

A secure certificate exam that is valid for life

The Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE) has been certifying learners at an advanced level since 1953. Popular in Europe and Latin America, the ECPE is aimed at the C2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

ECPE Sections

The ECPE is a 4-skill test of advanced English proficiency. It is a secure exam that is only administered by Authorized Test Centers worldwide. The ECPE is used by educational institutions, government agencies, and businesses. An ECPE certificate is valid for life.



Listening

The ECPE Listening section reflects language used in real-life situations. The listening section is scored automatically by computer.

- 3 parts
- Multiple choice
- 50 questions
- 50 minutes

Reading

The ECPE Reading section includes grammar, cloze, vocabulary, and reading parts.

- Multiple choice
- 70 questions
- 55 minutes

Grammar

- 16 questions

Vocabulary

- 16 questions

Cloze

- 20 questions

Reading

- 3 reading passages
- 18 questions (divided into 3 sets)



Writing

Test takers are given a choice between an article/proposal or an essay. Then, the test taker writes a response considering and presenting multiple points of view.

- 1 task
- 45 minutes

Speaking

Test takers demonstrate their ability to ask and answer questions; orally explain and paraphrase written descriptions of people, places, or things; provide recommendations; negotiate a decision; present a position or decision; and justify a position or decision.

- 1 task
- 5 stages
- 30 minutes

A complete ECPE sample test is available for download on MichiganAssessment.org

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Scoring

The listening and reading sections of the ECPE are scored by computer at Michigan Language Assessment. Each correct answer adds to the final score for its section; points are not deducted for wrong answers.

The speaking and writing sections are rated using scoring criteria established by Michigan Language Assessment. The speaking section is conducted and assessed by certified speaking examiners, and the writing section is assessed by at least two certified raters.

Score Reports

A scaled score, ranging from 0 to 1,000, is reported for each section of the test and also averaged to produce an overall score. ECPE test takers who achieve an overall score of 650 or higher are awarded a Certificate of Proficiency, and those who achieve an overall score of 840 or higher are awarded a Certificate of Proficiency with Honors.

Availability

The ECPE is offered twice a year, about six months apart. Test takers must register with a local test center to take the test. ECPE test content is unique with each administration, so test takers can take the test more than once.

Test Accommodations

Michigan Language Assessment wants everyone to be able to demonstrate language ability under circumstances that are fair and equitable. Test takers can request accommodations, which may include changes in the format or the administration of the test.

ECPE Certificate

An official ECPE certificate is issued by Michigan Language Assessment. The certificate features the logos of the University of Michigan and Cambridge Assessment English.

Resources

There are many ways to prepare, but the best preparation is through the general study and use of English. Practice materials are also available for free on the Michigan Language Assessment website.



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