

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST

2016



What is the OSSLT?

The OSSLT is a provincial test of literacy (reading and writing) skills students have acquired by Grade 10. It is based on the literacy skills expected in *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subject areas up to the end of Grade 9.

Overview: Test Administration

ADMINISTRATION DATE

March 31, 2016

TEST MATERIALS

Booklet Format

DURATION

2.5 hours testing time total ***

RESULTS

An individual student report
indicating whether you are
“Successful” or “Unsuccessful”

WHAT'S INCLUDED

WRITING TASKS

News Report (1 page)

Opinion Piece (2 pages)

2 Short Writing Tasks (6 lines)

8 Multiple Choice Writing Questions

- Conventions
- Sentence and Paragraph Structure
- Organization of Ideas

READING SELECTIONS

Informational (paragraph, news report)

Narrative (dialogue, real-life narrative)

Graphical

20+ Multiple Choice Reading Questions (6 lines each)

2+ Open Response

- Explain with text support
- Explain with text support and student ideas
- Summarize

READING SKILLS

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

Understanding explicitly (directly) stated ideas and information

Understanding implicitly (indirectly) stated ideas and information

Making connections between information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience

READING SELECTIONS

<p>INFORMATIONAL</p> <p>(Paragraph and News Reports)</p> <p>225-250 words</p>	<p>NARRATIVE</p> <p>Dialogue: 225-250 Words</p> <p>Real-Life Narrative Approx 600 Words</p>	<p>GRAPHIC</p> <p>Fewer Than 100 Words</p>	<p>TYPES OF QUESTIONS</p> <p>Multiple Choice and Open Response</p> <p>6 Lines Each</p>
--	--	---	---

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, those being

Developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details

Organizing information and ideas in a coherent manner

Using conventions (spelling / grammar / punctuation in a manner that does not distract from clear communication

OVERVIEW WRITING

LONG WRITING TASKS

(News Reports and a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion)

TWO SHORT-WRITING TASKS

6 Lines Each

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Developing a Main Idea, Organizing Ideas, and Language Conventions

STUDENT SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION LEARNERS

1. *“Modifications”* are changes to content of the test and to performance criteria. Modifications are not permitted, because they affect the validity and reliability of the test.
2. *“Accommodations”* are supports and services that enable students with special education needs to demonstrate their competencies in the skills being measured by the test. Accommodations change only the way in which the test is administered or the way in which a student responds to its components. Accommodations do not alter the content of the test or affect its validity or reliability.

EXEMPTIONS AND DEFERRALS

1. *“Exemptions”* are decisions made for students whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) states they are not working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
2. *“Deferrals”* are decisions to postpone the writing of the test until the following year for students who are working toward an OSSD.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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.

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will the OSSLT count toward my course marks?

No. Successful completion of the OSSLT is one of the 32 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 32 requirements for the OSSD.

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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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.