

# OSSLT Fast Facts

## What is the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)?

The Grade 10 test is based on the reading and writing expectations in all subject areas up to the end of Grade 9. These skills are the basis for learning in all subject areas throughout both elementary and secondary school.

## Who has to write it?

All students in Ontario who entered Grade 9 in September 2000 or later and are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) must write this test.

## Why is it written in Grade 10?

It shows students how strong their literacy skills are while they still have time to improve them before finishing school.

## What about students with special needs?

The standard and content of the test cannot be modified for anyone, but the test conditions can be changed. Students will be provided with accommodations as specified by EQAO when documented in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

## Can students who are not ready be exempted from writing the test?

Parents and/or principals may decide it is in a student's best interest to defer writing the test until a later date. For example, an ESL student may need more time to develop language skills before writing the test.

# Useful Resources

## EQAO Website

The OSSLT is one of the EQAO assessments given to Ontario students. Visit [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) for sample questions, student tips and other resources.

## After Hours Literacy Program

This software program was developed by the Niagara Board of Education to practice reading and writing skills for the OSSLT. A link can be found on the school board website [www.tlidsb.ca](http://www.tlidsb.ca) (under Parents → OSSLT → Useful Links)



[www.tlidsb.ca](http://www.tlidsb.ca)

1-888-526-5552

# OSSLT

**Facts for Parents,  
Guardians  
and Students**

**Ontario  
Secondary  
School  
Literacy  
Test**

**LTSO**

**Thursday**

**March 31, 2016**



# OSSLT Test Format

The test includes two test booklets which contain reading and writing activities. In total, there are five reading passages, 41 multiple choice questions and 8 written response activities, including 6 short answer questions and 2 long writing tasks.

The test is administered in two 75 minute sessions with a break in between each session.

**The test will be held on  
Thursday, March 31, 2016.**

## READING

Students read five different passages, covering a range of topics. They vary in length from a single paragraph to two pages. Selections include the following forms:

- Informational paragraph
- News report
- Dialogue
- Real-life narrative
- Graphic text

Students answer comprehension questions to demonstrate they can:

- understand explicitly stated information and ideas
- understand indirectly stated information and ideas
- make personal connections to the text

## WRITING

Students must complete several writing tasks including:

- two long writing samples
  - ⇒ A news report (1 page)
  - ⇒ A multi-paragraph opinion piece (2 pages)
- Short writing tasks with a 6 line response
- Multiple choice questions

Student writing must demonstrate skill in:

- developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details
- organizing and connecting information and ideas
- using correct grammar, punctuation and spelling

### When do students find out how they did on the test?

Each student will receive his or her Individual Student Report in the summer or fall of 2016. The report indicates if a student passed or was unsuccessful. Only students who are unsuccessful will receive specific feedback about the skills they need to work on to pass.

### What happens to students who do not pass the test?

Students may retake the test the following year. For some students, the best option is to take the Grade 12 Literacy Course and receive direct instruction in needed areas while earning an additional credit towards graduation.

## What Can We Do To Prepare?

### Parents

- Ensure your child reads regularly
- Talk with your child about what they are reading
- Ask for their opinions and encourage them to provide good reasons to support their point of view
- Suggest they read the newspaper, then summarize an article they found interesting
- Go to [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) and discuss the sample questions provided

### Students

- Read every day and think about what the authors said and *how* they made their points
- Attend school regularly
- Discuss concerns/questions with your teacher
- Go to [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) and attempt the sample questions provided
- Discipline yourself to read all instructions before completing questions on tests or assignments