

## Released Selections and Test Questions

# QUESTIONS

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

2016

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

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**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  
*Answer Booklet.*

Provide your answer in the *Answer Booklet*.

**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.).

**Audience:**

an adult who is interested in your opinion

**Length:**

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

**Topic:**

**Is what you are learning in school affecting the way you live your life now?**



**Do not write in this area.**

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** Which sentence would be the best to conclude the following paragraph?

It is important to bring your vehicle to an immediate but safe stop when an emergency vehicle approaches with its lights or siren on. React quickly. Use your signals to alert other drivers of your intent to pull over. This will ensure your own and their safety.

- a Driving an emergency-service vehicle can be challenging.
- b Emergency-service personnel require specialized safety training.
- c Different emergency vehicles will have different-coloured flashing lights.
- d Always be prepared to clear the road safely for emergency vehicles.

- 2** Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a Many communities in Ontario celebrate the fall season with a fair.
- b Demolition derbies often attracts a large and enthusiastic audience.
- c Some fairs also has midway rides and agricultural demonstrations.
- d By far, the best thing about fall fairs are the delicious food you can try.

- 3** Choose the option that best combines the information in the following sentences.

**Oil Springs is a town in Ontario.  
Oil Springs was once called Black Creek.  
The town's name was changed in 1858  
when oil was discovered there.**

- a Oil Springs is the name of a town also called Black Creek, Ontario, and oil was discovered there in 1858, so its name was changed.
- b Black Creek, an Ontario town, was once called Oil Springs, but oil was discovered there in 1858, so it changed its name.
- c The town of Oil Springs is located in Ontario, but it was called Black Creek after oil was discovered there in 1858.
- d Once called Black Creek, the town of Oil Springs, Ontario, changed its name in 1858 when oil was discovered there.

- 4** Which of the following sentences is written correctly?

- a Volunteer experiences looks good on a résumé.
- b Volunteering may even helps with career decisions.
- c Volunteering is a good way to learning responsibility.
- d Volunteering helps develop good time-management skills.

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

## The Lighthouse Builder



Engineers need to have faith in their designs, but overconfidence can be disastrous. Such was the case with Henry Winstanley, who designed and constructed the world's first open-sea lighthouse on a treacherous group of rocks in the English Channel. He was so certain of his craft that he claimed he would be willing to weather the strongest storm within the confines of the structure. 1

No one knows how many ships were destroyed at Eddystone Reef, but by the end of the 17th century, the sailors and shipowners of Plymouth petitioned for the building of a lighthouse, even though there was general agreement that the task was impossible. Winstanley, furious because of the loss of two of his own five ships on the reef, submitted plans and won the contract to build one—despite a complete lack of qualifications. 2

It was a forbidding challenge. No lighthouse had ever been built out to sea on an isolated rock. It took eight hours of solid rowing to reach the site. Work could only be done at low tide, which was interrupted four times daily by an incoming rush of rising water. And the weather could be terrible. 3

Progress was slow on the 20-metre-high wooden structure, but on November 14, 1698, Winstanley climbed its steps and lit 50 candles in the lantern, for the first time marking the location of the Eddystone. With the bright beacon guiding ships away from the reef, the project was considered successful. At least it was until storm waves damaged the building's sides and reached its top, causing Winstanley to set about repairing it—or, more accurately, rebuilding it from scratch. 4

The “new,” improved lighthouse added 12 metres to the original height and was far stronger, 12-sided and braced by steel and stone. Modern drawings depict it as a fancy and colourful sight, topped by a large weather vane and appointed with a spacious stateroom for guests. With the upgrades completed in spring 1699, Winstanley was satisfied. Ships approaching Plymouth were safe at last. 5

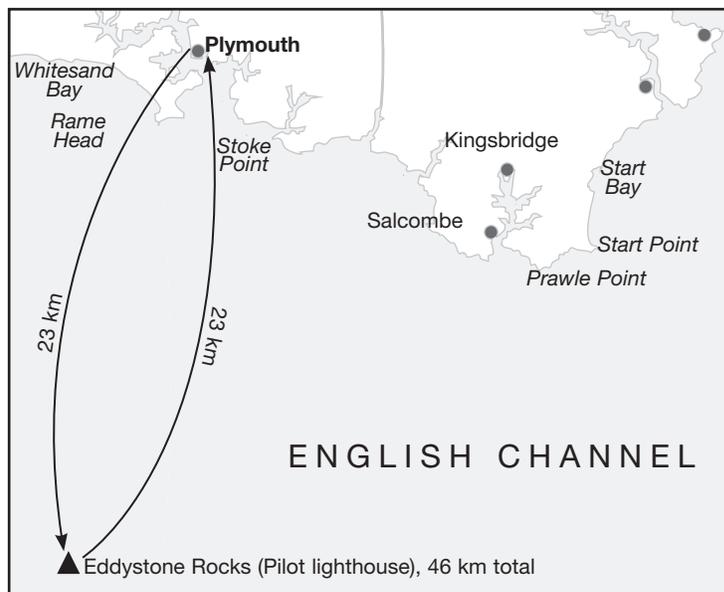
Read the selection below and answer the questions in the *Answer Booklet*.

But skeptics doubted the long-term success of the project. When they claimed it was impossible that the lighthouse should continue to stand in severe weather, Winstanley, filled with pride, boasted that he wished “to be in the lighthouse during the greatest storm that ever was.” 6

His wish was too soon granted. On November 25, 1703, despite a severe windstorm warning, Winstanley insisted on journeying to the lighthouse with five men to make necessary repairs. On the 26th, England was hit by the worst tempest ever recorded there. Hurricane winds toppled 2000 chimney stacks in London alone. Roofs had their tiles ripped off. Windmills were blown around at such speeds that the friction set them on fire. Shipwrecks blocked London Bridge, causing the waters to rise. And the storm had an earthquake-like effect on the masonry and architecture of the isle. 7

When the storm subsided and ships were able to safely sail, those passing by the Eddystone found themselves once again in danger. The reef held no crew, no Winstanley—and no lighthouse. Only a few twisted pieces of metal showed that anything had ever been there. Winstanley’s wish to test his lighthouse had come true—and the building had failed. 8

Nonetheless, Winstanley had proven it possible to save ships approaching Plymouth. The economical benefits of the beacon were so clear that a new lighthouse was completed by 1709. Others followed, including the most recent—a 51-metre-high tower whose light can be seen for nearly 39 kilometres. But of Winstanley’s masterpiece, there remains not a sign. 9



Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

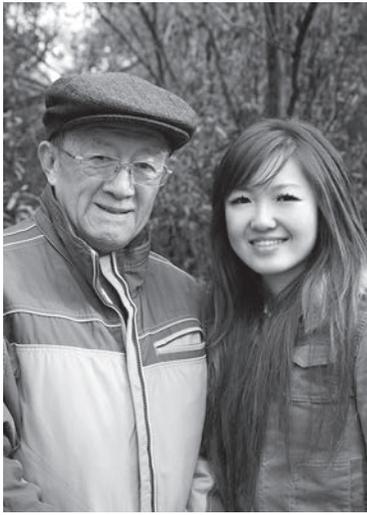
### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** Which factor contributed the most difficulty to building the open-sea lighthouse?
- a expense
  - b location
  - c lack of skilled labour
  - d lack of public support
- 2** Which phrase shows why Winstanley was so committed to building the lighthouse in 1698?
- a “Winstanley, furious because of the loss of two of his own five ships” (paragraph 2)
  - b “With the upgrades completed ... , Winstanley was satisfied” (paragraph 5)
  - c “Winstanley had proven it possible to save ships approaching Plymouth” (paragraph 9)
  - d “despite a severe windstorm warning, Winstanley insisted on journeying to the lighthouse” (paragraph 7)
- 3** In 1698, why was the project considered a success?
- a The lantern helped ships avoid the reef.
  - b Winstanley built a structure 20 metres high.
  - c Winstanley was able to make the necessary repairs.
  - d The lighthouse was more spacious than the upgraded one.
- 4** Which word is closest in meaning to “depict” as used in paragraph 5?
- a allow
  - b define
  - c believe
  - d portray

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

- 5** Which of the following best demonstrates Winstanley's overconfidence?
- a believing that building the lighthouse was possible (paragraph 2)
  - b constructing on isolated rocks (paragraph 3)
  - c rebuilding the first lighthouse (paragraph 4)
  - d wishing to remain in the lighthouse during a storm (paragraph 6)
- 6** What does paragraph 7 contribute to the passage?
- a a flashback
  - b a conclusion
  - c a turning point
  - d a change in point of view
- 7** What is emphasized by the repetition of "no" in paragraph 8?
- a the new level of danger
  - b the degree of destruction
  - c the calmness after the storm
  - d the mystery of the lighthouse's disappearance
- 8** What is the most likely reason why efforts to build a lighthouse in such a difficult location persisted?
- a to attract tourists to the reef
  - b to gather important weather data
  - c to improve the profitability of the Plymouth port
  - d to experiment with updated construction methods
- 9** Overall, how is the selection organized?
- a chronological order
  - b order of importance
  - c comparison and contrast
  - d opinion and supporting details

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



In the kitchen, Hong was poring over the *North Bay Nugget*. 1

Biyu squinted at the headline. “‘Use It or Lose It’? What 2  
does that mean?”

“According to studies,” her grandfather explained, “all older 3  
people experience a decline in brain function, but of the  
people tested, 80 percent saw improvements with daily  
cognitive exercises. I should take the studies’ advice.”

“What kind of advice?” inquired Biyu. 4

“The researchers recommended thinking tasks—I should do 5  
a Sudoku puzzle every day,” Hong chuckled. “But I’m not  
sure I have the patience or the math skills!”

Biyu scanned the article’s highlights in the sidebar. “‘Seniors who speak at least two 6  
languages performed 40 percent better on memory tests.’ You could brush up on your  
Cantonese!”

He nodded. “I’ve been considering joining the Chinese Seniors’ Centre again.” 7

“You could walk there.” She pointed and read: “‘Half of all socially active seniors 8  
experience mental health benefits.’ Just getting to that centre would also allow you  
to engage in some exercise.”

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“Thanks for walking with me, Biyu. Even though it’s frigid, this will promote my health, 9  
but when it is snowing ...” continued Hong.

“I know the perfect solution for a snow day: stay home and do brain-training games on 10  
your tablet.”

“Well, it doesn’t take me 15 minutes to locate hockey statistics on the Internet anymore,” 11  
replied Hong.

Smiling, Biyu replied. “Didn’t that article say that learning something new is crucial— 12  
‘38 percent of seniors improved their scores after practising a new skill?’ It’s a twofer.”

“Twofer?” asked Hong, puzzled. 13

“Two-for-one. You learn to play the games—a new skill—and then you train your mind 14  
through daily exercise!”

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** From where are Biyu and Hong getting their information?
- a the tablet
  - b the Internet
  - c the newspaper
  - d the Seniors' Centre
- 2** What is the meaning of “cognitive” as used in paragraph 3?
- a mental
  - b physical
  - c repetitive
  - d communal
- 3** What does the break between paragraphs 8 and 9 indicate?
- a a change in mood
  - b a change in setting
  - c a change in characters
  - d a change in point of view
- 4** According to the selection, which example would best support the headline “Use It or Lose It,” found in paragraph 2?
- a Cold weather promotes health.
  - b Sudoku puzzles require patience.
  - c Learning a second language improves memory.
  - d Using the Internet to find statistics improves brain function.
- 5** What is the purpose of the single quotation marks in paragraph 12?
- a to show emphasis
  - b to enclose a headline
  - c to indicate a specialized meaning
  - d to identify words taken from elsewhere

### Open-Response Questions

- 6** Explain how Biyu is a supportive granddaughter. Use specific details from the selection to support your answer.
- 7** How is Hong a role model for other seniors? Use specific details from the selection to support your answer.

Provide your answer in the *Answer Booklet*.

**Short Writing Task**

- 1** What piece of clothing best expresses your personality? Use specific details to explain how it conveys who you are.

**Do not write in this area.**

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

## Airport Walkway Tunnels Beneath the Water

Students read a graphic text titled “Airport Walkway Tunnels Beneath the Water” and then answered questions 23–28.

Due to copyright restrictions, the text cannot be released to the public.

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** What will the airport tunnel provide?
- a greater security
  - b a shorter travel distance
  - c increased vehicle access
  - d a more convenient connection
- 2** Where is the tunnel in relation to the former ferry route?
- a west
  - b south
  - c northeast
  - d southwest
- 3** Which graphic feature presents the strongest support for investing in the airport tunnel?
- a the line graph
  - b the airport map
  - c the photographs
  - d the enlargements
- 4** In what form is the diagram showing the moving sidewalks presented?
- a floor plan
  - b aerial view
  - c cross-section
  - d scale drawing
- 5** What is the meaning of “comprises” as it is used to describe the walkway roof?
- a controls
  - b separates
  - c consists of
  - d intersects with
- 6** What conclusion about the construction of the tunnel can be supported by the lower half of the page?
- a It is routine.
  - b It is economical.
  - c It is government funded.
  - d It relies on specialized equipment.

## UNRELEASED ITEMS

The following March 2016 OSSLT questions are not being released this year:

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

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### Permissions and Credits

#### Section III: Reading

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#### Section IV: Reading

Written for EQAO.