

MSU-CELC ESSAY EVALUATION RUBRIC (summary descriptors)

| CELC Rating Scale | Linguistic Competency Grammatical Accuracy | Linguistic Competency Range of Vocabulary | Development and Task Completion | Genre Appropriateness and Writing Conventions |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| 5 Characteristics of “Honors Pass” (exhibits some C1/C2 features) | Meets all B2 requirements for this category, plus effectively uses advanced structures such as multi-clausal sentences and syntactic variety to effectively clarify, explain and elaborate support for the point of view assumed in the essay | Meets all B2 requirements for this category, plus skillfully selects some less common words and uses a wide variety of lexical expressions to clarify and enhance the point of view assumed in the essay | Meets all B2 requirements for this category, plus achieves an exceptionally well-balanced and complete expression of point of view through elaboration, explanation and clarification of key points in a manner that is easy to follow | Meets all B2 requirements for this category, plus language and essay structure match the B2 task exceptionally well. Creative & skillful use of conventions such as sentence fragments for emphasis; mechanically excellent |
| 4 Characteristics of “Clear Pass” (exhibits B2/C1 features) | Control of a range of syntactic forms that allows writer to efficiently and effectively convey meaning and ideas relevant to the B2 task; few errors | Control of wide range of vocabulary is precise enough to efficiently and effectively convey meaning relevant to the B2 task | Response to prompt is clear and skillfully and comprehensively supported by relevant description, examples, explanations and/or arguments | Full control of major conventions, strong control of genre and register |
| 3 Characteristics of “Marginal Pass” (B2 “floor”) | Control of basic syntactic forms is adequate to convey meaning and ideas relevant to the B2 task without causing confusion, even though some errors may be present | Control of vocabulary is adequate to convey meaning relevant to the B2 task without causing confusion, even though some inaccurate word choices occur | Response to prompt is clear in terms of viewpoint, which is adequately, though minimally, supported by relevant description, examples, explanations and/or arguments | Displays acceptable range of register and genre; shows appropriate sense of audience in use of conventions, which tend toward a standard format; some non-disruptive errors present |
| 2 Characteristics of “Narrow Fail” (satisfies some, but not all B2 criteria) | Control of basic syntactic forms is NOT adequate to convey meaning and ideas relevant to the B2 task without causing confusion; numerous errors are present and limit effectiveness of the text | Control of vocabulary is NOT adequate to convey meaning relevant to the B2 task without causing confusion – weaknesses include incorrect word forms & word choices, limited range, repetition of words, repetition of prompt | Some ability to address prompt – Inadequate, limited or trivial analysis, some relevant arguments, may be repetitious, simplistic or exceedingly immature | Only some conventions followed or conventions followed inconsistently – very little sense of audience, limited genre or register awareness weak paragraphs, punctuation, etc |
| 1 Characteristics of “Fail” | Telegraphic, severely limited, may be rudimentary or unintelligible | Range limited to prompt repetition and low level vocabulary – frequent errors in form and choice | Little to no ability to analyze or complete B2 task – very little production; repeats prompt | Little to no knowledge of conventions – limited to no audience awareness |
| 0 | —Too little to evaluate— | | | |

*Note 1: “B2 task” in this grid refers to the writing prompt to which the examinee has responded. The prompt requires the examinee to support an opinion on a familiar topic by providing a basic argument consisting of reasons, examples, and/or advantages and disadvantages.