

Name _____ Seat Number _____

MSU-CELC

Certificate of English Language Competency

Practice Test #5

All items selected from actual CELC administrations from Spring 2014 to Fall 2015



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-CELC 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. Some schools require that students maintain high grades in order to participate in clubs or sports teams. Do you think such rules are beneficial for students? Why or why not? Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

OR

2. Different people like or value different characteristics in their friends. What is the most important characteristic of a good friend? Why is it important? 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-CELC Test of English Listening Ability

This section of the test is designed to evaluate your listening ability.

You should have three things in front of you:

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

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

Instructions

This section has three main parts. Part 1 has short conversations and Part 2 has longer conversations. Part 3 contains a speech and a long conversation.

- There are 40 questions on the 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.

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

A missing textbook

When did the boy last have his math book?

- a. in the morning
- b. in the afternoon
- c. a few days ago

An email

1. What happened to the email that the man sent to the woman?
- a. She never received it.
 - b. She did not have time to read it yet.
 - c. She deleted the message.

Working at the restaurant

2. Why does the man want Kathy to make a phone call?
- a. He needs to change a customer's reservation.
 - b. He needs to bring in another employee.
 - c. He wants to order extra food for tonight.

A ride home

3. What will Jason's brother be doing while Jason is playing tennis?
- a. practicing with his sports team
 - b. picking up a friend from school
 - c. completing an assignment

Studying at the library

4. Why have William and Alison NOT joined the group yet?
- a. Alison did not know about the meeting.
 - b. They did not want to meet at the library.
 - c. William could not find the meeting place.

An invitation

5. What does the woman decide to do?
- a. stay home and study all day
 - b. study a little and then go to the beach
 - c. go to the beach now and study later

School discussion

6. What advice does Lisa give her classmate?
- a. finish one assignment before starting another
 - b. begin an assignment as soon as possible
 - c. speak to the teacher

Fixing an old bike

7. What does the man do to the bicycle seat?
- a. He replaces it.
 - b. He lowers it.
 - c. He raises it.

Loud music

8. How will the boy know when it is time for dinner?
- a. His mother will call him.
 - b. He will watch the time.
 - c. His brother will tell him.

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.

Taking a hike

9. What does the man think about the rain?
 - a. It will make the hike more interesting.
 - b. It will not be a big problem.
 - c. It will make them buy rain gear.
10. Why is the woman concerned about going on a hike?
 - a. She is worried about getting wet.
 - b. She thinks they will not really enjoy the scenery.
 - c. She thinks they should stay home and study.
11. Why does the man want to go hiking?
 - a. He feels they need time to relax.
 - b. He thinks it will make studying easier.
 - c. He wants to see how the mountains look in the clouds.
12. What does the woman decide?
 - a. She does not want to wear rain gear.
 - b. She wants them to get an early start.
 - c. She wants to get more exercise.

Waiting in line

13. Why are the two people standing in a line?
 - a. They want to buy concert tickets.
 - b. They are waiting to see a show.
 - c. They hope to meet their favorite band.
14. What does the man say to the woman about her interest?
 - a. She spends too much money on her passion.
 - b. She is more interested in the group than he is.
 - c. She ought to travel more.
15. What did people do at the event in Denver?
 - a. They stayed overnight.
 - b. They waited for three hours.
 - c. They wore monkey costumes.
16. How has the band recently changed?
 - a. They have a new musical style.
 - b. They have a new member.
 - c. They have a new album out.

Helping around the house

17. Why is John's older sister, Julie, NOT taking care of the younger brother?
 - a. She usually does it and wants a break.
 - b. She needs to apply for a driver's license.
 - c. She is doing a school assignment away from home.
18. What does the boy finally do in the end?
 - a. He refuses to help.
 - b. He accepts his situation.
 - c. He decides to help his sister.
19. What does the boy feel is unfair?
 - a. His sister is allowed to go to the library today.
 - b. His sister is treated differently than him.
 - c. His sister always comes home later after school.

At the photocopy shop

20. Why is the woman visiting the copy center?
 - a. to place an order
 - b. to find out the cost of an order
 - c. to pick up an order
21. Why does the woman want color copies?
 - a. She thinks they will help her grade.
 - b. Her professor told everyone to use color handouts.
 - c. They cost about the same as black and white copies.
22. What does the man offer to do?
 - a. fill out a form for her
 - b. redo her copies right away
 - c. give her the copies for free

Part 3—Extended discourse

In this section you will hear a speech and a long conversation.

Before listening to each passage, you will have time to read the questions.

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

A school hiking club

23. Why were some club members unable to attend the meeting?
- They were promoting the club somewhere else.
 - They did not receive the text message.
 - The choir was performing at the same time.
24. How does the number of members compare to last year?
- It is lower.
 - It is higher.
 - It is the same.
25. What did the club's previous president, Jim, specialize in?
- drawing maps
 - publicizing the club
 - finding new hiking trails
26. Why does the woman apologize to returning club members?
- They must pay their membership dues at the meeting.
 - The group will be doing the same hikes as last year.
 - They have heard this speech before.
27. In what way is the hiking club different from other clubs?
- Boys and girls are equally represented.
 - It meets at a local store.
 - It involves physical activity without expensive gear.
28. Where do the hikers go after leaving the school?
- They climb a nearby hill.
 - They do warm-up exercises in a group.
 - They take a shortcut through a park.
29. What is each person given before each trip?
- an energy bar
 - a map of the route
 - a bottle of water
30. What does the club do during the Baker's Dozen event in October?
- collect money for the club
 - attend a regional meeting of hiking fans
 - take a long hike, then go out for a meal together
31. What should you do if you want to hike less than five miles?
- take a different route back to the school
 - come to the club a different week
 - speak to the group leader right away
32. What does the woman say is the main goal of the hikes?
- having fun outdoors
 - traveling as far as you can
 - improving your health

Fishing with Dad

33. Why did the girl go fishing with her father?
- She woke up early and could not sleep.
 - He asked her for help.
 - She was curious about it.
34. What part of going fishing was difficult for the girl?
- finding the fish
 - feeling bored
 - getting up early
35. How often does the father fish?
- frequently
 - occasionally
 - rarely
36. Why does the father mention “Uncle John”?
- Uncle John also enjoys quiet time by himself.
 - Uncle John sometimes goes fishing with him.
 - Uncle John prefers exercise to going fishing.
37. How does the father feel about his daughter potentially working in finance?
- He thinks bankers have to work harder than people in other careers.
 - He thinks she can succeed, regardless of the challenges.
 - He thinks other parents would approve of her choice.
38. How is the girl’s father different from some of her friends’ parents?
- He has not told her which career to choose.
 - He enjoys spending time together on the weekend.
 - He is not part of a family business.
39. What did the girl’s grandfather do when her father was young?
- He sold boat equipment.
 - He worked as a fisherman.
 - He worked at a big fishing company.
40. Why did the girl’s grandfather change careers?
- His first job was too boring.
 - His first job was too dangerous.
 - His first job did not pay well.

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

Grammar you can use!

MSU-CELC 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. My friend has no good books to read this summer, so I am going to lend him _____ of mine.
a. ones
b. some
c. few
d. any
42. I need to study a lot _____ I do well on the test Friday.
a. in case
b. because
c. so that
d. such that
43. We need to leave _____ you've packed your bags.
a. as soon as
b. before
c. even though
d. after that
44. Larry _____ a volleyball team next summer.
a. may have joined
b. might join
c. joins
d. was able to join
45. I gave the child _____ pieces of chocolate.
a. a few
b. any
c. a little
d. much of the
46. By the time I arrived, the food _____.
a. has been eaten
b. had been eaten
c. will be eaten
d. will have been eaten
47. Jack knows that it is best _____ our dog in the middle of the night.
a. not to be woken
b. will not be waking
c. not to wake
d. will not wake
48. The storage closet is _____ we keep the mops, brooms, and cleaning rags.
a. what
b. it
c. where
d. that
49. John got lost because he didn't know where _____.
a. to turn
b. turning
c. turn
d. turned
50. When this book _____ in the 1800s, life was much different.
a. wrote
b. was writing
c. had been written
d. was written
51. Jesse's mother thinks that he _____ do more household chores.
a. should
b. should to
c. should have
d. should have been
52. I _____ about my math exam next week.
a. am concerning
b. am concerned
c. concern
d. will concern
53. The picture on the wall _____ straight by my father.
a. was not hung
b. not hang
c. is not hanging
d. not hung
54. There are many things that the two schools have _____.
a. common
b. to be common
c. commonly
d. in common

55. _____ Tom studied hard, he didn't pass the test.
a. Even if
b. Although
c. However
d. Despite
56. He _____ me three times this week.
a. was visiting
b. would visit
c. visits
d. has visited
57. The boy does not like apples. _____, he eats them because his mother insists on healthy snacks.
a. Besides
b. Finally
c. However
d. Similarly
58. Linda likes many kinds of music, _____ jazz and classical.
a. includes
b. including
c. included
d. to include
59. Due to past problems with dishonest customers, the store owner said he would _____ allow refunds if the original packaging had been opened.
a. no longer
b. no more
c. no greater
d. no better
60. Jack decided to do his chores in the morning rather than _____.
a. was waiting
b. his waiting
c. had been waiting
d. waiting
61. I'm not going to Sam's party. I am going to the game _____.
a. regardless
b. otherwise
c. rather
d. instead
62. He failed to catch the ball, which flew past him into the expensive vase just as his parents _____ in the front door.
a. walk
b. are walking
c. were walking
d. had walked
63. For children, typing speed _____ closely connected with their interest in computers.
a. seem to be
b. seems to be
c. that seems to be
d. to seem to be
64. Would you mind _____ me with this?
a. to help
b. helping
c. help
d. to be helping
65. _____ wanted to go to the concert with me.
a. None
b. Anyone
c. No one
d. Anybody
66. Marisa _____ her brother the moment she landed in Phoenix.
a. texts
b. is texting
c. has texted
d. texted
67. Carolyn insists on _____ a nice dinner whenever guests are in town.
a. cook
b. cooks
c. cooking
d. cooked
68. I know we have a basketball game next Friday, but I can't remember who we're playing _____.
a. by
b. against
c. around
d. on

69. "Monica, have you finished doing your chores?"
"No, Mom, I _____ started yet."
a. will have even
b. won't have even
c. haven't even
d. hadn't even
70. By the time Jill arrived, Jeff _____ for class already.
a. is leaving
b. will leave
c. has left
d. had left
71. Andrew loves his new soccer team, but he misses _____ with his old friends.
a. to play
b. was playing
c. played
d. playing
72. If you _____ to the party, you would have seen her.
a. had gone
b. will have gone
c. would go
d. were going
73. I don't remember him _____ in that class.
a. being
b. is being
c. was being
d. has being
74. Have you heard from Stephen lately? I gave him a call last week, but haven't heard from him since _____.
a. now
b. then
c. this day
d. until then
75. I haven't decided _____ I'll go to the concert yet.
a. what
b. to
c. which
d. whether
76. Students who _____ access the website should contact the teacher immediately.
a. are unable to
b. are able to not
c. were not able
d. have been unable
77. The children made breakfast for their mother _____ a sign of their love for her.
a. that
b. to
c. as
d. was
78. No one can get on the plane _____ they have shown a photo ID.
a. since
b. although
c. whether
d. unless
79. Lenny couldn't hold all of the pencils in his hands—there were too _____ of them.
a. much
b. many
c. most
d. more
80. The book must be returned to the library _____ two weeks.
a. by
b. since
c. within
d. from

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

Read about it!

MSU-CELC 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

This is an advertisement from the Student Recreation Center to all students in a university. Read the advertisement carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Student sports

Are you tired of spending all your free time studying, going online, playing video games, or just doing absolutely nothing? Did you know that the average student at this school spends more time texting than exercising? The truth is, if the only muscles you use are for typing on a keyboard or moving a mouse, then it's time to visit the Student Recreation Center!

Our Student Sports program **runs** both competitive leagues for serious players and "just-for-fun" leagues for everybody else in a variety of team and individual sports. In the competitive league, each team will compete three times per week for a 10-week period. The team with the most victories will win a prize at the end of the tenth week. In "just-for-fun" leagues, teams play only on weekends, and there are no prizes awarded. Both types of leagues offer volleyball, soccer, softball, tennis, golf, basketball, and more than a dozen other sports. It's a great opportunity to hang out with your friends, make new friends, and get some exercise at the same time.

The spring season is coming soon, and it's easy to get started. Stop by the Student Sports desk in the Student Recreation Center or go online to www.studentrec.OurUniv.edu/studentsports. Whether you come down to visit the center or register online, you will have to fill out a simple form. On this form you will be asked for your name, phone number, email address, your ability level (beginner, intermediate, or advanced), and the times you are free to play.

If you want to play a team sport, you can sign up as a complete team if you have enough people, as a partial team if you just need a few additional players, or as an individual "free agent" if you don't have a team of your own but would like to join someone else's partial team. For partial teams and free agents, we have a message board online that you can use to find enough people for a complete team. If you have any trouble, visit us at the Student Sports desk and we'll be happy to help you out.

So why don't you pick up your phone and send one more text: Tell your friends that the last day to sign up for the spring season is March 1! But don't wait until the last minute—if you sign up for early registration before February 21, you'll get free tickets to our famous Beach Volleyball Picnic coming up on March 15!

Here at the Student Recreation Center, we truly believe that **getting fit** is fun. We hope you'll be joining us for another great season of Student Sports!

81. What is the main idea in the first paragraph?
- Exercise gives you more energy in your daily life.
 - Many students need more exercise and less technology.
 - You need a keyboard and a mouse to sign up.
 - The Student Recreation Center is a great place to make friends.
82. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **runs** in the second paragraph?
- finds
 - completes
 - exercises
 - organizes
83. What is one difference between competitive leagues and “just-for-fun” leagues?
- how often the teams play
 - how much an individual pays to join a team
 - what kind of sports people play
 - how many players are on a team
84. What information should you give when you register?
- where you will sign up
 - your favorite sports team
 - the level of skill you have
 - how often you practice your sport
85. What is the difference between partial teams and complete teams?
- A partial team is less serious.
 - A partial team needs more players.
 - A partial team gets fewer messages.
 - A partial team is formed only with free agents.
86. What is a free agent?
- a person who wants to join a team
 - a person who plays individual sports
 - a person who can only play one sport
 - a person who doesn’t pay for a membership
87. What should you do if you cannot complete your team?
- use the email list online
 - consider playing a different sport
 - encourage your friends to register early
 - ask for help at the Student Sports desk
88. When do you have to sign up?
- immediately
 - by February 21
 - by March 1
 - by March 15
89. How can you attend the Beach Volleyball Picnic for free?
- sign up for more than one league
 - sign up for the spring season early
 - register for the volleyball tournament
 - get your friends to register in time
90. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **getting fit** in the last paragraph?
- visiting the Recreation Center
 - hanging out with friends
 - improving your health
 - signing up for a league

Reading Passage 2

Here is an email exchange between a special events coordinator and a student. Read the email messages carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Looking for host families

Dear students and parents,

Would you consider opening your home for a weekend to international student musicians? We are in need of your assistance in finding **temporary** housing for about 40 students in the International Arts Orchestra for the last weekend in July. This is a hard-working group of high school students who, through the International Arts Society, are traveling to six different countries this summer performing classical and contemporary music.

Students will need a place to stay for two nights with local families, as, unfortunately, all local hotels are full at this time due to the world-famous William Shakespeare Festival happening in town that same weekend. The students will be arriving on Friday, July 28, and leaving on Sunday, July 30. Host families will meet and pick up their guests after the concert on Friday evening. Saturday is a free day for students and a time for sightseeing or rest. On the last day, host families will bring students to their bus in the high school parking lot at 1:00 p.m. for a 1:30 p.m. departure to their next city.

In exchange for hosting, families receive free admission for four people to the local Friday concert. **Commitments** from host families are needed as soon as possible. Please contact Alan at the email address below to make arrangements. Thank you for helping out! We know you will enjoy getting to know a student from this fine student orchestra.

Thank you,

Alan

alan@internationalarts.org

Dear Alan,

My family might be able to host a student, but we have a few questions first. Can we specify a boy or girl to host? We'd prefer a boy, because there is an extra bed for another person in my room, but not in my sister's room. Also, do the students speak English? Where are they from? Do we need to make special arrangements, or are they open to being part of our normal family life for the weekend?

Also, I'd like to mention another potential host family. My neighbors do not have children currently attending school and probably didn't receive your request, but they have a guest room in their house and they might be able to host at least one student. If you'd like to contact my neighbor, her name is Vicky Nelson and her email is vnelson@interweb.com.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Bill Gianetti

91. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **temporary** in the first paragraph?
- low-cost
 - short-term
 - nearby
 - appropriate
92. Why is this group of students traveling?
- They are playing music in the orchestra.
 - They are children of adults in the orchestra.
 - They are helping to arrange concerts.
 - They are studying international arts.
93. Why are host families needed for the group?
- They want to meet students from other countries.
 - The hotels in town have no rooms available.
 - Staying with host families is cheaper than hotels.
 - Host families can entertain students for the weekend.
94. What will members of the group do on Friday?
- perform a concert
 - arrive at their hotel
 - practice music
 - travel to another city
95. What happens in the evening immediately after the concert?
- The group will go sightseeing.
 - The group will meet their hosts.
 - The group will get ready for the next concert.
 - The group will travel by bus to the next city.
96. Who will get free admission to the concert?
- all student musicians
 - musicians' family members
 - the first four people to reply
 - people who host a traveler
97. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **commitments** in the third paragraph?
- Rooms
 - Payments
 - Agreements
 - Schedules
98. What is the main purpose of the first email?
- to get people to come to the concert
 - to interest people in traveling with the group
 - to arrange weekend activities in this city
 - to find places for travelers to stay
99. In the second email, why does the writer, Bill, ask about requesting a boy or a girl?
- He wants to make friends with another boy.
 - He will be gone then, but his sister can help.
 - The space available in his home is in a boy's room.
 - His sister has requested hosting a girl.
100. According to Bill, who probably did NOT receive the request for host families?
- his sister
 - Vicky
 - Alan's neighbor
 - local parents

Reading Passage 3

The following article was in your local newspaper, and your parents want to know your opinion. Read the article carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Toys: Playing it neutral

In the United States today, things such as toys and clothing are often divided by **genders**. That is, things made for boys are usually blue and things made for girls are usually pink. Other colors are mixed in, of course, but these two colors largely define and divide gender for children. Is such a difference necessary?

In the 1920s, the United States offered toys divided by gender, but not color. There were toy stoves and baby dolls advertised for little girls, who were expected to grow up to cook and raise families, and there were building sets and science kits advertised for little boys who were expected to be engineers and scientists. Few toys were designed for both boys and girls.

Fifty years later, in the 1970s, a dramatic shift took place. In the United States in general, there was less of a gender divide, as fewer women were staying home to cook and clean and instead were choosing to work in jobs outside the home. Toy catalogs from the time reflected that change, as girls were shown playing with doctor kits and boys were shown playing with toy kitchens. Color was not yet an issue. Fewer than 2% of toys were advertised as “boy toys” or “girl toys.”

This change didn’t last long, however. Although women continued working alongside men in jobs, children’s toys soon made gender differences **explicit** again. In the 1990s, toys were made pink for girls and blue for boys. There was less difference in types of toys—toy cars and children’s bikes, for example, were now made for both genders—but they were clearly intended to be separate: girl toys used girl colors, while boy toys used boy colors. This trend continues today.

Some people, both adults and children, are speaking out against this trend. They say that a toy should be marketed to all children, not just to boys or just to girls. Many letters were written about this to a famous toy company that makes popular plastic building bricks. The company listened. The toy bricks are usually sold separately in “boy” or “girl” colors, and sets come with boy characters as scientists or builders and girl characters as fashion models or hairdressers. After receiving the letters, the toy company developed a set of toy bricks with a new girl character who was a scientist. Did customers like it? The set sold out in just one day. Many young girls and their parents were very excited to buy the new set.

What’s next for children’s toys in the United States? Will customers’ love of the new toy set affect what toys are sold next year? Or will girls who have learned to look for pink toys and boys who have learned to look for blue toys only want what they’re used to—their favorite toys in their usual “girl colors” or “boy colors”? We can hope that these color assignments disappear like the toy divisions of the 1920s, but only time will tell.

101. Which of the following are examples of the word **genders** found in the first paragraph?
- blue and pink
 - young and old
 - boy and girl
 - baby dolls and science kits
102. What were American toys like in the 1920s?
- Few toys were available for children.
 - Children's toys reflected future careers.
 - Boys' toys were blue and girls' toys were pink.
 - Toys were mostly designed by small companies.
103. What was different about toy catalogs in the 1970s?
- Women started designing the catalogs.
 - The catalogs were printed in color.
 - The catalogs attracted children's attention.
 - Children were shown playing in new ways.
104. By the 1970s, what had changed in the United States?
- More women were getting jobs.
 - More companies were advertising toys.
 - More children were playing with gender-specific toys.
 - More toys were for boys or girls only.
105. What happened to toys in the 1990s?
- New types of toys were made.
 - More toys were made for boys than girls.
 - They were divided based on color.
 - The colors for genders switched.
106. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **explicit** in the fourth paragraph?
- clear
 - popular
 - traditional
 - controversial
107. Why were letters written to the toy brick company?
- to ask them to use more colors in their building bricks
 - to ask them to put girl characters in their toy sets
 - to ask them to sell toys separately based on color
 - to ask them to avoid marketing toys for boys and girls
108. According to the article, what happened when a toy set was made with a girl scientist?
- Some parents were unhappy about it.
 - All the new toy sets were bought right away.
 - Boys were excited to buy the new toy set.
 - Girls preferred the fashion model characters.
109. What is the author's opinion about toy colors?
- The author disapproves of boy colors and girl colors.
 - The author likes the way toys were divided in the 1920s.
 - The author hopes toys will be made with more boy and girl colors.
 - The author does not want to buy new toy sets.
110. What time period does this article focus on?
- mostly 1920s
 - mostly 1970s
 - mostly 1990s
 - 1920s through today

Reading Passage 4

The following reading is from an article about choosing a dog as a pet. Read the article carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Choosing a dog

Before you decide to get a dog as a pet, you have to ask yourself a few questions. Do you have time for it? Dogs are social animals. Will you be able to take care of it and play with it? Do you have enough space for it to get exercise?

When you finally make the decision to get a dog, you have to think about whether you want a puppy or an older dog. Many people think a puppy is best, but this is not always true. Puppies look cute, but it is impossible to be sure whether a puppy will grow into a friendly dog or an aggressive dog. You also have to spend a lot of time training a puppy. With an older dog, you can already see its personality, and most older dogs have already been trained. Besides, many dog shelters are looking for people to adopt older dogs that other people do not want. You may be able to save a dog's life.

Is there any way to really tell what kind of a dog a puppy will grow up to be? There is one technique that some experts use. When you are sitting down and the puppy is on your lap, try turning it over and petting its stomach. If the puppy fights this, it will probably be more aggressive and harder to train. If the puppy lets you do this, it probably trusts you and will listen to you more willingly. Still, there are no guarantees, and there is always some risk when choosing a puppy.

It is often the case that a friendly puppy will grow up to be the same kind of adult. Anxious, nervous puppies will often grow into **distressed** adults. If possible, buy a puppy from someone who has kept it in their home. This enables them to become used to people and household activities. Puppies that are raised in cages tend to have more problems as they grow older.

How old should a puppy be when you get it? Puppies are completely helpless for the first two weeks after they are born. They really need their mothers during this time. After this, they need time to adjust to the life around them. People used to think it was best to get a dog when it was three or four weeks old. Now, experts think it is better to wait until the dog is two or three months old before you bring it home.

This risk does not exist when you **opt for** an older dog. You can see what personality it has right away. Older dogs do not need as much attention, and they have probably already adjusted to living with people and know how to behave in a house. If you are a busy person, an older dog is best. But remember, don't choose any dog without spending some time getting to know it. Any decision you make can affect your life for a long time to come.

111. Which of the following best describes the author's ideas about the decision to get a dog?
- People should get dogs because dogs usually make good pets.
 - Getting a dog is a serious decision that may not be right for everyone.
 - People should only get a dog if they will take the time to train it well.
 - Getting a dog is best in a social situation with other pets and family.
112. According to the author, what is one disadvantage of choosing a dog when it is still a puppy?
- It cannot be trained successfully until it becomes an adult.
 - Puppies are in demand and often not available at animal shelters.
 - It is difficult to give a puppy all the play and exercise it needs.
 - It is difficult to tell how its personality will change as it gets older.
113. According to the passage, how can you save a dog's life?
- by getting an adult dog
 - by assisting a sick or injured dog
 - by training it to live with people
 - by getting a dog from the street
114. How can you tell if a puppy might grow up to be aggressive?
- It runs away when you touch it.
 - It is very difficult to train as a puppy.
 - It jumps up on you when you are sitting.
 - It tries to protect its stomach.
115. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **distressed** in the fourth paragraph?
- quiet
 - upset
 - lazy
 - unusual
116. What does the article recommend considering when buying a puppy?
- what its parents look like
 - where it was born and raised
 - the price of the puppy
 - the age of its parents
117. How old should a puppy be before you bring it home?
- at least two months old
 - more than two weeks old
 - three or four weeks old
 - old enough to feed itself
118. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **opt for** in the fifth paragraph?
- train
 - live with
 - take care of
 - select
119. According to the last paragraph, what is one advantage of getting an older dog?
- They do not mind being left on their own.
 - They will be good company if you are alone.
 - They are already comfortable in a family setting.
 - They will be much easier for you to begin training.
120. What is the main purpose of this article?
- to warn people about the problems of having a dog
 - to help people learn how to choose the best dog
 - to explain what dog owners need to do to take care of a dog
 - to explain how to prepare for a new dog in your home

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

