

Introduction

to the Michigan English Test (MET)

The MET is a standardized international examination designed by Michigan Language Assessment (MLA), aimed at upper-beginner to advanced levels—A2 to C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It assesses general English language proficiency in educational, social, and workplace contexts.

The MET can be taken as a two-skills or four-skills test. The Listening and Reading sections are required; test-takers can choose to take the optional Writing and Speaking sections. The test emphasizes the ability of the test-taker to communicate effectively in English. Listening recordings and reading passages reflect authentic, everyday interaction in an American-English linguistic environment. Grammar and vocabulary are included in the Listening and Reading sections.

The MET is intended for adults and adolescents at or above a secondary level of education who want to measure their general English language proficiency in a variety of linguistic contexts. The test results can be used for educational purposes, such as when finishing an English language course, or for employment purposes, like applying for a job or pursuing a promotion that requires an English language qualification. The MET may also be used as a bridge to a higher proficiency-level exam, such as the ECPE. There is no pass or fail on the test; it is a multi-level exam covering a range of proficiency levels from A2 to C1 on the CEFR.

Format and Content of the Test

The MET is a paper-and-pencil test with 100 multiple choice questions in two required sections: I: Listening and II: Reading and Grammar. **The total time allowed for the multiple choice portion of the test is 100 minutes.**

The optional portion of the test includes a 45-minute Writing section, which is taken at the same time as Sections I and II, and a 10-minute Speaking test, which is scheduled separately.

The content of the MET reflects a range of situations likely to be familiar to most test-takers, focusing on the public, educational, and occupational domains, with an emphasis on topics from the educational domains.

The four components to the MET are outlined in this chart.

Section 1: Listening		35 minutes
Part 1: 19 short conversations between two people		19 questions
Part 2: 4 longer conversations between two people		14 questions
Part 3: 4 short talks		17 questions
Section 2: Reading/Grammar		65 minutes
Grammar		20 questions
2 extended reading passages		10 questions
2 sets of thematically linked reading passages		20 questions
OPTIONAL SECTIONS		
Section 3: Writing		45 minutes
Task 1: 3 questions on a related theme		
Task 2: 1 extended essay response		
Speaking Test		10 minutes
Part 1: 3 short questions (60 seconds allowed for each response)		
Part 2: 2 tasks (90 seconds allowed for each response)		

Listening

This Listening section of the test consists of three parts with a total of 50 questions. The first two parts are based on conversations. Part 1 includes short conversations between two people with one question per conversation. Part 2 includes six longer conversations between two speakers with two to four questions per conversation. Part 3 is four short talks with three to five questions per talk. The format of the questions is multiple choice with four answer choices. The question and answer choices are printed in the book (or test booklet). Candidates hear the recording and the questions only once; they answer the questions as they listen. Once the audio for the Listening test has started, it will not stop; it will play continuously and include pauses to allow time to answer the questions.

The Reading section consists of three parts with 50 questions. Part 1 consists of 20 questions on a variety of grammar structures with a majority of the topics focusing on the academic domain. Part 2 includes two extended reading passages about a range of academic or general topics and has five questions for each passage. Part 3 includes two sets of three longer texts on a related theme. The texts are on topics of general interest. All questions are multiple choice and have four answer choices. Questions and answer choices are printed in the book.

Writing

The Writing test requires test-takers to answer questions in writing at the sentence level and the paragraph level and to produce a short essay in response to a single prompt. Task 1 includes three short questions that can be answered in a few sentences or a short paragraph. The writing tasks are progressively more difficult. The final longer essay task (Task 2) demands a response of one to two paragraphs and a higher level of skill. Students write their answers in the book.

Speaking

The Speaking test is a structured, one-on-one interaction between an examiner and the test-taker that consists of two parts and five distinct tasks. The tasks in Part 1 require test-takers to convey information about a picture and a similar personal experience and to then give a supported opinion on a related topic. The two tasks in Part 2 involve explaining the advantages and disadvantages of a particular idea or proposal and taking a position on another topic and trying to convince the examiner to agree with their idea. The Speaking test is taken separately from the other parts of the test.