







PREPARING FOR THE O.S.S.L.T




The **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)** is a **high school graduation requirement**. The OSSLT is designed to make sure all students have necessary reading and writing skills before they graduate.

**This year, the OSSLT will be written on
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015**

About the Test:

-  The test will be written in one day, beginning in period one.
-  The test is written in your home form class, unless you have special accommodations.
-  The test is split into two 75 minute booklets with a 15 minute break in between
-  All written and multiple choice answers will be completed directly in the “Student Answer Booklet”.

Reading Tasks:




- Information Paragraph
 - Dialogue
 - Graphical Text
 - News Report
 - Real-Life Narrative
-  Each reading selection is followed by a number of multiple-choice questions. You will be asked to select the *best* or *most correct* response from a list of four options.
 -  All written responses and Multiple Choice responses will be recorded (bubbled in) in the “**Student Answer Booklet**”.
 -  The **Information Paragraph**, **News Report** and **Dialogue** are also each followed by open-response writing tasks.

The reading tasks are designed to focus on the following 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

Writing Tasks:

- News Report
- Opinion Piece
- Open Response Questions for Reading Selections
- Two Short Open Response
- Multiple Choice Questions on Writing Skills

-  The **News Report** will be written based on the picture and headline provided. Students make up facts to answer the questions Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How? and write one page report on the event.
-  The **Opinion Piece** expresses an opinion on a given topic. Students will develop their main idea with supporting details and write a *minimum* of three paragraphs on the two pages provided.
-  Six lines will be provided for students to answer the two **Short Open Response** writing tasks as well as the **Open Responses** for the Reading Selections.

The writing tasks are designed to focus on the three writing skills:

- 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 doesn't distract from clear communication

Practice Activities:

Over the course of the next few weeks, you will be completing practice activities to help prepare you for the test by:

- ✓ Familiarizing you with the format of the test;
- ✓ Discussing strategies for taking the test; and
- ✓ Practicing the specific skills that will be assessed on OSSLT

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Feb 16 FAMILY DAY	Feb. 17	Feb. 18 Reading: News Report Period 2	Feb. 19	Feb. 20 Writing: News Report Period 3
Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25 Reading: Information Paragraph Period 4	Feb 26	Feb 27
Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4 Writing: Opinion Piece Period 1	Mar 5 Grade forums: 9/10 period 2	Mar 6 Reading: Dialogue Period 4
Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11 Writing: Open Response & Multiple Period 3	Mar 12	Mar 13 Reading: Real-Life Narrative Period 2
Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18 MARCH BREAK	Mar 19	Mar 20
Mar 23 Reading Activity: Graphical Reading Period 3	Mar 24	Mar 25 OSSLT Information Session grade 9s period 1 Grade 10s period 2	Mar 26 OSSLT Period 1,2 + accommodations	Mar 27

Additional information about the content of the OSSLT as well as sample tasks from previous tests and example student answers are available on the EQAO website at www.eqao.com

If you have any questions, please don't be shy! We are here to help!
Good Luck and Happy Preparing!