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Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

ADMINISTRATION GUIDE 2015

IMPORTANT DATES

Enter or confirm information using SDC system (order special versions).	Thursday, February 12 to Friday, February 20
Receive test materials at school.	Monday, March 23 to Wednesday, March 25
Verify, using SDC system, that all student information is up to date and accurate.	Thursday, February 26 to Friday, March 27
Verify, using SDC system, that all materials have arrived.	Monday, March 23 to Wednesday, March 25
Download assistive technology and MP3 audio versions.	Tuesday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m.
ADMINISTER OSSLT	THURSDAY, MARCH 26
Prepare test materials for return to EQAO, and delete MP3 audio files.	Friday, March 27
Delete electronic versions of students' work.	Upon receipt of Individual Student Reports



What's **NEW** for 2015

- For 2015, EQAO has modified the layout of its assessment booklets. EQAO is in the midst of a multi-year project to move its assessments and scoring online. The new layout will make the booklets more easily scanned for online scoring. **For all provincial assessments in 2015, in addition to the assessment booklets, there will be Answer Booklets in which students will record all of their responses (both multiple-choice and open-response). Nothing written in the Question Booklets will be scored.** The nature and number of test questions and time allotted to complete the assessments will remain the same. It is no longer necessary to photocopy students' multiple-choice responses. Samples of the new layout for the OSSLT are available at www.eqao.com.
- "Tip Sheet for Students: New EQAO Booklet Layout" is available at www.eqao.com.
- The following electronic formats will be available this year: Kurzweil 3000 (version 12), Kurzweil 1000 (version 12), Word optimized for Premier, Word optimized for WordQ, Word optimized for Read and Write Gold, Word (.doc), accessible Word (.doc), HTML, PDF and accessible PDF and MP3 audio.
- For ease of use, the audio, Braille and assistive-technology versions will not be presented as separate question and answer booklets. Although students will receive printed booklets in the new layout, a PDF that will match the audio, Braille and assistive-technology versions will be available for download from the secure site at 9:00 a.m. two days before the test day. **All responses will need to be stapled to the inside front cover of the appropriate Answer Booklet and returned in the Special Versions envelope.**

Remember...

- ✓ **ALL** school staff involved in the administration must read and adhere to the "Professional Responsibilities for the Administration of the OSSLT" in this guide.
- ✓ All provisions outlined in the administration and accommodation guides must be adhered to whether the student is taking the assessment in a paper or an electronic format. No instructional materials, including electronic instructional applications, that facilitate responses to questions can be used. We rely on the professional judgment of educators to administer the assessment in accordance with EQAO guidelines and to ensure the security and validity of the assessment.
- ✓ Ensure all students record all of their answers—both multiple-choice and open-response—in the appropriate **Answer Booklet**.
- ✓ All resources listed in this guide are available on the public section of the EQAO Web site, www.eqao.com, unless otherwise noted.
- ✓ Test materials should not be copied in any way or for any reason.
- ✓ The use of cellphones, audio- or video-recording devices, digital music players or e-mail or text-messaging devices during the test is prohibited.
- ✓ There is a "Student Materials Order Checklist" in the *Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions*. Schools are invited to make copies of this checklist in order to identify special orders prior to entering them into the Student Data Collection (SDC) system.
- ✓ Identify students who will write in an alternative location, and, **at least six weeks in advance** (if possible), request permission from EQAO for them to do so.

The Test at a Glance

ACTIVITY	ALLOTTED TIME
Booklet 1 (Question and Answer)	75 minutes
Break	15 minutes
Booklet 2 (Question and Answer)	75 minutes
Questionnaire (Answer Booklet 2)	10 minutes

The Other Guides

The *Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions* is a companion document that provides information about and outlines the required documentation for special circumstances, deferrals, exemptions, special provisions for English language learners and accommodations for students with special education needs.

The *Guide for Principals Preparing for the Administration of EQAO Tests* is available on the secure section of EQAO's Web site (www.eqao.com) under "Student Data Collection System—Resources."

Participation

All students eligible for the test must be accounted for, including English language learners, students with special education needs and students whose results were withheld in previous years, even if the students' participation is to be deferred or the students are to be exempted or plan to fulfill the literacy requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) during the current school year.

First-time eligible students are those who

- entered Grade 9 in the 2013–2014 school year or
- entered Grade 10 in the 2014–2015 school year from out of province.

Previously eligible students are those who

- were absent or deferred for, or were unsuccessful on, one or more previous administrations;
- were previously exempted but are now working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD);
- entered Grade 11 or 12 in the 2014–2015 school year from out of province or
- enrolled in an adult education program and began Grade 9 in or after the 2000–2001 school year.

Note: A student deferral does not constitute an opportunity to write and therefore does not qualify the student to take the OSSLC.

A mature student is one who

- was at least 18 years of age on December 31;
- was not enrolled as a regular day-school student for at least one school year immediately before registering in a secondary school program and
- is enrolled to obtain an OSSD.

Note: Mature students may enrol directly in the OSSLC.

Professional Responsibilities for the Administration of the OSSLT

All staff (including scribes and prompters) must read and adhere to the following.

Note: For more detail, please see the full document, also called “Professional Responsibilities for the Administration of the OSSLT,” posted on EQAO’s Web site (www.eqao.com).

Principals will ensure that

- all eligible students (including those requiring accommodations or special provisions and those deferred or exempted) are accounted for;
- complete and accurate information on all students is provided to EQAO;
- appropriate test materials have been ordered for all students;
- all staff involved in the administration have been trained and have read this guide and the *Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions*;
- scribes and prompters are aware of their roles and responsibilities;
- all test materials have been received and are kept secure and confidential;
- access to student test materials occurs only on the morning of the day of administration, except in the case of staff preparing materials for assistive technology and MP3 audio versions, who may have access to the electronic versions only, two days prior to the administration; and
- any suspected security breach related to the administration of the test is reported to EQAO immediately.

Teachers and principals will ensure that

- no student test packages are opened prior to the start of the first administration session;
- each student has sufficient writing room to work independently of every other student;
- scribes and prompters have access to the test materials only during the administration;
- test materials are not copied or removed from the test room during the administration;
- all instructional materials relating to reading or writing in the test room are removed or covered;
- students are supervised at all times during the administration;
- no cellphones, audio- or video-recording devices, digital music players or e-mail or text-messaging devices are allowed in the test room;
- *Booklet 1 (Question and Answer)* is completed in one continuous session, as is *Booklet 2*;
- during the test, students do **not** receive
 - instruction on any concepts or items from the test once the test materials have been opened;
 - explanations, definitions, translation or examples of reading vocabulary or writing terminology or
 - encouragement or influence to alter or revise their responses;
- after the test, student booklets are **not** read, reviewed or corrected in any way; and
- all circumstances that may affect the scoring of a student’s work are documented and reported to EQAO on the **Issues Envelope**.



Principal's Steps | Before Administration

STEP	✓ ITEM	DETAILS	RESOURCES
1	☐ Student Data Collection (SDC)	Enter or confirm information using SDC system.	Secure Web site: SDC system, <i>A Guide for Principals Preparing for the Administration of EQAO Tests</i> and “Accounting and Reporting EQAO Results for Students with Unique or Special Circumstances”
	☐ Security	Identify secure location for test materials.	
	☐ Administration Schedule	- Determine morning start time, and schedule one break (maximum 15 minutes). - Determine schedule for students being accommodated with additional time.	<i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> and “Test at a Glance” section of this guide
	☐ Alternative Location	Identify students who will write in alternative location and, at least six weeks in advance (if possible), request permission from EQAO for them to do so.	Secure Web site: “Request for Approval to Administer the Test at an Alternative Location” form
	☐ Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions	- Identify support and make arrangements for students receiving accommodations and/or special provisions. - Send letters to adult students or parents of students receiving accommodations, special provisions, deferrals or exemptions.	<i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> Secure Web site: sample letters
	☐ Meeting with Staff	- Ensure all staff involved with the administration have read guides and are aware of new booklet layouts. - Review “Professional Responsibilities for the Administration of the OSSLT,” and ensure that all staff, including scribes and prompters, are aware of their roles and responsibilities; - accommodations and special provisions and related arrangements; - school policy for late students and - test room requirements.	<i>Administration Guide; Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> ; and “EQAO’s Video Guide to Key Test Administration Procedures”
2	☐ Student Information Session (optional)	- Inform students about test (e.g., new layout, length). - Set schedule (e.g., time, location, breaks). - Share instructions with students.	Sample test on EQAO Web site
3	☐ Test Materials	- Ensure all required materials have been received. Do not open individual student packages.	Secure Web site: Student Tracking Sheet printed from SDC system Packing List (with delivery)
	☐ Additional Materials	- Update student information in SDC system. - Order additional materials using SDC system.	Secure Web site: SDC system
	☐ Secure Storage of Test Materials	Store test materials in secure location until distribution to teachers on morning of test.	
	☐ Guides	Distribute this guide and <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> to all teachers administering test.	



Principal's Steps | Day of Test

STEP	✓ ITEM	DETAILS	RESOURCES
4	☐ Student Tracking Sheet (STS) and Test Packages to Teachers	- Print up-to-date STS for each test room. - Distribute test materials on morning of administration. - Resolve package ID problems.	Secure Web site: SDC system; "Administration Day: What Happens If...?" section of this guide
	☐ Special Circumstances: Delayed Start	If start time of test will be delayed more than one hour, EQAO approval must be obtained. (EQAO Information Centre: 1-888-327-7377)	"Administration Day: What Happens If...?" section of this guide; "Policies and Procedures"
5	☐ Receipt of Test Materials	Use STS to check that all materials have been returned by teachers.	Secure Web site: SDC system
6	☐ Student Information Review	- Check that student information is complete and accurate. - Update information, if required.	Secure Web site: SDC system
	☐ School Files	- Store for one year: – STSs; – documentation for students with accommodations, special provisions or deferrals; – signed consent forms for exempted students and – test room seating plans. - Delete electronic files of student work upon receipt of Individual Student Reports.	
	☐ MP3 Audio Files	Delete all MP3 audio files.	
	☐ Special Versions Envelope	- Ensure student work is stapled to inside front cover of appropriate <i>Answer Booklet</i>, and ensure last 12 digits of package ID are on each page. - Include only special version booklets containing responses typed on computer.	<i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions: "How to Return Computer Responses to EQAO"</i>
	☐ Issues Envelope	- Include all materials that require EQAO's attention (e.g., materials with package ID problems, booklets with missing pages, notes to EQAO). - Provide detailed explanation of each issue on outside of Issues Envelope.	This guide
	☐ Checking of Materials	Use packing list to ensure that quantities returned are same as quantities received.	Packing List (with delivery)
	☐ Packing and Sealing of Tote Boxes	- Include Special Versions Envelopes, Issues Envelopes and all <i>Booklet 1s</i> and <i>Booklet 2s</i> (i.e., both <i>Question</i> and <i>Answer</i>, used or unused). - Do not use plastic sleeves to return used test booklets.	
	☐ Return Labels	Affix label, ensuring that ID number on label matches one on tote box.	UPS Return Shipping Instructions (with delivery)
	☐ UPS Pickup	- Prepare for pickup pre-scheduled for day following test administration. - Record date and shipment tracking number.	



Teachers' Steps

STEP	✓ ITEM	DETAILS	RESOURCES
1	☐ Guides	Read this guide and <i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i>.	
2	☐ Staff Meeting	Meet with principal and other staff members administering test to review roles and responsibilities, and plan for administration and accommodations.	
3	☐ Seating Plans	- Prepare seating plans. - Ensure students have sufficient room to write independently.	
4	☐ Preparation of Test Room	- Cover or remove all instructional materials about reading or writing. - Set up room to ensure students will work independently.	
5	☐ Student Supplies	Ensure supply of blue or black ink pens (pencils are permitted).	
6	☐ Receipt of Test Materials	Do not open individual student packages. - Check that number of student packages matches number of students listed on STS.	
7	☐ Test Administration	- Follow “Test Day Instructions for Teachers.” - Circulate, and continuously monitor students. - Ensure students do not have electronic devices (e.g., cellphones).	“Test Day Instructions for Teachers” and “What Happens If...?” sections of this guide
8	☐ Collection of Test Materials and Deletion of MP3 Audio Files	- Collect all student <i>Question</i> and <i>Answer</i> booklets and unused student packages using STS. - Delete all MP3 audio files.	
9	☐ Issues	Provide principal with written explanation of any issues (e.g., missing pages, student package ID problems, notes to EQAO and booklets involved).	
10	☐ Special Versions	- Staple all student work to inside front cover of appropriate <i>Answer Booklet</i>. Provide principal with all special version booklets containing responses typed on computer.	<i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i> : “How to Return Computer Responses to EQAO”
11	☐ Return of Materials to Principal	Return all materials to principal (STS, all <i>Question</i> and <i>Answer</i> booklets, all unused test materials and all special versions and issues).	

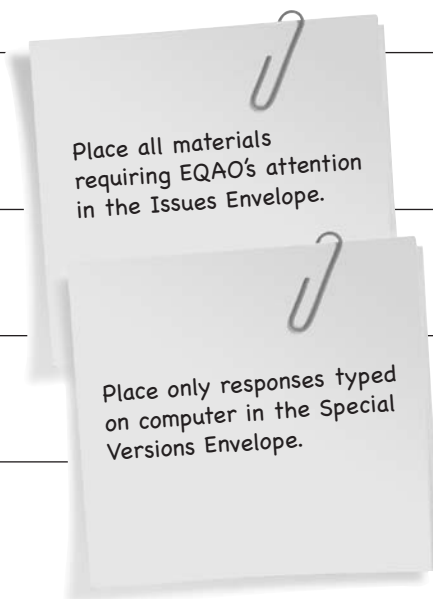
Test Day Instructions for Teachers

✓ ITEM	DETAILS	RESOURCES	TIPS
○ Use STS to distribute packages to students	For each student, ensure final 12 digits of package ID match those on STS. Do not change the barcode or digits on this document.  111 11011 00 564938 10 3942	Page 9 of this guide	If a student begins work in the incorrect package, the student should continue using the package for the entire test. Notify the principal to update the SDC system after the test.
○ Ask students to check materials in their package	Ensure package contains <i>Question Booklet 1</i>, <i>Question Booklet 2</i>, <i>Answer Booklet 1</i> and <i>Answer Booklet 2</i>.	Page 9 of this guide	
○ Read script to students	Script: You have two 75-minute periods to complete the OSSLT. At the end of the first 75 minutes, there will be a 15-minute break. If you finish early, review your work and check that you have not missed any questions. Put your <i>Question Booklet 2</i> and <i>Answer Booklet 2</i> face down on the corner of your desk. Do not start <i>Booklet 2</i> until after the break. Follow along as I read the instructions for both <i>Booklet 1s</i> [Teacher: please see sample of the covers at the end of this guide]. Use blue or black ink or a pencil to complete the test. Once the test begins, I will not be able to answer your questions. Are there any questions? Start <i>Booklet 1</i>.		Ensure that there are no cellphones, audio- or video-recording devices, digital music players or e-mail or text-messaging devices in the test room. If students are receiving double time, double all of the times in the script. Remind the students when 15 minutes is left.
○ Collect <i>Booklet 1</i>	- After 75 minutes, collect all <i>Booklet 1s</i> (both <i>Question</i> and <i>Answer</i>). - Use STS to ensure all booklets have been collected.		
○ Read script to students	Script: You are now ready to start <i>Booklet 2</i>. Are there any questions? After 75 minutes, you will be given time to complete the questionnaire at the end of the booklet. Start <i>Booklet 2</i>.		Remind the students when 15 minutes is left.

Test Day Instructions for Teachers (continued)



✓ ITEM	DETAILS	RESOURCES	TIPS
○ Announce end of test time	▪ After 75 minutes, announce end of test time.		
○ Complete Student Questionnaire	▪ Instruct students to complete the Student Questionnaire at the end of <i>Answer Booklet 2</i>.		
○ Collect Booklet 2	▪ Upon completion, collect <i>Booklet 2s</i> (both <i>Question</i> and <i>Answer</i>).		
○ Update seating plan	▪ Provide final seating plan to principal.		
○ Verify collection of all student materials	▪ Use STS to ensure that all four booklets (used or unused) have been collected. ▪ Provide all test materials to principal.		



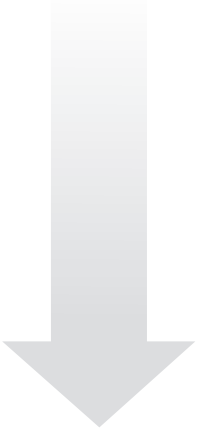
Administration Day: What Happens If...?

CATEGORY	ISSUE	SOLUTION	RESOURCES
Missing Package or New Student	no materials	Use package of an absent student, and update SDC system by using “Switch Packages” task button or order using SDC system.	Secure Web site: SDC system
Absences	student is absent	EQAO will deem student absent if there is no work in one booklet or more.	“Policies and Procedures”
	student will be away from the school due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., national tournament)	Six weeks prior to assessment (if possible), request permission using form “Request for Approval to Administer the Assessment at an Alternative Location,” available on secure Web site.	
	teacher is absent	Another teacher, supervised by principal, may administer test. This teacher must be familiar with administration procedures and must follow them.	
Lateness	bus is late	Test may be delayed up to one hour. For delays longer than one hour, principal must contact EQAO’s Chief Assessment Officer at 1-888-327-7377.	
	student is late	Follow school’s late policy for exams. (No student may start <i>Booklet 1</i> after the rest of students have completed it.)	
Package ID Number Issues	Do not change the barcode or digits on this document.  111 11011 00 564938 10 3942 School ID Grade Package #		
	all materials in student’s package do not have same final 12 digits	Have students continue to use package, and place all of student’s work in Issues Envelope. On outside of envelope, document issue.	
	booklets not distributed according to STS (students received wrong package)	Have students continue working in package they received. If students have begun test, do not switch packages and do not change barcodes or digits on any document. Instead, do the following: – If mix-up involves one or more pairs of students, use “Switch Packages” task button in SDC system to switch package IDs between students. Do not include packages with IDs corrected in this manner in Issues Envelope. – If mix-up involves many students, print STS, write by hand final 12 digits of ID of package each student actually used, call EQAO to communicate changes that need to be made, fax STS to 416-325-6622, and place all student materials and copy of faxed STS in Issues Envelope. Note: Review Preliminary Student Summary during posting period.	Secure Web site: SDC system and <i>A Guide for Principals Preparing for the Administration of EQAO Tests</i>

Administration Day: What Happens If...? (continued)

CATEGORY	ISSUE	SOLUTION	RESOURCES
Booklet Issues	student package is incomplete	Use package of an absent student, and update SDC system using “Switch Packages” task button or contact EQAO to describe problem and request materials.	Secure Web site: SDC system
	some students’ questions are different	Have student complete all work in his or her booklet. Note: There are different versions of test, as field-test items are embedded in booklets. The field-test questions are not included in students’ scores.	
	booklet and assistive technology versions do not match for student	Ensure package and material type provided to student match those on STS. If student has already begun test and the required assistive technology version was not ordered, have student continue using the booklets he or she received. Ensure final 12 digits of package ID are included on each page of computer-printed responses. Place all student materials in Issues Envelope.	
Emergency	fire alarm or other school emergency	Tell students to leave test materials on their desks and to exit immediately according to school’s emergency exit plan. When students return, instruct them to return to test.	“Policies and Procedures”
Student Responses	responds in language other than English	Portion of response not in English will not be scored.	“Policies and Procedures”
	uses offensive language	Responses with offensive language may not be scored. Principal will be notified.	
Computer Problem	student responses not saved	▪ Contact your IT department. ▪ Ask students to save their work frequently. ▪ Place student materials in Issues Envelope.	<i>Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals and Exemptions</i>
	print issues (font size, overprinting, etc.)	▪ Print one page at a time. ▪ Cut and paste student responses into word processor. ▪ Request support from your IT department.	IT department

Impacts on Reporting: What Happens If...?

THE ISSUE	POSSIBLE IMPACT	ACTION TO BE TAKEN
Booklets not distributed according to STS (students received wrong booklet)	Scores will be reported according to distribution on STS.	If students have begun test, do not switch packages and do not change barcodes or digits on any document. If mix-up involves one or more pairs of students, use “Switch Packages” task button in SDC system to switch package IDs between students. Do not include packages with IDs corrected in this manner in Issues Envelope.
Package ID numbers on barcode have been changed	Barcode will override handwritten number change.	If mix-up involves many students, print STS, write by hand final 12 digits of ID of package each student actually used, call EQAO to communicate changes that need to be made, fax STS to 416-325-6622, and place all student materials and copy of faxed STS in the Issues Envelope. Note: Review Preliminary Student Summary during posting period.
Computer printouts not stapled into booklet	Work may be scored incomplete or may not receive any score.	Staple pages to inside front cover of appropriate <i>Answer Booklet</i> , and place booklets in Special Versions Envelope .
Administration steps not followed	Scores may be withheld. EQAO may request information from school or school board as part of decision making.	Place all booklets in Issues Envelope , and note issue on front of envelope.
Scribe or prompter does not follow instructions and/or provides hints to students		
Scribe does not write down exact words of student		
Student uses dictionary		
Student uses cellphone or other electronic device		
Students copy from one another		
Student’s work includes offensive content	Scores may be withheld. Information about offensive content will be sent to attention of school principal.	
Student responds in language other than English	Portion of response not in English will not be scored.	

QUESTIONS

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

March 2015

Follow along as your teacher reads the instructions.

- ✓ Check the identification numbers of the *Question* and *Answer* booklets to see that the final 12 digits all match. If they do not, report the problem to the teacher in charge.
- ✓ Check the pages of your *Question* and *Answer* booklets to see that they are in order. If they are not, report the problem to the teacher in charge.

Note:

You are not permitted to use cellphones, audio- or video-recording devices, digital music players or e-mail or text-messaging devices during the assessment.

**No work in this booklet
will be scored.**

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



**Continue to follow along as your teacher
reads the directions on the cover of
Answer Booklet 1.**

This is a secure document. Reproduction and/or publication of this document is strictly prohibited.

ANSWERS

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

March 2015

INSTRUCTIONS

Attempt all questions. If you leave a question blank, the question will be scored zero.

Use only pencil or blue or black pen.

Answering Multiple-Choice Questions

Choose **the best** or **most correct** answer for each question.

To indicate your answer, **fill in the circle completely**, as shown below.

Like this: ● **Not like this:** ⊗ ✓ ◐ ◑

If you fill in more than one circle for a question, the question will be scored incorrect.

To change a multiple-choice answer, erase or cross out your answer and fill in the circle for your new answer. Ensure that your final answer is clear.

Answering Open-Response Questions

For the writing sections, pay attention to clarity, organization, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

The lined space in this booklet indicates the approximate length of the response expected.

**Provide ALL
your answers to
multiple-choice and
open-response questions
in this booklet.**

**Space is available for
rough notes.**

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



You are now ready to start the test.

**Education Quality and
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Telephone: 1-888-327-7377 Web site: www.eqao.com

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