The University of Michigan Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (ECPE)

Official Past Graded Essays

from:
2000 - 2001
2001 - 2002
2002 - 2003
Examinations
The **Official Past Graded Essays** benchmarked by the English Language Institute at the University of Michigan can be used for analysis and writing skills development.

**Contents**
The essays included in this packet are official past writing samples that have been graded by University of Michigan ELI staff. Please note that they have not been edited and still contain the original student errors. Included with the graded essays are the reviewer's comments and the official ECPE writing section scoring criteria.

The first four graded essays are followed by a number of questions and some suggestions for additional activities. The questions and activities are original material created for use by EFL students in Greece. They have been developed from the reviewer's comments and are intended to help students begin to look at writing more critically.

**Use**
This collection of essays and activities can be used to heighten students' and teachers' awareness of the characteristics of writing at the ECPE level, to focus students on the processes of editing and revision, and to help them improve their own writing abilities through reading, analysis and discussion.

*The questions and activities that accompany the graded essays in this packet were written by Anne Nebel for the Hellenic American Union.*
To the teacher:

The graded essays in this packet are useful in helping students to critically analyze writing at the ECPE level. In answering the questions, students are compelled to look closely at the syntax, grammar, vocabulary, organization and development of an essay, and frequently to make corrections and improvements. Focused examination and expansion of these writing samples will help students improve their ability to analyze and develop their own essays. In addition to the questions that follow each essay, you might also try the following discussions/activities in your class.

1. Examine the scoring rubric together. Taking one section (rhetoric, grammar/syntax, etc.) and one level (A, B, etc.) at a time review with the students what each descriptor means. For example:
   a. One characteristic of rhetoric at Honors (A) level is that “connection is smooth.” What does “connection” in writing mean? How do we connect writing? Why is it important? What happens when an essay is not well connected? Look for examples in the essays.
   b. One characteristic of grammar/syntax at B and C levels is that “both simple and complex syntax is present.” What are some examples of simple syntax? What are some examples of complex syntax? What effect does syntax (simple and complex) have on a piece of writing?
   c. What does it mean to “acknowledge the complexity” of a topic? How does this affect the successfulness of an essay?

2. Ask students to write an essay based on the prompt given in the graded essays or any other prompt. Have each student examine another student's essay and rate it according to the ECPE scoring rubric. If this is too challenging, ask them to rate each essay in just one of the categories, such as vocabulary or rhetoric. Tell them they must justify the score they give by underlining examples in the essay. This can be reviewed in pairs, groups or as a whole class.

3. Ask students to take the C or D level essay and improve it in each (or just one) of the categories of the ECPE scoring rubric. This can also be done in pairs. For example, students can identify sentences with very simple syntax and develop them into more complex sentences to improve the essay. They may also select vocabulary items to substitute with more appropriate choices.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RATING</th>
<th>RHETORIC</th>
<th>GRAMMAR/SYNTAX</th>
<th>VOCABULARY</th>
<th>MECHANICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A HONORS</td>
<td>Topic richly, fully, complexity developed. Organization well-controlled, appropriate to the material. Connection is smooth.</td>
<td>Flexible use of a wide range of syntactic (sentence level) structures; morphological (word form) control nearly always accurate.</td>
<td>Broad range, appropriately used.</td>
<td>Spelling and punctuation errors are rare and insignificant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Topic clearly and completely developed, with acknowledgment of its complexity. Organization is controlled and shows appropriateness to the material. Few problems with connection.</td>
<td>Both simple and complex syntax adequately used; good morphological control.</td>
<td>Vocabulary use shows flexibility, is usually appropriate. Any inappropriate vocabulary does not confuse meaning.</td>
<td>Spelling and punctuation errors are infrequent and not distracting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Topic clearly developed, but not always completely or with acknowledgment of its complexity. Organization generally controlled; connection sometimes absent or unsuccessful.</td>
<td>Both simple and complex syntax present. For some, syntax is cautious but accurate, while others are more fluent but less accurate. Inconsistent morphological control.</td>
<td>Adequate vocabulary, but may sometimes be inappropriately used.</td>
<td>Spelling and punctuation errors sometimes distracting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Topic development is present, but limited by incompleteness, lack of clarity, or lack of focus. Probably presents only one point of view. Organization partially controlled; connection often absent or unsuccessful.</td>
<td>May have either both simple and complex syntax, but with many errors, or accurate syntax but within a limited range. Morphological control is inconsistent.</td>
<td>Vocabulary sometimes inadequate, sometimes inappropriately used, to the point where it causes confusion of meaning.</td>
<td>Spelling and punctuation errors sometimes distracting.</td>
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As years go by, it becomes more and more apparent
that success matters. People in developed countries are presently quite
preoccupied with their own success, as well as their children’s. Be it the
outcome of role models television, cinema or advertising, it has become
very important for one to be considered successful in one’s business or
career. Thus, the question arises: what is it that one needs in order to
work one’s way to the top of society’s pyramid?

Some would argue that a person needs to acquire the appropriate
knowledge in order to succeed. A solid education is a good starting
point, but in modern days is not always enough. Often people need to
pursue what is called ‘life-long learning’, meaning they must continue to
study and learn throughout their life in order to keep up with the state of
their art. In addition, one needs to have a certain talent, inclination and
love for what they practise and be prepared to work hard.

Be it as it may, people with the aforementioned prerequisites
have been known to do well in their careers and make it to the top.
Sometimes, they start from zero and have to show great persistence,
courage, inner strength and patience, in order for their goals
to finally be achieved. It can be said that this sort of success is surely the sweetest, since it is well deserved.

Nevertheless, it is also a fact that strong connections and good public relations can take a person a long way. This has been known to happen in past times and in present times it has only become more prevalent. Expressions such as nepotism, cronyism and the like, are often used to describe the situation.

It has often been the case for people with less experience, skill or knowledge to be chosen over others, who are actually stronger candidates for a position but haven’t got very strong connections. Knowing people who play an important part in politics or in the business world can sometimes prove crucial in achieving success. However, if one chooses this path, one must compromise with knowing within oneself that it has cost other people injustice. Achieving a goal in such a way deprives one of most of the satisfaction and glory that should normally accompany success.

To sum it all up, this is not a perfect world. There will always be an easy way and a hard way to succeed and there will always be people who chose . . .
**Focus Questions:**

*Based on the reviewer's comments and the scoring criteria for the ECPE, consider the following questions about the essay.*

1. Reread the prompt then look at the essay again and identify how the writer introduces the topic in his or her own words.
2. Rewrite a similar introductory paragraph for this topic, based on the prompt, but using your own words.
3. Underline examples of complex syntax in the essay. Discuss these forms and why they are effective in their contexts.
4. Underline examples of high-level vocabulary. Discuss their meaning and effectiveness in the essay.
5. The reviewer notes that this essay is well developed. In what ways is this true? Discuss the organization and development of the ideas.
6. Why is the ending considered acceptable in this essay?
7. Circle any misspelled words and note any punctuation errors. Do you think these errors distract at all from the reading?
8. What do you think are the strengths of this essay? Do you find any areas for improvement?
In my opinion, what makes a person successful, especially in his job and consequently in his life, is absolutely having knowledge and sometimes expertise. Even if I had to work in public relations of a restaurant or in a company, I would be suitable for this position only if I had relevant knowledge or experience.

Furthermore, knowing also important people, who can evaluate justly your qualifications and could help you in finding a job is important too. And this because nowadays, there is Unfortunately, at least in my country, Greece, a high rate of unemployment, incessantly growing, and also there are not so many vacancies left. Therefore, a lot of people try, from a very young age, to study in university, get a degree or a diploma in order to have a possibility of working somewhere. So, the more important people you know, the better for you it is. But it is not of paramount importance, owing to the fact that what counts in society is the person itself, not how much people knows.

Moreover, I support the view that it is too difficult for someone to keep his position, especially in a private company, if he does not
have some basic qualifications or some kind of experience, or even for instance, if he does not take pride in his work. This happens because he will not be able to offer his services and consequently he might end up becoming redundant in his job.

In conclusion, I would say that having knowledge and experience is a serious prerequisite to getting a serious position and absolutely more important than just knowing some people. In the end, just think about what a person is, if knowing important people but without having some kind of knowledge.

**Focus Questions:**

*Based on the reviewer's comments and the scoring criteria for the ECPE, consider the following questions about the essay.*

1. How does the writer elaborate on the topic? Find specific examples in the essay of how the topic develops. Discuss how successful the topic development is with your teacher and make suggestions for improvement if necessary.
2. Find examples in the essay of word order that is awkward or incorrect and underline it, then write the correct word order in the space above the line.
3. Circle examples of advanced-level vocabulary. Discuss their meaning and use in the essay.
4. Discuss all grammatical errors that you find, including one sentence fragment, and make the corrections. Review these with your teacher.
5. Are there any problems in punctuation in the essay? If so, identify them and discuss what the problem is.
6. Rewrite this essay to improve it. Pay special attention to topic development and word choice.
It’s a common belief that nowadays, knowing important people or having knowledge and expertise can be a success to somebody’s life. But it still remains a controversial issue about which of these two are more important to people.

To my way of thinking, I firmly believe that both of them are of great importance to people. On one hand, Knowing important people is very beneficial to people. To begin with, that gives you the chance to get a better job or a promotion in your business level. That means, that by doing that someone can earn more money and as a result have a better, more comfortable and without problems life. Apart from that, someone is able to get the respect of the other people. This will make him much more popular, gregarious and moreover prestigious. So, as a result, he can gain a more successful life with lot’s of benefits to be gained.

On the other hand, having knowledge and expertise can also be of a great help to people. To begin with, expertise and knowledge can help people to get the respect they deserve from the others. That can help someone to have friends and friendship is something really
valuable nowadays. In addition, expertise and knowledge will help someone to get the job he wishes and have the life he prefers. And last but not least, knowledge and expertise will not only help someone with his relationships with the others, but also with himself. He will feel pleased and a man who is besieged by success or even proud of what he accomplished. The knowledge will give him the chance to educate himself and add some new things to his life.

To sum up, I think that knowing important people or having knowledge and expertise are important to people’s lives. Both of them are equal and so they can ensure a successful life to people.

Focus Questions:

Based on the reviewer’s comments and the scoring criteria for the ECPE, consider the following questions about the essay.

1. Discuss the errors you find in grammar and syntax with your teacher, then make the corrections.
2. The reviewer notes that the topic is incompletely developed because both sides of the discussion rely on the same examples and reasons. Find the examples and reasons the writer presents and compare them. What changes can you suggest to improve the topic development?
3. Find and circle several examples of vocabulary that is only adequate, and suggest a better, more accurate word choice.
4. Find and circle several examples of words that are used somewhat inappropriately and suggest a more appropriate word choice. Discuss why you think certain words fit better.
5. Are there any instances of spelling and punctuation mistakes that make this essay difficult to read? Discuss how these mistakes complicate the meaning. Correct them in the essay.
6. Rewrite this essay improving the development of the topic, the grammar and syntax, and the choice of vocabulary.
Nowadays a controversy is rasing about the success of people. There are people who believe that someone is successful when he knows a lot of important people. But there are others who believe that someone is successful when he has knowledge and expertise. As far as I am concerned, I strongly believe that both knowing important people and having expertise is needed in order for someone to be successful.

For example, a car-mechanic in order to be successful nowadays he should know important people in order for his job to be known and he should have knowledge about cars and expertise in order to repair the impaired cars correctly.

Furthermore, a winemaker in order to be successful, he should know important people in order for his products to be known and he should have knowledge about wines and expertise in order to make good quality wine.

In addition, a painter in order to be a successful and widely known artist he should know important people in order for his paintings to be bought by someone and he should have knowledge about the art of painting and he should have expertise in order to create masterpieces.
To sum up I strongly believe that both knowing important people and having expertise helps people to their jobs. As a result they will become good and successful professionals in the future.

"strongly believe" is formulaic

Syntax problem: omits word “to do their jobs.”

"professionals" is a minor spelling error

Focus Questions:

Based on the reviewer's comments and the scoring criteria for the ECPE, consider the following questions about the essay.

1. The writer often makes poor word choices and uses incorrect verb forms. Find examples throughout this essay. In each instance, determine what is wrong and make a suggestion for improvement.
2. There are several minor spelling errors in this essay. Identify and correct them. Do you think they distract from reading the essay? Why or why not?
3. The writer uses some rather formulaic phrases as a crutch to hold up weak writing. Try to find a few examples of these phrases in the essay.
4. Grammar and syntax still appear to be below proficiency level. Find examples of problems with grammar and syntax in this essay, underline them, correct them and review them.
5. A few incorrect structures and phrases are repeated in this essay. What does this demonstrate? Find the repeated structures in the essay.
6. The writer repeats the same arguments in this essay. What does this indicate?
7. Rewrite this essay improving the syntax and grammar, as well as the vocabulary level throughout.
Nowadays we live in a society where everybody competes about who is going to make ends meet and have a good quality of life. And as jobs are quite limited at current years man has to work and fight hard in order to succeed. This fight depends of course on the each individual. Other have more and other less qualifications for a particular job. So, unfortunately many of these people (with less expertise) even though they are not qualified enough, manage to find a job because of the friends they have, who are at high positions and help them.

In my opinion this situation is not right at all! I think that it is much more important when someone has studied hard, has taken a university degree and has acquired the proper qualifications for a particular job. For instance, many young people devote their whole life studying medicine. It is known that man has to secrafise many years of his life studying hard until he ultimately gets his university degree as a doctor and have his own bureau. What is more most of them are experienced enough to help many people overcome their health problems even in very serious cases. But for one person to be successful having knowledge and expertise in a particular field is
nowadays not enough. As I mentioned before even a greater number of people manage to get in higher positions, in successful and well-paid jobs because of the people they know. In all cases – with no exception – this particular friend as having the power and the ability to do, helps them take such jobs. For example, in the latest years we see many people who have not even gone to High School being millionaires because of their jobs who would be unable to have if it wasn’t for their important friends. In this point I would like to mention as an example a manager of a particular Bank that I happen to know personally. He has only gone to High School, but has not studied at all and of course his university degree does not exist. Nevertheless, thanks to his father who was the former Bank Manager he took the job quite easily and now he is a famous person, with uncountable money that hardly tried to get in such a high position. This in my opinion is quite unfair for the others who at least have tried a little bit harder than him. Of course there is nothing we can do to change it, but to be more clever and try for our best.

On the whole however, I believe that neither having important friends (only), nor having knowledge and expertise alone can help anyone succeed. The right combination of these two qualifications is this, which is the perfect and help each individual reach his personal goal!

**Focus Questions:**

*Work in pairs to develop questions based on the reviewer’s comments and the scoring criteria for the ECPE. Then try to answer the questions you have developed, providing explanations and justifications.*

*For example: Why is the first paragraph unclear?*
It is widely believed that if someone knows an important person then he can have a great success without even have the appropriate qualifications. To my opinion I think that this can only be judged on a basis. There are people who can for example run their own business because they are helped by people who have money or fame. These people may not have enough knowledge, expertise and experience but they can “succeed” because they know or they are friends with strong, famous people. However it goes without saying that they will have only a transient success as I think that these who have no qualifications and are only based on important people can never have a real, not-transient success. They may become strong, rich or famous but just for a little.

In the other hand there are people who have a lot of knowledge and expertise but unfortunately they can’t succeed as they aren’t friends with famous people. For instance, there are people who have graduated from college, they’ve become experts on a subject, they are very knowledgeable but they can’t have a suitable job because
of their independence on rich or famous people. However this is also a
transient situation. I mean that if someone is seasoned on a subject and
has made strenuous attempts to succeed then he will never lose. It’s
undeniable that some people may sell him short but by and by they will
certainly recognize his true value and he will have a really and not at all
phony success.

As a conclusion, I think it is quite good to know rich or famous
people but without the appropriate knowledge you can nowhere
and you can never fulfill all the goals you have set. I suppose that
you will never succeed more easily!

Wrong word choice
that impedes meaning.
"Independence" is the
opposite of what writer
intends.
Meaning of "seasoned"
is unclear.
Serious spelling error
because it creates a
different word and obscures
meaning.
Formulaic phrase
Wrong word form
Awkward phrasing. "In
conclusion" would be
better.
Minor spelling error
does not impede clear
communication.
STANDARD TOPICS:

1. Some psychologists believe that there is more to intelligence than traditional intelligence tests measure (mathematical and verbal ability). They say there are many kinds of intelligence and many ways to be smart. Besides mathematical and linguistic intelligence, in what other ways do you think people are smart? Be specific in your discussion and provide concrete examples.

2. Most people agree that it is important for co-workers to have good relationships. However, a recent study suggests that friendships at work can also cause problems. In what ways can friendships at work be harmful? Discuss, giving specific examples.

Ok, so your son got a low score in his IQ tests. Don’t be discouraged since this does not mean he is not “intelligent”. It simple means they may have not tested his main intelligence. More and more reassuring news are coming from new research. These new studies indicate that there is more to it than the traditional mathematical and linguistic intelligence.

Alan Coardner, in his study called Multiple Intelligences (MI), states that a person may have Interpersonal Intelligence. This is the ability to communicate and handle relationships with other people. We see this intelligence at work when we see teachers or politicians performing their tasks.

Definition of interpersonal intelligence is properly placed and formed. The writer does not assume the reader is familiar with the concept. Good connection of points.

The writer here is clearly familiar with the topic. Familiarity with the topic does not always result in good performance, but in this case the writer’s command of English result in a successful essay. The writer is able to present some aspects of Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligences and provide examples. The writer does not discuss any one of the intelligences in great detail, but by touching on several of them, he/she produces a well developed essay. The points flow together nicely. Language is controlled with very few errors. The introduction and the conclusion differ from the body stylistically, with the body being a bit more “academic”. Even so, the writer maintains control of the discourse from beginning to end.
A second example of MI is Intrapersonal Intelligence. This kind of intelligence is your ability to know yourself in relation with everything around you. Typical examples include philosophers, and thinkers.

In addition to interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences, I can mention Musical Intelligence. This one measures a person’s ability to play any musical instrument, sing or compose music. Specific examples are found every time we see a singer, a piano player or a composer at work.

Related to the previous one, I can mention Bodily Kinesthetic Intelligence. This kind of intelligence measures your ability to use your body for such tasks as dancing, sports or any other in which you need precise body movement. Talented people in this area include dancer Michael Jackson.

Fifth in this list is Environmental intelligence. This is evident when the person is aware of the environment around him or her. The person is good finding his or her way around in a new city, or understands the processes involved during an eclipse or simply enjoys observing natural phenomena.

So, if your child got a law math test or a law verbal aptitude test it would be worth looking deeper and determine his main intelligence. I think the time you spend identifying his or her main intelligence will result in incredible benefits for his or her future life.

Focus Questions:

Work in pairs to develop questions based on the reviewer’s comments and the scoring criteria for the ECPE. Then try to answer the questions you have developed, providing explanations and justifications.

For example: In what way(s) does the writer of the essay show that he/she is clearly familiar with the topic?
ECPE 2001 – 2002 BENCHMARK B

STANDARD TOPICS:

1. Some psychologists believe that there is more to intelligence than traditional intelligence tests measure (mathematical and verbal ability). They say there are many kinds of intelligence and many ways to be smart. Besides mathematical and linguistic intelligence, in what other ways do you think people are smart? Be specific in your discussion and provide concrete examples.

2. Most people agree that it is important for co-workers to have good relationships. However, a recent study suggests that friendships at work can also cause problems. In what ways can friendships at work be harmful? Discuss, giving specific examples.

Intelligence could be a gift, or one could actually be trained to be smart. In either case, the only intelligence that is usually considered at schools or any academic institution is the mathematic and verbal kind. Examiners hardly ever look for other kinds of intelligence such as body coordination and social intelligence. These two ways of being smart are as important as the verbal and mathematical and should be payed more attention to.

Body coordination is very important for activities like sports and playing an instrument. Since these activities play a major role in people’s lives these days, this kind of intelligence should be given it’s due merit. For example, I am a student who always ranked first in all my classes at school. When I came to learn playing the guitar, I found that I can’t be among the top students. Also, I never could manage to master any of the sports activities at school. On the other hand, many of the sports champions at school never did perform well academically. Does that mean they lack intelligence? Definitely not.

Another important intelligence is social skills. People with this type...
This is a very good composition. Topic development is clear and the writer uses some examples to support points. Both simple and complex sentences have been attempted. Although overall grammar and vocabulary are appropriate and on target, on the second page there are several noticeable awkward expressions. Many B compositions are grammatically accurate throughout, but contain awkward or unnatural sounding expressions. When these expressions are used, however, they generally do not confound the intended meaning.

Focus Questions:

*Work in pairs to develop questions based on the reviewer’s comments and the scoring criteria for the ECPE. Then try to answer the questions you have developed, providing explanations and justifications.*

*For example:* What examples does the writer of this essay use to support his/her points?
STANDARD TOPICS:

1. A noted historian recently warned that as use of the Internet increases, many libraries will close. People who once used libraries are now turning to the Internet for information. Do you agree that the Internet will replace the need for libraries? Why or why not? Support your point of view using examples.

2. Some child psychologists believe that the peer groups children play with influence their character and personality development more than the children’s parents do. The psychologists say children are more interested in fitting in with their friends than behaving the way their parents want them to. Do you agree or disagree with these psychologists? Explain your point of view.

It is slowly becoming apparent that the constitution of family is and will be the cornerstone of a nation’s development. Actually it is the central core of it since all its members work and communicate on the basis of love and mutual respect.

Nowadays family seem to have gone through a lot of different stages. For instance in each antiquity member had a particular field to occupy with and all jobs were distributed by the eldests. Women were more attached to the upbringing of their children where as, men were working to support their family. The bonds between the members were strict and mutual respect was the essential part of their life. Children would listen to their parents advice and moreover would imitate their way of life. They would behave just like they were raised and furthermore they would be influenced only by them. Their interaction with other children would only be a matter of playing innocent team games. Their entertainment would only be singing old songs banded dawn by their ancestors and hymns among the family.
Today the challenges are far more than attractive for a ten-year-old child. Technological advances has culminated in their rounded education apart from school, through computers and have vast knowledge on different fields. With “a press of a button one can have immediate access all over the world and be at your hands easily without much effort. So interacting with children of the same age and exchanging views is totally unavoidable What I mean is that children have more things to share than in the past and that in turn culminates in getting influenced by them. Another factor is that they spend more hours with them rather than with their parents since both are in charge of supporting financially their family. That has an adverse impact on the psychology of children. They no more trust their parent nor do they listen to them. They think that have come to maturity and know exactly what they do.

To sum up psychologists do have a point concerning children’s behavior and attitude towards family and we as parents should seek some other form of upbringing our children and especially reappraise the values of family and try to reform it according to the new pace of life keep the family bonds tight and guard what is called family.

The writer has a lot to say, but does not always convey his/her intended meaning. Some parts of the composition are nicely written, but some parts are difficult to follow because of inappropriate word choice (this is most serious at the top of page 2). Missing words also confound the writer’s intended meaning. Other problems include word order and unclear reference.

Focus Questions:

Work in pairs to develop questions based on the reviewer’s comments and the scoring criteria for the ECPE. Then try to answer the questions you have developed, providing explanations and justifications.

For example: Can you give the writer’s intended meaning in those parts which lack clarity of expression?
STANDARD TOPICS:

1. Some psychologists believe that there is more to intelligence than traditional intelligence tests measure (mathematical and verbal ability). They say there are many kinds of intelligence and many ways to be smart. Besides mathematical and linguistic intelligence, in what other ways do you think people are smart? Be specific in your discussion and provide concrete examples.

2. Most people agree that it is important for co-workers to have good relationships. However, a recent study suggests that friendships at work can also cause problems. In what ways can friendships at work be harmful? Discuss, giving specific examples.

Nowadays, there are many tests to measure how smart a person be. They test our mathematical and verbal ability and gives us a score according to our grades, these are called IQ tests.

But how smart can we be? People all over the world that never went to school there whole lives can’t be smart? I don’t think so, these people have a different way to be smart. They are the so called street smart.

Successfull people that haven’t finished their high school are all over the world. Take Bill Gates for example, he never graduated but he was able to create a powerfull industry of computer softwares. Among him are others who also are very succesful without any mathematical or linguistic intelligence.

It’s wrong to think that people who didn’t went to school are dumb. Well, they aren’t going to solve huge problems like deseases or world hunger, But the are able to make a living.

Of course that people like Bill Gates were very lucky and thay also had some influence, and that’s why people who aren’t able to aply for an IQ test are considered stupid.
There are many ways to be smart, and psychologists are testing and proving that this is true. This ways to be smart vary from scientists to artists, creative people don’t have to necessarily be genious. Should we call Van Gogh stupid?

They should make a new test, a test that measured a smart person

The writer’s general point that there are different ways to be smart can be grasped. However, effort is needed to understand the essay in parts. The topic is not very well developed, but there is some topic development. The Bill Gates example is a very nice example of specific detail, something that stronger compositions often lack. The composition includes both simple and complex sentences, but errors are very frequent. Language is not well controlled. There are problems with agreement, verb form, and vocabulary choice.

Focus Questions:

Work in pairs to develop questions based on the reviewer’s comments and the scoring criteria for the ECPE. Then try to answer the questions you have developed providing explanations and justifications.

For example: Why isn’t the topic very well developed?