

Literacy Test Practice: Short Answers

Rationale

The OSSLT includes two types of short writing tasks. For these you are asked **to write one short paragraph** in response to a question.

1 One type of short writing task is based only on your life experience. There are no correct or incorrect answers, but **be specific** when you explain your answer.

2 The other type of short writing task is based on something you will see in the test. Be sure to include **information directly related to the text**, as well as your own ideas.

Short answer questions are worth 30 points each for content and 20 points each for conventions for a total **possible 50 points** each!!

Scoring Guide- Content

The criteria for getting a mark of 20/20 on conventions are that “errors in conventions **do not distract** from communication”. These are easy points to earn.

Score	Criteria
10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Response is not developed or is developed with irrelevant ideas and information <p>The response <u>answers the question</u> but does not provide an explanation for the answer. OR the response answers the question but provides an <u>irrelevant explanation</u> for the answer.</p>
20/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Response is developed with vague ideas and information; it may include irrelevant ideas and information <p>The response provides <u>vague support</u> to explain the answer to the question OR the response requires the reader to make the connection between the answer and the reasons provided for the answer.</p>
30/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Response is developed with clear, specific and relevant ideas and information <p>The response answers the question and provides <u>specific and relevant details</u> to clearly explain the answer.</p>

DON'T LEAVE THESE QUESTIONS BLANK.

Together they are worth as much as the News Report or Opinion Essay.

Exemplar

What is one thing you would do if you had a day off to do anything you wanted? Explain why.

Supporting detail #1 to back up the main idea

Transitional word to join ideas

Main idea

If I had a day off to do anything I wanted, one thing I would do is watch some of the movies I haven't seen yet. I don't get to see many movies because I am usually too busy with school and my part-time job. So, I would rent a few of these and invite some friends over to watch them with me. This would be a fun and relaxing way to spend the day. To sum it up, for me, watching movies would be an ideal day off.

Supporting detail #2

Restate Main idea

Supporting detail #3

Instructions for the Short Writing Task

A

Plan

1. Read the question and choose your response. Underline or circle key words.
2. Draft a sentence stating your response. Use the test question to help you draft your response: copy it or reword it to suit your purpose.
3. Brainstorm and list three reasons to support your response.

B

Write

4. Write an opening sentence that states your response.
5. Write 4 sentences to support your response. Give reasons, explanations and examples.
6. Write a concluding sentence that connects to the main idea, beginning with words and phrases like "That is why," "Therefore," or "To sum it up."

C

Review

7. Review and correct. Make sure to have capitals at the start of all sentences and punctuation (periods, exclamation points, etc.) at the end.

Practice Questions- from previous Literacy Tests

1 If your school could offer a new course, what would you want it to be? Explain your answer using specific details.

A Plan:

Main idea --- _____ as a new course

(you can make up ANYTHING as long as it makes sense for the question- they will not fact-check your answer)*

3 reasons/examples/facts why it would be a good course:

-
-
-

B Write

C Review your answer.

A checklist of the required elements for short writing tasks:

- States the main idea
- Provides supporting details (3) that back up the main idea
- Organized format and a logical sequence
 - Opening sentence
 - Supporting details (reasons and explanations)
 - Concluding sentence that connects to the topic sentence
- Uses transitional words and phrases to join ideas (firstly, secondly, etc.)



What television program do you really dislike? Explain why.

Name a place you would like to go and explain why.

What was your favourite junk food when you were a child and explain why you liked it.

Final Tips

- Write in the format requested- don't write a letter or a poem
- Markers won't be fooled by oversized writing
- You will have six lines for your paragraph. Use all of the space but don't go too far beyond the 6 lines provided.

Code 30

Writing Prompt: If your school could offer a new course, what would you want it to be? Explain your answer using specific details.

If my school was going to offer a new course I would want it to be a cooking/baking class. I would hope it would be this because I love to cook and have a great interest in learning more recipes and cooking techniques. I also think this class would be helpful because cooking helps with math skills (measurement, unit conversions) and comprehension skills (understanding recipes).

Annotation: The response identifies a new course (*cooking/baking*) and provides specific and relevant details (*helps with math skills (measurement, unit conversion, and comprehension skills understanding a recipe)*) to clearly explain why the course was identified.