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FREE SAMPLE



## Unpacking the ECCE Writing test: Q&A

A webinar for teachers



MICHIGAN LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT



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## Unpacking the ECCE Writing test: Q&A

A webinar for teachers



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■ ECCE



## Hellenic American Union

ECCE Writing Q&A

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ECCE

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**M** MICHIGAN  
LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT



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ECCE

ECCE Writing Q&A

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**■ ECCE**

Tasks: 1. Email/Letter (formal)  
or  
2. Essay  
Length: approx. 1 A4 page  
Duration: 30 min.

Writing

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**ECCE**

## Official Writing Rating Scale



Content and  
Development



Organization and  
Connection of Ideas



Linguistic Range and  
Control



Communicative  
Effect

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**ECCE**

- Is the content relevant to task?
- Is there a clear opinion in the response?
- Is the text produced developed?
- Are there supporting details in the response?

Content and  
Development

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

ECCE Writing Q&A

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**ECCE**

Are the ideas arranged in a logical order?

Is there clarity of ideas?

Are there appropriate linking words and phrases?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Organization and  
Connection of  
Ideas

ECCE Writing Q&A

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**ECCE**

Is there a variety in grammatical structures?

Are grammatical structures accurate?

Is there a variety of words used?

Are the words appropriate?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Linguistic Range  
and Control

ECCE Writing Q&A

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**ECCE**

Is there a clear writing purpose?

Is the writer (test taker) aware of the audience (reader)?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Communicative  
Effect

ECCE Writing Q&A

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# ECCE

## Writing Rating Scale

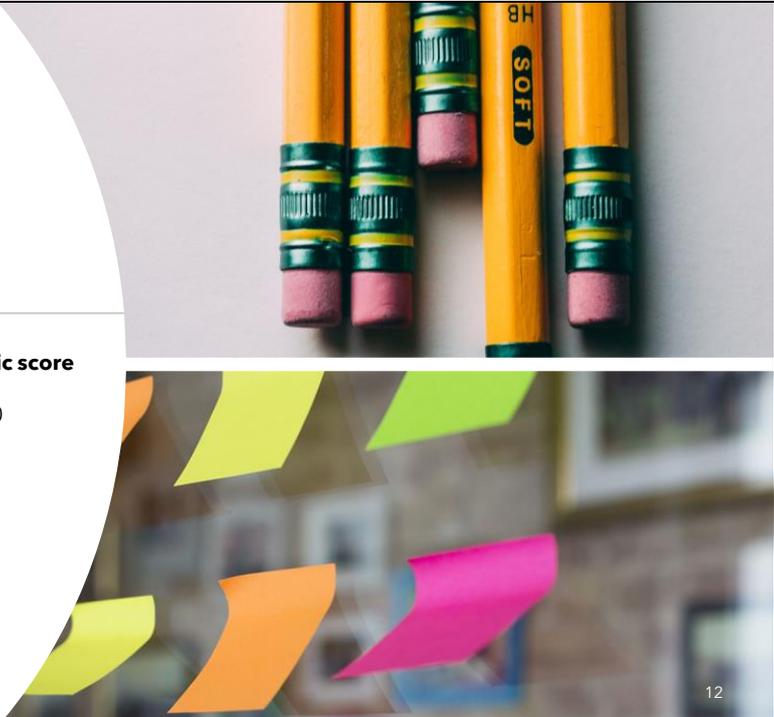
	Content and Development	Organization and Connection of Ideas	Linguistic Range and Control	Communicative Effect	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Relevance of content to task</i></li> <li>• <i>Quality of ideas used to develop the response</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Arrangement of content</i></li> <li>• <i>How language is used to link ideas</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Variety and precision of grammar and vocabulary</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How well communicative goals are achieved</i></li> </ul>	
Exceeds Standard	5	Richly develops an argument with original supporting details.	Smooth, effective arrangement and connection of ideas. A variety of cohesive devices are used effectively.	Broad range of grammar and vocabulary used accurately. If any errors are present they are minor and insignificant.	Appropriate register, awareness of audience, and establishment of context fully enhance the intended effect on the reader.
	4	Fully develops an argument with appropriate supporting details.	Appropriate and clear organization and connection of ideas. Transition markers used appropriately and not mechanically.	Good range of grammar and vocabulary; mostly accurate with only occasional errors.	Appropriate register, awareness of audience, and establishment of context help the reader to follow the text.
Standard	3	Adequately develops an argument. May rely on prompt for content.	Ideas clearly and adequately organized. Standard connectors used appropriately but somewhat mechanically.	Sufficient range of grammar and vocabulary to fulfill the task. Errors in grammar and vocabulary do not interfere with reader's comprehension.	Adequate sense of audience and purpose for writing generally allow the reader to follow the text.
Below Standard	2	Inadequate development of argument. Content may be limited or primarily based on prompt. Some content may be irrelevant to the topic.	Simple, basic organization of ideas. Although standard connectors may be present, ideas themselves are not always connected.	A range of structures may be attempted, but grammar and vocabulary errors are frequent and interfere with reader's comprehension.	Some misunderstanding of audience and purpose and inappropriate register may have a negative effect and hinder the reader's comprehension of the text.
	1	Little or no development of argument. Content is irrelevant or taken directly from the prompt.	Minimal or no organization. Connectors may be inappropriately used. Connection may not be apparent.	Grammar and vocabulary errors predominate and cause significant confusion.	Lacks audience awareness and purpose for writing.
Not Scored	Not On Topic A Not on Topic rating is awarded to any essay or letter that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is written on a topic different from those assigned; or</li> <li>• is connected to the prompt so loosely that the essay or letter could very well have been prepared in advance; or</li> <li>• requires considerable effort to see any connection between the composition and the prompt.</li> </ul>				



**ECCE**

## Level Bands

Band score	Scaled numeric score
Honors (H)	840-1000
Pass (P)	750-835
Low Pass (LP)	650-745
Borderline Fail (BF)	610-645



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**ECCE**



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# Your Questions

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ECCE Writing Q&A

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**ECCE**



**How Long Should an ECCE Writing response be?**

*(Minimum vs ideal length – do examiners really count words?)*

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**ECCE**



**What Type of Vocabulary Is Expected?**

*(Is simple language acceptable or should candidates "show off"?)*

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**ECCE**



**What Makes an Essay (writing response) "Well-Developed"?**  
*(How many supporting ideas / examples should each paragraph include?)*

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**ECCE**



**What Are the Most Common Reasons Students Lose Marks?**  
*(Task completion, grammar, repetition, weak conclusions – ranked)*

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**ECCE**



**Does Format Matter?**

*(Paragraphing, connectors, title or no title?)*

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**■ ECCE**



**Are Grammar Mistakes Always a Dealbreaker?**

*(How much accuracy is required to pass?)*

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**ECCE**



**What Impresses an Examiner Immediately?**

*(Quick wins students can implement right away)*

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**ECCE**



**How Can Teachers Give Feedback  
Without Over-Correcting?**

*(For the teachers & school owners in  
the audience)*

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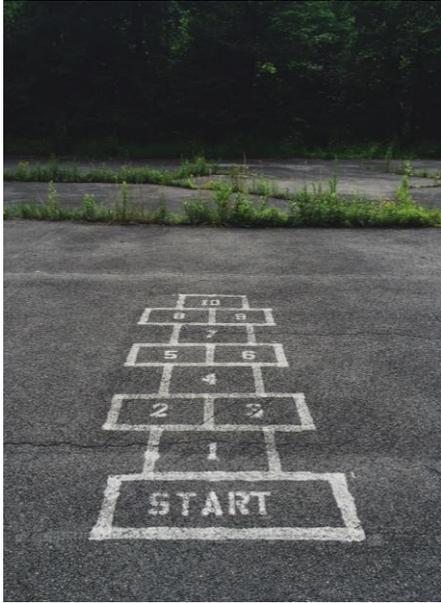
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**ECCE**



From LP to HP  
sample

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ECCE Writing Q&A

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## ■ ECCE

### Task 1: Email

The principal of a local high school has decided to add an after-school activity which would interest students. She wants to hear what you and your classmates suggest.

- Write an email to the Principal and suggest an after-school activity. Explain your opinion and give reasons to support your ideas.
- Start your email, "Dear Ms. Smith."

ECCE

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**■ ECCE**

Dear Miss Smith,

I'm a student and I would like to make suggestions for your idea because you want to hear the school students' suggestions.

Firstly, a good after-school activity is basketball because children like basketball. Furthermore, the children can have fun with their friends and they will be fit and they can do competitions with the other schools.

Also, you can organise a chess club, because chess is interesting, and a lot of students like it. I strongly believe it would help them broaden their horizons and spend their time in a creative way.

Lastly, it would benefit the students a swimming club. A lot of students don't know to swim and they can learn to swim. With this way, they will train their body because swimming is good exercise and they will not see television or eating junk food at home.

To sum up, I think if you follow my advices the children will enjoy the after school activities.

Sincerely,

John Papadopoulos

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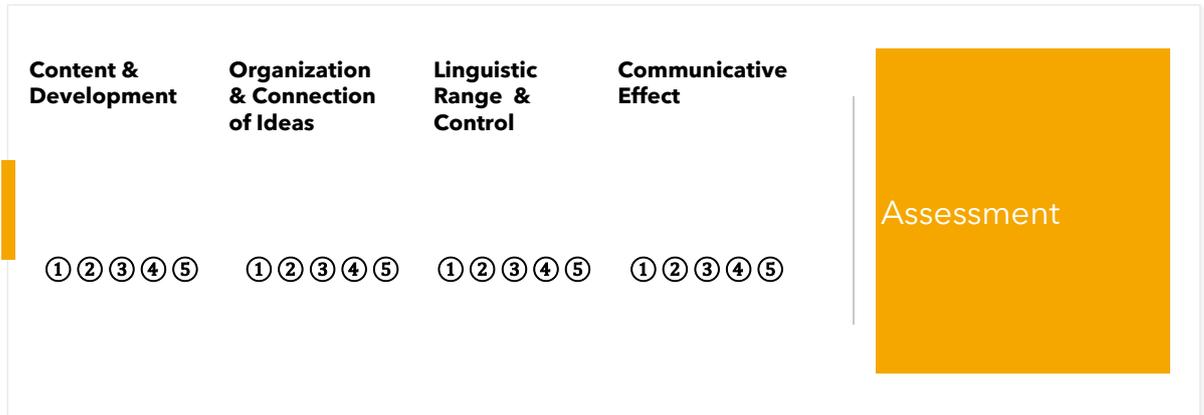
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**ECCE**



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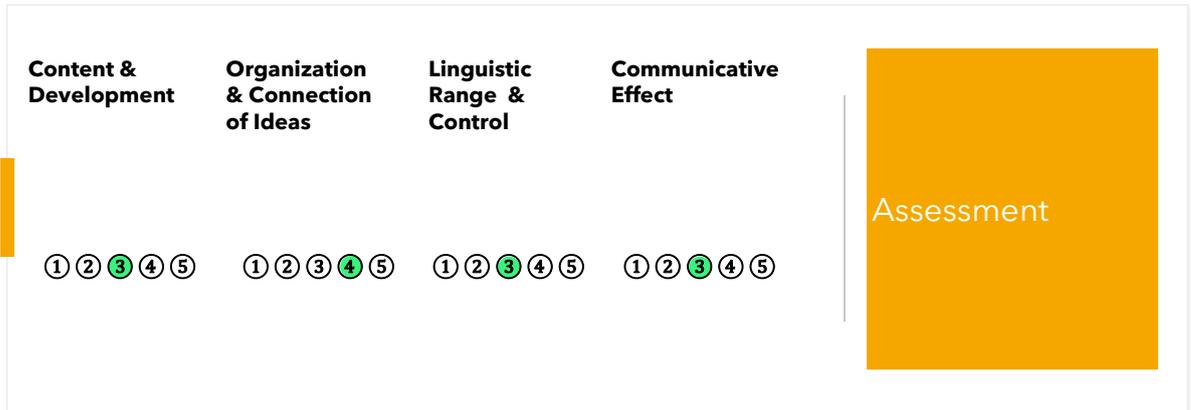
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**ECCE**



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**ECCE**

**Linguistic Range  
&  
Control**

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To sum up, I think if you follow my advices the children will enjoy the after school activities.

Sincerely,

John Papadopoulos

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

*Sufficient range of grammar and vocabulary to fulfill the task. Errors in grammar and vocabulary do not interfere with reader's comprehension.*

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**ECCE**

**Communicative  
Effect**

Dear Miss Smith,

I'm a student and I would like to **make suggestions** for your idea **because you want** to hear the school students' suggestions.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Firstly, a good after-school activity is basketball because children like basketball. Furthermore, the children can have fun with their friends and they will be fit and they can do competitions with the other schools.

*Adequate sense of audience and purpose for writing generally allow the reader to follow the text.*

Also, **you can** organise a chess club, because chess is interesting, and a lot of students like it. I strongly believe it would help them broaden their horizons and spend their time in a creative way.

Lastly, **it would benefit** the students a swimming club. A lot of students don't know to swim and they can learn to swim. With this way, they will train their body because swimming is good exercise and they will not see television or eating junk food at home.

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**■ ECCE**

Dear Miss Smith,

I'm a student at this high school; after discussing the matter with my classmates, I would like to make some suggestions about the after-school activities you wish to add in our high school.

First of all, I believe adding after-school activities is a fantastic idea! A great idea would be to organize a school basketball team where the students can train and have fun with their classmates, and why not take part in tournaments with other schools in our area. This would help the students improve their talents and skills at basketball, but also teach them to collaborate with their teammates. They will also be able to take up a sport for free, which will be great for the children who their families can't afford to pay for a private club.

Furthermore, you could organize a chess club, because chess is a very interesting and challenging game, and a lot of students would be willing to try it out. Taking into consideration that chess is a 'mind game', this would help the students develop their IQ level and, as a result, they would perform better academically, and their grades may improve.

Lastly, in my opinion, it would be very beneficial for the students if you organise a swimming club. A lot of students, even at high school, don't know how to swim. This opportunity would be great for the students that don't know swimming, as they could learn how to swim. It would help them broaden their horizons and spend their time in a creative way. This would lead them to have better bodies, because swimming trains every part of your body and it is said to be the best exercise.

To sum up, I strongly believe that if you follow my suggestions and organise the after school activities I mentioned, a lot of students would be interested in joining and would spend more time at school instead of watching TV at home and become couch potatoes.

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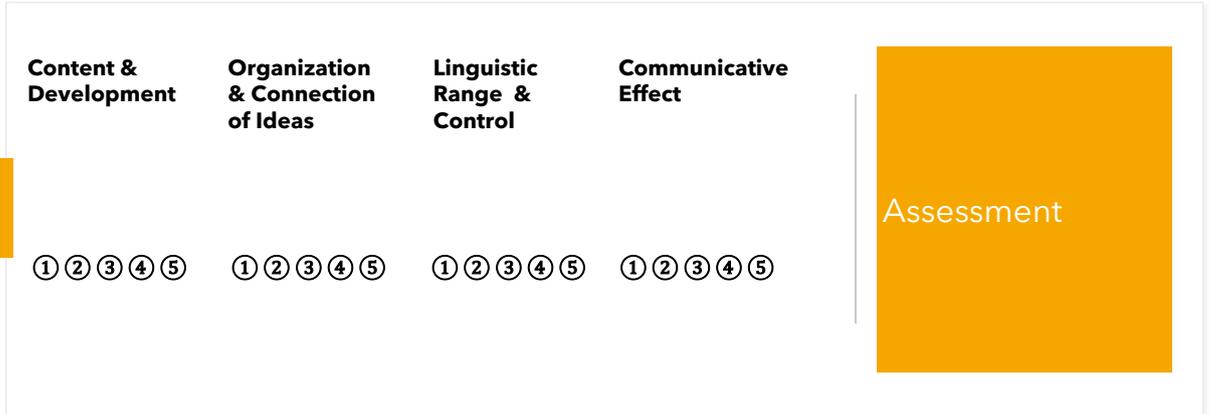
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**ECCE**



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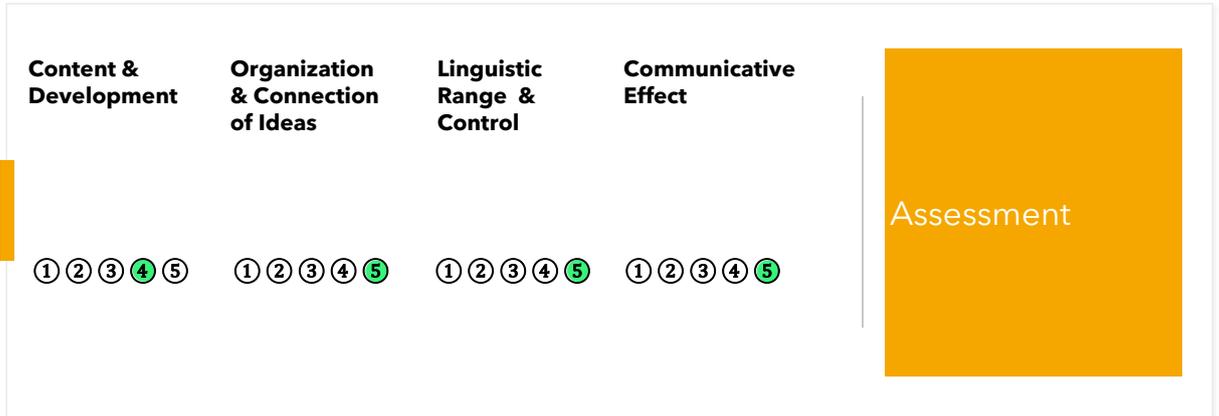
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**MICHIGAN LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT**



**ECCE**



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**ECCE**

**Linguistic Range & Control**

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Sincerely,  
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① ② ③ ④ ⑤

*Broad range of grammar and vocabulary used accurately. If any errors are present, they are minor and insignificant*

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**Organization & Connection of Ideas**

Dear Miss Smith,

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John Papadopoulos

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**ECCE**

**Remember**

Practice makes perfect!

Best of luck in your students' exams!



ECCE Writing Q&A

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Thank you



[exams@hau.gr](mailto:exams@hau.gr)



[www.hau.gr](http://www.hau.gr)

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