
OSSLT

— Be informed. Be ready. —

Updates and Reminders

- The OSSLT will be in **printed booklets** - there will not be a digital copy of the test. Students will handwrite answers. (With the exception of some students with IEP's.)
- The test is scored out of 400. To pass you must earn a mark of **300 or more**. (75%)
- Successful completion of the test is a graduation requirement.

Be Informed, Be Ready

EQAO provides students and their families with many resources to help you prepare for the OSSLT. Go to www.eqao.com and follow the links to find preparation guides, samples tests, marking guides, etc.

Today we are talking about the “Be Informed, Be Ready” Guide found at:

<http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT/assessment-docs/getting-ready-guide-osslt.pdf>

Getting Ready Guide

We are discussing page 1.



Be informed.
Be ready.

Getting Ready Guide for Grade 10 Students

This guide contains tips and information to help you prepare for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), which you will write on March 30, 2017.

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The following preparation materials are available on the EQAO Web site (www.eqao.com):

- The *Planning and Preparation Guide* shows sample passages and questions from the OSSLT.
- Sample Test Booklets give you an idea of the amount of work you will be asked to do in each session of an hour and 15 minutes.
- The Released Items with Answer Keys and Scoring Guides show you the questions used to compute students' scores on previous years' tests, along with answer keys for the multiple-choice questions and scoring guides for open-response items (for examples of these materials, go to <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT/Pages/example-assessment-materials-2016.aspx>).

Your teachers will use the Web materials to take you through samples of the types of questions you will find on the OSSLT.

You can find out more by visiting www.eqao.com or by calling 1-888-327-7377.

Page 1

- You will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test on **March 27, 2019.**
 - Two 75 minute sessions with a 15 minute break.
 - Extra time will be provided for those students who use extra time as a part of their regular classroom practice, and anticipate they will need it for the Literacy Test.
- The EQAO website (www.eqao.com) provides you with sample test booklets, examples of past answers, and an explanation of how they were scored.
 - Look for the “Planning and Preparation Guide” and “Released Items with Answer Keys and Scoring Guides”

Getting Ready Guide

We are discussing page 2.

Test Instructions

There are four test booklets—two *Question Booklets* and two corresponding *Answer Booklets*. The following instructions will appear on the cover pages of the OSSLT. Make sure that you understand these instructions before you write the test.

Question Booklet Instructions

110000

Do not change the barcode or digits on this document.

621 11201 00 555565 09 01 50

School ID Grade Class Page 1 of 1

Booklet 1

QUESTIONS

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Follow along as your teacher reads the instructions.

- ✓ Check the identification numbers of the *Question* and *Answer* booklets to see that the final 12 digits all match. If they do not, report the problem to the teacher in charge.
- ✓ Check the pages of your *Question* and *Answer* booklets to see that they are in order. If they are not, report the problem to the teacher in charge.

Note:
You are not permitted to use cellphones, audio- or video-recording devices, digital music players or e-mail or non-messaging devices during the assessment.

No work in this booklet will be scored.

Continue to follow along as your teacher reads the directions on the cover of *Answer Booklet 1*.

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Page 2 - Test Instructions

- There are **four (4) test booklets** - two (2) *Question Booklets*, and two (2) *Answer Booklets*.
- Instructions for the *Question Booklets*:
 - Check the ID # on the Question and Answer booklets to be sure they are the same. (Your names do NOT appear on the booklets.)
 - Check that pages in all booklets are in order.

Page 2 Continued...

- **NO cell phones**, or other electronic devices - even on the break.
- **NO** work in the Question Booklet will be marked. (You may make notes and highlight passages etc. but the marker will never see this book.)

We are discussing page 3.

Answer Booklet
Instructions

You are now ready to start the test.

Page 3 - Answer Booklet

- Attempt **ALL** questions.
- Answer in pencil, or blue or black ink **ONLY**.
- Multiple Choices questions:
 - Choose the **best** or **most correct** answer.
 - Fill in the circle **completely**.
 - Vigorously erase or cross out any errors.

Page 3 Continued...

- Short Answer Questions:
 - Pay attention to clarity, organization, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
 - The amount of lined space provided indicates the approximate length your answer should be.
- **ALL answers go in the ANSWER booklet.**
- Space is provided for rough notes, but they will **NOT** be marked.

Getting Ready Guide

We are discussing page 4.

Reading Skills

The test has multiple-choice and open-response questions that focus on the reading skills required in school and daily life:

- understanding explicitly (directly) stated ideas and information;
- understanding implicitly (indirectly) stated ideas and information and
- making connections between information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience.

Reading Selections

The reading selections include the following: an information paragraph, a news report, a dialogue, a real-life narrative and a graphic text (e.g., a diagram). They vary in length from a single paragraph to the equivalent of two pages.

Tips for Reading

General Strategies

- Manage your time so that you complete all sections of the test.
- Read the questions first. This will help you predict what the reading selection is going to be about.
- Skim the selection and then read it closely.
- Underline or highlight important information and ideas as you read.
- As you read, think about what you are reading and ask yourself questions about it.
- Try to “see” what you are reading; some readers say this is like running a video or movie in their heads.
- Look for links between what you are reading and prior knowledge and experiences you have had.
- If you read a word you don’t understand, look for a root word that you know inside the larger word; look for prefixes and suffixes.
- If you still don’t understand the word, read to the end of the sentence and look for clues to its meaning. Try reading the sentences before and after the sentence to see if you can find the meaning from the context.
- If a long sentence has you confused, reread it and try to put it into your own words.
- If you are having trouble understanding an idea, either read on until the meaning becomes clearer, or stop and reread.

Strategies for Multiple-Choice Reading Questions

- Read and reread the question carefully.
- Read the four answers and eliminate any answers that are incorrect.
- If necessary, reread the relevant parts of the selection to choose the best or most correct answer.
- Record your answer in the *Answer Booklet* as described in the test instructions.

Strategies for Open-Response Reading Questions

- Read and reread the question carefully.
- Keep your answer within six lines.
- Answer the question using specific and relevant details and information from the reading selection.
- Make connections between the ideas and information in the reading selection.
- Reread your response to ensure you have answered all parts of the question, and correct any errors you notice.

Make sure you write all your answers in the *Answer Booklet*. Nothing you write in the *Question Booklet* will be scored.

Page 4 - Reading Skills

- There are **three reading skills** tested on the OSSLT:
 - understanding **explicitly** stated ideas and information (“on the lines” - the answer is right there)
 - understanding **implicitly** stated ideas and information (“between the lines” - best guess based on evidence)
 - making **connections** between stated ideas and information, and personal knowledge/experience (“beyond the lines” - based on your life experience)

Page 4 Continued...

- On the test you will read the following types of selections:
 - an **information paragraph** (like in history, science, tech, etc)
 - a **news report** (objective - states 5W's and H)
 - a **dialogue** (like in English and French - a literary text - focus on speech, punctuation, relationships, character, etc.)
 - a **real-life narrative** (a story about a real life person, like in Civics or Careers)
 - a **graphic text** (charts, tables, illustrations - like in Geography, Math, Science, Tech, etc.)

Page 4 Continued...

- General Strategies:
 - Manage your **time** so you can complete all sections.
 - Read the **questions first**.
 - Underline or **highlight** important information and ideas.
 - Look for **links** between the reading and your life.
 - (Then go to your Answer booklet for **every question!**)

Page 4 Continued...

- Strategies for Multiple Choice Reading Questions:
 - **Read and re-read** the question carefully.
 - Read the four answers and **eliminate** any answers that are incorrect.
 - **Reread** relevant parts of the selection.
 - Record your answer in the **Answer Booklet**.

Page 4 Continued...

- Strategies for Open Response Reading Questions:
 - **Read and re-read** the questions carefully.
 - Limit your answer to the **six (6) lines** provided.
 - Focus on **specific** and **relevant** details.
 - **Make connections** between the ideas and the information in the reading.
 - Re-read your answers to be sure you have answered **ALL parts** of the question.
 - **Write ALL answers in the ANSWER booklet.**

Getting Ready Guide

- We are discussing page 5.

Writing Skills

The test has short- and long-writing tasks, and multiple-choice questions that focus on three writing skills required in school and daily life:

- developing a main idea with specific supporting details;
- organizing information and ideas in a coherent manner and
- using conventions (syntax, spelling, grammar and punctuation) in a manner that does not distract from clear communication.

Tips for Writing

It is important that you follow the instructions and write in the required form. Read the assigned topic for each task carefully before you begin to write. Make sure your work is on topic and is in the required form. For the long- and short-writing tasks, use full and correctly written sentences.

A. Long-Writing Tasks

- One of the tasks is writing a **news report** based on a picture and headline provided. Make up facts and information to answer the questions Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How? and write a one-page report on the event. Your audience is an adult reader of a newspaper.

Strategies for the News Report

- Look closely at the headline and picture. Think of an event that relates to them.
 - Make up the information and facts as you answer some or all of the following questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
 - Pretend you are writing for a newspaper, not for a radio or television station.
 - Do not write an advertisement, for example, as that is not the form of writing required.
 - Write your report using the third person.
- The other long-writing task is a **series of paragraphs** expressing an opinion on a given topic. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.), and write a minimum of three paragraphs on the two pages provided for your response. You are encouraged to fully develop your opinion with supporting details, and you should write approximately two pages. Your audience is an adult who is interested in your opinion.

Strategies for the Series of Paragraphs

- Read the topic question and decide what position you will take in your response.
- Clearly state your opinion at the beginning or end of your response.

- Write at least three paragraphs. Include an introduction, development and a conclusion.
- Support your opinion with reasons and relevant examples or facts.
- Make sure the divisions between paragraphs are clear.

B. Short-Writing Tasks

These tasks give you the opportunity to use your knowledge and personal experience while demonstrating your writing skills.

Strategies for Short-Writing Tasks

- Read and reread the question carefully.
- Think of links between the topic and your knowledge and personal experiences.
- Develop **ONE** main idea using specific details and relevant information.
- Reread your response to ensure you have answered all parts of the question, and correct any errors you notice.

C. Multiple-Choice Questions

These multiple-choice questions give you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of the three writing skills.

Strategies for Multiple-Choice Writing Questions

- Read and reread the question carefully.
- Read the four answers and eliminate any that are incorrect.
- If necessary, reread the question to choose the best or most correct answer.

Page 5 - Writing Skills

- The OSSLT has short and long writing tasks, and multiple choice questions that focus on the following skills:
 - developing a **main idea** with sufficient **supporting detail**
 - **organizing information** in a coherent manner
 - using **conventions** (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.) in a way that does not distract from clear communication

Page 5 Continued...

- Tips for Writing:
 - **Follow instructions.**
 - Write in the **required format.**
 - Read the **assigned task** carefully before writing.
 - Be sure your work is **on topic.**
 - Use full and correct sentences.


Page 5 Continued...

- Long-Writing Task 1 - **News Report**
 - based on a **picture and headline** provided
 - write a one (1) page **news report**, NOT an interview
 - make up facts and information to answer the **5W's and H**
 - write a news report for a **newspaper**, NOT a radio or TV news report
 - use **third person**
 - (Add a quotation from a bystander.)

Section **IV** Writing a News Report page 5

Provide your answer in the Answer Booklet.

School team qualifies for finals



Task:
Write a **news report** based on the headline and picture above.

- You will have to make up the facts and information to answer some or all of the following questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
- You must relate your news report to **both** the headline **and** the picture.

Purpose and Audience:
to report on an event for the readers of a newspaper

Length:
The lined space provided in the *Answer Booklet* for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

Page 5 Continued...

- Long-Writing Task 2: **Series of Paragraphs**
 - **express an opinion** on a given topic (stick to your point; don't argue both sides)
 - read the topic carefully, decide on your position, **clearly state your opinion** at the beginning and end
 - **develop main idea** with supporting details (proof, examples, facts)
 - include an **intro, development,** and a **conclusion**
 - minimum of **three (3) paragraphs** - be sure paragraph divisions are clear. (We recommend 4 paragraphs.)

Section 1 Writing a Series of Paragraphs page 2

Provide your answer in the Answer Booklet.

Task:
Write a **minimum of three paragraphs** expressing an **opinion** on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.).

Audience:
an adult who is interested in your opinion

Length:
The lined space provided in the *Answer Booklet* for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

Topic:
Is what you are learning in school affecting the way you live your life now?

Do not write in this area.

Page 5 Continued...

- Short-Writing Tasks
 - **read and re-read** the questions carefully
 - think of **links** between topic and your knowledge and personal experiences
 - **develop ONE main idea**, using **specific details** and relevant information
 - **Reread** your answer to be sure you have answered **all** parts of the question.
 - Correct any errors you notice.

Section **V** Writing page 10

Provide your answer in the Answer Booklet.

Short Writing Task

1 What piece of clothing best expresses your personality? Use specific details to explain how it conveys who you are.

Do not write in this area.

Page 5 Continued...

- Multiple Choice Questions:
 - **Read and re-read** the questions carefully.
 - Read the four answers and **eliminate** any that are incorrect.
 - Re-read the question to choose the **best** or **most correct** answer.

Provide your answers in the Answer Booklet.

Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** Which sentence would be the best to conclude the following paragraph?
- It is important to bring your vehicle to an immediate but safe stop when an emergency vehicle approaches with its lights or siren on. React quickly. Use your signals to alert other drivers of your intent to pull over. This will ensure your own and their safety.
- a Driving an emergency-service vehicle can be challenging.
 - b Emergency-service personnel require specialized safety training.
 - c Different emergency vehicles will have different-coloured flashing lights.
 - d Always be prepared to clear the road safely for emergency vehicles.
- 2** Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
- a Many communities in Ontario celebrate the fall season with a fair.
 - b Demolition derbies often attracts a large and enthusiastic audience.
 - c Some fairs also has midway rides and agricultural demonstrations.
 - d By far, the best thing about fall fairs are the delicious food you can try.
- 3** Choose the option that best combines the information in the following sentences.
- Oil Springs is a town in Ontario. Oil Springs was once called Black Creek. The town's name was changed in 1858 when oil was discovered there.**
- a Oil Springs is the name of a town also called Black Creek, Ontario, and oil was discovered there in 1858, so its name was changed.
 - b Black Creek, an Ontario town, was once called Oil Springs, but oil was discovered there in 1858, so it changed its name.
 - c The town of Oil Springs is located in Ontario, but it was called Black Creek after oil was discovered there in 1858.
 - d Once called Black Creek, the town of Oil Springs, Ontario, changed its name in 1858 when oil was discovered there.
- 4** Which of the following sentences is written correctly?
- a Volunteer experiences looks good on a résumé.
 - b Volunteering may even helps with career decisions.
 - c Volunteering is a good way to learning responsibility.
 - d Volunteering helps develop good time-management skills.

Getting Ready Guide

- We are discussing page 6.

Questions and Answers

Do I have to write the OSSLT?

If you entered Grade 9 in September 2000 or later and are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), you must write the OSSLT. This applies to all students in publicly funded schools and inspected private schools.

Only mature students may enrol directly in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) without first attempting the OSSLT. A mature student is a student who

- is at least 18 years of age on or before December 31 of the school year in which he or she registers in an Ontario secondary school program;
- was not enrolled as a regular day-school student for a period of at least one school year immediately preceding his or her registration in a secondary program and
- is enrolled in a secondary program for the purpose of obtaining an OSSD.

Why do I need to write the OSSLT?

You need to be sure that you have the reading and writing skills you should have acquired by the end of Grade 9, as outlined in *The Ontario Curriculum*. These skills are the basis for learning in all subject areas throughout both elementary and secondary school.

Successful completion of the OSSLT meets one of the 32 requirements for the OSSD.

Why am I writing the OSSLT in Grade 10 instead of closer to graduation?

Writing now gives you time to get help if you need to improve your reading and writing skills. If you do not pass the OSSLT this year, you will have opportunities to retake it in future years.

Will the OSSLT count toward my course marks?

No. Successful completion of the OSSLT is one of the requirements for the OSSD. The test will not count toward your course marks.

Will universities and colleges see my OSSLT results?

Your secondary school transcript will indicate that you have completed the OSSLT as one of the requirements for the OSSD.

Is the test difficult?

The OSSLT is designed to reflect the requirements of *The Ontario Curriculum*. The test assesses literacy (reading and writing) skills students are expected to have acquired by the end of Grade 9.

What happens if I do not pass the OSSLT?

- You can take the test again the following year.
- You can also talk to your parents or guardians and your school principal and/or teacher about taking the OSSLC instead of retaking the test.

Can I get an accommodation?

If you have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for classroom tests and assessments, you may be able to get an accommodation. For more information, visit EQAO's Web site, www.eqao.com, and talk to your parents or guardians and your school principal and/or teacher.

Can I get an exemption?

To be eligible for an exemption, you must have an IEP that clearly indicates that you are not working toward an OSSD. For more information, talk to your parents or guardians and your school principal and/or teacher, or visit EQAO's Web site, www.eqao.com.

I am new to Ontario, and English is not my first language. Can I get a special provision or deferral?

You may be able to get a special provision or deferral. For more information, talk to your parents or guardians and your school principal and/or teacher, or visit EQAO's Web site, www.eqao.com.

What happens if I leave questions blank?

You'll get a score of zero for these questions.

Page 6 - Q & A

- Do I have to write the OSSLT?
 - **Yes.**
- Why do I have to write the OSSLT?
 - **To be sure you have the reading and writing skills required by the end of grade 9, and to meet your OSSD requirements.**
- Why am I writing the OSSLT in Grade 10?
 - **So you have time to improve skills and retake the test in future years if necessary.**

Page 6 Continued...

- Will the OSSLT count toward my marks?
 - **No.**
- Will universities/colleges see my results?
 - **Your transcript indicates you have completed the OSSLT. (No mark is provided.)**
- Is the test difficult?
 - **It is based on the reading and writing skills expected by the end of grade 9 across the curriculum.**

Page 6 Continued...

- What happens if I do not pass?
 - **You can take the test in grade 11.**
 - **You may be eligible to take the OLC instead of the test in grade 12.**
- Can I get accommodations?
 - **If you have an IEP you may be eligible for accommodations. (See Mrs. Boyd or your SERT.)**
 - **(If you are eligible to use a computer and/or have requested extra time, please take advantage of that.)**

Page 6 Continued...

- Can I get an exemption?
 - **Not if you are working toward an OSSD.**
- English is not my first language. Can I get special provisions or a deferral?
 - **You may qualify for a deferral. (See Mrs. Williamson or your ESL teacher)**
 - **You will be given up to double time to write the test.**

Page 6 Continued...

- What happens if I leave questions blank?
 - **You'll get a score of zero for those questions. (A blank question can be the difference between passing and failing. Try every question!)**

Additional Questions

- I often require extra time to complete evaluation tasks. How do I arrange to have this accommodation on the day of the test?
 - **In homeroom classes you have received a letter addressed to your parents regarding extra time. If you anticipate needing extra time, this letter should have been submitted by today Ms. Morris or Ms. Littlejohn.**
 - **Electronic reminders of the letter were sent home in the weekly bulletin.**

Additional Questions

- My friends and I spoke during the break and our Booklet 1 questions were different. What do I do?
 - **Don't worry. EQAO field tests questions for following years. If your test is different than your friends' you got different field test questions. You are not penalized for this in any way.**

Where do we go from here?

- **Lit Blitz**

- March 4 Assembly (p1), **March 6 (Carousel)**, March 21 (P2), March 22 (P3)

- **Wrap-Up Assembly**

- Monday, March 25 (P4)

- **OSSLT**

- **Wednesday, March 27 (8:30)**

Do you have questions...

- See Ms. Morris in Student Success (Rm. 93) or Ms. Littlejohn in the Library.
- The school website has a large Q&A section.

