



# The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Quick Facts

The OSSLT is approximately 2.5 hours in length. Students must complete two test booklets, each booklet expected to take about 75 minutes. Where necessary, students will be allowed additional time.

Students are asked to bring blue or black ink pens, pencils and an eraser. **Cell phones and electronic devices are prohibited (not allowed) in test rooms.**

Room verifications; Refreshments/activities in cafeteria/foyer	7:45 - 8:15
Travel time to writing area/room	8:15 - 8:25
Instructions	8:25 - 8:30
Test Booklet 1	8:30 - 10:00
Break	10:00 - 10:15
Test Booklet 2	10:15 - 11:45
Questionnaire	11:45 - 11:55
Lunch	11:55 - 12:50
Tutorials: all students Periods A & B Periods D & E	12:50 - 1:35 1:40 - 2:25

A successful OSSLT is a requirement for students working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. This year's test writers will include students who:

- entered grade 9 in 2017-18;
- did not pass the OSSLT in a previous test administration year;
- were absent or deferred in a previous test administration year.

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

The OSSLT assesses the reading and writing skills, up to grade 9, taught in all subjects in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

### READING Tasks

Students will be asked to read a variety of selections and answer questions about each one. There will be two kinds of questions: multiple-choice and written explanations. Students should expect to show understanding of:

- **directly** stated ideas and information
- **indirectly** stated ideas and information
- **connections** between information and ideas in a reading selection and personal experiences

The **READING** selections vary in length from a single paragraph to two pages. The following types of reading selections will appear on the test:

- an information paragraph
- a news report
- use of dialogue
- a real-life narrative
- a graphic text, such as a schedule or diagram

### WRITING Tasks

Students will demonstrate their writing skills by completing:

- short writing tasks, responding within six lines
- two long writing tasks
  - a one page **news report**;
  - a **series of paragraphs**, two pages in length, expressing an opinion
- **multiple choice questions** about the readings
- **multiple choice questions** about writing conventions/grammar

The **WRITING** tasks will focus on:

- developing main ideas with sufficient supporting details;
- organizing information and ideas in a way that makes sense;
- using writing conventions—namely spelling, grammar and punctuation—in a way that does not take away from clear communication.

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► **What happens if a student is not successful on the OSSLT?**

This literacy designation is a requirement for students working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students who are not successful will have the opportunity to re-take an equivalent test in future years. There is no limit to the number of times that the test may be re-taken. Where appropriate, a student may earn this requirement by taking the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC).

► **How do students receive their results for the OSSLT?**

All students who write the test receive an individual report from EQAO that is delivered by the school. This report states whether or not they have passed the OSSLT.

► **Who scores student responses on the OSSLT?**

Student work on the OSSLT is sent to EQAO for scoring. Qualified individuals who have received special training for this purpose score the tests. The test does not count toward marks in any course that a student is taking.

► **How can parents/guardians learn more about the test and what is required to complete the test successfully?**

Teachers at all secondary schools are helping students understand the requirements of the test and have been providing opportunities to practise skills so students are well prepared.

Parents/guardians may learn more about the requirements of the test by visiting the EQAO website at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) . Resources available for download on the EQAO website include:

- **Sample Tests, Student Answer Sheets** and *Answer Key*– examples of what to expect on the test
- The **Planning and Preparation Guide** describes the reading and writing skills assessed on the test, the kinds of questions asked, sample test materials and tips for preparing for the test.
- The **Getting Ready Guide** provides details about the test content, instructions for completing the test and tips for doing well.
- The **Framework** document provides a description of the assessment and an explanation of how it connects to the expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum*

**Contact the Education Quality and Accountability Office**

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