

Tips for the Literacy Test: Reading



The Reading Questions

- The test has open-response and multiple-choice questions.
- Questions ask you to
 - show understanding of *explicitly (directly) stated information*
 - show understanding of *implicitly (indirectly) stated information*
 - *make connections* between information and ideas in the reading selection, and personal knowledge and experience.
- Reading selections include: information paragraph, news report, dialogue, real-life narrative, and graphic selection.
- Reading selections vary in length from a single paragraph to two pages.

General Tips for Reading

- Manage your time so that you complete all sections of the test.
- Skim the selection and then read it slowly.
- Answer all of the questions. You will not be penalized for trying.
- Read the questions first. This will help you predict what the reading selection is going to be about.
- As you read, think about what you are reading and ask yourself questions about it.
- Underline or highlight important information and ideas as you read.
- Look for links between what you are reading and experiences you have had. Use these links to help make sense of what you are reading.
- If you read a word you don't understand:
 - look for a root word that you know inside the larger word. Look for prefixes and suffixes.
 - read to the end of the sentence and look for clues to its meaning. Try reading the sentences before and after the sentence to see if you can find the meaning from the context.
- If a long sentence confuses you, reread it and try to put it into your own words.
- If you are having trouble understanding an idea, read on until the meaning becomes clearer or stop and reread.

Tips for Open-Response Reading Questions

- **Read and reread the question carefully.**
- **Keep your answer within the six lines provided.**
- Answer the question using specific and important details and information from the reading selection.
- Make connections between the ideas and information in the reading selection and your own experience.
- Reread your response and correct any errors you notice.



Tips for Multiple Choice Questions: Reading and Writing

- **Read and reread the question carefully.**
- **Read the four answers and rule out any answers that are incorrect.**
- If necessary, reread the relevant parts of the selection to choose the best or most correct answer.
- Record the answer on the Student Answer Sheet as described in the test instructions.

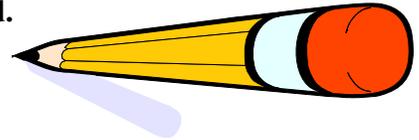
Tips for the Literacy Test: Writing

The Writing Tasks

- The test has short and long writing tasks, and multiple-choice questions that 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.

General Tips for Writing

- **You must write in complete sentences in the lined space provided.**
- Read the instructions carefully and do what is asked. **Make sure that you write in the required form.**
- Make sure that your work is on topic.
- Make changes to your writing as clearly as you can. Any revisions need to be legible.
- Organize your ideas. Arrange ideas in a way that makes sense for your purpose.
- Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. **Proofread your work and make any corrections needed.**
- The audience for your writing is always an adult. The language in your writing should be standard Canadian English and should be appropriate for an adult audience.



Writing a News Report

(an objective and factual report about an event)

“Write a news report based on the headline and picture below. You will have to make up the facts and information, answering some or all of the following questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How?”

- Look closely at the headline and the picture. Think of an event that relates to them.
- **Make up** the information and facts about the event. Answer some or all of: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How?
- Pretend you are writing for a newspaper, not for a radio or television station.
- Do not write an advertisement, for example, as that is not the form of writing required.
- Write your report using the third person.
- Divide your news report into short paragraphs.

Writing a Series of Paragraphs

(expressing an opinion on a topic)

“Write a minimum of 3 paragraphs expressing an opinion on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc).”

- Read the topic question. Decide what position you will take in your response.
- Clearly state your opinion at the beginning or end of your response
- Write at least three paragraphs.
- Include an introduction, a development and a conclusion.
- Support your opinion with reasons and relevant examples or facts.
- Make sure that the divisions between paragraphs are clear.

Short Writing Tasks

Read and reread the question carefully.

- Think of links between the topic and your knowledge and personal experiences.
- Use specific details and relevant information to answer the question.
- Keep your answer within the six lines provided.

