

# Targeting Michigan Proficiency

Teacher's Book Leaflet

By  
Sylvia Kar



## Introduction

The Targeting Michigan Proficiency Coursebook is a course designed to help you prepare for the University of Michigan Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English.

This book contains a range of activities aimed at improving your English and helping you to prepare for the examination. The exercises are in the style of the exam to help you familiarize yourself with the questions you will encounter in the actual examination. There is a range of activities and tasks to help you improve your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills which will give you more confidence in the exam. In addition, each unit introduces new vocabulary in context, as well as a chance to revise your grammar in a systematic way.

Throughout the book there are Tip boxes with suggestions on how to best approach certain exercises, for example how to skim when reading, how to answer multiple choice questions etc. There are also Exam Information boxes with details of what to expect in each section of the exam.

At the back of this book is a glossary to revise the vocabulary in the book.

### Information on the ECPE examination:

The University of Michigan Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English is for students who have achieved the ability to communicate and understand English at the advanced level. Candidates at this level should be able to communicate their ideas in each of the major skill areas of listening, reading, writing and speaking, although they may make some errors in their use of the language.

### ECPE Format and Minimum Passing Scores

#### Listening section: 25-30 minutes

There are three parts to the listening test with a total of 50 multiple choice questions. In Part One, candidates hear short conversations between two people.

1. On the answer sheet there are three answer choices given and candidates must choose the answer which means about the same thing as what they have heard or that is true based on what they heard.
2. In the second part of the listening test, candidates will hear a question. After each question candidates must choose from the three answer choices given, the one which best answers the question.
3. In the third part of the listening test, candidates will hear a short segment from a radio program. The program is called 'Learning from the Experts'. After each talk they will be asked 5 questions. From the three answer choices given, they must choose the one which best answers the question according to the information heard.

**Each part of the listening is heard only once.**

**Pass mark: 65%**

#### GCVR – Grammar, Cloze, Vocabulary and Reading section: 75 minutes

This part of the exam consists of 120 multiple choice questions and each item is worth one mark.

This section is divided into:

<b>Grammar</b>	- 40 questions,
<b>Cloze</b>	- 20 questions,
<b>Vocabulary</b>	- 40 questions,
<b>Reading</b>	- 20 questions

In the **Grammar** section, candidates must select a word or phrase to complete a sentence so that it is grammatically correct. Many of the questions are in the form of short conversations and use a mixture of formal and informal language.

In the **Cloze** section candidates are asked to read two passages and then select the word that best fills the blank in both grammar and meaning.

In the **Vocabulary** section, candidates must choose a word or phrase that best completes the meaning and context of the sentence.

In the **Reading** section, candidates are asked to read four different passages each followed by 5 questions.

**Pass mark: 65%**

#### Writing section: 30 minutes

In this section candidates have a choice of 2 essay topics and must write on one only an essay of approximately 250-350 words or the length of one page. The essay is in response to an issue which is presented. Candidates should be able to express their ideas clearly enough to be generally understandable. To pass candidates must get a score of at least C on a 5-point scale (A-E).

#### Speaking section: 25-35 minutes

The speaking section tests a candidate's ability to speak English in a face-to-face conversation. The interview consists of five stages. After the introductory first stage (warm-up), candidates are asked to summarize and recommend one of two options, reach a consensus, present, justify and defend their one, final option.

To pass, candidates must achieve a score of at least C (Low Pass), on a scale ranging from A (Honors) to E (Fail).

#### ECPE Results

Individual section scores to be averaged toward the final score for the ECPE.

As of 2014, test takers will receive a scaled numeric score for all four sections of each exam; test takers whose average score for all four sections is equal to 650 or higher will pass the exam and receive a certificate.

## THE ECPE SPEAKING TEST General Information

- Consists of 5 stages.
- Lasts anywhere between 25-35 min. for the paired format (2 candidates, 2 examiners)
- 1 examiner for stages 1-3 - another examiner for stages 4-5
- Examiners participate mostly in Stages 1 and 5.

### Stage 1: Warm up stage

- Introductions and small talk (general topics: friends, hobbies, hometown, family, profession, etc.).
- Lasts 3-5 minutes.
- Goal is to establish rapport between candidates through introductions and friendly conversation.
- Here Examiner 1 participates.

### Stage 2: Summarizing and Recommending

- Each candidate given information sheet with descriptions of 2 options (4 options between the two candidates).
- Candidates keep the information sheet and may even make notes.
- Given 2-3 minutes to read and understand information
- Then, take turns summarizing the descriptions of their options to the other candidate, **not read it to him/her**.
- The summarizations must be listened to carefully because the candidates will make a recommendation to their partner of the best option from the two presented, by the partner. Candidates may take notes as the partner is summarizing.
- Then each candidate chooses one of his own options and thinks of reasons why the chosen option is best. **(All answers and options are correct. There are no right or wrong options).**
- **The goal of stage 2**
  - = learn what the options are
  - = make a recommendation
  - = choose one of their own options silently
- Lasts 5-7 minutes.

### Stage 3: Consensus Reaching

- 5-7 minutes duration
- Candidates report to their partner the option they chose.
- They compare and contrast the options and discuss advantages and disadvantages of each.
- Still can't see partner's information sheet.
- **The goal of stage 3 is to come to an agreement on one single option for both of them.**

### Stage 4: Presenting and Convincing

- 5-7 minutes duration
- Candidates present option they have chosen to Examiner 2 who has the role of a person of high status related to the options. (For example, he might be the boss of the company who wants to hire an employee).
- Candidates have 2-3 minutes to plan a short presentation. Now they may look at each other's information sheets.
- Each candidate presents **2 reasons** for choosing his particular option and explains why the reasons are important.
- **The goal of stage 4 is to convince Examiner 2 that their option is the best one.**

### Stage 5: Justifying and Defending

- Duration 5-7 minutes
- Examiner 2 questions the decision of the candidates.
- **The goal of stage 5 is to address the examiner's challenges and justify their decision.**

## Picture related topics

1. Who is your favorite actor / actress?
2. What kind of movies do you prefer? Why?
3. How often do you go to the movies?
4. Why do you think movie going is such a popular form of entertainment?
5. Do you think age plays any role in the movies people choose to see? What else may influence such a decision?

## Topic

Some friends are coming over for pizza and a movie. Each person has expressed a particular choice. Assess all the information and arrive at which movie you'll all be watching.

## Movie Night

### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

#### Iron Man 3

- good cast (R. Downey Jr., G. Paltrow, G. Pearce, B. Kingsley)
- very expensive production
- has violence
- has good directing
- action-packed
- excellent effects

#### Snow White and the Huntsman

- light adventure and fantasy
- a twist to a well-known fairytale
- good actors
- girls will like this more
- has romance

### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

#### Despicable Me 2

- animation movie
- for all ages
- high ratings
- a fun night out
- must have seen part 1

#### “The Hobbit – The Desolation of Smaug”

- excellent cast of characters
- the second of 3 films
- must have seen the 1st part
- very good effects
- an expensive production

## Related Vocabulary

- good directing
- cheap production
- wrong casting of characters and parts
- poor script
- overdone theme
- fresh views
- too much violence / bloodshed
- overacted
- extreme situations
- good musical score





## Speaking

### Related Vocabulary

- backpacking
- suitcase
- baggage
- package tour
- guided tour
- tour guide
- monuments
- landmarks
- sights
- economy fare
- youth hostel
- rail travel
- student fares
- ancient ruins

### Topic:

You and your best friend have the task of finding the ideal place for your class to go on a week-long exchange program, to any city in Europe. Assess all the information to arrive at a choice.



### Travel to Europe

#### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

Venice, Italy

- can go by ship
- cheaper
- expensive city
- beautiful buildings
- lots of museums
- famous landmarks
- unique city - historical

Budapest, Hungary

- will be very economical
- lovely architecture
- historical city
- excellent food
- friendly to tourists
- good service

#### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

Amsterdam, Holland

- can fly direct
- find special group rates
- famous wax museum
- very colorful in spring
- not too expensive
- stay in youth hostels

Dublin, Ireland

- expensive plane fare
- cooler weather
- very similar to us as people
- not so easy to understand their speech
- unspoiled natural beauty



## Speaking

### Exam information

In the first part of the interview you talk about yourself. To capture the examiners' attention, you might want to say something like:

- I am a bored 20-year-old ... (But be prepared to explain why you are bored)
- I am an avid movie goer.
- I consider myself quite artistic.
- I am afraid I am overly social.

Try to avoid the usual:

- I am 16 years old ...
- I have a brother who is 6 ...
- My father is a lawyer ...
- My mother is a housewife etc., etc. ...



### Topic

Your school is organizing a volunteer community program. They want everyone in the community to become involved. Assess all the information to arrive to a choice of what event your community will take part in.

### Community Work

#### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

Blood donation

- blood is always needed
- may save a life
- many people afraid of needles
- may not have volunteers
- must educate people on blood donation

Volunteer work in hospital

- clean rooms
- take patients for walks
- serve food
- drive older patients to see doctors
- learn first aid
- play with child patients
- keep company with older patients

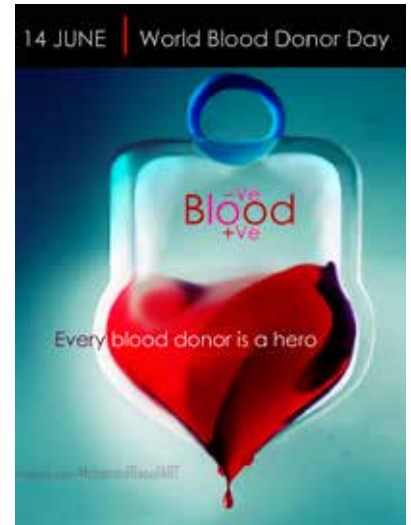
#### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

Clean a park

- everyone, even young children can take part
- good lesson for children
- out in fresh air
- clean an area which everyone can enjoy
- some people don't like the idea of collecting garbage

Tree planting

- will be outdoors
- whole mountainside needs planting
- involves hard work digging holes
- provide cleaner air for certain areas
- forests are for everyone
- source of life



### Related Vocabulary

- blood
- cells
- blood type A, B, AB, O
- needle
- dizzy
- faint
- veins
- arteries
- blood clot
- blood pressure
- sterile
- band-aid
- cotton balls
- sterilized gauze



## Comparison and Contrast Vocabulary for the Oral Interview

Since your task in the speaking section of stages 2 – 5 will be to summarize, recommend, present, justify and defend, you will need to compare and contrast the two choices you are given. The vocabulary below will come in useful.

### Learn comparison and contrast vocabulary:

Comparison		Contrast	
both _____ and _____	to resemble	-er _____ than	although
neither _____ nor _____	to be the same as	more _____ than	whereas
not only _____ but also	to be similar to	less _____ than	while
similarly	to be equal to	fewer _____ than	however
in the same way	comparable to	not as _____ as	on the other hand
likewise	to be as _____ as	contrasts with	on the contrary
correspondingly		differs from	unlike
like / to be like		is different from	

Following is a list of general topics. With a partner make a comparison and contrast of each of the topics. Use the comparison and contrast vocabulary.

1. two different types of homes – apartment/family home
2. two books you've read
3. two of your friends
4. two different restaurants
5. two different types of entertainment
6. two types of Greek food
7. two cities you've been to
8. two countries you've been to / read about
9. two different ways of travel

For better consolidation of the comparison and contrast vocabulary, pick two of the topics you liked best and write a paragraph comparing and contrasting each topic.

### Read the following example: Two Friends

#### Brainstorming

#### George

- introverted and shy
- faithful and trustworthy
- doesn't like crowds
- excellent student
- is very giving

#### Henry

- is the life of the party
- social and outgoing
- very faithful
- school comes second to socializing
- not very ambitious

### Example Paragraph

Two of my classmates are George and Henry. While George is very shy and doesn't like crowds, Henry is very social and outgoing and likes to be the center of attention. Both are very faithful and I would trust them with my secrets. In addition, they are very giving and always available when I need something like help, advice or just a friendly shoulder to lean on. Whereas George is an excellent student, Henry puts socializing first and school comes second. He has different priorities than George does.



**Warm-up stage:** In the first part of the interview the examinee must talk about himself and answer personal questions and develop rapport between himself and the second candidate. This part helps to break the ice. Examiner 1 helps instigate conversation and guide it.

**Talking about personality-useful vocabulary you might need:** giving, trustworthy, selfish, ungrateful, gentle, kind, sensitive, over confident, low profile, easy going, ambitious /hardworking, lazy, social /outgoing /extrovert /outspoken, shy /introvert, optimist / pessimist, opportunist.

I'm the sort of person who... I'm not the type who... I really enjoy.../I can't stand	I find... interesting/ dull/fun I'm basically... I refuse to ...	I'm open to ... It's not that I don't like ... but ... I'll go out of my way to...
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**Talking about school/future**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I attend a private/state school</li> <li>• I'm presently in junior/senior high school</li> <li>• I'm attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of senior high school</li> <li>• I'm in University/attend university ...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I want to get a degree in ...</li> <li>• I want to study abroad ...</li> <li>• I'll be taking university entrance exams ...</li> <li>• I want to study/ train to be ...</li> <li>• I graduate this year ...</li> <li>• I want to study languages ...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I've been working for ...</li> <li>• I can't find work in my field of expertise ...</li> <li>• The job market is saturated ...</li> <li>• It's tough trying to find a job ...</li> </ul>
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**Possible questions you might want to prepare for:**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are you a student? What year/grade are you in?</li> <li>2. What is your favorite/worse subject? Why?</li> <li>3. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?</li> <li>4. What are your future plans?</li> <li>5. Will you be taking the university entrance exams? How would you change these exams if you could?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Do you have any siblings?</li> <li>7. How do you get along with them?</li> <li>8. How do you make your living? /What field are you in?</li> <li>9. Are you happy with your job? Why/ why not?</li> <li>10. What would you rather be doing?</li> </ol>
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**First and Foremost:**

- Don't be INTIMIDATED by the other examinee
- You don't care how good or bad he or she is
- You just do your part. The examiners will know who can do the required tasks and who can't. Let them be the judges and don't try to show the other examinee up.

**Learn to introduce yourself.** This stage no one should have problems with, since it's not really new. In order to feel comfortable with the other examinee whom you may not know, pretend that you are at a cafeteria and you are making a new acquaintance. In such a case you would introduce yourself and make small talk. This is exactly what is required of you.

<b>Possible Introductions:</b>	<p>My name is ... .. and I'm a ... ..year old ... ..student.</p> <p>I'm ... ..and I'm an ... ..I work for ... ..</p> <p>I come from a family of ... ..persons and my hometown is ... ..</p> <p>My mother is a ... ..and my father is a ... ..</p> <p>I have ... ..siblings, who are all older than I am.</p> <p>My best friend is my ... ..</p> <p>I don't like living in Athens, I'd rather live in ... ..</p>
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**With a classmate, practice introducing yourself and talking about yourself.**



## Speaking

### Picture related topics.

1. Do you wear jewelry? Why/Why not?
2. Why do you think man has always been so pre-occupied with jewelry, gold, and precious stones?
3. Do you think jewelry is a status symbol?

### Topic:

Your sister is getting married and you and your brother want to get her a piece of jewelry that she will cherish forever, and which will remind her of her special day. Decide which piece she would be most happy with.



### Related Vocabulary

- stones
- gems
- treasure
- priceless
- semi-precious stones
- mining
- status symbol
- emerald
- mine
- materialistic
- sapphire
- gold rush
- gold
- ring
- necklace
- earrings
- bracelet
- gold mining

### The Right Gift

#### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

##### A Gold Ring

- she wears rings
- she likes blue sapphires
- there's a good sale on gold rings
- most of her rings = silver
- she may think it's too formal

##### Expensive Watch

- she needs a watch
- get it engraved
- most useful
- she'll wear it every day

#### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

##### Pearl Necklace

- very conservative
- every girl should have one
- very appropriate for a wedding
- quite expensive
- status symbol

##### Silver Bracelet

- very modern
- quite heavy
- can be worn all the time
- she likes silver
- more her age and style



## Topic

You and your best friend want to try something daring and exciting for a change. You are researching some extreme sports so you can reach a decision.



## Dangerous Hobbies

### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

#### Bungee Jumping

- don't need equipment
- cheaper than other extreme sports
- can hurt your back
- many locations available

#### Paragliding

- need to take lessons first
- expensive hobby
- can be dangerous
- no second chances if something goes wrong
- exciting to soar like a bird
- need to travel to find appropriate location

### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

#### Rock Climbing

- need equipment
- should have good partner
- can be done almost anywhere in this country
- can be dangerous
- must know how to use safety equipment
- very good exercise

#### Parkour

- must be in good shape
- helps you get around with no expense
- can be lots of fun
- many young people are interested
- it's the new fashion
- can be dangerous





### Choosing the Right Career

#### Topic

You and your best friend will be attending a Careers Day Happening at the local College. You are interested in the same things and plan to go to University together. Decide which career appeals to both of you most.

#### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

- Laboratory Technician
- like doing research
  - scientifically-minded
  - may make a medical discovery – breakthrough
  - laboratory work interesting
  - may bring home germs
  - like to experiment

- Teacher
- long summers and holidays
  - must like kids
  - must have the ability to explain things to others
  - it's a talent
  - can be nerve racking
  - don't make much money

#### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

- Veterinarian
- must like animals
  - must be available all hours
  - can be dangerous
  - can make a good living
  - need to set up an office
  - need money to start off

- Police Work
- can be dangerous
  - long hours/ night shifts
  - low salary
  - can be rewarding helping people
  - must be willing to sacrifice personal life





### Unexplained Phenomena

#### Topic

You have been assigned to do research and write an essay on one of the 4 topics listed below. You and your partner are very interested in unexplained phenomena. Decide which one you will choose for your assignment.

#### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

##### Stonehenge

- ancient Druid temple in England
- perfectly cut stones
- no technology at that time
- no such large stones in the area
- mystery how such large structure was built

##### Bermuda Triangle

- in the North Atlantic
- also known as the Devil's Triangle
- aircraft and ships have been said to disappear
- connected to Atlantis or UFOs
- supernatural element?
- possibly a manufactured mystery

#### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

##### Flying Saucers

- do they exist?
- many people claim to have seen one
- there seem to be pictures
- is there life in other galaxies?
- egotistical to think we're the only living beings

##### The Philadelphia Experiment

- failed US Navy experiment
- associated with time travel
- the crew of the ship all suffered
- some men disappeared
- the ship disappeared for 4 hours
- still a mystery as to what really happened





**Business Dinner**

**Topic**

One of your best friends from high school has looked you up and may have a good job offer for you. You have not seen each other for 15 years and you want to make a good impression because your friend is the president of a very large family-owned company. You have to decide what to do for dinner.

**Candidate 1  
Information Sheet**

- Have a Barbeque
- you have a nice yard
  - your boyfriend/ girlfriend is good at barbequing
  - it won't be expensive
  - your friend may feel uncomfortable with someone else there
  - have to clean up afterwards

- Local "Taverna"
- maybe too informal
  - excellent food and wine
  - relatively cheap
  - no cleaning up
  - can go have coffee at home

**Candidate 2  
Information Sheet**

- 5-star Restaurant
- want to impress friend
  - it will be expensive
  - it may be too impersonal
  - excellent food and service
  - you'll have privacy
  - your friend is a little snobbish and will like it

- Cook a Home Meal
- show you want to please your guest
  - you're not a very good cook
  - it will cost less
  - you'll need to clean up the house beforehand
  - you'll have privacy



## Topic

The United Nations Heritage Program is holding a competition. They want students from all over the world to pick out which site from around the globe they consider the most famous ancient site, in the world. You and your classmates are trying to make a choice from the 4 sites listed below.

## Heritage

### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

#### The Egyptian

##### Pyramids

- world's oldest monumental structures
- dating back to 2600 BCE
- largest structures ever build
- built as tombs for pharaohs
- listed among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
- buildings with many representations and symbolism

#### Machu Picchu

- Inca site in Peru
- dating back to 1450
- icon of the Inca civilization
- relatively intact cultural site
- seems like it was abandoned overnight
- discovered accidentally
- still being restored today
- among the New Seven Wonders of the World

### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

#### The Parthenon

- the pride of Athens
- most important building of Classical Greece
- symbol of ancient Greek civilization
- built in the reign of Pericles
- among the world's greatest monuments
- finest example of architecture

#### Easter Island

- Polynesian island considered a World Heritage Site
- discovered by Dutch explorer
- 887 monumental statues scattered all over the island
- most face away from the ocean to protect the people
- a representation of ancestors or sacred spirits







**Topic**

An upcoming Hollywood Director wants to cast the leading female role for his new romantic comedy. He wants the opinion of movie-goers worldwide to help him choose. The part calls for a sweet, sensitive character, to portray Andrea, who is a baby-sitter. With a friend decide who you think would be the best choice from the 4 famous candidates.



**Role Casting**

**Candidate 1  
Information Sheet**

Natalie Portman

- Academy Award winner
- looks young enough to be a baby-sitter
- has a sweet look which makes her look young and suitable
- has a sensitiveness to her
- male fans love her

Angelina Jolie

- might be too old
- has won an Academy Award
- too womanish and not girlish enough
- more suited to an adult role
- fans love her
- she's very expensive

**Candidate 2  
Information Sheet**

Scarlett Johansson

- has played such a role
- may be too sexy-looking for the part
- excellent actress though no Academy Award
- fans love her
- would have to become a brunette for the part



Cate Blanchett

- has won an Academy Award
- top Hollywood actress
- may not suit a baby-sitter role
- could be a little too old
- too feminine for the part
- most expensive of the actresses





## Speaking

### Topic

Summer is just around the corner and you and your friend want to get into shape. You are trying to make a choice of which exercise regimen to follow, Look at the four choices and decide which sport or program would suit you best.



### Exercise Plan

#### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

Take up Tennis

- has a membership of \$100.00
- always need a partner
- must buy a racket and balls
- get good sport shoes
- just around the corner from your homes
- excellent tennis instructor available

Become members at the local swimming pool

- monthly fee of \$50.00
- swimming is excellent exercise
- only afternoon hours available for adults
- can go alone if one of you is busy
- very close to home

#### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

Join the community center exercise program

- minimal fee of \$50.00 per year
- different program every day
- open 9am to 9pm
- can attend as often as you like
- don't need a partner
- equipment is available

Take up rock climbing

- very vigorous exercise
- needs strong arms and legs
- gets you into great shape
- builds up your endurance
- cost is \$60.00 per month
- need to get equipment
- meet many interesting people



## Speaking

1. What do you think living conditions were like at the time of the cave men?
2. If a person from that period found himself in this century, what do you think would make the biggest impression on him?
3. Do you think he would want to go back to his old life? Why/why not?



### Topic

Man has come a long way since the days of cave living. For your science project you have to decide which of the following developments has helped make people's lives easier and present a paper on your choice.



### Evolution

#### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

##### Electricity

- even the simplest gadgets need electricity
- light changed man's life
- brought about other important developments
- causes pollution
- waste products are harmful
- radiation a problem

##### Transplant surgery

- saves millions of lives
- gives people a second chance
- not enough parts
- transplant parts sold to the highest bidder
- unethical in such cases
- need volunteer donors

#### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

##### Penicillin

- saved millions of lives
- people are safe from many life-threatening germs
- we over-use it
- germs are becoming immune
- must find substitutes

##### The Automobile

- changed people's lives
- could move around easily
- moved to suburbs
- may be a status symbol or luxury item
- expensive

When life gives you

**MOLD**

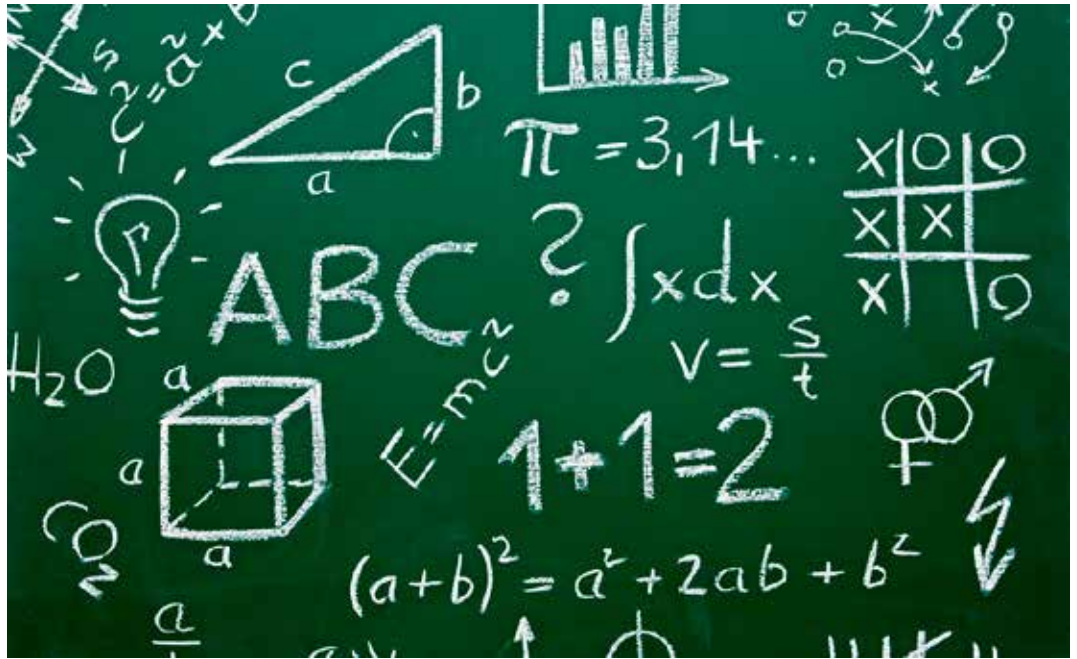
MAKE



**PENICILLIN**







### Topic

You are trying to find the perfect Maths tutor, to give you private lessons, to help you get into university. Below are 4 possible options, 2 for each candidate. Choose the best one based on the characteristics as described by other students and parents. Read the options.

### Maths Tutor

#### Candidate 1 Information Sheet

Alan Bates

- very good looking
- very friendly
- never punctual
- very creative lesson plans
- loves teaching
- is a recent graduate
- his students have a 100% success rate

Angela Evans

- finished her Master's degree with honors
- very shy with students
- all her private students got into good universities
- not very creative
- assigns a lot of homework
- has lost her students' papers
- loves her job

#### Candidate 2 Information Sheet

Jackie Higgins

- 50 years old
- has worked as a math's teacher for 25 years
- works her students to the ground
- very motherly
- good reputation with students and parents
- can be boring
- has no children so loves her students

Jeremy Ironed

- very energetic teacher
- has 4 kids of his own
- may forget to use deodorant
- doesn't like weak students
- knows how to get an idea across
- expects excellence
- likes to drink

