



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the MELAB?

The Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) is a multilevel English language proficiency test. It is used mainly for students applying to universities where the language of instruction is English. MELAB scores are also used for certification of English proficiency by various professional licensing organizations.

How do I prepare for the MELAB?

There are many ways to prepare for the MELAB, but the best preparation is through the general study and use of English. A free sample test is available on the CaMLA website. Practice materials are also available for purchase through the website.

What is on the MELAB?

Writing

You write an essay based on one of two topic choices.

Listening

The listening section has three parts:

- You hear a short recorded conversation, which is accompanied by three printed statements. You then choose the statement that means about the same thing as what you heard, or that is true based on the conversation you heard.
- You hear a recorded question, which is accompanied by three printed responses. You choose the appropriate response to the question.
- You hear three recorded talks, such as those that might be heard on the radio, each of which is followed by comprehension questions. The questions and the answer choices are printed in the test booklet.

Grammar

You see an incomplete sentence followed by a choice of words or phrases to complete it. Only one choice is grammatically correct.

Cloze

You read a passage from which some words have been removed. You choose the words that fit the passage in terms of both grammar and meaning.

Vocabulary

You read an incomplete sentence followed by a choice of words to complete it. You must choose the option that best completes the sentence in terms of meaning.

Reading

You read four passages, each of which is followed by comprehension questions.

Speaking (optional)

You have a guided conversation with an accredited examiner. The speaking test is required for some test takers seeking professional certification or admission to some university programs.



► **How is the MELAB scored?**

The speaking and writing sections are graded according to scales established by CaMLA. The speaking section is conducted and assessed by a certified speaking examiner. The writing section ratings are assigned by raters trained and certified according to CaMLA standards. All essays are scored by at least two raters.

The listening and grammar, cloze, vocabulary, and reading (GCVR) sections of the MELAB are machine-scored at CaMLA. Each correct answer contributes to the final score for each section, and there are no points deducted for wrong answers.

► **When do I receive my results?**

Tests are processed within six weeks after CaMLA receives the tests from the test center. CaMLA then reports scores directly to the institutions requested, which receive the reports within seven to eight weeks after you took the test.

If you need your results to reach the institutions earlier, you can request a rush service for an additional fee. In most cases, this means that your official MELAB scores will be received at the institution you requested within ten business days of the receipt of test materials at CaMLA.

► **How do I receive my results?**

After you take the MELAB, two different reports are issued: official score reports, which are reported to the indicated institutions, and unofficial score reports, which are issued to the test taker.

Score reports include scores of performance on parts 1 (writing), 2 (listening), and 3 (GCVR) of the MELAB. Scores on parts 1, 2, and 3 are then averaged to produce a MELAB final score. If you took the optional speaking test, the speaking score is also reported on the score report.

► **What if I have a disability?**

CaMLA wants you to be able to demonstrate your language ability under circumstances that are fair and equitable. If you have a disability, you can request special accommodations, which may include changes in the format or the administration of the test.

► **When can I take the MELAB?**

The MELAB is a monthly test, and you must register with your local test center to take it. You may take the MELAB as many times as you want.

For more information about test dates, registration procedures, and test fees in your area, contact your local test center. A list of authorized test centers is available on the CaMLA website.

► **Where can I find out more about the MELAB?**

To learn more about the MELAB and other CaMLA exams, visit www.CambridgeMichigan.org or email info@cambridgemichigan.org.



www.CambridgeMichigan.org/melab

