500
- popcorn and drinks for employees
- walk to theater after work
- employees given five movie tickets
- show ends late at night

## Speaking Continued

*(Examiners and Test Takers)*

**Test Taker 2**

### **Choosing Place for Employee Party**

#### **Riverside Park**

**The following list provides some information about Riverside Park:**

- picnic in the park
- starts Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
- company spends \$4,000
- sandwiches, salads, and drinks provided
- located ten miles from company
- employees given fruit basket
- cold this time of year

#### **Company Headquarters**

**The following list provides some information about Company Headquarters:**

- breakfast buffet in office
- at work on Monday
- company spends \$2,000
- many different breakfast items served
- no travel needed
- employees given extra day off
- not everyone works in morning

*(Examiners and Test Takers)*

**Test Taker 3**

### **Choosing Place for Employee Party**

#### **Worlds of Adventure**

**The following list provides some information about Worlds of Adventure:**

- visit an amusement park
- all day Saturday
- company spends \$6,000
- employees given \$10 for food
- 30-minute drive from office
- employees given park gift certificate
- park is crowded on weekends

#### **Central Stadium**

**The following list provides some information about Central Stadium:**

- watch a soccer match
- Sunday afternoon
- company spends \$8,000
- hamburgers, fries, drinks provided
- stadium close to subway station
- employees given autographed soccer balls
- soccer team loses many games

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### Michigan Language Assessment

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