

**Think About It,  
Write About it!**

**MSU-CELC PRACTICE Test of English  
Writing Ability**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

For this section of the test, a proctor will give you a special answer form. Make sure that your name appears correctly on the front of the form.

Using a Number 2 pencil **ONLY**, write as much as you can, as well as you can, in an original, 35-minute composition on **ONE** of the two topics below.

1. Some people say that the voting age should be raised to 21. They claim that such a change would create more informed and mature voters. Other people claim that such a law would limit personal freedom. What is your opinion? Support your opinion with reasons and examples.

**OR**

2. You and your friend have gone shopping. As you are walking around a department store, you notice a schoolmate stuffing a piece of clothing into a large bag. How do you handle the situation? Do you report it to the store security, or ignore the situation? Support your opinion with reasons and examples.



**DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL  
YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO**

**Part 1: Short Conversations**

*For each question in your test booklet, you will hear a short conversation. The 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.*

**Organic vegetables**

1. Where did the woman get the vegetables?
  - a. from a neighborhood store.
  - b. from a neighbor's garden.
  - c. She has planted a vegetable patch.

**Chinese holiday**

2. What did she enjoy most from her trip?
  - a. the Great Wall of China
  - b. the lovely buildings
  - c. the presentation of various dishes

**Teacher's advice**

3. What will the girl probably do now?
  - a. Go in for tutoring.
  - b. Keep things as they are for the time being.
  - c. Accept the teacher's advice.

**Help needed**

4. Why is he skeptical about moving the desk?
  - a. He thinks the view won't allow her to work.
  - b. His attention is elsewhere.
  - c. It's too heavy.

**Needing exercise**

5. What is the woman complaining about?
  - a. She can't find her bike.
  - b. He wants to join an exercise class.
  - c. She has gained weight.

**A barbeque**

6. What does the woman want to do?
  - a. Have a barbeque for everyone.
  - b. She wants to bring something.
  - c. She wants everyone to help her.

**Noisy neighbors**

7. What does the woman tell him to do?
  - a. Confront his neighbors.
  - b. Call the police.
  - c. Turn the music down.

**Bad weather**

8. What is the woman's problem?
  - a. She has a test to study for.
  - b. The weather is going to be bad.
  - c. She's too far behind to catch up.

41. I'm tired \_\_\_\_\_ twelve hour days and I want to go on vacation.
- of work
  - to work
  - of working
  - for working
42. I didn't know the children could be so well \_\_\_\_\_.
- behaving
  - behavior
  - behaviorable
  - behaved
43. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ you would be coming back so soon.
- had known
  - would know
  - will know
  - knew
44. Henry is upset because he \_\_\_\_\_ for over an hour before the doctor finally examined him.
- is waiting
  - waits
  - has been waited
  - had been waiting
45. The teacher insisted that he \_\_\_\_\_ in after class to write the composition.
- will stay
  - stayed
  - stay
  - stays
46. "Doesn't Jane look lovely in her new dress?"  
"Yes, she \_\_\_\_\_."
- is looking
  - looks
  - does
  - does look
47. People today are \_\_\_\_\_ what is going on in the world around them.
- interested for
  - interesting in
  - interested
  - interested in
48. If you don't put it in the refrigerator, it \_\_\_\_\_ bad.
- goes
  - go
  - has gone
  - went
49. She's sick again because she stopped \_\_\_\_\_ her medication.
- to take
  - taking
  - the taking
  - taken
50. "Were you born here?"  
"Yes I was. \_\_\_\_\_ in the same neighborhood for 50 years."
- I was living
  - I'm living
  - I've lived
  - I've been lived
51. "It looks like it's going to snow."  
"I don't know \_\_\_\_\_ it's going to snow or rain."
- whether
  - unless
  - though
  - if or not
52. I've called \_\_\_\_\_ single person I know and invited them to my Christmas party.
- every
  - any
  - all
  - each one
53. Since you lost the book I lent you, I should make you \_\_\_\_\_ me a new one.
- to buy
  - having to buy
  - buying
  - buy
54. I saw a kitchen table I really liked but I can't remember where \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- did I see
  - I saw
  - I am seeing
  - I had seen

### The History of the Doll

*At the dentist's, you see this article on dolls in a magazine. It catches your interest, so you read it. After reading it, answer the questions that follow.*

1 The origins of the doll have been traced back by historians to religious rites of  
2 primitive societies. Historians further speculate that as beliefs faded, the importance  
3 of the doll decreased. As a result, the dolls were handed down to children as  
4 toys. Evidence of the link between the doll and religious rites is supported by ancient  
5 Greek literature, in which girls were observed making clothing for their dolls and  
6 offering these valued playthings to the nymphs or to Artemis at the time of their  
7 engagement for marriage. Also, the Hopi Indians who, at the conclusion of  
8 ceremonial rites, gave the dolls to the children to play with, followed the same ritual.  
9 The earliest samples of European dolls dates from the fourteenth century in  
10 Nuremberg, Germany. These dolls were modeled after children, monks, and women,  
11 dressed in the fashion of the time.  
12 Listings of doll maker names in the city records of Nuremberg were dated as early as  
13 the fifteenth century. During this period, doll makers were established in the city, and  
14 **regulated** the types of dolls made and the methods of distribution of these dolls by  
15 peddlers.  
16 An actual **specimen** of a doll made in the 1500's was found in 1966 in a Rhenish  
17 castle, giving us a glimpse of the period dolls of this time. This nine-inch doll is  
18 carved from lime wood and decorated with colored paint. The doll wore a linen  
19 dress. It can be noted that dolls dated in the 1500s bear testimony to the costume  
20 period when compared to the paintings of this time.  
21 Fashion dolls became popular around the 1300's. Court records noted events such as  
22 the gifts of fashion dolls sent by the French queen to the queen of England in  
23 1321. Another event that was noted was when Isabeau of Bavaria, queen of France,  
24 sent dolls to England from France to show the newest French fashions in 1391. In  
25 essence, the task of popularizing French fashions abroad was carried on by the doll.  
26 To far-reaching colonies, such as North America, Parisian dolls were sent to illustrate  
27 the current Parisian fashions and to serve as the dressmaker's model.  
28 The custom of sending costume dolls to other countries remained popular until the  
30 emergence of fashion magazines in the late 1700's.  
31 Again, fashion dolls were handed down to little girls to play with and become the  
32 early ancestors of the present day Barbie Dolls.

90. What were fashion dolls?  
a. Dolls that were fashionable at any given time.  
b. Dolls which served as dressmaker's models.  
c. The descendants of fashion magazines.  
d. Barbie Dolls.
91. Where was a 16<sup>th</sup> century doll found?  
a. in a doll factory  
b. in the Nuremberg city records  
c. in a castle  
d. in ancient Greek literature
92. What were the first dolls used for?  
a. playthings  
b. primitive religious ceremonies  
c. fashion models  
d. wedding gifts
93. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **regulated** in line 14?  
a. controlled  
b. stimulated  
c. enforced  
d. introduced
94. What does the passage claim about Barbie Dolls?  
a. They are the descendants of fashion dolls.  
b. They are the ancestors of dolls used in religious rites.  
c. Girls make clothes for their Barbie Dolls.  
d. They are very popular.
95. According to the passage, what can be learned from dolls?  
a. how to make clothes  
b. the costumes of the period  
c. primitive religious rites  
d. what people looked like
96. When did fashion dolls first become popular?  
a. around the 14<sup>th</sup> century  
b. in 1321  
c. in 1391  
d. in the 1700's
97. Who was Isabeau?  
a. the queen of Bavaria  
b. the queen of France  
c. the queen of England  
d. the queen of Germany
98. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **specimen** in line 16?  
a. example  
b. sample  
c. ancestor  
d. illustration
99. What were fashion dolls replaced by?  
a. real models  
b. Barbie Dolls  
c. paintings  
d. fashion magazines

## TEST 1

**Description**

- What was the best party/celebration you've ever been to?
- What would you miss most about your town/city if you went away?
- What is the best advice you ever got?

**Narration**

Talk about:

- a time that your parents were thrilled by something you did.
- the worst day of your life
- a lie you told which backfired

**Supported Opinion**

- What would happen if there were no computers? Would this be good or bad?
- What would life be like without television? Would this be good or bad?
- What do you think would be the perfect career for you? Why?