

Accommodations and Exemptions

Accommodations such as the use of a scribe, writing in a quiet area, use of a computer, and large-print versions will be used when indicated in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).



A student may be deferred or exempted from writing the test when it is deemed appropriate and after consultation with the Special Education Department, school administrators, and parents. In most cases, only students who are not working towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma would be exempt. Students working towards an OSSD must meet the OSSLT requirement in order to graduate. Any accommodations, deferrals, and exemptions are discussed with parents.

Preparing for the OSSLT

Our secondary schools use a variety of methods to help students prepare for the OSSLT. Some of these methods include the use of preparatory materials, remediation programmes, after-school tutoring, information assemblies, etc. Take-home support materials are also provided. Contact your principal for more information or visit the EQAO website at:

www.eqao.ca

This website contains a variety of materials including sample tests, tips for students, and other strategies parents can use to help their children prepare for the OSSLT.

Contact Information

Please contact your home school to obtain specific information about courses and programs.

Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School

50 Albright Road
Hamilton, Ontario L8K 5J3
Tel: (905) 573-2151 Fax: (905) 573-8689

Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School

100 Panabaker Drive
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 5E3
Tel: (905) 648-4989 Fax: (905) 648-7847

Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School

127 Grays Road
Stoney Creek, Ontario L8G 3V3
Tel: (905) 664-3383 Fax: (905) 664-7972

Cathedral High School

30 Wentworth Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8L 8H5
Tel: (905) 522-3581 Fax: (905) 522-7011

St. Jean de Breb uf

200 Acadia Drive
Hamilton, Ontario L8W 1B8
Tel: (905) 388-7020 Fax: (905) 388-7977

St. Mary Catholic Secondary School

200 Whitney Avenue
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 2G7
Tel: (905) 528-0214 Fax: (905) 528-7418

St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School

1045 Upper Paradise Road
Hamilton, Ontario L9B 2N4
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Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
Believing, Achieving, Serving

A Guide for Parents and Students

HWCDSB

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

(OSSLT)



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic
District School Board

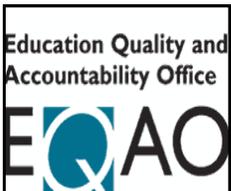
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Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is given every year to assess the reading and writing abilities of Grade 10 students.

The test is designed to assess the necessary literacy skills for success in high school. It also provides Ontario schools with information that will assist them in improvement planning. Students who are unsuccessful can retake the test. Students who have been eligible to write the OSSLT at least twice and have been unsuccessful at least once are eligible to fulfill the requirement in grade 12 through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). Successful completion of the OSSLT or the OSSLC is a graduation requirement.

Administration of the OSSLT



The OSSLT is administered and marked under the direction of the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). Students across the province will complete the test

on the same morning. There are two and a half hours allotted for actual completion of the test materials. The test for this school year is scheduled for **April 8, 2010**.

Prior to the test date, students are to make sure they know exactly where in the school they will be writing the test. Attendance and punctuality are essential toward helping a student achieve success on the test.

Components of the Test

There are two components to the OSSLT - reading and writing.

For the reading component, students are asked to read a variety of selections and answer questions about each selection. Students must demonstrate skills in three key areas:

- Understanding of information and ideas that are stated **directly** in the reading selection
- Understanding of information and ideas that are stated **indirectly** and that require the student to make inferences
- **Making connections** between personal knowledge and experience and the ideas and information in the reading selections (e.g., interpretation of meaning).



The reading selections reflect the types of reading materials students should encounter every day, including the following :

- **informational** materials, such as explanations and instructions, news reports
- **graphic** materials, such as schedules, graphs, tables and charts
- **literary** materials, such as stories, descriptions, narratives, and dialogues.

The questions on the selections include short-answer questions, multiple choice questions, and questions that require a brief explanation.

For the writing component, students are asked to produce two long writing tasks. The writing tasks are designed to measure student achievement in these areas:

- **development of a main idea**
- provision of **supporting details**
- **organization** and linking of ideas and information
- use of an **appropriate tone** for the purpose and the intended reader
- use of correct **grammar, punctuation, and spelling**.

The types of writing include the following:

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

OSSLT Blueprint

An OSSLT blueprint was used to develop the test so that each year it has the same characteristics.

The blueprint used ensures that each reading and writing item on the test measures the reading and writing skills emphasized in the Ontario Curriculum up to the end of grade 9.

For example, one of the expectations for students by the end of grade 7 is that they will be able to read, interpret and draw conclusions from primary and secondary data (charts, survey results, graphs, measurements, etc.)—a key skill tested on the OSSLT.

Successful Completion of the Test

Once the test has been administered and returned by the schools to EQAO, marking is done using a variety of methods to ensure validity and reliability of the results. Passing standards for reading and writing are set by a standards-setting committee. The test is scored by qualified individuals who have received special training for this purpose.

Individual Student Records (ISR's) will be distributed (usually in June) which indicate whether a student has successfully passed the OSSLT and, if not, any areas of weakness. A copy of this report is kept in the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR) for future reference.



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