

COMPONENTS OF THE TEST

Reading —Students must demonstrate skill in three areas:

- Understanding of information and ideas that are stated **directly** in the reading selection
- Understanding information and ideas that are stated **indirectly** and that require the student to make **inferences**
- **Making connections** to the reading selections based on personal experiences and knowledge.

Reading materials include the following:

- **Informational** (news reports, instructions)
- **Graphic** (schedules, charts, graphs)
- **Literary** (dialogue, stories)



Writing - students are asked to produce **two** long writing tasks -

- **A series of paragraphs expressing an opinion**
- **A news report**

Writing measures student achievement in the following areas:

- Development of **main idea**
- Including **supporting details**
- **Organization**
- Use of **appropriate tone**
- **Use of correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.**

ABOUT THE OSSLT

Why?

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is a high school graduation requirement. All students take the test in grade 10 to measure their competency in reading and writing. If a student is unsuccessful, he/she may retake the test the following year. If students are still unable to pass the test, they can take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC), which is an OSSLT equivalent.

When?

Thursday, March 31, 2016

Booklet One:

Approximately **8:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.**

Break

Booklet Two:

Approximately **9:55 a.m. -11:10 a.m.**

Reading selections (usually 3 per booklet)

Questions related to the readings. Students are given **6 lines** on which to answer questions. It is recommended that students use all the space provided.

Multiple Choice questions related to the readings

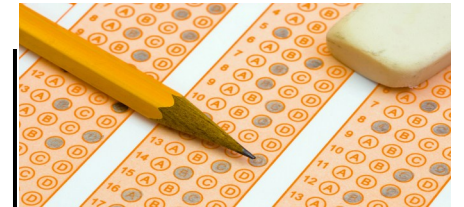
Questions based on grammar, spelling as well as reading and writing skills

3-4 **short writing** tasks per booklet

2 **long writing** tasks (one per booklet)

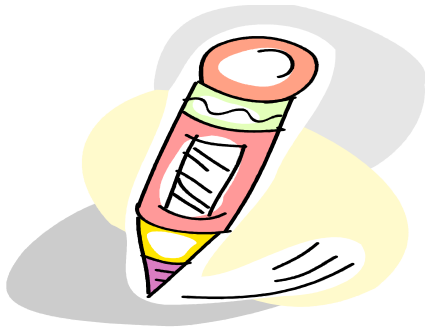
Sherwood Secondary
School
25 High Street
Hamilton, ON
L8T 3Z4

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST OSSLT THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016



Getting
Ready:
A Guide for
Parents and
Students

WHAT ELSE IS IMPORTANT?



Students **MUST** attend on the day of the test. There will be no opportunities to rewrite the test this year.

Therefore, please reschedule any appointments that might have been scheduled for March 31st.

Make sure students are not late. They cannot be given extra time.

Students will see the result of the OSSLT later in the school year.

The test does not count towards course marks/credits.



HOW TO BE PREPARED

Students and teachers at Sherwood have already been preparing for the OSSLT...

- ◆ Students will receive an information session/assembly on March 23. This will include an overview of the test, tips and strategies, and practical advice.
- ◆ Students have been given the opportunity to write a sample test and will receive feedback on it from Sherwood's Literacy Team.
- ◆ Additional practice materials are available in the Sherwood Library and Ms Nicol, the Teacher-Librarian can provide students with feedback.
- ◆ Additional information is available at the EQAO website at www.eqao.com (Student Resources).

OTHER...

- ◆ Colleges and universities will not see students' OSSLT results.
- ◆ If a student fails, he/she can take the test again next year.
- ◆ Students may also take the OSSLC instead of retaking the test.
- ◆ Students with an IEP may receive accommodations.

More Questions?

Please contact
Ms Brown or Mr Grant
at (905) 383-3377

*Sherwood Secondary
School
25 High Street
Hamilton, ON*