

## #2 A series of paragraphs

Expressing an opinion on a given topic; develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.) and write a minimum of three paragraphs on the two pages provided for your response. Your audience is an adult who is interested in your opinion.

### Strategies for the Series of Paragraphs

- Read the topic question and 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, development and a conclusion*.
- Support your opinion with **reasons and relevant examples or facts.**
- Make sure divisions of paragraphs are clear.

## B. Short-writing tasks

These tasks give you the opportunity to use your knowledge and personal experience while demonstrating your writing skills.

### Strategies for the Short-Writing Task

- Read and reread the question carefully.
- Think of links between the topic and your knowledge and personal experiences.
- Answer the question using specific details and relevant information.
- Reread your response and correct any errors you notice.

## C. Multiple-choice questions

The multiple questions give you the opportunity to demonstrate the three writing skills.

### Strategies for Multiple-Choice Writing Questions

- You must record your answers on the student answer sheet. Multiple choice answers recorded in the Test Booklet will **NOT** be scored
- To indicate your answer, fill in the circle completely as shown:
- Like this: ● Not like this: ○ ○ ○
- If you fill in more than one circle for a question, the question will be scored incorrect.
- If you wish to change a multiple choice answer, erase or cross out your answer and fill in the circle for your new answer. Ensure that your final answer is clear.

## Other points to note:

- Absolutely NO: food, drink or electronic devices of ANY kind
- Use only pencil or blue or black ink.
- Attempt ALL questions. If you leave a question blank it will be scored a zero.
- **READ AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS VERY CAREFULLY!!!**

## Questions and Answers

### Do I have to write the OSSLT?

You need to be sure that you have the reading and writing skills you should have acquired by the end of Grade 9, as outlined in *The Ontario Curriculum*. These skills are the basis for learning in all subject areas throughout both elementary and secondary school. Successful completion of the OSSLT meets one of 32 requirements for the OSSD.

### Why am I writing the OSSLT in Grade 10?

Writing now gives you time to get that help if you need to improve your reading and writing skills. If you do not pass the OSSLT this year, you will have opportunities to retake it in the future years.

### Will the OSSLT count toward my course marks?

No. Successful completion of the OSSLT is one of the 32 requirements for the OSSD. The test will not count toward your course marks.

### Will universities and colleges see my OSSLT results?

Your secondary school transcript will indicate that you have completed the OSSLT as one of the 32 requirements for the OSSD.

### What happens if I do not pass the OSSLT?

You can take the test again the following year. You can also talk to your parents or guardians and your school principal and/or teacher about taking the OSSLT instead of retaking the test.

### What happens if I leave questions blank?

You'll get a score of zero for these questions.



# O.S.S.L.T

## Wednesday, March 27

For extra practice, examples and information visit:

[www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)

## READING

For the OSSLT, reading is defined as the process through which the reader makes meaning of a variety of written texts as reflected in the expectation in *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. The OSSLT's informational, narrative and graphic reading selections focus on three reading skills:

- Understanding explicitly (directly) stated ideas and information.
- Understanding implicitly (indirectly) stated ideas and information
- Making connections between information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience.

## READING SELECTIONS

The reading selections include:

- **Information paragraph:** Presents ideas and information on a topic.
- **News report:** Presents information in the form of a news story.
- **Dialogue:** Presents a conversation between two or more people.
- **Real-Life Narrative:** Presents an account of a significant time in an individual's life.
- **Graphic text:** Present ideas and information with the help of graphic features, such as diagrams, photographs, drawing, sketches, patterns, timetable, maps, charts or tables.

## TIPS for READING

- Manage your time so that you complete all sections of the test.
- Read the questions first. This will help you predict what the reading selection is going to be about.
- Skim the section and then read it closely.
- Underline or highlight important information and ideas as you read.
- As you read, think about what you are reading and ask yourself questions about it.
- Try to “see” what you are reading. Some readers say this is like running a video or movie in their heads.

- Look for links between what you are reading and experiences you have had.
- If you are having trouble understanding an idea, either read on until the meaning becomes clearer, or stop and reread.

## TYPES OF QUESTIONS

### #1 Multiple-Choice

Each reading test is followed by a number of multiple-choice questions. Students select the best or most correct answer from a list of four options.

#### Strategies for Multiple-Choice Reading Questions

- 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.
- See Writing Section for the specific format.

### #2 Open-Response

The information paragraph, news report and dialogue and followed by one or two open response questions. Students construct a response based on the reading selection.

#### Strategies 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 relevant 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.

## WRITING

The test has short-and long-writing tasks, and multiple-choice questions that focus on three writing skills required in school and daily life:

- Developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details.
- Organizing information and ideas in a coherent manner.
- Using conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) in a manner that does not distract from clear communication.

### Tips for Writing

It is important that you follow the instructions and write in the required form. Read the assigned topic for each task carefully before you begin to write. Make sure your work is on-topic and is in the required form. **For the long-and short writing tasks, use full and correctly written sentences.**

## A. Long-writing tasks

### #1 A News Report

The news report is based on a picture and headline provided. Make up facts and information to answer the questions Who? What? Where? When? Why? And How? Then, write a one page report on the event. Your audience is an adult reader of a newspaper.

#### Strategies for the News Report

- Look closely at the headline and picture. Think of an event that relates to them.
- Make up the information and facts as you answer some, or all of the following questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?
- Pretend you are writing for a newspaper, not for a radio or television station. **Refer specifically to the picture and the headline.**
- Do NOT write an advertisement, for example, as that is not the form or writing required.
- Write your report using the third person. (eg., DON'T use: I, me, you, we, us, my, our)