

10 Tips for Responding to Multiple-Choice Questions on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

1. Read and think about **all** of the alternatives first.
2. Realize that you can **choose only one** answer; therefore, only one answer is correct.
3. Rule out any answers that seem totally wrong, or that do not relate well to what you have read. Now you have fewer choices to consider. Look for the answer that relates to information stated explicitly (directly) in the text or implicitly (indirectly) in the text. Revisit the text to check your choice.
4. **Do not rely on your memory**, especially if you think that more than one answer is a possibility. Re-read part or all of the reading selection to help you choose..
5. If a multiple-choice question has options that are **names, events, dates, or numbers**, be sure to **re-read** the passage to find the correct information.
6. Always answer the question based on the context or surrounding information in the reading passage. Return to the text to find the part the question refers to, and then consider the remaining options.
7. Sometimes a question asks you to complete a sentence. In this case try the answer you choose by connecting it to the stem. If it doesn't sound like it fits grammatically, it is probably the wrong answer. Try the other options.
8. When asked to indicate the best meaning of a word as used in a reading selection, go back to the selection and use the context of the sentence – the words before and after the word – to help you determine the meaning of the word. Make sure it makes sense in the passage as a whole.
9. Be aware that answers for multiple choice questions do not follow a set pattern; for instance, the answer is not always the first choice, the last choice, or the second choice. The answers are randomly distributed.
10. Some research shows that the first choice of a multiple-choice question is **least** often the correct choice, and that the longest answer **may be** the correct choice. Read carefully.