

The OSSLT is a mandatory Grade 10 graduation requirement in Ontario that assesses reading and writing skills based on the Grade 9 curriculum.

Test Info, Format and Content:

- The test is **ONLINE**. It's a computer-based test.
- There is a [Practice Test](#) that can be taken at any time. Try it out! ☆
- There are two 60-minute sessions (Session A and Session B).
- There are a total of 37 questions: 35 selected-response and 2 open-response.
- **Selected-response** questions may include **multiple-choice**.
- The **two open-response questions** require a written answer.
- You need a score of 300 out of 400 points (i.e. about 75%) to pass.

Type of Questions:

→ **Short Writing Tasks:** (based on the reading selection(s) provided):

- Always answer the question directly in your first sentence.
- Use specific details or evidence from the text to support your answer.

→ **Multiple Choice** (based on the reading selection(s) provided):

Questions such as drag and drop, dropdown menu, checklist, text selection etc.).

- Reread the question carefully and choose the best or most correct answer.
- Always eliminate wrong answers first.

→ **Open Response:**

A. **Short Answer** (Information Paragraph): (e.g. What is your favourite junk food?)

- Ensure that your **topic sentence** clearly states the main idea.
- Include 1 to 2 clear and specific **supporting points** or examples (answer “why”)
- The **concluding sentence** should signal closure by summarizing the paragraph's main idea.

B. **Longer Writing Tasks:** (1. Newspaper, 2. Series of Paragraphs Stating an Opinion):

Opinion Essay:

- A series of opinion paragraphs about a given topic (1 Intro, 3 Body Par., and 1 Conclusion).
- Clearly state your opinion in the thesis statement (at the end of the introduction).
- Make sure the body paragraphs support that opinion with strong reasons and examples.

Example essay question: *Do people spend too much time on technology?*

Newspaper Report:

- Write a news report based on a picture and headline provided.
- Leading paragraph: Make up facts and information to answer: What? Who? Where? When?
- Body paragraphs: More details about: Why? How?
- A short conclusion that answers the question: What will happen next?
- Use a direct quote in your report.
- Always write in the 3rd person (he, she, it, they, etc.) Do not use “I.”
- Paragraphs should be short (1-2 sentences).

Built-in tools:

- The online test includes tools like a **text-to-speech reader**, **high contrast view (zoom in/out)**, a **highlighter**, an **eraser**, a **line reader**, **rough notes**, **flag question**, etc.

More Helpful Tips

- Read instructions carefully before starting each section.
- Answer every question. A blank answer automatically gets zero.
- When you write, pay attention to clarity, organization, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Your responses will be counted as you type; you have 10 extra words to complete your response.
- You can 'flag' questions to return to them later.
- Review any missed or flagged questions before submitting your test.
- Manage your time: Don't spend too long on a single question. Move on and come at the end.
- No cell phones, emailing, messaging, or talking to others during the test.
- Stay calm — if you don't know an answer immediately, take a breath and reread the text.
- Use the **highlight** or **underline** tools (if available) to mark important information in reading texts.
- Trust your instincts! Your first answer is often correct unless you find a clear reason to change it.

☐ Text to Speech (Disabled)

Session A

Your journey across Canada will introduce you to some interesting people, places and things.

Choose a Topic to Get Started!

- In **Session A**, you will read and respond to three reading selections. You will also answer questions about writing conventions.

Reading

Gatineau, Québec

Reading

Brantford, Ontario

Reading

Montreal, Québec

Writing

Cornwall, Ontario

The suggested time to complete Session A is 65 minutes.

Session B

Your journey across Canada will introduce you to some interesting people, places and things.

Choose a Topic to Get Started!

- In **Session B**, you will read and respond to two reading selections, answer questions about writing conventions, and then write your own opinion essay on a given topic.

Writing

Ottawa, Ontario

Reading

Niagara Falls, Ontario

Writing

Cornwall, Ontario

Reading

St. Jacobs, Ontario

The suggested time to complete Session B is 75 minutes.

Readings: an informational text (a non-fiction news, article, biography, sport, school, food, etc.)

Writing 1: Grammar

Sentence: structure, fragments, run-on ss, and combining sentences correctly.

Punctuation: correct use of periods, commas, colons, semicolons, quotation marks, apostrophes, etc.

Pronouns: subject, object, possessive pronouns

Verb Tense: action, time, subject-verb agreement

Word choice: correct use of homophones, modifiers, and vocabulary in context.

Spelling – identifying or correcting misspelled words.

Capitalization: proper nouns, beginnings, titles, etc.

Adjectives & adverbs, etc.

Writing 1: Write an essay expressing an opinion on the following topic: **Does homework improve learning?**
Be sure to include the following: (1) an introduction, supporting body paragraphs and a conclusion.
(2) relevant reasons, examples and facts to support your Opinion. (3) clear explanation of your arguments.
Type your response in the box below (approximately 500 words).

Reading 1 & 2: A passage is a narrative text (realistic fiction) that may include scientific information.

Writing 2: Grammar

Reading Section Tips

1. Read the Questions First
2. Identify the Text Type (*News report, Info paragraph, Narrative/story, Graphical text, etc.*)
3. Use “Scanning” and “Skimming” Skills
4. Pay Attention to Signal Words
5. Look for the Main Idea