



The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Thursday March 30th 2017

Quick Facts

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test will be written for approximately two hours. Students will complete 2 test booklets, each allowed 75 minutes.

Students are asked to bring blue or black ink pens, pencils and an eraser. Cell phones and electronic devices are prohibited from test rooms.

Refreshments in Cafeteria	8:00 – 8:15
Instructions	8:20 - 8:30
Booklet 1	8:30 – 9:45
Break	9:45-10:00
Booklet 2	10:00-11:15
Questionnaire	11:15-11:25
Lunch	11:25-12:25
Remediation Time (open to all GCI students)	12:25-2:25

Successful completion is a graduation requirement for students who entered Grade 9 in 2000 or later and who are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Participants in the March 2017 Literacy Test may include students who

- entered grade 9 in the 2015-16 school year
- did not pass the Literacy Test in a previous test administration
- were absent, deferred, or exempted from a previous test administration.

Information for Parents and Guardians

What will students be asked to do on the test?

The test assesses reading and writing skills taught in all subjects in *The Ontario Curriculum* up to the end of Grade 9.

Reading Tasks

Students will be asked to read a variety of selections and answer questions about each. There will be two kinds of questions: multiple-choice and questions that require a brief explanation and will focus on:

- understanding directly stated ideas and information
- understanding indirectly stated ideas and information
- making connections between information and ideas in the reading selection and personal knowledge and experience

Reading selections vary in length from a single paragraph to two pages. The following types of reading selections are included on the test:

- information paragraph
- news report
- dialogue
- real-life narrative
- graphic text (e.g. schedule)

Writing Tasks

Students will demonstrate their writing skills by completing:

- short writing tasks requiring a response in six lines
- two long writing tasks
 - a news report (one page in length)
 - a series of paragraphs expressing an opinion (two pages in length)
- multiple choice questions

The writing tasks focus on:

- developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details
- organizing information and ideas in a way that makes sense
- using conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) in a way that doesn't take away from clear communication

► **What if a student was successful on the piloted online version of the test administered in October 2016?**

Students who were successful on the online version of the test have fulfilled the literacy requirement needed to graduate and will **not** write the test again on March 30th.

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

Successful completion of the *Literacy Test (OSSLT)* or the *Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course* is a requirement for students who entered Grade 9 in September 2000 or later and are 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.

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

All students who write the test receive an individual report. 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. Resources available for download on the EQAO website include:

- **Sample Tests, Student Answer Sheet** and *Answer Key*– provide 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 OSSLT 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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