

Name _____ Seat Number _____

MSU-CELP

Certificate of English Language Proficiency

Practice Test #7

All items selected from actual CELP administrations



Michigan State University
English Language Center



Do not turn the page
until you are told to do so.

Notes for Test of English Writing Ability

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

Think about it, write about it!

MSU-CELP Test of English Writing Ability

Instructions


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. Many people now have two personalities: an online personality on social media and an offline personality in the real world. For some people, these two versions of themselves are very different. Why do you think some people behave differently online than they do in real life? Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

OR

2. Many people believe that children learn more about life from observing their parents' behavior than by listening to their parents' advice. What is the most important lesson that parents can teach their children by setting an example through their own behavior? Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

 Do not turn the page
until you are told to do so.

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Listen to this!

MSU-CELP Test of English Listening Ability

You should have the following items in front of you:


- a test answer sheet
- a test booklet
- a Number 2 pencil

If you are missing any of these items, raise your hand, and a test proctor will assist you.

Instructions

This section has three main parts. Part 1 has several short conversations, and Part 2 has longer conversations. Part 3 contains an extended monologue and an extended dialogue.

- 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.

 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. 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.

Now look at Example X, a study group, and listen to the following conversation.

A study group

What does the woman want to know?

- a. what time the study session begins
- b. how long the review session will last
- c. whether John can help her get home

The cold office

- 1. Why are the workers frustrated?
 - a. They feel they are being ignored.
 - b. The heat cannot be repaired.
 - c. They do not usually have problems like this.

Recommending new music

- 2. What does the man especially like about Mark Firestone's music?
 - a. his voice
 - b. his songwriting
 - c. his music videos

Planting flowers

- 3. What did the man do before the girl joined him?
 - a. spaced out the flower pots on the soil
 - b. removed the flowers from their containers
 - c. placed dirt in the bottom of the planter

On the telephone

- 4. Why is Carolyn's father unable to reschedule one of his work commitments?
 - a. It is with an important client.
 - b. He will be traveling out of town soon.
 - c. He has no other available times this week.

A new painting

- 5. What are the people discussing?
 - a. the location for the picture
 - b. the picture's orientation
 - c. the quality of the picture

A benefit concert

- 6. What is the woman suggesting?
 - a. The next event ought to be better organized.
 - b. Supporters will lose interest if there are too many events.
 - c. People might stop supporting the center if another event is not held soon.

At the gym

- 7. Why is the man having trouble?
 - a. The new treadmill is broken.
 - b. The new treadmill was not plugged in.
 - c. He does not know how to use treadmills.

At the restaurant

- 8. Why is the man unable to get a table for tonight?
 - a. He did not make a reservation.
 - b. He cannot come on Wednesday.
 - c. They are hosting a special event.

Part 2—Longer conversations

In this section you will hear longer conversations.

Before listening to each conversation, you will read 3 to 5 questions.

Listen to each conversation and answer the questions that appear in your test booklet.

Career advice

9. Why does the man help young people entering the workforce?
 - a. He thinks that graduates need to have a professional network.
 - b. He wants to offer something that he was unable to receive.
 - c. He believes many young people make poor decisions.
10. What did the man do for the pharmaceutical company?
 - a. helped analyze costs and revenues
 - b. researched new types of drugs and treatments
 - c. encouraged medical professionals to use certain products
11. What does the man enjoy about working in a laboratory?
 - a. interacting with different kinds of people
 - b. being in a competitive environment
 - c. the potential of learning something new

History assignment

12. When did Ms. Jacobs have the boy in her class?
 - a. last year
 - b. several years ago
 - c. this year
13. How were Mr. Roth's assignments different from Ms. Jacobs'?'
 - a. They were more challenging.
 - b. They were more interesting.
 - c. They were more detailed.
14. According to the boy, what is different about expectations in high school?
 - a. Teachers expect students to take more classes.
 - b. Teachers expect students to follow more rules.
 - c. Teachers expect students to be independent.
15. What is one topic the girl could choose for her history essay?
 - a. how machines were invented
 - b. how clothing manufacturing changed
 - c. how people worked in factories
16. Why should the girl ask her teacher about the length of the essay?
 - a. The teacher forgot to include it in the instructions.
 - b. The girl thinks that her essay might be too long.
 - c. The boy does not remember how long it should be.

A new student

17. What does Maggie tell her father about her friend Fiona?
 - a. Her first impression of Fiona was inaccurate.
 - b. They are both interested in clothes and jewelry.
 - c. She did not want to eat lunch with Fiona at first.
18. What explains Fiona's behavior?
 - a. vanity
 - b. excitement
 - c. nervousness
19. What was Maggie surprised about?
 - a. books Fiona would lend her
 - b. books Fiona wanted to read
 - c. books Fiona was familiar with
20. How does Maggie's dad describe her new friendship?
 - a. balanced
 - b. sincere
 - c. tentative

Part 3—Extended discourse

In this section you will hear an extended monologue and an extended dialogue.

Before listening to each passage, you will read questions.

You will listen to the passage twice, and then you will answer a series of questions that appear in your test booklet.

Moonlight film festival

21. What does the speaker imply about the time of this film's showing?
- The time shown online was correct.
 - The original time had to be changed.
 - The time in the printed program was correct.
22. When the speaker mentions seeing some "familiar faces," today, she is referring to ____.
- the film crew
 - the audience
 - the theatre workers
23. Why does the speaker mention that the film was expensive?
- to talk about the quality of the film
 - to explain why it took so long to make
 - to thank the audience for paying to see it
24. What does the speaker say about being hungry?
- The actors were hungry for good film roles.
 - The actors were not hungry because people brought food.
 - The actors were often hungry but worked long hours anyway.
25. Because of the crew's dedication, the film ____.
- was not delayed
 - was very high quality
 - used excellent locations
26. Who is from Northern University?
- friends
 - interns
 - actors
27. Why does the speaker say thank you directly to one actor?
- She is the biggest star in the film.
 - She traveled a long way to be there.
 - She gave the best performance in the film.
28. When can audience members meet the filmmaker?
- after the film is over
 - after the presentation has ended
 - at the end of the festival
29. Based on the speaker's presentation, which of the following best describes the movie *Currents of Fate*?
- a witty comedy with humorous dialogue
 - an emotional drama with serious themes
 - a horror movie with many surprises
30. What does the speaker say about messages in the film?
- The characters use messages to communicate with each other.
 - There are messages everyone can relate to in the film.
 - There are surprising historical messages in the film.

Cell phone debate

31. Why does Lauren want to revisit the cell phone discussion?
- She thinks her father has changed his mind.
 - She is older now than last year.
 - She might need to call for a ride home.
32. How would a cell phone help Lauren while on the basketball team?
- She could call her father when she is at a game out of town.
 - She could be in touch with her teammates about schedules.
 - She could ask her father to come to pick her up from practice.
33. What does Lauren say about borrowing her father's phone?
- She does it quite regularly.
 - She takes it without asking.
 - She feels embarrassed about it.
34. What did Lauren say was one problem with her borrowing a phone?
- A friend lost a borrowed cell phone and had to pay for it.
 - When Lauren borrows the phone, her father cannot use it.
 - If a friend borrowed her phone, she might not see a text right away.
35. What does Lauren's father admire about Lauren?
- the polite tone she uses with him
 - the way she carefully makes her points
 - the fact that she has been very patient so far
36. Why does her father tell Lauren to think of the drawbacks?
- to compare her to her friends
 - to help her see both sides of the issue
 - to explain to her what his concerns are
37. What problems has Lauren observed with cell phones?
- phone users getting charged too much
 - phone users ignoring the people around them
 - phone users needing to replace phones frequently
38. What does Lauren's father imply about people who use their phones too much?
- People misjudge how addictive phones can be.
 - People are expected to send more messages.
 - People deny they are addicted to their phones.
39. What is Lauren surprised about?
- Her father made a list of his own conditions.
 - Her father agrees that she can have her own phone.
 - Her father believes phones can cause problems, too.
40. What was the purpose of the father's list?
- to point out all the drawbacks of having a cell phone
 - to introduce rules associated with having a cell phone
 - to show that Lauren is mature enough to have a cell phone

This is the end of the listening test. Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.

Grammar you can use!

MSU-CELP Test of English Grammar

Instructions


- This grammar test has 40 questions.
- You have 25 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.

 Do not turn the page
until you are told to do so.

41. _____ really surprised everyone in the room.
- What Jason did
 - What had Jason done
 - What was Jason doing
 - What would Jason do
42. _____ that makes it so hard to start?
- What about exercising
 - What exercising is
 - What is it about exercising
 - What it is about exercising
43. Rose will replace her old car because it is cheaper than _____ it.
- to fix
 - fixing
 - fixes
 - fix
44. Only _____ will we make it to the movie on time.
- if rushing
 - if we will be rushing
 - rushing
 - by rushing
45. Few people _____ neutral when discussing controversial topics.
- are capable of being
 - are capable to be
 - capable of being
 - capable to be
46. Registration for the school trip _____ first-come, first-served basis.
- had to be with the
 - has been as the
 - was in a
 - is on a
47. The schedule change resulted in _____ able to register for the classes they wanted.
- students not being
 - students were not
 - that students not being
 - that students were not
48. Young people _____ skilled at using computers.
- have in particular
 - have particular
 - in particular are
 - particular are
49. Teachers reviewed the books and found _____ appropriate for their students.
- are they
 - that they
 - them having been
 - them to be
50. Only some of the staff _____ customers' personal information.
- have access to
 - have access with
 - have access of
 - have access in
51. I do not know why she said you could not go on the trip. Your sister is going and she is _____ older than you.
- not that much
 - not only more
 - not much more
 - not even that
52. Marcy never shows the _____ interest in learning about my experiences abroad.
- slighter
 - slight
 - slightest
 - slighting
53. _____ of them admires the other's talents.
- Who
 - Some
 - All
 - Each
54. _____ you miss the bus, you must arrange for your own alternate transportation.
- Should
 - Could
 - Might
 - Will

55. When their children were very young, the couple _____ to find a balance between working and relaxing.
- will constantly try
 - have constantly tried
 - were constantly trying
 - are constantly trying
56. Martha _____ of the change to her flight.
- notified
 - has notified
 - was notifying
 - has been notified
57. We _____ miss your first dance recital!
- would hate
 - would hate to
 - would have hated
 - would have to hate
58. Not a sound could _____ from the room where the kids were napping.
- hear
 - be hearing
 - have heard
 - be heard
59. I do not know what it _____ for people to listen to her message about the environment.
- has taken
 - will take
 - has to take
 - is taken
60. I am sure he only annoyed you _____ your attention.
- to have
 - about
 - to get
 - for
61. They do not have any plans tonight, _____ think they will go anywhere tomorrow.
- they will not
 - they would not
 - nor have they
 - nor do they
62. More than 100 people were in line before the store opened, _____ widespread advertising over the week.
- prompting of
 - prompted by
 - the prompt was
 - being prompted
63. If Claire _____ so distracted, she would've realized she left her purse at home.
- did not
 - has not been
 - had not been
 - might not have been
64. Supporters and opponents _____ agree that the new facility will be very expensive.
- alike
 - are alike
 - alike who
 - both alike
65. _____ she was going to have a pop quiz, she would have studied sooner.
- That she knew
 - Had she known
 - Had she been known
 - What if she had known
66. Clara's goals are simply _____ within a month.
- unachieved
 - not to achieve
 - not achievable
 - not an achievement
67. The museum's new painting _____ over 300 years ago.
- thought to be created
 - thought it was created
 - was thought and created
 - is thought to have been created
68. _____, my neighbor did not bring up the issue again.
- Had he said his piece
 - Having said his piece
 - He has to say his piece
 - Having to say his piece

69. Jeremy was not expecting to enjoy the concert _____.
a. nearly as much as did he
b. as nearly much as he did
c. as much as he nearly did
d. nearly as much as he did
70. Maggie is considered _____ a good leader due to her ability to organize groups of people.
a. of
b. being
c. to be
d. that she is
71. The way classes are assigned at this school is different _____ my old school.
a. than of
b. than how
c. than that of
d. than that for
72. The poet's twelve published collections _____ typical examples of the Modernist movement.
a. were regarding
b. regard as
c. are regarded as
d. will regard
73. When he walked into the new school, little did Sam know _____ love it.
a. that would he
b. what he would
c. he would so much
d. how much he would
74. Henry _____. Do you know if something is bothering him?
a. was more friendly
b. had been friendly
c. used to be friendlier
d. has been the friendliest
75. Technology has changed since people _____ smartphones.
a. start to use
b. will start to use
c. had started using
d. have started using
76. Margaret _____ reach her cousin Mike. He never responds to her texts.
a. should not seem to
b. cannot seem to
c. will not seem to
d. is not seeming to
77. Chris, what are you doing? That piece of pie _____ for Benjamin!
a. means
b. meaning
c. was meant
d. was meaning
78. Mark and Charles _____ it was a mistake to work together again.
a. could know to
b. will have known
c. should have known
d. should have to know
79. I could have been there on time if _____ the traffic.
a. it was for
b. it was to be
c. it were not for
d. it had not been
80. The car would not start, _____, because it had just come out of the shop.
a. which was unexpected
b. which had not expected
c. what was not expected
d. what was unexpected

You have now finished the grammar test. Please wait for further instructions.


Read about it!

MSU-CELP Test of English Reading Ability

Instructions

This reading test has four passages. Each passage is followed by several questions.

- You have 60 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

You recently found out that your local library will be offering access to a 3D printer. You are curious about the technology, so you decide to learn more about it. The following article comes from a technology magazine. Read it and answer the questions that follow.

3-D printing

Desktop printers have been around for dozens of years. They take whatever is on a computer screen and put it onto a piece of paper. But a recent technological revolution is opening up a world of new possibilities in printing and is threatening to make **conventional** printers look downright boring: three-dimensional (3-D) printing.

A 3-D printer, as its name suggests, prints an object in three dimensions (length, width, and height) instead of two dimensions (length and width). So when you print a basic shape, such as a tube, it is not just a picture of a tube—it is a tube. In fact, once you print it, you can pick it up, hold it in your hand, and even pour water through it.

3-D printing is sometimes called additive manufacturing, a fancy way of saying that you can create an object by slowly adding layers one at a time. Instead of ink, a 3-D printer uses some other material: powder, plastic, metal, carbon fiber, wax, concrete, even gold! This material is in liquid form inside the printer but quickly hardens once it is applied to the manufacturing surface. (Picture a very small tube that shoots a flat spray of liquid onto a surface, then moves up a fraction of an inch to spray another layer, then another, then another, etc.)

Perhaps the primary advantage of 3-D printers is that they can produce an incredible range of complex products. Curves, bumps, and textured surfaces are all possible in the world of 3-D printing. Objects printed in this way are also very strong.

Although 3-D printing has been around for several decades, it has only recently gained in popularity. While this type of printing is still very expensive, the technology costs much less than it used to. But the potential uses are almost limitless. A company that makes parts for automobiles, for example, can quickly design and create

a sample part without having to hire a manufacturing company to produce thousands of them. This single part, called a prototype, can then be used by the company itself, during meetings and presentations, or on the factory floor. It can also be shown to clients at trade shows or sales meetings. Companies love 3-D printing because it allows them to get prototypes into the hands of suppliers and clients faster than ever before.

Small business owners like 3-D printers as well. Now they do not have to pay tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars to a factory just to see what their new product will look like. By creating just one or a few examples, they can avoid producing many copies of a product that no one is interested in buying.

But the manufacturing sector is not the only area where 3-D printing is popular. Scientists can use 3-D printers to model things such as rocks and animal skulls. Even human organs can be printed. Experts predict that one day it will be possible to replace certain body parts with the help of 3-D printing.

Of course, every technology has its **detractors**. Such people say that 3-D printing could be exploited by criminals. For example, a person with the right materials and a very high-quality 3-D printer could manufacture a dangerous gun in the privacy of his home. For the moment, however, the best 3-D printers are still far too expensive for the average person to afford.

81. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **conventional** in Paragraph 1?
- traditional
 - inexpensive
 - popular
 - advanced
82. What happens to the liquid after it is ejected?
- It drips off the page.
 - It becomes solid.
 - It evaporates.
 - It makes a puddle on the tray.
83. According to the text, what is the biggest benefit of the technology?
- It is affordable for average consumers.
 - It can print items out of gold.
 - It is extremely fast.
 - It can make very complicated objects.
84. According to the text, why has 3-D printing only recently gotten popular?
- 3-D printer quality has improved.
 - 3-D printer speed has improved.
 - 3-D printer size has decreased.
 - 3-D printer price has decreased.
85. What is a prototype?
- a recycled liquid
 - a part of a car
 - an example of a product
 - a type of printer
86. According to the text, why do companies appreciate 3-D printers?
- They can offer a wider range of products.
 - They can stand out from their competitors.
 - They can avoid producing an unpopular product.
 - They can increase their advertising options.
87. According to the text, what group of people use the technology besides manufacturers?
- teachers
 - scientists
 - mathematicians
 - engineers
88. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **detractors** in Paragraph 8?
- advocates
 - suppliers
 - consumers
 - critics
89. According to the text, what illegal application might the technology be used for?
- making false identification cards
 - manufacturing weapons
 - stealing banking information
 - printing counterfeit money
90. What is the main purpose of this text?
- to discuss a new development in an old technology
 - to educate readers about common printers
 - to compare new and old technologies
 - to convince business owners to adopt 3-D printers

Reading Passage 2

You recently saw a sign in a clothing store about environmentally conscious clothing. You were curious about what it meant, so you went home and googled it to find out more about the term. You found the following article which comes from a culture and fashion magazine. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Conscious clothing

While we may not all consider fashion integral to our lives, there is no denying the fact that clothing is. But how do we decide what we're going to buy and wear? For those that are **fashion-conscious**, perhaps the latest trends or most recognized brand names are the determining factor. For most, though, it all boils down to cost. What many of us are failing to consider, however, is where our clothes come from and the effect our shopping choices can have on the world in which we live.

The environmental impact of the fashion industry has increased significantly in recent decades. The United States alone imports over one billion items of clothing from China each year. That is one billion garments that require raw materials, factories, transportation, and, ultimately, landfill space. Polyester, one of the most widely used fibers in the clothing industry, is derived from petroleum through a process that often ends up releasing pollutants into water supplies. Cotton, another common source of clothing material, is responsible for 25% of pesticides used on American crops.

There are companies, however, that are working to reduce their impact on the environment. Some are utilizing materials that can be more sustainably grown, like bamboo, hemp, or organic cotton. Others are using recycled wool, jeans, and even plastic bottles to make new items of clothing. And yet others, such as one well-known maker of jeans, are working to lessen the environmental impact of the manufacturing process itself by recycling water in factories.

It is not just the environment that experiences the **repercussions** of the ever-growing fashion industry. Much of our clothing is produced in factories in China, Bangladesh, Honduras, and other countries where working conditions and wages would shock those of us

who ultimately purchase the garments. According to one study, some factory workers make as little as 12 to 18 cents per hour. While many companies are still unwilling to increase their costs by paying workers fairly, there are some who are making an effort to pay a living wage. You just have to know where to look.

Ultimately, no matter what our clothes are made of or where they are manufactured, they are not going to be worn forever. Eventually, they will become waste – an average of 68 pounds of clothing and textile waste per person in the United States, according to a recent study. There is no need for it all to end up in landfills though. Some stores are now offering to collect old clothes, which can then be recycled into rags, upholstery, or paper products. Many charities accept clothes that are still in good condition and resell them. There are also companies that will ship used clothes to developing countries where they are sold at a fraction of their original price.

So the next time you are browsing through a shop for a new item of clothing, consider the impact your purchase may have. Do you need it enough to fuel the growing fashion industry? Can you spend a little more to ensure you are buying from a company that has reduced its carbon footprint and treated its workers fairly? And then consider what you can do after your purchase to reduce the impact that garment has on the environment. Wash it at low temperatures and only when needed. And when you no longer have use for it, make sure it is donated, recycled, or given new life. Then imagine if all one billion garments a year were subject to such careful consideration.

91. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **fashion-conscious** in Paragraph 1?
- aware of clothing materials
 - aware of popular clothing styles
 - aware of workers' conditions
 - aware of environmental impact
92. According to the passage, what determines most people's clothing choices?
- materials
 - company ethics
 - price
 - style
93. What is one of the drawbacks associated with cotton?
- Chemicals are used on the plants.
 - It cannot be recycled.
 - It is difficult to grow.
 - Transporting it is expensive.
94. According to the article, how are some clothing companies reducing their impact on the environment?
- They are using new types of materials in clothes.
 - They are making clothing more biodegradable.
 - They are making clothes more efficiently.
 - They are reducing the clothing that ends up as waste.
95. How is one jeans company helping the environment?
- They are making their jeans easier to recycle.
 - They are reducing the amount of water used.
 - They are using recycled fabric in their clothes.
 - They are incorporating organic material in their clothes.
96. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **repercussions** in Paragraph 4?
- changes
 - consequences
 - expansions
 - symptoms
97. How does the author characterize the working conditions in clothing factories?
- The exposure to harmful chemicals is shocking.
 - The levels of production are unsustainable.
 - The employees' salaries are inadequate.
 - The workplace hours are extremely long.
98. What does the article say charities are doing?
- recycling used clothes into new products
 - removing used clothes from landfills
 - selling used clothes to the public
 - advertising clothes that were made sustainably
99. What does the author imply about the price of ethically-made clothing?
- It is comparable to the price of other clothes.
 - It is slightly more expensive than other clothes.
 - It has steadily decreased over time.
 - It is unaffordable for most people.
100. What is the main purpose of this article?
- to convince the clothing industry to reduce its environmental impact
 - to inform readers of popular clothing styles
 - to persuade people to be responsible consumers
 - to explain the process of sustainable clothing construction

Reading Passage 3

The following article appeared in the Healthy Habits section of a magazine. Read it carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

Boredom

It used to be that people had plenty of time to be bored. A person might think that with so many technological advances, from washing machines to cell phones, we would be saving so much time that we would be constantly bored with all our leftover time. In fact, just the opposite is true. Because of the entertainment technology at our fingertips, we are rarely bored. Many researchers say this is not a good thing, because we need boredom to drive our creativity.

Neuroscientists and cognitive psychologists have been studying boredom and its benefits. Professor John Eastwood describes boredom as “the aversive experience of wanting, but being unable, to engage in satisfying activity.” And it is this space of not being satisfied that drives our creative thinking. Think about it: If someone tells you to be creative and come up with a new idea, it is hard to do on the spot. If you are just letting your mind wander, however, you are more apt to think about a variety of topics, come up with questions, and maybe even come up with some answers. Boredom expert Dr. Sandy Mann agrees, saying that letting our minds wander lets us think with our subconscious, rather than our conscious, leading to different sets of thoughts.

We do not have to be staring out the window with nothing to do for this to happen. Doing something so **rote** that we do not have to think about it, like washing dishes, or folding laundry can also have the same effect. Psychologists call this the brain’s “default mode.” Essentially, we are doing something we do not need to think about, and our minds finally have the chance to wander. It is in this default mode that we are most likely to participate in “autobiographical planning”—when we think back over our lives, note things we appreciate or want to change, and come up with a plan to change what we do not like.

With smartphones and other devices, however, we often replace our brain’s time in default mode with forms of entertainment. To test the impact of smartphones on boredom, radio show host Manoush Zomorodi recently hosted an online experiment she called “Bored and Brilliant.” Thousands of volunteers signed up to reduce the daily time they used their phones to keep themselves entertained.

To begin, participants downloaded an app to track time and activity spent on their phone. Before any restrictions were introduced, each person spent an average of 2 hours/day on their smartphones and had 60 pick-ups, or times that they checked their phones for missed notifications or to surf social media. Daily challenges were given to the group. The first day, participants were to leave their phones in their bags and try to ignore them for the entire day. The next day, they were to not use the phone’s camera, instead noticing things with their eyes and trying to remember them. Day 3 had them deleting their most-used apps. At the end of the week, 70% of participants said they slept better and felt happier.

These were hard challenges for people addicted to their phones, and as reports came in, Ms. Zomorodi was looking forward to a reduced quantity of time spent on phones once the restrictions were lifted. However, numbers showed that participants cut an average of only six minutes a day off their **tallies**. People’s feelings of freedom were based on their dependence awareness and their newfound ability to make different choices, rather than the difference of time spent on their devices.

How about you? Do you allow yourself time to experience boredom? Next time you reach for your smartphone to entertain yourself, pause and remember this study, and consider letting your mind wander a bit instead.

101. Why does the author mention washing machines?
- to give an example of a boring task
 - to compare technological advances
 - to make a recommendation about spending time
 - to suggest why we might have more time to be bored
102. What does the author conclude about letting your mind wander?
- It is not beneficial because you lose your train of thought.
 - It is not beneficial because it does not help us get work done.
 - It is beneficial because it lets you focus better at other times.
 - It is beneficial because it allows you to think about different things.
103. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **rout** in Paragraph 3?
- necessary
 - planned
 - automatic
 - traditional
104. What happens when our brains go into default mode?
- We focus intently on what we are doing.
 - We do nothing and think about random things.
 - We have trouble focusing on one task at a time.
 - We do one thing while thinking of something else.
105. What were research study participants asked to do?
- remove apps that they no longer used
 - write down how often they used their smartphones
 - decrease the attention they gave their smartphones
 - completely stop using their smartphones for one week
106. How did the participants feel at the end of the research study?
- They felt less controlled by their phones.
 - They felt less bored while not using their phone.
 - They wanted to use their phones for less time each day.
 - They were surprised that they did not use their phones much less.
107. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **tallies** in Paragraph 6?
- final scores
 - total amounts
 - periods of time
 - addictive behaviors
108. What probably surprised Manoush Zomorodi about “Bored and Brilliant?”
- the number of people who participated
 - participants’ reactions to their phone restrictions
 - the number of phone usage minutes that changed
 - participants’ new abilities gained during the study
109. Why does the author include questions in the final paragraph?
- to debate the value of the research study
 - to encourage readers to challenge themselves
 - to suggest questions for future research studies
 - to question whether readers understood the article
110. What is the main idea of this article?
- We rely too much on our smartphones.
 - We are getting bored with current technology.
 - We ought to have time in our days to be bored.
 - We should all try the experiment explained in the article.

Reading Passage 4

You have just moved to a new apartment complex and received a packet of information in the mail about the new apartment community. Read it carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Welcome to the Lancer community!

Thank you for choosing Lancer Apartments as your new home! My name is Martha Comstock, and I am the senior director of Lancer Apartments. As a member of this community for the last decade myself, I can confidently say that you've made an excellent decision. It is a very exciting time to join our community. The current administration has transformed Lancer into a model community in our city within the past seven years. There have been many positive changes, and I'm certain there are plenty more on the horizon.

One of the most recent enhancements is our new resident feedback program. If you have a question or an issue, we want to hear about it! Our new policy recommends contacting us through a mobile app for the fastest response. I've included a sheet about the ways to reach us in this packet. Our staff care about your experience and have received more than 15 hours of training to improve the resident experience. Our team of truly **dedicated** professionals contributes to the solutions-oriented culture in our office with our first goals being your fulfillment and safety.

In addition to prioritizing residents, we've taken strides to improve the Lancer Apartment grounds. Our complex now includes a gated dog park with benches and two new areas for families and children to spend time together outside. The first is a playground with obstacles and climbing equipment for kids of all ages. The other is a picnic pavilion, which is referred to as 'The Castle' because of its distinctive shape and is designed to host families for cookouts and celebrations. This spot requires a reservation as well as a small deposit. I've included a form for this process in your packet.

In addition, we have broken ground for the construction of a new swimming pool. It will include a shaded seating

area for relaxing, a diving board, a small pool for toddlers, a shallow end for young swimmers, and lanes for adults to swim laps. We anticipate that this space will be available for use in time for this summer. A future project, currently in the planning stages, includes a running track and small baseball diamond. We are in discussions with the city council regarding purchasing the land. One idea we had was to make an agreement with the local school district officials; they will help finance the project and in turn, they can use the athletic complex for practices and games. We'll update you on that **initiative** as soon as we have new developments. Finally, we have a team of staff researching options for renovating the Lancer clubhouse. This indoor space is in need of an update.

In order to maintain the safety and security of our community, we have a patrol unit that circles the property in the evenings. Please introduce yourself to those officers when you see them! They are all very friendly and enjoy getting to know the members of our community.

Enclosed in this packet is a list of telephone numbers for various services: maintenance, security, utilities support, parking, and the payment office. Please use these numbers to get in touch with the staff should you have any questions about your apartment. You'll find our most recent newsletter to inform you of the upcoming events in our city. I've also included a list of my staff's favorite local restaurants and places to visit to help you get to know the area.

Here at Lancer Apartments, we want to make sure you feel at home. Please let us know if you need anything at all and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,
Martha Comstock

111. How long has Martha been a part of the Lancer community?
- 2 years
 - 7 years
 - 10 years
 - 15 years
112. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **dedicated** in Paragraph 2?
- trained
 - devoted
 - generous
 - experienced
113. Why does the picnic area have a nickname?
- because of its size
 - because of its color
 - because of its purpose
 - because of its appearance
114. Which project involves collaboration with another organization?
- the clubhouse
 - the picnic pavilion
 - the swimming pool
 - the athletic complex
115. What change will Lancer Apartments likely pursue soon?
- It will acquire more land.
 - It will renovate the apartments.
 - It will hire a new administration.
 - It will host an after-school program.
116. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **initiative** in Paragraph 4?
- case
 - appeal
 - proposal
 - motivation
117. Which space is outdated?
- the clubhouse
 - the picnic pavilion
 - the swimming pool
 - the athletic complex
118. Who is the reader of the letter encouraged to meet?
- patrol officers
 - other tenants
 - Martha Comstock
 - Lancer administrative staff
119. Why did Martha include a list of restaurants?
- to list local businesses she likes
 - to help residents feel comfortable
 - because her staff recommended it
 - because people are too busy to cook
120. What is the main purpose of the letter?
- to update all tenants
 - to greet new tenants
 - to make a request to new residents
 - to gather information from residents

**This is the end of the test.
You are not allowed to work
on previous sections. Please
wait for further instructions.**

