

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

March 2012

**RELEASED SELECTIONS
AND TEST QUESTIONS**

Please note: The format of this booklet is different from that used for the assessment. The questions themselves remain the same.

Writing a Series of Paragraphs

1 Task: Write a **minimum of three paragraphs** expressing an **opinion** on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.).

Purpose and

Audience: an adult who is interested in your opinion

Length: The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

Topic: **Do teenagers place too much importance on what they wear?**

Write your series of paragraphs on the lines provided on the following two pages.

Rough Notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

Multiple-Choice (Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

1 Which sentence does **not** belong in the following paragraph?

(1) The Olympic games are represented by a flaming torch. (2) The torch is lit in Olympia, Greece, to honour the ancient origins of the games. (3) It travels through the participating countries, representing international harmony. (4) Twelve thousand torches were made for the 2010 Vancouver games. (5) The Olympic torch is a meaningful symbol.

- a sentence 2
- b sentence 3
- c sentence 4
- d sentence 5

2 Choose the option that best combines all the information in the sentences below.

Mikko and Paige were friends.

Mikko and Paige had known each other since Grade 3.

Mikko and Paige attended the same college.

- a Mikko and Paige, who were friends, attended the same college since Grade 3.
- b Mikko and Paige were friends known since Grade 3 and attended the same college.
- c Mikko and Paige, friends who had known each other since Grade 3, attended the same college.
- d Mikko and Paige attended the same college and had known each other and their friends since Grade 3.

3 Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a I was waiting Omar said. "In the cold!"
- b "Wasn't it hot outside" Oliver responded?
- c "I was e-mailing," Sara exclaimed, "for three hours!"
- d "I went to a scary movie," Maria said "At two o'clock."

4 Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a Our family likes to hike, swim and biking.
- b The children like jumping, singing and dancing.
- c The student likes drawing, painting and to sculpt.
- d The athletes like to train, to practise and competing.

End of Section II. Continue to Section III.

Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow it.

Farmer Sugar-Coats Crop and Sweetens Family Business



In his barn-turned-assembly line, Paul Moyer spots one caramel-and-chocolate-coated Mutsu apple on a tray. Lines of dark chocolate are artfully swirled around the fruit. To a chocolate lover, it looks beautiful, but the Vineland, Ontario, farmer sees it differently. The way his employee applied the chocolate is more time-consuming than the preferred technique of drizzling it overtop of the apple. That extra time cuts into profits. Paul may need to curtail this employee’s artistry.

1

For the ninth-generation Niagara-region farmer, every penny counts. “Farming’s been tough the last 20 to 25 years,” Paul said. “We’re getting the same amount for apples we did 20 years ago. We thought, ‘Is there any way we could do value-added things?’”

2

“Value-added” has become a familiar term for those trying to make a living on the family farm. It means something extra is added to a product so you can increase its price and, therefore, its profitability.

3

Paul wanted to turn apples from a crop he could barely break even on to something that could sustain him and his family. In the mid-1990s, he began selling traditional sugar-syrup candy-coated apples at Ontario Place, a major tourist site in Toronto. Realizing the potential of the tried-and-true treat, he began selling them wholesale to other customers: Darien Lake Theme Park, the SkyDome (now Rogers Centre), Howell’s Pumpkin Farm in Fonthill and Chudleigh’s Entertainment Farm in Milton.

4

But the apples’ shelf life, before they spoiled, was only three days. So, in 2005, Paul revamped the operation by dipping apples in caramel and milk chocolate and finishing them with enough white and dark chocolate drizzle to make chocoholics swoon. When two western New York grocery-store giants and Canada’s Loblaw Companies became interested in his product, this entrepreneur seemed to have overcome the risks of farming.

5

However, Paul faced a new set of challenges. The demand for the caramel-chocolate apples had grown larger than his ability to produce them. “This is our facility,” Paul said, gesturing to his tiny 100-year-old barn, filled with the rather un-barnlike smell of caramel. Paul’s business needed to expand, but that would take more money. 6

Paul’s 11-year-old daughter, Sabrina, suggested an answer—a reality television show on which a panel of millionaires listens to entrepreneurs’ business plans and decides whether to offer investment money for expansion. In the spring of 2008, the Moyers took a chance. After three makeup touch-ups during eight-and-a-half hours waiting in a TV studio, Paul, Sabrina and Paul’s mother, Liivi, were finally able to make their pitch to five of Canada’s most successful names in business. 7

“As you’re walking across the top [of the set] and going down the stairs, you think, ‘Wow, this is it.’ . . . You’re excited to present to them, but they know their numbers and their business. At the same time, I know my numbers and my business. They grilled us pretty hard, but because I not only grow the apples and melt the chocolate and caramel and know the [sales] . . . I believe I answered all their questions exactly the way I hoped,” said Paul. 8

Paul’s professionalism and his product samples had a positive impact. “It was quite inspiring to see that these people had come up with a spin-off business,” said Dianne Buckner, the show’s host. “The candy-apple business was really an original thing to do, and they were basically taking their expertise and fashioning a new type of venture. It was great to see that people are being adventurous and creative in a way that makes that agricultural lifestyle work for them.” 9

Thanks to the panel’s response, the 209-year-old Moyer family farm remains a successful example of sustainable local agriculture. 10

Multiple-Choice (Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 1** What does paragraph 1 suggest is most important to Paul?
- a the creativity of the employee
 - b the speed of the decorating process
 - c the uniform appearance of the apples
 - d the amount of chocolate on each apple
- 2** For how long has Paul Moyer’s family been farming?
- a 100 years
 - b 20 to 25 years
 - c nine generations
 - d since the mid-1990s
- 3** Which product matches the definition of “value-added” in paragraph 3?
- a whole fish
 - b leaf lettuce
 - c tomato soup
 - d green grapes
- 4** What happened first after Paul realized his apple crop made insufficient profit?
- a Sabrina suggested the TV show to Paul.
 - b Paul hired employees to decorate apples.
 - c Paul sold candy-coated apples at Ontario Place.
 - d Paul expanded apple sales to large grocery stores.
- 5** What is linked by the colon in paragraph 4?
- a cause and effect
 - b term and examples
 - c opinion and support
 - d problem and solution
- 6** Which word is closest in meaning to “revamped” as used in paragraph 5?
- a sped up
 - b modified
 - c simplified
 - d mechanized
- 7** Who is thinking “Wow, this is it” (paragraph 8)?
- a the host
 - b the reader
 - c the farmer
 - d the daughter
- 8** What does Paul Moyer think was the most influential factor for the panel?
- a He brought his family to the show.
 - b He knew all aspects of his business.
 - c He distributed free samples of his product.
 - d He had been an apple farmer for over 20 years.

Multiple-Choice (Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 9** How is paragraph 9 organized?
- a problems and solutions
 - b opinion and supporting reasons
 - c series of events according to time
 - d from most to least important details

End of Section III. Continue to Section IV. 

Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow it.



Hearing him chortle, Rita turned toward Byron. 1

“You rarely get a laugh from the newspaper these days. What’s so funny?” she asked. 2

“A 23-year-old rapper named Roland Pemberton has been made Poet Laureate of Edmonton.” 3

“A poet *what*?” 4

“A poet laureate celebrates official events by writing about them.” Byron paused. “This is what Pemberton said about the job: ‘Poet Laureate—whoa. Getting heavy. Do I need a staff and a big grey beard?’” Byron chuckled again. “Rita, you like hip hop music. Ever heard of him by his stage name—Cadence Weapon?” 5

“Yeah. Cadence released an album over the Internet, and he has at least two others. He often raps about Edmonton. His first big hit, ‘Oliver Square,’ is about an Edmonton mall.” 6

Rita shook her head. “He’s definitely skilled with words, but he’s not someone you’d expect for that job.” 7

Byron glanced up from the page. “Pemberton is replacing someone you *would* expect in the job—a 74-year-old professor who’s published 29 books and won the Governor General’s Award for poetry.” 8

The paper rustled as Byron brought it closer. “But Pemberton’s got a point when he says ‘If people see me as representing Edmonton, maybe it will give them an overall different perception. I think that’s a positive thing. And it’s getting people talking.’” 9

“His appointment must have ruffled a few feathers,” said Rita. 10

“Well, he’s not worried if people are upset. He says he’ll challenge anyone to a poem battle, ‘a poem-off,’ as he calls it.” 11

Multiple-Choice (Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 1** What does Byron’s “chortle” in paragraph 1 show about his reaction to the newspaper article?
- a He thinks it is exciting.
 - b He thinks it is shocking.
 - c He thinks it is amusing.
 - d He thinks it is fascinating.
- 2** Which headline would be best for the news report Byron is reading?
- a Young Audience Rejects Poet
 - b Hit Song Celebrates Edmonton
 - c Hip Hop Artist Wins “Poem-Off”
 - d Hip Hop Poet Hopes to Open Minds
- 3** What is indicated by the single quotation marks around “Oliver Square” in paragraph 6?
- a a song title
 - b Byron’s words
 - c Rita’s sarcasm
 - d a proper place name
- 4** What is the meaning of the phrase “must have ruffled a few feathers” as used in paragraph 10?
- a Pemberton’s appointment must have encouraged people to become poets.
 - b People must have been pleased that Edmonton was maintaining a tradition.
 - c Some people must have considered Pemberton’s appointment unconventional.
 - d Pemberton’s appointment must have been celebrated by the hip hop community.
- 5** Which event would be most appropriate for Pemberton to write about in his new position?
- a the election of a new premier in Alberta
 - b the naming of a national park in Nova Scotia
 - c the signing of an international trade agreement in Ottawa
 - d the donation of a painting to the Art Gallery of Ontario



Written Answer

6 What suggests Pemberton will be a good choice for the position of Poet Laureate of Edmonton? Use specific details from the selection to support your answer.

7 Why is Pemberton’s appointment newsworthy? Use specific details from the selection to support your answer.

Rough Notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

End of Section IV. Continue to Section V. 

Short Writing Task (Answer in full and correctly written sentences.)

- 1** Suggest one improvement that could be made to your school building or its grounds. Use specific details to explain why it would be an improvement.

Rough Notes

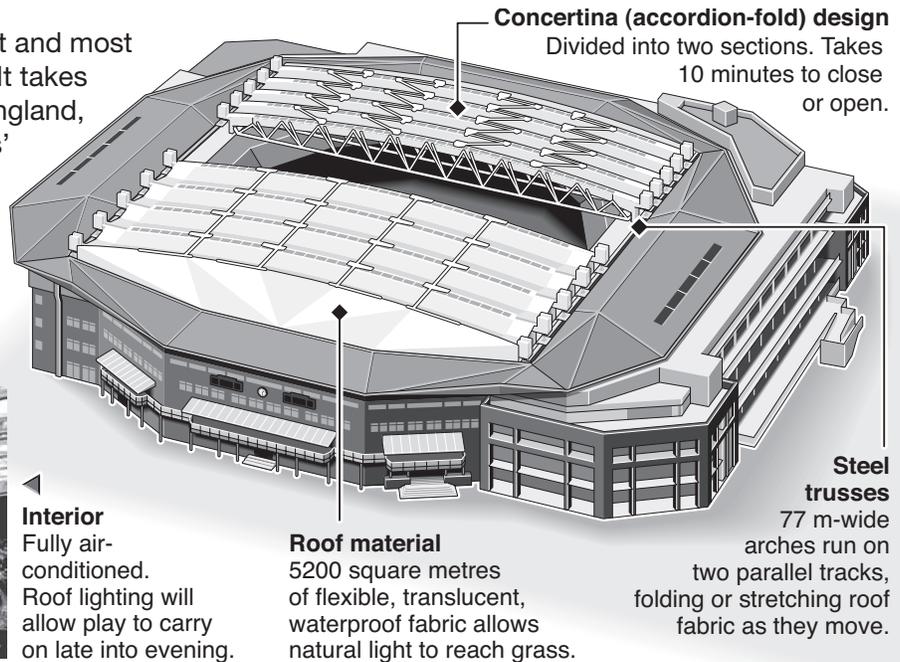
Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

End of Section V. Continue to Section VI.

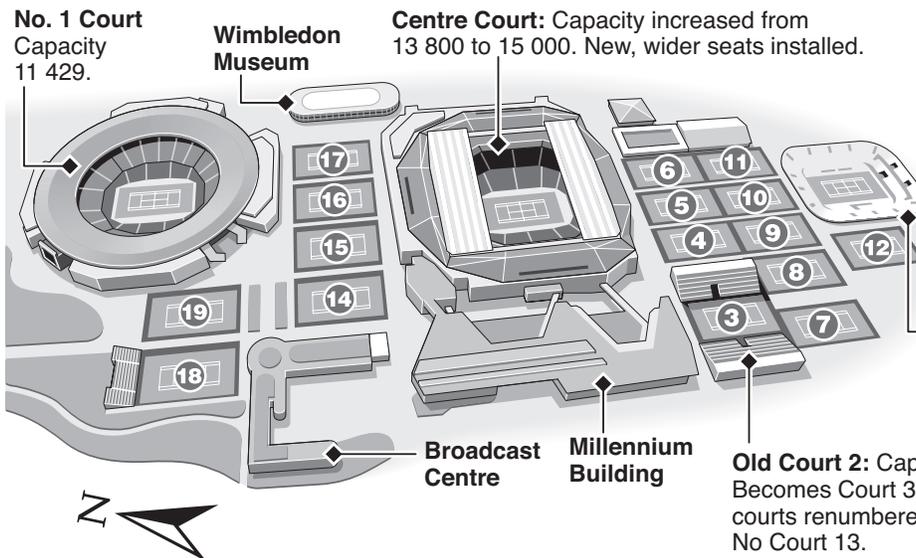
Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow it.

New roof at Wimbledon

Wimbledon is the world's oldest and most prestigious tennis tournament. It takes place in a suburb of London, England, and is still played on the games' original surface—natural grass. A retractable roof, completed in time for the 2009 championships, ended a 132-year-old tradition of open-air play.



Club Facility



ROOF FACTS

- ▶ Height **16 m** above court
- ▶ Can be deployed in winds of up to **69 km/h**
- ▶ Weight **3000 tonnes**
- ▶ Estimated cost **\$35 million**
- ▶ Takes **30 minutes** for internal climate to stabilize after roof has closed before play can resume

Multiple-Choice (Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 1** Why is the new roof considered “retractable”?
- a It can be used in high winds.
 - b It can be opened and folded back.
 - c It is made of translucent, flexible fabric.
 - d It allows the use of natural and artificial light.
- 2** What idea links the information under “Concertina (accordion-fold) design” and “Steel trusses”?
- a time
 - b weight
 - c climate
 - d movement
- 3** Which part of the selection shows a spectator’s view of Centre Court?
- a the photograph labelled “Interior”
 - b the drawing in the top right corner
 - c the overall diagram of the club facility
 - d the diagram of Centre Court at the bottom centre
- 4** What is the purpose of the illustration at the top of the selection?
- a to show why a new roof was needed
 - b to explain how the roof system works
 - c to compare the old roof with the new roof
 - d to emphasize the weight and cost of the new roof
- 5** What is the purpose of the “Roof Facts” section?
- a to summarize key information
 - b to advertise the new construction
 - c to describe how the roof was built
 - d to explain how the roof opens and closes
- 6** Which part of the facility is south of Court 5?
- a Court 14
 - b No. 1 Court
 - c new Court 2
 - d Millennium Building

Unreleased Items

The following 2012 OSSLT questions are not being released this year:

Components	Questions
News Report (Reading)	1–6
Writing Multiple-Choice Items	7–10
Short Writing	11
Long Writing (News Report)	12
Information Paragraph (Reading)	13–19

**Education Quality and
Accountability Office**



The information in this booklet is being collected under the authority of clause 4 (1) (b) and subsection 9 (6) of the *Education Quality and Accountability Office Act*, 1996, for the purposes of administering and scoring tests of pupils in secondary schools and evaluating the quality and effectiveness of secondary education, in accordance with section 3 of the Act. Inquiries regarding this collection should be directed to the Senior Policy Analyst, EQAO, 2 Carlton Street, Suite 1200, Toronto, ON M5B 2M9 • 1-888-327-7377.

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