

At a Glance

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)



What Is Assessed?

- Whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9 (the test can be taken starting in Grade 10)
- Reading and writing skills, including
 - understanding explicitly and implicitly stated information
 - making connections between information and ideas
 - writing effectively using conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) to ensure clear communication
 - developing a main idea with supporting details
- No additional preparation required, as *Ontario Curriculum* content is covered in regular classroom instruction
- Successful completion of the literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma

01



02

What Are the Design and Format of the OSSLT?

- Online assessment using a linear test design model^{1,2}
- Two sessions totalling 37 questions: 35 selected-response questions and two written open-response questions³
- Introductory session to familiarize students with tools, resources and types of questions
- Relaxation and visualization activities to help students stay calm and focused
- Voluntary Student Questionnaire to collect information about students' attitudes and perceptions with respect to literacy, transferable skills and their learning environment

¹ For those who cannot complete the test online, an alternative version in various formats is available.

² The linear test design uses several equivalent test forms that are assembled ahead of test administration according to the same content and statistical specifications.

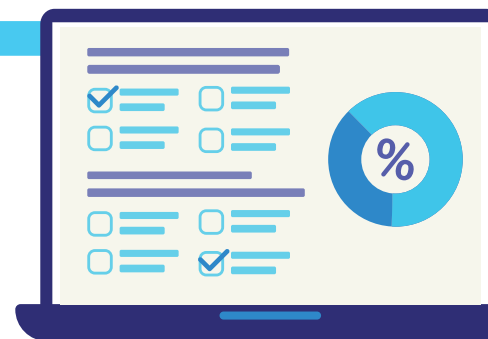
³ Additionally, the test includes field-test questions, which are not used in determining the student results.

How Is the OSSLT Scored and Reported?

- Qualified Ontario educators scoring for open-response (written) questions and automated scoring (computer scored) for selected-response questions
- Single literacy outcome ("Successful" or "Not yet successful") provided for all students⁴
- Student's outcome determined by using a statistical method called "Item Response Theory"⁵
- Individual Student Report generated after the scoring of the test

⁴ Since successful completion of the OSSLT is a graduation requirement, students are assigned a "successful" or "not yet successful" outcome after they complete the test. [Read more](#)

⁵ Item Response Theory takes into account the student's responses to the questions and the difficulty of each of these questions. It locates the student's outcome along a continuum of literacy ability.



03

Learn More



Read the [OSSLT Framework](#)

Watch ["What to expect on the OSSLT"](#)