

## Released Selections and Test Questions

# QUESTIONS

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

2015

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**Follow along as your teacher reads the instructions.**

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- ✓ Check the pages of your *Question* and *Answer* booklets to see that they are in order. If they are not, report the problem to the teacher in charge.

**Note:**

You are not permitted to use cellphones, audio- or video-recording devices, digital music players or e-mail or text-messaging devices during the assessment.

**No work in this booklet  
will be scored.**

Education Quality and  
Accountability Office



**Continue to follow along as your teacher  
reads the directions on the cover of the  
*Answer Booklet*.**

Read the selection below and answer the questions in the *Answer Booklet*.

## A Huge Mural Marks a Graffiti Philosophy in Montreal

They are graffiti artists. They spray-paint buildings. And they are paid by taxpayers.

Their latest work, *Our Lady of Grace*, unveiled in November 2011, transformed a dingy, beige brick wall in Montreal’s west end into a six-storey canvas that hundreds now stop to admire.

While Montreal can be tough on illegal graffiti and tagging, the city has developed a relationship with graffiti artists, who are adamant that their genre is legitimate. “It’s the same as a paintbrush, and we are showing our talent,” said the artist who only gave his name as Fluke.

Beginning in 2006, Montreal budgeted \$1.2 million to attack the problem of graffiti. That includes about \$150 000 for murals. The *Our Lady of Grace* fresco cost the city \$26 000 and took 400 cans of spray paint to complete. The mural shows the lady in a flowing robe, surrounded by scenes of the urban landscape and reminders—such as Caribbean birds—of the multicultural character of the area.

New murals are going up regularly in Montreal. In August and September 2011, walls honouring singer, songwriter and actor Raymond Levesque and jazz artist Oscar Peterson went up.

“We turn an energy that might be negative into one that’s positive,” said an executive from the mayor’s office.

Still, Fluke worries about his art form. Old factories are turning into condos. Politicians crack down looking for votes. “Graffiti as a subculture is growing dramatically, but we have less space to do it. [Murals] like this allow our voice to be heard,” he said.



Write your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** Why did Montreal establish a relationship with graffiti artists?
- a to deal with vandalism
  - b to help politicians gain votes
  - c to honour famous entertainers
  - d to introduce citizens to local art
- 2** Which word is closest in meaning to “adamant” as used in paragraph 3?
- a critical
  - b insistent
  - c annoyed
  - d surprised
- 3** What feature of *Our Lady of Grace* reflects an aspect of the neighbourhood’s diverse population?
- a the work’s title
  - b the urban location
  - c the Caribbean birds
  - d the use of spray paint
- 4** How is the information in paragraph 7 organized?
- a cause and effect
  - b question and answer
  - c comparison and contrast
  - d statement and explanation
- 5** What is the main idea of this selection?
- a Artwork is very expensive.
  - b Artists require lots of space.
  - c Co-operation reduces conflict.
  - d Interest groups block progress.

### Open-Response Question

- 6** Explain why Montreal’s approach to graffiti is beneficial. Use specific details from the selection to support your answer.

Write your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** Choose the best place to insert the following sentence.

**Industrialization was one cause of these changes.**

(1) In 1900, more than 85% of the world's population farmed their own food. (2) However, several developments led people to move from the country to the city. (3) This new type of economy depended on factories that were located close to raw materials, power and transportation. (4) These sites attracted many workers. (5) Hence, there was a shift from rural settings to urban centres.

- a after sentence 1
- b after sentence 2
- c after sentence 3
- d after sentence 4

- 2** Select the best option to complete the sentence below.

**The menu offers \_\_\_\_\_ soup \_\_\_\_\_ salad with a meal for an additional \$1.99.**

- a both, or
- b maybe, or
- c either, or
- d neither, or

- 3** Which option shows how to make the following sentence correct?

**Halifax's Pier 21, the former point of arrival for most new immigrants to Canada is now a museum and historical landmark.**

- a Add a colon after "arrival."
- b Add a comma after "Canada."
- c Remove the capital on "Pier."
- d Remove the apostrophe in "Halifax's."

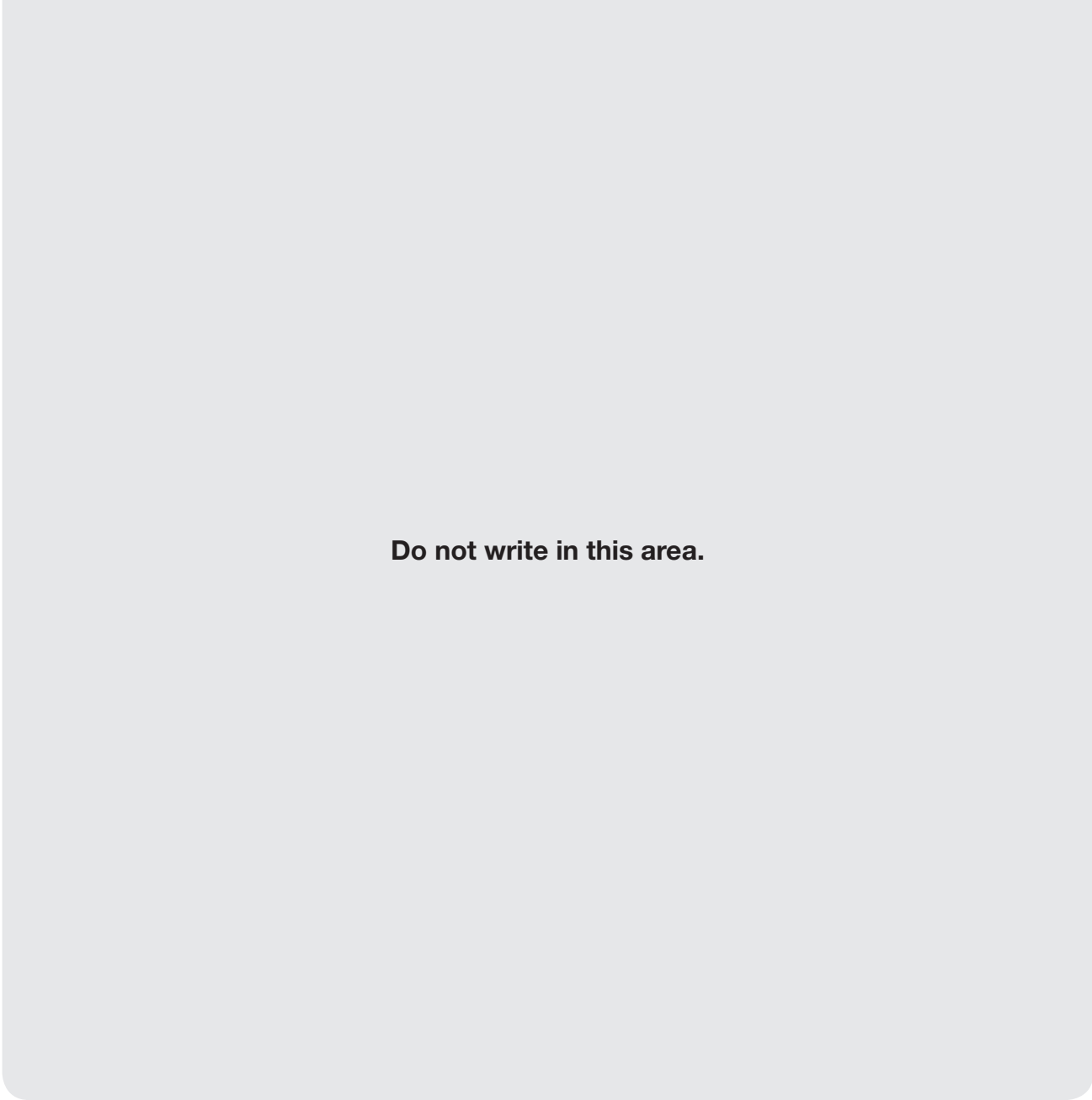
- 4** Which sentence is correct?

- a My father is feeling better for two weeks.
- b I don't remember how long I've had my car.
- c I will be going on a bike ride, when I changed my mind.
- d I promise Michael that I would pick him up at 10:00 p.m.

Provide your answer in the *Answer Booklet*.

**Short Writing Task**

- 1** If your school could offer a new course, what would you want it to be? Explain your answer using specific details.



**Do not write in this area.**

Provide your answer in the *Answer Booklet*.

## School team qualifies for finals



### **1** Task:

Write a **news report** based on the headline and picture above.

- You will have to make up the facts and information to answer some or all of the following questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
- You must relate your news report to **both** the headline **and** the picture.

### **Purpose and Audience:**

to report on an event for the readers of a newspaper

### **Length:**

The lined space provided in the *Answer Booklet* for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

Read the selection below and answer the questions in the *Answer Booklet*.

Ice sculpting has been called a “sport”—part sport, part art. Like athletes, ice sculptors vie for medals at international competitions. Ice carving has been a Cultural Olympiad event at the Olympic and Paralympic Arts Festival since the 1988 Calgary Winter Games. The tools and the ice are heavy, so sculptors need endurance and strength. “It’s physically demanding working non-stop under a time constraint,” says Dan Rebholtz, who has been carving for 22 years. He is a veteran of 100 competitions, a three-time world champion and a certified judge with the National Ice Carving Association. Most North American ice carvers have art training. Their tools include chainsaws, carving chisels, electrical sanders and torches, but most important, an imagination. “Our favourite word is ‘wow,’” says Rebholtz. It’s the word most people say when they see sculptures such as *Surfacing Kingfisher* by the team of Junichi Nakamura (Japan) and Suguru Kanbayashi (Canada). Although ice sculptures are beautiful and their creation time-consuming, carvers must accept the potential for tragedy and the certainty of impermanence for their masterpieces. Melting can be a threat, but so too is crashing. Nakamura’s team, which included Rebholtz, worked almost 20 hours a day for six days on *The Birth of the Bluebird*, a gigantic sculpture of a reclining woman, her arm reaching up to a bird. Just before the judging, it toppled, when its last supporting pillar was cut—a spectacle viewed over 10 000 times on YouTube. Sport? Art? With its challenge, skill, beauty and risk, ice carving is both.



Write your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** In what way is competitive ice sculpting different from an Olympic sporting event?
- a The winners receive medals.
  - b The judges rate a created object.
  - c The competition requires strength.
  - d Each team includes representatives of only one country.
- 2** What does Rebholtz’s quotation in lines 4 and 5 contribute to the selection?
- a an expert opinion
  - b a specific example
  - c a contrasting opinion
  - d a link between two topics
- 3** Why do *Surfacing Kingfisher* and *The Birth of the Bluebird* appear in italics?
- a to highlight their success
  - b to signify their importance
  - c to show that they are artworks
  - d to indicate they are winning entries
- 4** What purpose does the phrase “but most important” serve in line 9?
- a to highlight an item in a list
  - b to exclude an item from a list
  - c to emphasize balance in a list
  - d to establish time order in a list
- 5** Which event occurred first with respect to *The Birth of the Bluebird* sculpture?
- a It was judged.
  - b Its last pillar was cut.
  - c It crashed to the ground.
  - d Its collapse was shown on YouTube.
- 6** What is the best meaning for “spectacle” as used in line 17?
- a artwork
  - b celebration
  - c competition
  - d phenomenon

### Open-Response Question

- 7** State a main idea of this selection and provide one specific detail from the selection that supports it.



## UNRELEASED ITEMS

The following March 2015 OSSLT questions are not being released this year:

Components	Questions
Long Writing (Series of Paragraphs)	1
Multiple-Choice Writing Items	2–5
Narrative (Reading)	6–14
Dialogue (Reading)	15–21
Short Writing	22
Graphic (Reading)	23–28

### Permissions and Credits

#### Section I: Reading

Adapted from “A Huge Mural Marks a Graffiti Philosophy in Montreal” by Andrew Chung, published in the *Toronto Star*, November 29, 2011. Reprinted with permission—Torstar Syndication Services. Photo: © Peter McCabe/Getstock.com.

#### Section V: Reading

Adapted from the article “So Beautiful, It Can’t Last. Art in Ice Is About Tons of Snow, Heavy Chain Saws and Fame Melting in the Spotlight. In 2010, It’s Going Olympic” by Kathy Eccles, July 3, 2008. © Canadian Tourism Commission. Reprinted with permission. © Photo: Alaska Photo Graphics.