



Guide for Taking and Scoring the ECCE Sample Test, Form C

Introduction

Additional information about the ECCE is available at CambridgeMichigan.org.

How to Take the Test

When you take the sample test you should follow these steps.

1. You will need:
 - a. the **sample test**
 - b. the **answer sheet**
 - c. **access to the audio** for the listening section
 - d. a **piece of paper** for the writing section
 - e. **pencils**
 - f. a **timing device** such as a clock or stopwatch
 - g. at least three hours of uninterrupted time
2. Turn to the general instructions on page 1 of the sample test. Read the instructions and fill out the answer sheet according to the instructions.
3. Turn to the listening section instructions on page 3. Once you start each section of the audio, do not pause or stop it. Play the audio files in the order presented. Mark your answers directly on the separate answer sheet, not in the test booklet. The listening section takes 30 minutes total.
4. Turn to the grammar, vocabulary, reading (GVR) section instructions on page 17. You have 90 minutes for this section.
5. Turn to the writing section on page 31. Read the instructions. Then read the topics, choose a task, and begin writing. You should write your essay on a separate piece of paper. After 30 minutes, stop writing.

Scoring the Test

Listening and GVR

1. Compare your answers with the answer key. If your answer matches the answer key then award yourself one point. If your answer does not match the answer key do not award yourself a point.
2. Add up all of your correct answers in the listening section. This is your listening section score.
3. Add up all of your correct answers in the GVR section. This is your GVR section score.
4. Read the Interpreting Your Scores section below for an explanation of what your practice test listening and GVR scores mean.

Writing

1. Refer to the ECCE Writing Rating Scale and writing benchmarks available in the Resources section of CaMLA's website.
2. Read your essay and then read each of the sample essays. Pay attention to the comments that accompany each sample.
3. Compare your essay to the sample essays and decide which sample is the closest to yours.
4. The score of the sample which is closest to yours is your score for the writing section. You should ask a teacher to review your writing and to confirm that you have chosen the right band score.
5. Read the Interpreting Your Scores section below for an explanation of what your sample test essay score means.



Interpreting Your Scores

When the ECCE is taken under examination conditions, the listening section and the grammar, vocabulary, reading (GVR) section are scored electronically using Item Response Theory (IRT). This method ensures that the ability required to pass a section, or to receive a high score, remains the same from year to year. IRT scores are not the same as number-right scores or percentage scores, but there is very high correlation between the number of correct answers provided and the IRT scores.

Listening Section

- **Scores 38 and above:** If you have strictly followed the instructions for taking the practice test, you are likely to pass the listening section of the ECCE under examination conditions.
- **Scores 32–37:** You have a chance of passing the listening section of the ECCE under examination conditions but you may benefit from more lessons or more practice before you register for the examination.
- **Scores 31 and below:** You are unlikely to pass the listening section of the ECCE under examination conditions and should spend more time improving your English before taking the examination.

Grammar, Vocabulary, and Reading (GVR) Section

- **Scores 65 and above:** If you have strictly followed the instructions for taking the practice test, you are likely to pass the GVR section of the ECCE under examination conditions.
- **Scores 60–64:** You have a chance of passing the GVR section of the ECCE under examination conditions but you may benefit from more lessons or more practice before you register for the examination.
- **Scores 59 and below:** You are unlikely to pass the GVR section of the ECCE under examination conditions and should spend more time improving your English before taking the examination.

Writing Section

Scores 28 and above: If you have strictly followed the instructions for taking the sample test, you are likely to pass the writing section of the ECCE under exam conditions.

Scores 24–27: You have a chance of passing the writing section of the ECCE under exam conditions, but you may benefit from more lessons or more practice before you register for the examination.

Scores 23 and below: You are unlikely to pass the writing section of the ECCE under examination conditions and should spend more time improving your English before taking the examination.

Speaking Section

The ECCE speaking section (*please see other sample tests; a speaking sample is not provided with Form C*) is scored analytically. Your speaking performance is awarded a numeric score derived from scores assigned to each of the three ECCE speaking scoring criteria: Overall Communicative Effectiveness, Language Control & Resources, and Delivery/Intelligibility. The teacher or expert user of English who conducted your sample speaking test for you may be able to help you evaluate your competence in spoken English. Use the ECCE Speaking Rating Scale and the speaking sample test and commentary available in the resources section of CaMLA's website. You should assign eight individual scores in stages 2, 3, and 4 of the ECCE Speaking Test.

If you have followed the instructions for taking a sample speaking test and your speaking meets the scoring criteria of at least at 3 in each of the scoring sections or a total score of at least 24, then you have a chance of passing the ECCE speaking section under exam conditions.

Passing the ECCE Overall

ECCE section scores are reported in five bands. The levels of performance, from highest to lowest, are:

ECCE Reporting System Band Scores	
	Scaled Score Per Section
Honors (H)	840–1000
Pass (P)	750–835
Low Pass (LP)	650–745
Borderline Fail (BF)	610–645
Fail (F)	0–605

ECCE test takers who achieve an average score of 650 or higher will be awarded a certificate. Additionally, those who achieve a score of 840 or higher in all four sections will be awarded a Certificate of Competency with Honors.

Look at all your scores on the sample test sections.

- If your score is 28 or higher on the speaking and writing sections and 38 or above on the listening section and 65 or above on the GVR section, you are likely to pass the ECCE under exam conditions.
- If your score is 24 or higher on the speaking and writing sections and 32 or higher on the listening section and 60 or higher on the GVR section, you have a chance at passing the ECCE under exam conditions.

If you are able to meet the passing standards on the sample test, then you are probably ready to take the ECCE.

Important Points to Note

1. Although the sample materials are designed to be similar in difficulty to the ECCE and will give you a reasonable idea of how you should expect to score on the exam, there is no guarantee that your score on the sample materials will be the same as the score you receive when you take the ECCE.
2. The writing section and speaking section scores you receive when you take an ECCE under examination conditions are determined by raters trained and certified according to standards established by CaMLA. It is possible that when you review your own writing and speaking performance, the scores assigned might be different from those that would have been assigned by certified raters and examiners.