

Michigan State University

Speaking Test

Sample Test

This test is designed to assess your speaking abilities. The test will last about 20 minutes. You will be asked a series of questions, which appear in this test booklet. The amount of time you have to answer each question is printed in the booklet as well. Be sure to speak clearly and answer each question as completely as possible.

You will record your answers to the questions using a digital voice recorder. The digital voice recorder will be placed on the desk in front of you. A test proctor will turn the recorder on and off for you. Do not touch the recorder during the test.

Now you will be asked four warm-up questions. These questions are for practice only and will not be scored, but it is very important that you answer them.

What is your student ID number? (10 seconds)

What department are you planning to teach in? (10 seconds)

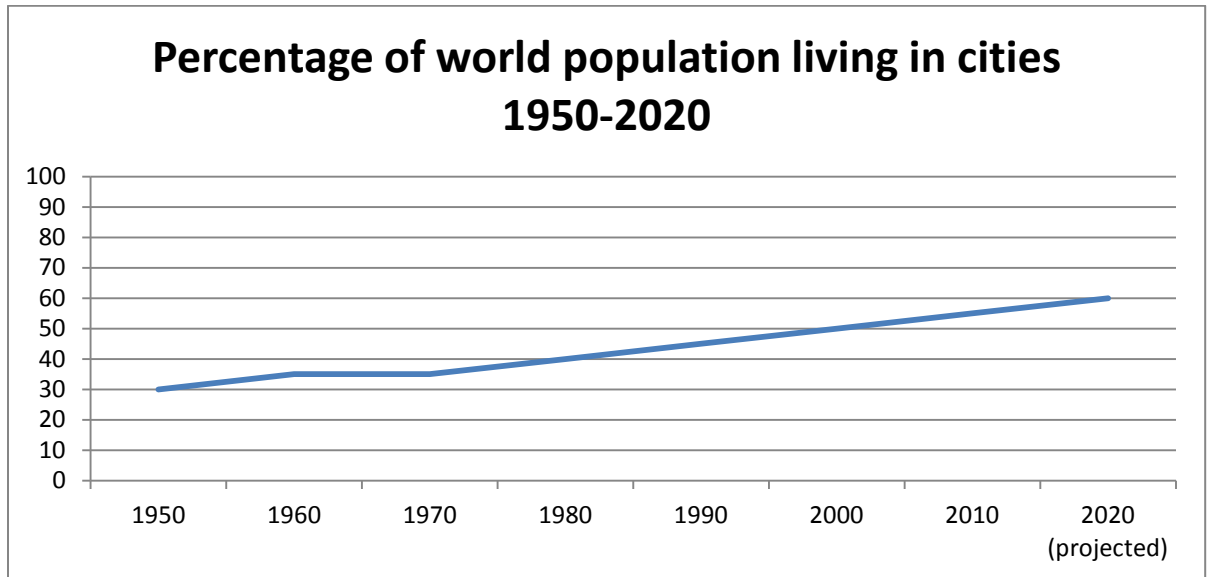
What were your first impressions of MSU when you came here? (20 seconds)

What other U.S. cities would you like to visit, and why? (20 seconds)

Do you have any questions?

1. One of your favorite movies is playing in a local theater. Tell me about the movie and why you like it. (60 seconds)
2. Both newspapers and television news programs can be good sources of information about current events. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of each of these sources? (60 seconds)
3. Many people enjoy visiting zoos and seeing the animals. Other people believe that animals should not be taken from their natural surroundings and put into zoos. I'd like to know what you think about this issue. (60 seconds)
4. What is your field of study? Select a term used frequently in your field and define it for me. (60 seconds)
5. Some students attend large universities. Other prefer smaller schools. What do you think are the advantages of each type of education? (45 seconds)
6. Imagine that MSU decided to offer only online courses in all departments. Would you still want to attend this school? Why or why not? (60 seconds)
7. Which is more important for students: memorizing large amounts of information or learning critical thinking skills? Why? (60 seconds)
8. Imagine that you are a Teaching Assistant for an MSU class. One of your students received a low grade on an important test. He tells you that he is planning to drop out of your class because he thinks he will fail the entire class. How would you respond to him? (45 seconds)
9. Sometimes school projects can be fun and exciting, but other times they can be rather boring. What is the best way to become focused and motivated to work on a boring project? (45 seconds)

10. The graph below presents the actual and projected percentage of the world population living in cities from 1950 to 2020. Describe the information given in the graph. (45 seconds)



11. What do you think this information might mean for the future? (45 seconds)

12. The information below is about a trip to Washington, D.C. that has been organized for the members of the Forest City Historical Society. Imagine that you are the president of this organization. At the last meeting you gave out a schedule for the trip, but there have been some changes. You must remind the members about the details of the trip and tell them about the changes indicated on the schedule. In your presentation, do not just read the information printed, but present it as if you were talking to a group of people. You will now have one minute to plan your presentation. Do not start speaking until I tell you to do so. (90 seconds)

FOREST CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Date: Saturday, April ~~11~~12th

Transportation: Chartered Bus

Depart: ~~9:00am~~ 8:00am –Community Center Parking Lot

Itinerary
10:30am Guided Tour of White House
12:30pm Lunch at Rock Creek Park
3:00pm National Museum of History and Technology
(lecture 4:00pm)
6:30 Dinner, ~~Embassy Restaurant~~, Capitol Inn

Return: 10:00pm (approximately)

Cost: ~~\$20.00~~ \$25.00