



# Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

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The OSSLT, which is the subject of this framework, assesses whether students have the literacy (reading and writing) skills needed to meet the literacy requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

The purpose of the OSSLT is to determine whether a student has the literacy (reading and writing) skills required to meet the standard for understanding reading selections and communicating in a variety of writing forms expected by The Ontario Curriculum across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

The OSSLT assesses reading and writing skills. Reading is defined as the process through which the reader actively makes meaning for a variety of written texts that students are expected to understand according to the expectations in The Ontario Curriculum across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. The OSSLT narrative, informational and graphic reading selections focus on three reading skills:

- Reading Skill 1: understanding explicitly stated information and ideas
- Reading Skill 2: understanding implicitly stated information and ideas (making inferences)
- Reading Skill 3: making connections between information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience (interpreting reading selections by integrating information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience)

Writing is defined as the constructive process of communicating in the written forms in which students are expected to write according to the expectations in The Ontario Curriculum across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. Through a combination of multiple-choice questions and two short and two long open-response writing tasks, the OSSLT focuses on three writing skills:

- Writing Skill 1: developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details
- Writing Skill 2: organizing information and ideas in a coherent manner
- Writing Skill 3: using conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) in a manner that does not distract from clear communication

**For more information visit the EQAO OSSLT website here: <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT>**