



The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Tip Sheet

Date:	Thursday March 31, 2016 8:45–11:30 a.m.
Test Materials:	Four test booklets: two <i>Question Booklets</i> and two corresponding <i>Answer Booklets</i>
Duration:	2.5 hours of testing time in total



What Do I Bring?

- A blue or black pen
- A sharpened pencil
- An eraser

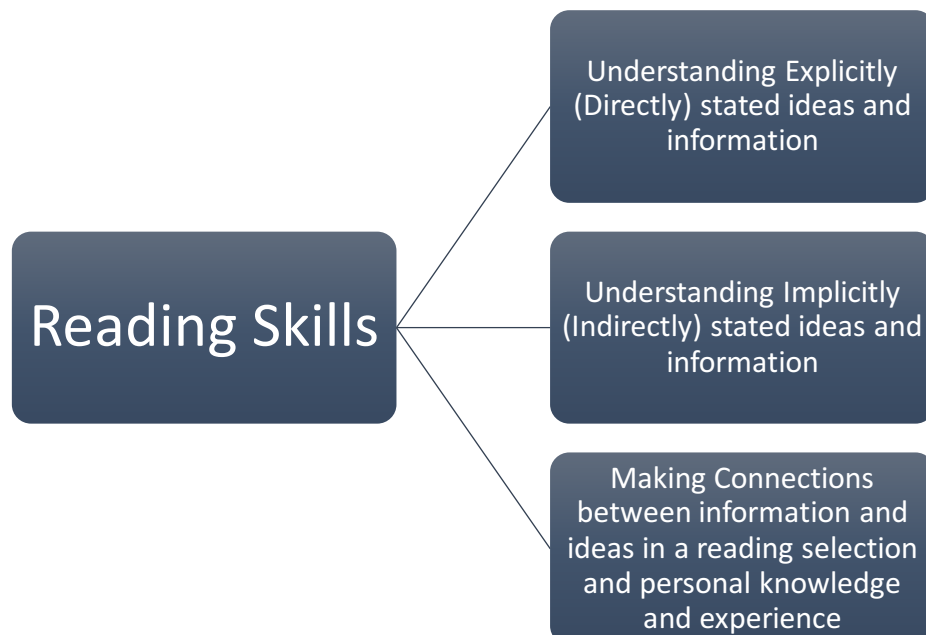
Reading	
Reading Selections:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Paragraph (225 to 250 words) • News Report (225 to 250 words) • Dialogue (225 to 250 words) • Real-Life Narrative (550 to 600 words) • Graphic Text (fewer than 150 words)
Types of Questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Choice • Open-Response (six lines each)

Writing	
Types of Writing Tasks and Questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-Writing Tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ News Report (one page) ○ Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion (two pages) • Two Short-Writing Tasks (six lines each) • Multiple-Choice Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing a Main Idea with Supporting Details ○ Organization of Ideas ○ Language Conventions

(EQAO Planning and Preparation Guide, 2015)

Reading Tips:

- Read the questions before you read the reading selections.
- Underline key points while you read.
- Always refer back to the reading when formulating your answers – do not simply rely on memory.



Writing Tips:

- The lined space provided for written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.
- Use the rough notes section to jot down a few of your points before you begin your answer.
- Always aim for at least three convincing supporting details.



News Report

Students must make sure that:

- The response identifies who, what, where, when, why and how;
- The response is related to the picture and headline;
- The response contains sufficient and specific information and facts related to the event; do not include your opinion;
- The response is coherent and organized;
- The response is written in the third person with a reportorial tone.

A Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

Students must make sure that:

- Write a minimum of three paragraphs which include an **introduction**, **development** (may include more than one paragraph) and a **conclusion**;
- The opinion is clearly stated in the introduction;
- The opinion is supported with enough detail, reasons, examples or facts.

Short Answer Questions - What are you being asked?

If you are asked to:

- **Summarize** the reading - identify the main idea and a **minimum** of one detail;
- **Provide evidence** from the selection - refer back to the reading for examples;
- **Respond based on the selection and your own ideas** - Provide **specific** evidence from the selection as well as YOUR OWN IDEAS.