

SAMPLE TEST INFORMATION – Michigan State University English Language Test (MSUELT)

I. General Information

Placement of new students into the IEP’s four instructional levels is based primarily on the results from the Michigan State University English Language Test (MSUELT). There are three main parts: listening, reading, and writing.

Students with provisional admission to MSU and exchange students take all parts of the MSUELT (listening, reading, and writing). This is because students have the option of using the test to determine whether they have met MSU’s English language requirement. Students admitted directly to the ELC take only the reading and listening sections of the MSUELT, which together give the ELC enough information to accurately place the student. In semesters after initial placement, movement to another level depends on class performance.

II. The Listening Comprehension Test

The listening comprehension test has four parts with a total of 50 items. The instructions from each part and a few examples are given below.

Instructions for Part 1:

Listen to several short conversations and choose the best of three answers to complete a sentence.

Example

You hear:

Male: “Hi Mary. Where are you going?”

Female: “I’m going to the library.”

Mary wants to go to _____

A) the library

B) her house

C) a class

The correct answer is A.

Instructions for Part 2:

Listen to several longer conversations and choose the best of three answers to answer a comprehension question.

(You will hear the conversation and then answer five questions. The questions are printed in the test booklet.)

Instructions for Part 3:

Listen to several short sections of a divided listening passage. After each short section, choose the statement that best summarizes or restates what you have just heard.

Example

You hear: [as part of a larger

“During the summer, most university students stop taking classes and either work or take a vacation.”

- A) The university closes in the summer.
- B) Students study hard for their classes.
- C) Most students work or take time off in the summer.

You choose C because the passage mentioned that most students either work or take a vacation in the summer.

Instructions for Part 4:

You will hear a four-five minute lecture and answer multiple choice questions based on the information discussed.

III. The Reading Comprehension Test

The reading comprehension test has two parts with a total of 50 items.

Instructions for Part 1, Reading Comprehension:

Reading short passages and answering multiple-choice comprehension questions.

Example

You receive the following e-mail message from a professor. Read the message and answer the questions that follow.

Dear Student,
Your presentation will be cancelled tomorrow due to the need to spend extra time reviewing for the test. It will be rescheduled for Monday next week. Sorry about the short notice.

Sincerely,
Professor Smith

Your presentation was rescheduled for _____ next week.

- A) Monday C) Wednesday
- B) Tuesday D) Thursday

The correct answer is A.

Note: Some reading passages will be much longer than the example shown here.

Instructions for Part 2, Vocabulary:

Choose the answer that best completes the sentence or is closest in meaning to the underlined word.

Example

I wanted to go to the store, but it wasn't _____ the gas station.

- A) rejected by C) the same as
B) close to D) far from

The correct answer is B.

Example

John is uncertain about where he is going.

- A) not sure about C) happy because of
B) afraid of D) sad about

The correct answer is A.

IV. The Writing Test

In the writing section, there will be two to three topics, and you will choose one topic. You will have 30 minutes to write an essay on the topic that you choose.