Follow along as your teacher reads the instructions:

INSTRUCTIONS

✓ Check the identification numbers on the Question and Answer booklets to see that the final 12 digits all match. If they do not, report the problem to the teacher in charge.

✓ 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, radio- 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.

Continue to follow along as your teacher reads the directions on the cover of Answer Booklet 1.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) 2015

Thursday, March 31st, 2016, 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m
Why do I have to write the OSSLT?

To prove that you have acquired the literacy skills (reading and writing) that you are expected to have by the end of Grade 9.
What will I have to do on the test?

- Read informational text
- Read graphic text
- Read narrative and/or dialogue text
- Read news report text

- Write short answers based on your reading - 6 lines
- Write a news report
- Write a series of supported opinion paragraphs

- Answer multiple choice questions based on your reading
- Answer open response 6 lines
Prep Session 1

Reading, Multiple Choice, & Short Answer
What to do before you read

1. Examine the parts of the text
   - Read the title
   - Scan all headings
   - Examine any illustrations
   - Read the content of all boxes
   - Identify the topic of the text

2. Read the questions
   - Identify, highlight or underline the key words in the questions
Tips For Reading

- **Manage your time** - complete all sections of the test
- **Skim** the selection **and then read it carefully.**
- **Underline or highlight** important information and ideas
- **Think about what you are reading**
- Try to “**see**” what you are reading; some readers say this is like running a video or movie in their heads.
• Look for links between what you are reading and experiences you have had.

• For a word you don’t understand, look for a root word inside the larger word.

• If you still don’t understand the word, read to the end of the sentence and look for clues to its meaning.

• If you are having trouble understanding an idea... stop and reread.
Types of Reading

• Information paragraph - presents ideas and information on a topic

• News report - presents information in the form of a news story

• Dialogue - presents a conversation between two or more people

• Real-life narrative - presents an account of a significant time in an individual’s life

• Graphic text - presents ideas and information with the help of graphic features such as diagrams, photographs,
Graphic Texts

1. Look at the GRAPHIC TEXT first.
   • Read the title
   • Scan all headings
   • Examine any illustrations
     - graphs, pics, charts
   • Read the content of all boxes
   • Ask yourself, “What is the general topic of the text?”

2. Read the QUESTIONS.
   "Mark-up" (Identify, highlight or underline the key words in the questions)

3. Return to the GRAPHIC TEXT.
   • Scan for the key words, and then read carefully to seek out the answers
Polar bear survival in the wild may be in danger because of climate change. Climate change is lengthening the ice-free period in southwestern Hudson Bay and thus the polar bear fast. During the Arctic spring, the bears build up their fat by eating seals that they hunt from the ice. Warming temperatures are reducing the ice. For the estimated 2000 polar bears in the region, this has serious implications. The sea ice melts completely each summer, stranding the marine creatures on land and away from their normal diet of seal meat. Although many polar bears do consume lots of blueberries and black crowberries on land, the bears lose almost a kilogram of weight a day for at least four months and as long as eight months in the case of pregnant females. Canadian wildlife biologists have been trying for decades to determine whether polar bears can better endure their months of fasting on land by eating berries. Biologists in the past have tried using measurements from muscle and blood, without success. More recently, researchers applied masks to 300 tranquilized bears and gathered samples of their breath. They found no significant differences between bears that had recently eaten berries (detectable from tell-tale stains on teeth and backsides) and those that hadn’t. Can a berry diet reduce the polar bears’ dependence on their fat reserves? The answer is no. Unlike that of the brown bear, polar bear metabolism cannot extract sufficient energy from berries alone.
Strategies for Multiple-Choice Reading Questions

• Read the question carefully.
• Read ALL four answers and cross-out any answers that are incorrect.
• Reread the relevant parts of the selection to choose the MOST correct answer.
• If you don’t know make an “educated guess”
• Record the answer on the Answer Booklet ....see example on next slide
Sample Assessment Booklet: New Layout

Booklet 1

ANSWERS

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) 2015

INSTRUCTIONS

Attempt all questions. If you leave a question blank, the question will be scored zero.
Use only pencil or blue or black pen.

Answering Multiple-Choice Questions

Choose the best or most correct answer for each question.
To indicate your answer, fill in the circle completely, as shown below.

Like this: ● Not like this: ✗ ✓ ✧ ●

If you fill in more than one circle for a question, the question will be scored incorrect.
To change a multiple-choice answer, erase or cross out your answer and fill in the circle for your new answer. Ensure that your final answer is clear.

Answering Open-Response Questions

For the writing sections, pay attention to clarity, organization, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
The lined space in this booklet indicates the approximate length of the response expected.

Provide ALL your answers to multiple-choice and open-response questions in this booklet.
Space is available for rough notes.

Education Quality and Accountability Office

EQAO

You are now ready to start the test.
Strategies for Open-Response Reading Questions

• Read and reread the question carefully.

• Underline, circle or highlight important instructions and key words in the questions.

• Make notes throughout the text to identify important information 5WH (who, what, when, where, why, and sometimes how).
Hints to encourage student success:

* **Fill in all lines**
  - but do NOT go over...this will = a Zero mark

* **Answer all stuff**
  - in complete sentences...guess if you have to!

* **Mark up the pages**
  - highlight and identify the 5WH in all reading selections

* can't **Edit** enough!

(Credits: Candice Lande)
What can I do to prepare for the test?

1. *Complete practice activities and questions*
2. *More practice:*
   - [www.fmss.ca...Student Life....OSSLT](http://www.fmss.ca...Student Life....OSSLT)
3. *Attend OSSLT workshops* in March - date TBA
Credits:

- Dana Sheahan - Principal, Fletcher’s Meadow SS
- Created by: Siobohn Catalano, Fletchers Meadow