

QUICK TIPS TO PASS THE LITERACY TEST

Multiple Choice

- Take the guessing out of your choice by choosing the most correct answer. Multiple answers may **appear** correct, but there is only one answer that is most correct. Be sure to read all the answers before choosing one.
- Read each question twice. Sometimes, the wording can be tricky and meant to confuse you. Don't let it!
- Process of elimination: if you are struggling with finding the correct answer, rule out answers that you know are not true. This will leave you with fewer options to guess from.
- DO NOT** leave any question blank. It is better to make an educated guess than to leave a question unanswered.

SHORT ANSWER

When writing your short answer, use all of the space provided to you but do not go over the lines. Be sure to answer the question exactly - not some variation of the question.

Tip: It might help to use the wording of the question to start off your answer. For instance, if the question is "What is the most important information in the story?" your answer could begin with "The most important information in the story is..."

Remember:

make rough notes or just note key words you don't want to forget. It helps you organize your thoughts and answers!

Reading Selection

Use reading strategies, such as; visualizing, rereading, following along with your finger, and taking rough notes.

Reading selections are separated into small paragraphs. Often questions will ask you to look back at a paragraph in the selection. These paragraphs are numbered for easy reference. Make sure you take the time to go back and reread that paragraph.

Graphic Text

Make sure you read each piece of information on the graphic text. Graphic texts usually have a focus, which is often an important piece of information. Let your eyes be drawn to the focus initially.

USE CONNECTING WORDS

...after, also, although, and, as, as well as, because, before, both, but, either, further, likewise, neither, nor, otherwise, provided, since, unless, until, when, which, while, yet, finally...

WRITING A NEWS REPORT

- ★ The news report is not a story or a narrative and so it should not show an opinion. DO NOT use personal pronouns in your answer (I, we, us, my, etc.). This indicates an opinion or a narrative, and a news report is neither.
- ★ The news report should capture the who, what, when, where, why and how. You will be asked to write a news report based on a picture. You will be required to **invent** the information and specific details. Use your imagination!
- ★ Follow the inverted pyramid format. Begin with the lead (who, what, where, when); follow up with important information (why, how) - include quotes from people and important statistics; finally, end with the least important information and write a closing sentence.

Remember:

The facts, stories, and statistics included in your news report will have been entirely fabricated (made up) by you. This is completely acceptable for the purpose of the Literacy Test. You are encouraged to get as creative as possible.

Do not use personal pronouns (I think, we feel, etc.) but **DO** use action verbs to grab your reader's interest!

The Opinion Essay

- ★ Unlike the news report, your opinion must be clearly stated and argued. Do not say that both sides of the argument could be true. Choose one opinion and stick with it.
- ★ Similar to the short answer, you are encouraged to fill all of the space provided to you but **do not** go outside of the lines. You need to be able to argue your opinion within a limited space.
- ★ Remember to follow proper essay format with at least 3 paragraphs written. Each paragraph should begin with a topic sentence, have a clear argument with examples, comments, transitions, and finally a concluding sentence or statement.
- ★ You are given space before writing to organize your thoughts and writing. Use it! Think: what ideas can be grouped together? What ideas should be separated by paragraphs?

Remember:

Only argue for one side of the topic/issue. You need to prove that you are able to form your own opinions and argue them.

Having an essay that is structured will serve you well. Not only will it be easier for you to write, but it will be easier for someone to read. Take the time to sort out your thoughts!