

MSU-CELP PRACTICE TEST 2

(ALL ITEMS SELECTED FROM ACTUAL CELP ADMINISTRATIONS
FROM FALL 09 TO SPRING 11)

Certificate of English Language Proficiency

English Language Center



Michigan State University



**DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL
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Notes for Test of English Writing Ability

*You may use this space to make notes or an outline for the writing test.
However, you **must** write the essay on the separate, lined paper provided.*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING ABILITY SECTION:

For this section of the test, a proctor has given you a special answer form.

Using a Number 2 pencil **ONLY**, write as much as you can, as well as you can, in an original composition on **ONE** of the two topics below. You have 35 minutes to complete the composition.

1. In some high school and university classes, teachers require students to work together on specific projects. Each student then gets a grade based on the group's success. Some students are quite happy to receive a grade based on the collaborative work of the group, while others feel that being graded as part of a group is not fair, and may penalize good students for the poor work of lazier students. What is your opinion about being graded as part of a group? Be sure to support your opinion with examples, reasons, and explanations.

OR

2. Nowadays, almost all college students have access to personal computers and the Internet. Do you think having personal computers helps students get an education or distracts them from getting an education? Be sure to support your opinion with examples, reasons, and explanations.



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LISTEN TO THIS!

MSU-CELP Test of English Listening Ability

This section of the test is designed to assess your listening abilities. You should have the following items in front of you: a test answer sheet, a test booklet, and a Number 2 pencil. If you are missing any of these items, raise your hand, and a test proctor will assist you.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LISTENING ABILITY SECTION:

- This listening section has three main parts. Part 1 consists of several short conversations, and Part 2 has longer conversations. Part 3 contains a speech and an extended conversation.
- There are 40 questions on this listening test. For each question, choose the ONE BEST answer.
- For each question, 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.



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Part 1: Short Conversations

For each question in your test booklet, you will hear a short conversation. Each 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 X:**Walking across campus**

Mary wants to go to_____.

- a. the library
- b. her house
- c. a class

Lifestyle changes

1. Why did the man change his lifestyle?
 - a. His doctor told him that he had to lose weight.
 - b. He read a book about leading a healthier lifestyle.
 - c. He didn't feel healthy, fit, or energetic.

A traffic ticket

2. Why doesn't the police officer give the woman a ticket?
 - a. She hasn't had any tickets before.
 - b. She didn't run any stoplights.
 - c. She was in a hurry to see her children.

In traffic

3. Why was the woman shocked?
 - a. She saw a car nearly kill a person.
 - b. She saw someone driving very dangerously.
 - c. She saw someone hurrying into the hospital.

What a storm!

4. What happened to the man's property?
 - a. A tree was damaged and the electricity went off.
 - b. His house and car were damaged.
 - c. A falling tree broke several lights at the house.

Computer problems

5. Why is the man not able to help with the laptop?
 - a. The hair dryer likely caused some damage.
 - b. The woman has already dried it off.
 - c. Problems are not obvious immediately.

Looking for a car owner

6. Why is the man talking to the woman?
- to blame her for the accident
 - to assume responsibility for the accident
 - to find out who caused the accident

Getting directions

7. What is surprising about the man who gives directions?
- He does business with the Folk Art Museum.
 - He is planning to visit the Folk Art Museum.
 - He works at the Folk Art Museum.

Calling the doctor's office

8. Why is the man not able to reschedule his appointment for earlier in the day on Thursday?
- He needs to talk to the doctor immediately.
 - His son has to go to soccer practice.
 - There are no available times.

Part 2: Longer Conversations

In this section you will hear longer conversations. Before each conversation you will read three to five questions. Listen to each conversation and answer the questions that appear in your test booklet.

Talking with the apartment manager on the phone

9. Why does the man call the apartment manager's office?
- to complain about his heater being broken
 - to get advice about how to keep his apartment warm
 - to request a professional to inspect his heater
10. What does the apartment manager suggest the man do?
- leave the heater off for a while and then restart it
 - turn the power level all the way up to full
 - call a professional electrician in the morning
11. Why did the man wait so long to call for help?
- He had to go to class.
 - He thought the heater would start working again on its own.
 - He had to wait until the manager's office was open.
12. When should the person the apartment manager mentioned come to the man's apartment?
- right away
 - before 6:00 p.m. that night
 - after 9:00 a.m. the following day

Thinking about college

13. What decision is the woman concerned about?
- whether or not to allow her son to leave home to study
 - whether to encourage her son to study law or medicine
 - whether or not her son should attend a university next year
14. What does the man mean when he says these decisions can be complicated?
- Choosing an academic program is not easy.
 - He is amused that the boy must consider school, friends, and a girlfriend.
 - He thinks worrying about one's friends is too complicated for a young man.
15. What did the man consider about college when he was young?
- his parents' opinion about his career
 - the quality of a university's program
 - whether he could afford to study away from home
16. What final comment does the man make about the woman's son?
- The son will study harder if he leaves home.
 - The son is responsible and will remember his parents.
 - The son should make his own decision.

Listening to a meditation CD

17. What is the purpose of the binaural beats on the CD?
- to hide other tones
 - to create a relaxing rhythm
 - to stimulate mental growth
18. What best characterizes the CD Jim is listening to?
- It is music meant for meditation.
 - It is a variety of sounds meant for meditation.
 - It is a combination of chants and tones meant for meditation.
19. How does Jim describe white noise?
- He compares it to the sound of falling water.
 - He compares it to the color white.
 - He compares it to the distracting sounds of the environment.
20. When is Jim's favorite time to listen to his meditation CD?
- while reading the newspaper
 - whenever he can find an hour for quiet relaxation
 - while riding to work on the bus

Part 3: Extended Discourse

In this section you will hear a speech and an extended conversation. You will listen to each passage twice, and then you will answer a series of questions.

Dangerous waters

21. Why does the shop owner keep a carp in his store?
- It is a very popular pet.
 - It is used to clean other aquariums.
 - It is an example of an invasive species.
22. Why were the carp introduced to local waters?
- to keep them free of dangerous bacteria
 - to increase opportunities for fishing
 - to eat invasive species
23. What does the shop owner mean when he says “there is no unconnected water”?
- It’s easy to fish anywhere.
 - It is impossible to contain invasive species.
 - You can take a boat all the way across the state.
24. What does the shop owner identify as a “valuable resource”?
- tax revenue
 - clean water
 - biodiversity
25. What does the owner use the potato famine as an example of?
- an invasive species
 - the danger of a lack of biodiversity
 - food for carp
26. How did the carp affect local biodiversity?
- They reduced it.
 - They increased it.
 - They maintained it.
27. What mistake do many first-time aquarium owners make?
- They choose aesthetic beauty over environmental suitability.
 - They purchase dangerous carp.
 - They do not maintain the proper temperature in their aquarium.
28. What is the most likely result of throwing away an invasive plant?
- It will spread unchecked.
 - It will die.
 - It will add to biodiversity.
29. What advice does the shop owner give?
- to ask him for help in choosing proper species
 - to dispose of dangerous species using the toilet rather than the garbage
 - to save money by not buying all the fancy plants
30. The shop owner is speaking about ____.
- a cause that personally interests him
 - an exciting opportunity
 - information he is required to distribute

New vacation policy

31. What change is being made to the paid days off policy?
- Employees will get fewer paid days off.
 - Paid days off will have further restrictions on their use.
 - Employees will get more paid days off.
32. When will the new changes take effect?
- immediately
 - later in the month
 - at the beginning of the following year
33. When must employees submit their vacation schedules?
- by January 1 of each year
 - one month prior to their time off
 - as soon as their supervisors request them
34. Why do the employees think the policy has been changed?
- Too many people were taking days off with no warning.
 - Some people were vacationing while claiming to be sick.
 - The company cannot afford to pay for so many vacation days.
35. Why is the man concerned about the new policy?
- He sometimes plans vacations less than a month in advance.
 - An employee will not be paid for taking a single sick day.
 - He will never use all of his sick days.
36. What does the man say will happen if his child is sick on a Friday?
- His wife will have to stay home with their daughter.
 - He will lose one day of pay.
 - He will be sick on Monday.
37. Why does the woman say the new policy will force people to lie?
- People will call in sick a second day just so they will get paid.
 - People will want to avoid being reprimanded.
 - People will try to pretend that they have real emergencies.
38. Who is affected by the new changes to the vacation policy?
- only the employees in one department
 - only those employees suspected of abusing their flex days
 - everyone in the company
39. Why does the woman think these new changes are a bad idea?
- Many employees may consider quitting their jobs to find a better employer.
 - 95% of the employees will continue to cheat anyway.
 - Everyone is being punished even though most have done nothing wrong.
40. What best describes the conversation between the two employees?
- They are trying to solve a problem.
 - They are planning for an upcoming change.
 - They are complaining in private.



**THIS IS THE END OF THE CELP LISTENING TEST.
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GRAMMAR YOU CAN USE!

MSU-CELP Test of English Grammar

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRAMMAR SECTION:

- This grammar test has 40 questions.
- You have 20 minutes to answer all 40 questions. For each question, choose the ONE BEST answer.
- For each question, 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.

EXAMPLE:

Bob is a good student. He _____ every day.

- a. to study
- b. is study
- c. studies
- d. studying

The correct answer is c. You would mark “c” on your answer sheet.

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41. I feel really tired. _____
 a. I won't think I'll go.
 b. I don't think I'll go.
 c. I think not go.
 d. I think not to go.
42. We didn't go to the store last night, but _____ if you had asked.
 a. we can
 b. we could
 c. we could have
 d. we couldn't
43. Susan asked _____ for dinner at 7:00 p.m.
 a. us to arrive
 b. that us arrive
 c. we arrive
 d. we to arrive
44. Every time I answer the phone, people think it's my father because we _____.
 a. are often sounding alike
 b. often sound alike
 c. have often been sounded alike
 d. were often sounded alike
45. Yesterday, a police officer warned me _____ while driving.
 a. about talking on the phone
 b. to talk on the phone
 c. from talking on the phone
 d. talk on the phone
46. I have to remember _____ milk on the way home.
 a. to buy
 b. buying
 c. buy
 d. that I buy
47. The president supports _____ food and doctors to the earthquake zone.
 a. send
 b. we send
 c. sending
 d. to send
48. Unfortunately, Tim went to a school _____ there were no opportunities to play sports.
 a. whom
 b. that
 c. which
 d. where
49. The students' teacher _____ a ton of work.
 a. is having them do
 b. has them to do
 c. had to do
 d. has them be doing
50. People often call Susan's old number, but she doesn't use it _____.
 a. so long
 b. no more
 c. ever more
 d. any longer
51. Her friends wanted to bring gifts to the party, but Rachel said _____.
 a. not to
 b. me not to
 c. that not to
 d. not
52. Lisa's parents did not give her money to buy a laptop. She had to pay for it _____.
 a. herself
 b. by her
 c. her own
 d. self
53. In biology class, the students are watching a video in which caterpillars _____ butterflies.
 a. become themselves
 b. become
 c. are become
 d. becomes
54. I couldn't sleep because there was loud music _____ next door.
 a. playing
 b. played
 c. play
 d. plays

55. The second section of the document isn't so important, so you _____ skip it.
- might as well
 - just as well
 - can as well
 - should as well
56. John is looking for a job this summer, and he hopes he _____ one.
- find
 - finds
 - do find
 - is finding
57. Our teacher suggested _____ to the museum.
- for going
 - going
 - us to go
 - to go
58. I wanted to help George with his math, but his mother asked _____.
- not to do so
 - me not doing so
 - me not to
 - not doing to
59. We regret _____ you that you have not been selected for the job.
- to inform
 - are informing
 - to be informed
 - for informing
60. Why _____ go the way I plan?
- do nothing
 - isn't anything
 - don't anything
 - does nothing
61. Because the roller coaster can be dangerous for small children, the ride is limited to children _____ twelve.
- not so young as
 - young as
 - no younger than
 - not young like
62. It didn't seem _____ anything interesting was going to happen at the party.
- so
 - as though
 - as
 - such
63. John _____ to walk home if Sara hadn't driven by.
- would have
 - had
 - would have had
 - had had
64. Our friends would love to meet us at the beach some weekend, but they never _____ because of their work schedule.
- can
 - have to
 - are
 - had
65. The police were never able to determine _____ struck the car.
- what was it that
 - what it was that
 - was it that
 - that it was
66. I would have gone to the Caribbean this year had I known that the prices _____ so low.
- were being
 - were going to be
 - will have been
 - must have been
67. I cannot believe Dr. Johnson was _____ on our group evaluations.
- harsher than he did
 - being harsh as
 - as harsh as he was
 - just as harsh than
68. There is snow in the forecast for Saturday, but I don't mind since I _____ in Florida by then.
- plan to be
 - will plan to be
 - plan being
 - will plan being

69. You should have _____ a receipt when he paid you.
- gave him
 - gave to him
 - given him
 - given to him
70. Does anyone know what _____ to my stapler? I can't find it anywhere.
- might have happened
 - is happening
 - would happen
 - had happened
71. I _____ get to say goodbye to Susanna.
- haven't ever
 - never did
 - was never
 - could not
72. The weather this year has been neither more _____ previous years.
- or less severe as
 - nor less severe such as
 - but not so severe than
 - nor less severe than
73. Calvin's hope is that the new job _____ with enough money to buy a house.
- will provide him
 - has provide him
 - provides to him
 - can be provided
74. I wanted to get Mary a gift, but she asked _____.
- not now to do
 - me not doing so
 - me not to do so
 - not going to
75. _____ the test before anyone else, Luke put his head down on his desk and took a nap.
- Has finishing
 - Had finished
 - He had finished
 - Having finished
76. Our history with that client is _____ neither of us would prefer to do business with the other again.
- so much
 - such that
 - what
 - it
77. Fletcher's paintings _____ by the landscapes of Argentina as well as those of her native Scotland.
- inspiring
 - have inspired
 - inspire
 - are inspired
78. Jane was unsure what to do _____ of the party.
- with cancelling
 - after the cancellation
 - because of cancelled
 - since the cancellation
79. The manager instructed the employees to take _____ much time was necessary to complete the project.
- however
 - whichever
 - whatever
 - whenever
80. _____ just a few miles west of Detroit, the Henry Ford Museum is a popular tourist destination.
- To be located
 - With location
 - Located
 - At the location



THIS IS THE END OF THE CELP GRAMMAR TEST.

DO NOT RETURN TO THE PREVIOUS SECTION.

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READ ABOUT IT!

MSU-CELP Test of English Reading Ability

INSTRUCTIONS FOR READING ABILITY SECTION:

- 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.
- For each question, 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.



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Reading passage 1

A newspaper has just published a review of a movie you and your friends have been waiting to see all year. The movie opens next week. Read the review carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Movie review

2 Director Claudio Arriete’s new film, *The Weekend*, has been much anticipated following the
3 unexpected success of his independently made *Sofia’s Pigeons*. After *Pigeons* smashed all box office
4 projections following the critical response it received at the Moonlight International Film Festival, the
5 cinematic world has been holding its breath to see what Arriete can do when given top-level talent and a
6 studio budget to work with. (A)

8 Having seen a critics’ screening of *The Weekend*, I can say that the answer is quite a lot. The story
9 follows a group of friends who, having gone up to a cabin in the woods for a few days away, find themselves
10 confronting both their own emotional issues and a (possible) supernatural presence in the house (more—but
11 not too much—on that later in the review). For audiences whose expectations are based on their love of
12 *Pigeons*, *The Weekend* may surprise and disappoint. The strength of *Pigeons* lies in its raw, stark portrayal of
13 the troubled heroine, Sofia. Arriete shot the film on a shoestring budget using a single camera, minimal
14 crew, and guerilla-style directing tactics that turned the crowded cafes and streets of his native Milan into
15 living sets for the movie. There was little editing done to the film, and the soundtrack was a minimalist
16 electronic accompaniment composed by childhood friend Marie Sabino on a personal computer. (B)

18 From the opening credits of *The Weekend*, we know we are a far cry from the hand-lettered title
19 cards that introduced Arriete’s previous effort. The full range of studio resources is on display here: a lush
20 soundtrack, cameras that glide along with the characters, zooming up and down stairways and twisting and
21 turning through the trees surrounding the cabin, which is the film’s main setting. (C)

22 There were some fears that Arriete, faced with a studio warehouse full of director’s toys, would find
23 himself unable to control his vision, favoring gadgets and tricks over storytelling. However, that’s not a
24 criticism that can be fairly leveled at this film. What does seem to be a problem is the supernatural angle
25 alluded to earlier. It feels like an afterthought, or like something that was intended to punch up the script. (D)
26 In the end, I felt as if I were watching two movies, one a half-complete supernatural thriller, and the other a
27 thoughtful portrait of four people at a crossroads. Though these two halves don’t really ever come together
28 to make a whole, *The Weekend* represents another step in one director’s journey towards the mastery of his
craft.

81. The critic describes Arriete's success as _____.
a. sudden
b. surprising
c. unearned
d. controversial
82. Which of the following best keeps the meaning of the highlighted phrase holding its breath in line 4?
a. anticipating
b. being stubborn
c. not talking
d. throwing a tantrum
83. Why does the critic suggest that Arriete's fans may not enjoy his new movie?
a. It is more elaborate than his previous film.
b. It is more frightening than his first movie.
c. It doesn't have the same actress as his first movie.
d. It is filmed in English.
84. Which of the following best keeps the meaning of the highlighted phrase shoestring budget in line 12?
a. limited money
b. money for clothing
c. money to last a long time
d. a complicated budget
85. The paragraph in lines 17-20 mainly describes _____.
a. the plot of the movie
b. the setting of the movie
c. the characters that appear in the movie
d. the resources used to make the movie
86. What potential worry does the critic mention regarding the movie?
a. Arriete would be distracted by his additional resources.
b. Arriete would be corrupted by his recent fame.
c. Arriete's vision would be distorted by Hollywood studios.
d. Arriete would include too much violence.
87. Which of the following best keeps the meaning of the highlighted phrase punch up in line 25?
a. attack quickly
b. add excitement to
c. exaggerate extremely
d. add violence to
88. What does the critic identify as a problem with the film?
a. It does not have a well-constructed story.
b. It is too violent.
c. It relies too much on special effects.
d. The actors are not believable.
89. At which point in the passage would the following sentence best fit?
"Arriete, a master of depicting emotion on film, doesn't really need to use such a trick."
a. (A)
b. (B)
c. (C)
d. (D)
90. The critic's review could best be described as _____.
a. disappointed in the director and angry at the studio
b. dismissive of the actors, but excited by the plot
c. critical of the script, but positive toward the director
d. amazed by the special effects and moved by the drama

Reading passage 2

You receive the following pamphlet describing the benefits of public transportation in the mail from the Bradley County Transit Authority (BCTA). Read the pamphlet carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Support Proposition 9
The Benefits of Public Transportation

Ensures Safety

2 One of the safest modes of travel in the United States is public transportation. Statistically speaking,
riding a transit bus is 91 times safer than driving in a car. This is due to the fact that transit vehicle
4 operators are highly trained to anticipate, avoid, and react to problems. Also, most transit vehicles
are larger, newer, and more substantial than private-use autos or vans.

Saves Money

6 For every \$10 million invested in public transportation, more than \$15 million is saved in
8 transportation costs for everyone. The estimated cost of driving a single-occupant vehicle each year
is between \$4,826 and \$9,685, depending upon mileage driven and car type. By contrast, the annual
10 average cost of public transportation for one adult ranges from \$200 to \$2,000, depending upon
distance traveled, time of day, and type of service.

Eases Traffic Congestion

12 According to a recent survey, 48% of Americans believe traffic is a serious problem where they live.
14 This statistic includes not only residents of a major metropolis like New York City or Los Angeles,
but folks in average cities (like ours) across the country. Furthermore, nearly a quarter of Americans
16 are pessimistic about the situation and say they expect to spend more time commuting in the coming
years.

Improves Air Quality

18 Public transportation helps promote cleaner air by simply reducing the number of automobiles in use,
20 whose exhaust has been shown to exacerbate smog and public health problems. Also, for each mile
traveled, fewer pollutants are emitted by transit vehicles than by single-passenger automobiles.
22 Altogether each year, public transportation use prevents the emission of more than 126 million
pounds of hydrocarbons, a primary cause of smog, and 156 million pounds of nitrogen oxides, which
24 can cause respiratory diseases.

Reduces Energy Consumption

26 Public transportation already reduces our nation's use of gasoline by 1.5 billion gallons per year, thus
significantly reducing our dependency on foreign oil supplies. But each person that we can convert
28 to public transportation can save us even more. For example, a person who commutes 30 miles each
way daily could save an estimated 944 gallons of gasoline every year by switching from a car to
30 using public transportation. Many US transit systems are continuing to invest in compressed natural
gas (CNG), low-sulfur diesel burning buses, or diesel-electric hybrid buses. Locally, our Bradley
32 County Transit Authority (BCTA) currently has seven CNG buses in use and would like to invest in
more hybrids for the core urban routes.

Fosters More Livable Communities

34 Public transportation facilities and major routes are natural focal points for economic and social
36 activities. Businesses and events tend to spring up and flourish anywhere that large numbers of
people congregate. These activities help create strong neighborhood centers that are more
38 economically stable, safe, and productive. Studies have shown that the ability to travel in an area
conveniently without a car is an important component of the notion of a community's livability.
40 Because public transportation provides opportunity, access, choice, and freedom, it significantly
contributes to an improved quality of life for us all.

91. According to the pamphlet, why is it safer to ride in a bus than a car?
- The driver gets injured 91 out of 100 times.
 - The engineering standards are higher for buses than cars.
 - If everyone rides the bus, there are fewer vehicles on the road and fewer accidents.
 - Bus drivers have more experience and training than average car drivers.
92. How much money could a person save by using public transportation?
- at least half of the cost of driving a car
 - between \$200 and \$2,000 each year
 - \$15 million
 - up to \$9,685 each year
93. According to the pamphlet, what opinion is shared by nearly half of Americans?
- There are too many cars in New York City and Los Angeles.
 - Public transit is a convenient alternative to driving.
 - Commute times will only increase in the coming years.
 - Traffic is a major concern for them.
94. Which of the following best keeps the meaning of the highlighted word **exacerbate** in line 20?
- incorporate
 - ease
 - worsen
 - solve
95. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a way that public transport helps improve air quality?
- If more people ride buses, then fewer vehicles are being driven.
 - Public buses remove the pollutants that cause respiratory diseases from the air.
 - Buses emit fewer harmful substances into the environment than cars.
 - Buses contribute less to the smog problem than other vehicles.
96. How does public transport help reduce America's dependence on foreign oil?
- Buses are more fuel-efficient than most cars.
 - Each person who rides the bus is not wasting fuel by using his or her own car.
 - People who ride the bus have a shorter commute.
 - Public buses use a different source of energy that is only produced in America.
97. What does the Bradley County Transit Authority (BCTA) want to do to further reduce gasoline consumption?
- start using buses that run on compressed natural gas
 - invest in more hybrid engine buses
 - eliminate some of the urban routes
 - shorten the commute for those who drive 30 miles or more each day
98. Which of the following best keeps the meaning of the highlighted word **congregate** in line 37?
- gather
 - live
 - work
 - perform
99. What do many people believe adds to the livability of an area?
- accessing businesses without the use of a car
 - increasing the number of businesses
 - increasing safety and productivity
 - reducing air pollution from cars and buses

Reading passage 3

You are looking through a magazine while waiting for a friend. The following article attracts your attention. Read the article carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Choices, choices, everywhere...

2 The man and woman stood and stared silently at products on opposite sides of the aisle of a
national chain store. Completely engrossed in the objects of their attention—for the man, razorblades, for
4 the woman, dental care products—they were oblivious to several customers, who, having rounded the
corner, started down the aisle and then changed their minds. Had they proceeded down that aisle, they
6 would have recognized the slightly pained expression on the man’s face and the aura of bewilderment that
portrayed a feeling of being overwhelmed.

8 Who hasn’t caused a traffic jam in the snack food or the cereal aisle? Crackers may be thin,
Bavarian, fat-free, covered in peanut butter, large, small, round, square, or even sticks. The correct choice
10 takes time and concentration. Toothpaste varieties include baking soda and peroxide, added mouthwash,
or whitening, and can be regular, mint, or for sensitive teeth. Each touts its own specific benefits.

12 But has the plethora of choices improved the quality of life or impacted retail profits in the form
of increased sales? Information emerging from research conducted by various retailers may offer an
14 interesting answer, indicating that there is a fine line between enough and too much when it comes to
choices. When customers at a supermarket were invited to sample 21 different types of crackers, all
16 produced under one brand name, and were then given a coupon to apply to a purchase of any one of the
cracker types, no one purchased any. However, at another store, when customers were offered seven
18 crackers to sample, they used the coupon and purchased one of the cracker types.

20 While the research is far from exhaustive, it does provide some evidence to support the concept
22 that when too many factors need to be considered in making a decision, confusion results. Sorting
through many options requires time to make multiple decisions. Frequently, when faced with spending
24 time deciding on a product that is not an immediate need, people find it easier to avoid the decision and
move to the next aisle and the next item on their shopping list, rather than spend time contemplating all
26 the options.

28 People also may find it easier to shop at larger stores, where they can purchase multiple types of
products, rather than smaller stores, where there are fewer choices available. And, as people continue to
30 feel pressured for time, they will be less willing to process an array of subtle differences to buy a tube of
toothpaste. A major chain in the US recently began selling groceries in all of its stores, which previously
32 carried only clothing, furniture, and other household items. However, rather than expand the buildings,
the stores were remodeled to accommodate space for the grocery sections. As a result, one noticeable
34 difference, besides the added grocery aisles, was a much smaller personal care section with far less
variety within brands. The projection is that the sales volumes for personal care products will remain the
36 same, but that manufacturers may respond to the change by adjusting the variety of products.

100. How does the first paragraph describe shopping?
- as a pleasant experience
 - as a confusing experience
 - as a convenient experience
 - as an expensive experience
101. What is a likely cause of a traffic jam in line 8?
- store clerks stocking shelves
 - an argument between a man and a woman
 - a cleanup of a spill on the floor
 - shoppers deciding what to buy
102. Why does the author mention toothpaste in the second paragraph?
- People frequently buy the wrong kind of toothpaste.
 - There are fewer types of toothpaste than crackers available.
 - It is a product that comes in many varieties.
 - Each type has unique advantages.
103. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the highlighted word **plethora** in line 13?
- shortage
 - decline
 - basics
 - excess
104. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the highlighted expression **there is a fine line** in line 15?
- Stores should offer discounts discriminately.
 - Stores should focus on quality rather than quantity.
 - Stores should value all customers equally.
 - Stores should recognize that offering more can be a liability.
105. What inferences did researchers draw from the example of the cracker tasting?
- There was little difference in how the 21 crackers tasted.
 - People have little time for participating in taste tests.
 - Too many choices may decrease consumers' interest in a product.
 - People consider the value of coupons before making a choice.
106. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the highlighted phrase **to process an array of subtle differences** in line 30?
- to evaluate many factors
 - to give up choices
 - to examine each product
 - to determine the cost
107. How did a major retail store create space for a grocery section?
- It increased the size of the store.
 - It sold fewer types of groceries than larger stores.
 - The aisles were made smaller.
 - Product variety was limited.
108. What impact on the sale of personal care products was predicted after the addition of the grocery section?
- Sales were expected to increase.
 - Sales would drop temporarily.
 - Sales were expected to remain constant.
 - Sales would drop without more choices.
109. How might retailers respond to the research presented in this article?
- by revising prices for certain products
 - by offering fewer varieties of the same product
 - by increasing the total number of products offered
 - by developing improved versions of products

Reading passage 4

Imagine that you are visiting the United States. The Fourth of July holiday is coming up, and you know that many people use fireworks around that day. As you browse through the newspaper, the following article on that very topic catches your attention. Read the article carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Fireworks

Let common sense and city code guide your use of fireworks this season

2 It's just June 15, three weeks before the Fourth of July, and the tranquility of our community is
4 already being shattered almost nightly by fireworks being set off.

6 Firework users and First Amendment advocates proclaim that they have the right to celebrate our
8 nation's Independence Day in the traditional way. Our local authorities agree; most types of ground
10 fireworks are approved to be legally discharged within our city limits. However, anyone doing so right now
12 is actually violating the Pineburg Municipal Code, which limits the use of fireworks to the week leading up
14 to the Fourth of July. (A)

16 For several years, the city council has debated completely banning the discharge of all fireworks
18 within city limits. These actions have been discussed in light of growing noise and safety concerns flowing
20 in from families of young children and business owners' complaints of excessive debris left on their property.
22 After much consideration, last year the council decided to continue to allow the use of fireworks during the
24 holiday week, but announced a new campaign on public education and law enforcement in the hopes of
26 curtailing any interruptive or destructive behavior.

28 However, due to widespread non-compliance and continued complaints, the city council just voted
30 yesterday that next year firework use will be limited to the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. on July 4 only
32 (the standard city "quiet hours" of 9:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. will be shortened on that day). On one side of the
34 controversy, some say that restricting the use of fireworks negatively impacts their quality of life. On the
36 other side of the debate, some say that the weeks of disruptions caused by the fireworks adversely affect their
38 quality of life. (B)

40 In the meantime, all Pineburg citizens are asked to keep in mind that our current fireworks laws are
42 actually quite lenient. Most neighboring townships currently only allow fireworks on July 3 and 4, and a few
44 have completely banned the use of all fireworks outside of organized, public displays.

46 So, if you like fireworks, please use common sense, be considerate of your neighbors when planning
48 your holiday festivities, and respect the law. (C) If you oppose private use of fireworks, please remember that
50 as long as your neighbors are only discharging fireworks during those times designated by city code, they are
52 doing nothing wrong and are simply celebrating our nation's independence in the manner they see most fit.

54 While noise is the most cited issue pertaining to firework use, safety is certainly another big issue
56 that comes up every year. Remember that only Class C fireworks can be discharged within Pineburg city
58 limits. Even though fireworks beyond that classification can be bought elsewhere nearby, such fireworks are
60 considered too dangerous and are not to be used by Pineburg citizens. According to state law, anyone caught
62 using banned fireworks may face a fine of up to \$2,000 and up to one year in jail. (D)

64 This is a serious concern, as an inquiry to the state Fire Marshall's Office has revealed that, last year,
66 there were 102 fireworks-related fires and 36 fireworks-related injuries reported in our county alone.
68 Fortunately, there have been no fatalities reported in recent years. However, these are preventable incidents
70 that can be reduced if everyone agrees to use some common sense and obey the law.

110. Which word is closest in meaning to the highlighted word **curtailing** in line 16?
- discouraging
 - punishing
 - legalizing
 - publicizing
111. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the reasons why some people oppose the use of fireworks in town?
- too much noise
 - too much garbage
 - too many different laws
 - too dangerous
112. When does the current law allow people in Pineburg to use fireworks?
- the week before July 4
 - the week after July 4
 - only on July 4
 - the weeks before and after July 4
113. What did the city decide to do for this year in response to complaints about fireworks violations?
- focus on enforcing the current laws
 - impose city-wide “quiet hours”
 - implement a new penalty system
 - ban certain classes of fireworks
114. Which word is closest in meaning to the highlighted word **lenient** in line 26?
- strict
 - recent
 - universal
 - generous
115. When the author says that people are celebrating the holiday in the manner they see most fit in line 32, this refers to ____.
- the socially approved way
 - the most common public practices
 - the individual’s personal preference
 - the most extravagant style
116. For what reason might a person have to pay a \$2,000 fine?
- fireworks-related accidents
 - leaving fireworks debris on others’ property
 - discharging fireworks after 11:30 p.m.
 - using prohibited fireworks
117. Why is firework safety such a concern?
- There are many families with small children.
 - Many preventable fires and injuries occur each year.
 - People die each year in fireworks-related incidents.
 - State law imposes strict fines and jail time for infractions.
118. Which of the following is the best example of the **common sense** in line 43 advocated by the author?
- celebrating the holiday in the way one chooses
 - using approved fireworks at appropriate times
 - reporting any fires caused by fireworks
 - making sure not to get caught
119. What is the main purpose of this article?
- to advocate fireworks users’ rights
 - to report on recent city council actions
 - to encourage responsible and thoughtful use of fireworks
 - to inform people about new laws
120. At which point in the passage would the following sentence best fit?
“Thus, the council hopes to appease everyone by still allowing the discharge of fireworks, but strengthening restrictions on their use.”
- (A)
 - (B)
 - (C)
 - (D)



THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST.
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WORK ON PREVIOUS SECTIONS.
PLEASE WAIT FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.