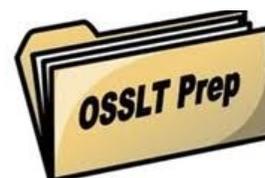




Getting Ready for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)



*“I can do all things
through Christ who
strengthens me.”*

~ Philippians 4:13

OSSLT

Date:
March 27, 2019

Who?:
Grade 10 students and those
eligible to rewrite.

Results:
Students will receive an
Individual Student Report
(ISR) in June 2019. The ISR will
show a pass/fail result with
feedback to unsuccessful
students indicating areas for
improvement. Students who
are unsuccessful may rewrite
the test in 2020.

All Grade 10 students across the province
will be writing the Ontario Secondary School
Literacy Test (OSSLT) on the morning of
Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

To help your child prepare for this test (*the successful completion of which is a graduation requirement in Ontario*), each of our secondary schools has been involved in providing comprehensive and strategic preparation activities to support students. During the months leading up to the test, all grade 10 students will be given the opportunity to practice their literacy skills in reading and writing by participating in preparatory activities such as, the “Mock Test” or “Skills of the Week” activities.

In addition, in March, each of our secondary schools will provide a “Literacy Blitz” —a concentrated intervention in which literacy packages and booklets are distributed to classroom teachers so that students can further practise and develop their literacy skills.



e-Learning and OSSLT Support

Students who are preparing for the OSSLT can access further support for additional literacy skill development and practice by logging in to **mySite** at www.hwcdsb.ca. Students can click on the **LMS icon** and select **HWCD SB OSSLT Preparation Site** from their list of courses. This site offers an overview of the test requirements, tips and strategies for reading and writing, as well as unlimited opportunities for practice quizzes and tests. Students receive immediate feedback and hints to help them improve their skills.

Important Reminders

- Arrive on time—at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the test.
 - Bring a snack to eat during the break.
 - Follow all instructions carefully.
 - Attempt all questions. **DO NOT LEAVE BLANKS.**
 - Bring an HB pencil, black or blue pens and a highlighter.
 - Cross out any errors. **Do not use white out.** It is time-consuming and often results in spaces left blank.
- **DO NOT BRING CELL PHONES, IPODS, EAR BUDS, ETC. INTO THE TEST AREA.**

Test Tips for Students

- Read and **follow instructions** carefully.
- Look at **graphics**. Check the **titles, pictures, graphs & bold words** before reading the passage.
- Make sure you include specific, relevant details to support your answer.
- **Strategies for multiple choice questions:** read the questions before reading the passage; try to answer the question before you look at the choices, then look at the choices; if you are not sure of an answer, cross out any wrong answers first and then make a good guess. Circle it and then check your answer later.
- **Prepare for short answer questions:** read the questions first and think about them while you are reading the passage to find the answer; use **“because”** when you are asked to give an explanation; try to make a connection to the topic (personal experience, knowledge) so that you can provide an example.
- **Answer every question;** if you leave a question blank, the question will be scored zero.
Do not leave any questions blank!

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT/parents/Pages/parents.aspx>



How should a student prepare?

- For the actual test day, get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.
- As a student, you are already preparing for the test by attending classes and completing assignments. The test evaluates skills that are part of the regular curriculum.
- Visit www.eqao.ca and download last year's test, Student Answer Sheet, Multiple Choice Answer Key, Student Responses and Rubrics, and Getting Ready Guide for additional practice. (*links to the above can be accessed through the LMS HWCDSB OSSLT Preparation Site*)
- Use the HWCDSB OSSLT Preparation Site and read the tips, watch the videos, review the student samples and do the practice quizzes.
- Get into the reading habit now. Read whenever you can, at least 15 minutes a day. Read all sorts of material such as the back of cereal boxes when you are eating breakfast, the sports section of the newspaper, advertisements on billboards, or even the instructions for setting up your Xbox. Research proves that reading enhances literacy skills.
- Complete the preparatory materials that are provided by your school to familiarize yourself with the format and types of questions that you will encounter on the test.

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ...

READING

Set an example. Let your kids see you reading for pleasure.

Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials: newspapers, magazines, books, comics, poetry, song lyrics, etc.

Look for books and articles that feature your teen's favorite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies, or TV shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.

Make reading aloud a natural part of family life. Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, a letter, or a random page from a magazine article — without turning it into a lesson.

View pleasure reading as a value in itself. Almost anything your youngsters read — including the Sunday comics — helps build reading skills.

WRITING

Let your child see that you enjoy writing, and that it is an important skill for everyday life.

Show your child that you write all the time: grocery lists, to-do lists, postcards, reports, letters, emails.

Have your child write thank-you notes for gifts.

Encourage your child to keep a journal. This provides good writing practice as well as an opportunity to record daily events.

Give your child, and encourage others to give, gifts associated with writing (special pencils and pens, pads of paper, stationery, envelopes, diary/journal books, dictionary, thesaurus).