

SAMPLE TEST INFORMATION –

Michigan State University English Language Test (MSUFLT)

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 (MSUFLT). There are three main parts: listening, reading, and writing. Students with provisional admission to MSU and exchange students take all parts of the MSUFLT (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 MSUFLT, 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.

The Listening Comprehension Test

The listening comprehension test has two main parts with a total of 40 items. The instructions from each part and a few examples are given below.

Part 1: Conversations

In this section, you will hear conversations. The conversation has a short title to tell you what it is about. Listen to the conversation and choose the letter of the choice that best answers the question that appears in your test booklet. You will not hear the question; you will see it and read it. You will read it quietly to yourself. Use your pencil to mark your answer on your answer sheet. You are allowed to take notes in the test booklet.

Example

You see the following questions in your test booklet:

Signing up for sports

1. Mary warns the man that playing hockey _____.
 - a. is more dangerous than basketball
 - b. requires more equipment than basketball
 - c. is not as popular as basketball
2. The man's son played ____ last year.
 - a. hockey
 - b. baseball
 - c. basketball
3. How much will it cost for the man's son to play hockey?
 - a. less than \$120.00
 - b. at least \$120.00
 - c. possibly nothing at all

You hear: “*Look at questions 1 through 3 now.*”
(15 seconds of silence while you read the questions)

Then you hear: “*Now listen to the conversation, ‘Signing up for sports’.*”

- Male: *Mary, are your sons on a hockey team this year? I’d like to get my son involved this season.*
- Female: *Both of my boys are on teams at the Phoenix Sports Complex. I should warn you that it costs \$120 per child for the season.*
- Male: *\$120? Oh, that’s not too bad! I paid more than that for basketball last year.*
- Female: *Sure. But remember that you’ll have to pay another \$150 for equipment!*
- Male: *Equipment! Of course! I’d forgotten that hockey is not quite as simple as basketball. Thanks, Mary. Now I’ll have a better idea of how expensive it is going to be.*
- Female: *Glad to help. Oh! Hold on! I might be able to help you even more! What size does your son need? My youngest boy can’t use his old size 12 gear any more.*
- Male: *Really? Size 12 is exactly what we need!*
- Female: *Okay, I’ll tell you what. If you can come by my house after dinner tonight, your son can try on the equipment.*
- Male: *Thank you, Mary! That would be great! We’ll see you tonight.*

[You have 30 seconds to mark your answers at the end of this conversation.]

The answers to sample questions 1-3 are as follows.

1. b
2. c
3. b

Part 2: Extended Discourse

In this section you will hear a lecture and an extended conversation. You will listen to each passage only once, and then you will answer several questions.

Example

You see the following questions in your test booklet (only 5 appear in this example, but you will see 8-12 questions on the actual test):

The Principal’s Announcement

4. What does the principal ask the teachers to do?
 - a. counsel their students
 - b. clarify the announcement
 - c. make sure students listen

5. The principal says that he is concerned about students _____.
 - a. on academic probation
 - b. missing classes
 - c. not graduating on time

6. What happens if students have a 15% absence rate?
 - a. They must attend summer school.
 - b. They cannot go to their graduation.
 - c. Their school year will not count.

7. The principal implies that the trash cans in the school are _____.
 - a. very small
 - b. conveniently located
 - c. far apart

8. The penalty for leaving trash in the hallway could be _____.
 - a. staying late after school
 - b. going to summer school
 - c. picking up everyone's trash

You will hear: "Look at questions 4 through 8 now."

(25 seconds of silence while you read the questions—more time when there are more questions)

Then you hear: "Now listen to the 'The principal's announcement'."

A high school principal is making an announcement to the school over the loud speakers.

Good morning everyone. This is Principal Smith and I would like to have your attention for a few moments. Teachers, if you could make sure that your students are in their seats and attentive, please.

Now, it has come to my attention that, because it is the last week of school, some students plan on skipping their non-required classes. I would like to remind you that all absences this week will count toward your total yearly mark. Remember, if you exceed an 8% absence rate for the year, you will be placed on academic probation. If you are a graduating senior, and you are placed on academic probation, you will have to attend another semester in order for your status to return to normal before you are allowed to graduate. If anyone exceeds a 15% absence rate, in addition to being placed on academic probation, they will be required to attend summer school to make up for the missed classes. I truly hope that nobody will have to attend summer school this year. I know how popular that is!

On another note, I need to talk to everyone about keeping our hallways clean. The janitor has informed me that he is picking up all kinds of trash in our hallways after school. This will not do! Please take advantage of the many large trash cans throughout our hallways. There is no need to throw something on the floor when you can walk 5 steps and put it in its proper place. I do not want to resort to punishment, but if this problem continues, I will be forced to

institute a policy where anyone seen leaving their trash in the hallway would be subject to disciplinary measures. No one here wants to spend any time with me after school, right?

But I don't want to speak to you only about negative issues, so here are a couple of things that I am extremely proud to tell you about. One, our school debate team has taken top prize among the other schools our size! We have always had a great tradition of success in our debates, and this year is no exception. Congratulations to everyone who participated this year! We are very proud of you. Another item for praise is that Mr. Jacobs, 11th grade history and science teacher, has been nominated for the Excellence in Teaching award. I know that all of Mr. Jacob's students will agree with me when I say that he is most deserving of this nomination. We are behind you all the way Mr. Jacobs, best of luck! And, finally, I would like to say "thank you" to all of our student body. You have made this a year to remember, and I know that our seniors will have wonderful memories to take with them as they graduate and move on to the next stage of their lives. We, the administration and teaching staff, wish to say "good luck" to the seniors as they go on their way. This was a memorable class, and I know that all of us feel privileged to have had the experience of teaching, mentoring and advising you.

[You have 50 seconds to mark your answers at the end of this conversation—more when there are more questions.]

The answers to sample questions 4-8 are:

4. c
5. b
6. a
7. b
8. a

[The other long passage in Listening, Part 2 will be an extended conversation. There will be 8-12 questions based on that conversation, and you will have time to read the questions before you listen to the conversation.]

The Reading Comprehension Test

The reading test has 4 passages, each followed by 8-12 questions. Each question is followed by 4 choices. The instructions a few examples are given below.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- This reading test has four passages. Each passage is followed by several questions.
- You have 55 minutes to answer all 40 questions.
- For each question, choose the ONE BEST answer.
- Find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.

- You are allowed to write in the test booklet.

Permission to go out

Brianna has written an email to George, talking about a conversation she had with her parents about going out at night. She has included you on the email as well. Read the email and George's response and answer the questions that follow.

<Go to the Next Page>

Thursday

1
2 Dear George,

3
4 I don't even know how to start, but I don't think I'll be able to go to Sara's party on Saturday. I
5 had this long argument with my parents about going out at night. They want me to be home at
6 ten. Isn't that ridiculous? I mean, that's when the party gets started, but my parents just don't
7 understand how things work! Everyone else is allowed to stay until midnight at least. I'm the
8 only one whose parents are so authoritarian. I guess it's kind of my fault, too. If I hadn't come
9 home late the last time when we met at Ben's house, my parents probably wouldn't have an issue
10 with me going to Sara's party. But since I messed up last week, now they are trying to set some
11 boundaries.

12
13 What my parents are really worried about is that I would drink alcohol or smoke. I said that I
14 would be responsible even if some kids did drink, but they still think coming home early is the
15 best way to keep me out of trouble. Anyway, I needed to write to you to get this off my chest.
16 Maybe I'll still come to the party even if I have to be home early. I'll see.

17
18 Until tomorrow,

19
20 Brianna

21
22 Friday

23 Brianna,

24
25 You might be surprised to hear that I had a similar discussion with my parents! They want me to
26 be home by eleven, so I'd only have another hour after you have to leave. I don't get it either!
27 We are both turning sixteen next year. We aren't kids anymore! And I told my parents that Sara
28 is celebrating her seventeenth birthday, so most of her friends are around our age, and they are all
29 allowed to stay until midnight—if not longer. It's so embarrassing to have to leave a party early.

30
31 I think I'll try to talk to my mom one more time. She is usually easier to talk to about things like
32 this than my dad. Hopefully we'll be able to find a compromise. I'll keep you posted on that.
33 And if nothing changes about our parents' decisions, we can just do something else together,
34 maybe going to the cinema—to watch an early evening show. ☺

35
36 Talk to you soon.....George

Sample Reading Questions:

9. Brianna is writing George _____.
 - a. to complain about her restrictions
 - b. to ask when the party starts
 - c. to tell a funny story
 - d. to ask whether George will come to the party

10. What best describes both George and Brianna's parents?
 - a. They easy going.
 - b. They are relatively tolerant.
 - c. They are strict.
 - d. They are good friends.

11. Why is Brianna upset?
 - a. She isn't allowed to go to Sara's party.
 - b. She has to be home earlier than her friends.
 - c. She is not allowed to drink alcohol.
 - d. She has to be home by midnight.

12. Why does George say 'You might be surprised'? (line 25)
 - a. His parents also want George home early.
 - b. He wasn't invited to Sara's birthday party.
 - c. He has to be home at the same time as Brianna.
 - d. Sara's birthday party will end at eleven at night.

13. George says "I'll keep you posted on that" (line 32). What does he mean?
 - a. He will send Brianna a letter.
 - b. He will write a letter to his mom.
 - c. He will only tell Brianna the good news.
 - d. He will let Brianna know what happens.

The answers to sample questions 9-13 are:

9. a
10. c
11. b
12. a
13. d

IV. The Writing Test

In the writing section, there will be two topics, and you will choose one topic. You will have 35 minutes to write an essay on the topic that you choose.