



Helpful Information to prepare for the EQAO Literacy Test

Test Day is Tuesday, March 31th, 2020

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is a provincial test of reading and writing skills up to the end of Grade 9. There are often references in the reading passages to Grade 9 subjects including Canadian Geography, Science, etc. in the test. Students need to score 75% (minimum 300 out of 400) to pass. All students need to meet their literacy requirement by the end of high school in order to graduate.

<p><i>When is the OSSLT?</i></p>	<p>Tuesday, March 31, 2020 during Block A & B (extra time is available for those who need it)</p> <p>The first booklet will begin at 9:30 a.m. (we will have breakfast snacks available from 8:55—9:30) and the second booklet will begin at 11:15 a.m. It will be a slightly different schedule that day with extra time for breaks. The afternoon will be a regular Day 2 schedule.</p>
<p><i>What does the test look like?</i></p>	<p>You will get two test booklets and two answer booklets and an answer sheet for the multiple choice questions.</p>
<p><i>Who will write the OSSLT?</i></p>	<p>All Grade 10 and above students who have not met the literacy requirement, and students who were not successful last year can write the test. Some students will be deferred until next year to give them extra time to prepare. If a student has tried and failed the test, they may choose to complete the OLC literacy course to meet their literacy requirement.</p>
<p><i>How long will the test take?</i></p>	<p>2.5 hours; you will receive a break. You will receive additional time if needed.</p>
<p><i>Where will students write the test?</i></p>	<p>We will send a letter home that will tell students where they are writing. Most students will write with their Block A class. Some students will be deferred this year and will be writing next year. Some students may also be completing their literacy requirements by doing the OLC course. We will also post lists and the front and back of the school the week of the test.</p>
<p><i>When will students learn their results?</i></p>	<p>Results are sent to the school in June. Students will have an opportunity to pick up their results from the office once they arrive.</p>
<p><i>How can students prepare for the test?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep well and eat before the test • Bring a pen, pencil and highlighter • Review the previous year's tests and answers at www.eqao.com • Leave your cell phone at home or in your locker • Bring something to read in case you finish early
<p><i>General Tips</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow instructions <u>exactly</u> as written • Answer all questions • Write legibly—use a black or blue pen or pencil • Strike out any errors. Don't worry about showing your edits • Fill the space • Don't go outside the space • Begin answers by repeating the words in the questions asked. Example: <i>Why did the chicken cross the road?</i> Answer: The chicken crossed the road <u>because</u> <i>it needed to get to the other side.</i> • Always use specific examples to support your ideas • Use the word <u>because</u>
<p><i>Tips for Reading</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the questions before reading the passage • Underline or highlight important information as you read



Helpful Information to prepare for the EQAO Literacy Test (Continued)

Here are some more tips to help you prepare for the test!

<p><i>Tips for answering Multiple-Choice questions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and reread the question carefully • Read ALL 4 answers and cross out any answers that are obviously incorrect • Reread the relevant parts of the selection to choose the best or most correct answer
<p><i>Tips for Short Written Responses</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and reread the question carefully, i.e. detail = 1 example, details = more than 1 detail • Reread your response and correct any errors you notice
<p><i>Tips for writing the News Report</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure your report is about the headline and picture provided • Answer: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? (You make up this information) • Write in third person. Do not use personal pronouns (I, we, you, us and they). • Include dialogue (at least two quotations) • Write in past tense
<p><i>Tips for writing the Opinion Piece</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly state your opinion at the beginning and end of your response—Stick to 1 opinion! • Write at least 3 paragraphs. Include an introduction, body, and a conclusion. • Indent the first sentence of each paragraph. • Support your opinion with examples
<p><i>What are the most common errors students make on the test?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not following instructions • Leaving questions blank • Not supporting ideas with examples • Errors (spelling, grammar, punctuation)
<p><i>What types of Reading questions are on the test?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational Text (225 to 250 words) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph • News Report • Narrative Text (550 to 600 words) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real-life narrative • Dialogue • Graphic Text (fewer than 150 words) • There will be two types of questions to answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple choice, and • Open response
<p><i>What are they looking for on the test?</i></p>	<p>The want to see how you make meaning out of what you read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How you understand what the writer says, directly or explicitly • How you understand what the writer means, indirectly or implicitly • How you make connections between information, ideas and your own experiences
<p><i>What types of Writing questions are on the test?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two long writing tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of paragraphs expressing an opinion with supporting details (two pages long) • A news report showing organization of information and ideas (one page long) • Two short writing tasks (Six lines each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are short, but they are worth a lot of marks—be certain you complete them! • Multiple Choice Questions will ask you to show your understanding of how writers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a main idea with supporting details • Organize their ideas • Use language conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and word usage)

Still have questions? Contact Ms Sanvido in the office, your guidance counselor or ask a teacher.

We want to help you be successful on the test!