



# The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 ~ What to Expect!

There are four test booklets – two Question Booklets and two corresponding Answer Booklets. You will have 75 minutes to complete each of the Question Booklets. They are broken up as follows:

Reading		Writing	
Reading selections:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• information paragraph (225 to 250 words)</li><li>• news report (225 to 250 words)</li><li>• dialogue (225 to 250 words)</li><li>• real-life narrative (550 to 600 words)</li><li>• graphic text (fewer than 150 words)</li></ul>	Types of writing tasks and questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• long-writing tasks<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– news report (one page)</li><li>– series of paragraphs expressing an opinion (two pages)</li></ul></li><li>• two short-writing tasks (six lines each)</li><li>• multiple-choice questions<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– developing a main idea with supporting details</li><li>– organization of ideas</li><li>– language conventions</li></ul></li></ul>
Types of questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• multiple-choice</li><li>• open-response (six lines each)</li></ul>		



- Use the rough note sections to jot down a few ideas BEFORE you start writing your answer
- ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS write on all of the lines provided – do not leave any blank space or skip lines. Writing on all of the lines is very important to demonstrate that you can fulfill the length requirements and expectations
- Put part of the question in your answer
  - Example: It is important to describe this map as a treasure because . . .
- Begin with a topic sentence that answers the question and use a closing sentence to end
- Always aim to include at least 3 convincing points/reasons/supporting details to prove your answer and use transition words to connect the reasons:
  - One reason is . . . Another reason is . . . The last reason is . . .
- Manage your time so that you complete all sections of the test

**Literacy Test Myth ~ YOU CAN'T STUDY FOR IT . . .**



There are a lot of things YOU can do to prepare for this test. A simple search for 'OSSLT practice tests' is a good place to start, or check out this great site filled with many resources:

<https://stm.hwcdsb.ca/learn/osslt/>

At school contact the following people for help: classroom teachers, S.E.R.T., student success teachers, guidance counsellor, or literacy committee teachers