

OSSLT

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

March 2014

RELEASED SELECTIONS AND TEST QUESTIONS

**Record your answers to the multiple-choice questions
on the Student Answer Sheet (March 2014).**

Please note: The format of
this booklet is different from
that used for the assessment.
The questions themselves
remain the same.

Read carefully before writing the test:

- Check the identification numbers of your three documents 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 this *Test Booklet* to see that they are in order. If they are not, report the problem to the teacher in charge.
- Read all instructions before responding to the questions.
- Use only pencil or blue or black pen in the *Test Booklet* and on the Student Answer Sheet.
- Attempt all questions. If you leave a question blank, the question will be scored zero.

Multiple-Choice

- Choose the best or most correct answer for each question.
- You must record your multiple-choice answers on the Student Answer Sheet. Multiple-choice answers recorded in the *Test Booklet* will not be scored.

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.
- If you wish 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.

Written Answers

- For all questions that ask for a written answer, **write legibly on the lined space provided** in the *Test Booklet*.
- For the writing sections, pay attention to clarity, organization, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.
- There is space in the *Test Booklet* for rough notes. Nothing you write in these spaces will be scored.

You are now ready to start.
Remember to record all your multiple-choice answers on the Student Answer Sheet.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Writing a Series of Paragraphs

1 Task:	Write a minimum of three paragraphs expressing an opinion on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.).
Purpose and Audience:	an adult who is interested in your opinion
Length:	The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.
Topic:	Do students benefit from the two-month summer break?

Write your series of paragraphs on the lines provided on the following two pages.

Rough Notes

Use the space below for your rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

Multiple-Choice

(Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 1** Which option is the best concluding sentence for this paragraph?

Many cities struggle with public transportation needs. New subway construction is expensive, and space for above-ground rail lines is limited. Adding more buses can't always reduce street congestion. Transit users dislike fare increases, but that is one way to raise money for improvements.

- _____.
- a Public transportation was cheaper in the past.
 - b There are no easy solutions to transit problems.
 - c There are various ways to eliminate the need for cars.
 - d Urban population growth means more cars on city streets.

- 2** Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a Improving your focus starting the day with breakfast.
- b Regular exercise result in better mental functioning.
- c Taking frequent breaks can improve focus and concentration.
- d Concentrating better with music or television playing in the background.

- 3** Choose the option that best combines the following sentences.

Carl J. Eliason invented the snow machine.

It was made using bicycle and car parts and a pair of skis.

It was patented in 1927.

- a Carl J. Eliason's snow machine invention, patented in 1927, was made using bicycle and car parts and a pair of skis.
- b The snow machine was invented out of parts from a bicycle, a car and a pair of skis in 1927 and patented by Carl J. Eliason.
- c The snow machine was patented after Carl J. Eliason used parts from a bicycle, a car and a pair of skis to invent it in 1927.
- d Carl J. Eliason patented a snow machine in 1927 because he used parts from a bicycle, a car and a pair of skis to invent it.

- 4** Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a We observe the stars last night.
- b Teresa and Sam witnessed the accident.
- c Aminah and Khalil is going to see the latest adventure film.
- d Of the whole class, only Winnie and Omar is going on the field trip.

End of Section II. Continue to Section III. 

Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow it.

A Stunning Comeback to an Elite Sport

The official line on Marie-Eve Chainey in the women’s high jump read “NH”—shorthand for “No Height”—not exactly a fitting designation for an athlete who truly soared. 1



For some athletes at the Canadian track and field championships in August 2010, a triumphant return meant posting fast times after a slow season. For Chainey, it meant returning to elite competition after a nine-year battle with kidney disease. Three years ago, she was unable to walk and even lacked the strength to wash her hair. 2

As a 14-year-old, Chainey would often travel 820 kilometres from Kapuskasing to Toronto to train under coach Gary Lubin at York University. At 18, Chainey went to Spain to learn the language and continue her high-jump training. While there, she became so dizzy she had to be hospitalized. That’s when she got the news: Her kidneys were no longer working. She hasn’t known life without dialysis since. 3

Healthy kidneys filter waste products from the blood. In dialysis treatment, a machine cleans the blood at regular intervals, for example, three times a week. Chainey has been using nocturnal dialysis, which works while she sleeps. 4

Since her original diagnosis, Chainey has had to overcome four relapses and countless other obstacles, including going blind for two months. She was told over and over she’d never jump again because her muscles were too damaged. But for Chainey, jumping is like breathing. 5

“From when I got sick, the goal that I had was to just be back jumping,” she said. “Jumping was basically my happy place. Even now more so. Because I’m sick and there’s so much going on, when I go to high jump, I don’t think about anything else than just high jump and enjoying it. It is definitely my getaway. I feel normal because I don’t have to think about anything else.” 6

So on the eve of the national championships, the 27-year-old was not about to be deterred by a difficult night of dialysis. “I’m very stubborn, I’m very hard-headed ... I just had to find a way that I would be able to jump, no matter what.” 7



Chainey certainly felt jitters at the championships; her hands wouldn't stop shaking once the competition began. She didn't clear the starting height of 1.50 metres, which she had managed to get over in practice. Still, you'd be hard pressed to find a happier last-place finisher anywhere.

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"Just being out there, especially when they lined us up and they introduced us to the crowd, it was a special moment that I'll always remember," she said. "I didn't feel comfortable at first because I didn't feel I belonged. But although I didn't get a height, I still feel I belonged there. It felt awesome just to have the opportunity and experience this."

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Chainey says kidney disease has cured her of her perfectionism. "I've always been a straight A student, always done well in sports and piano," she said. "So when I got sick, my life wasn't perfect anymore. I had to learn how to live with what you have, that I had limits. That was a very good lesson for me, to know that things aren't always perfect but you can still make the best of it."

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Lubin is not surprised by her determination. "She used to come down from Kapuskasing, a 12-hour train ride ... in order to train. When I talk to my athletes about dedication, I say, 'Don't tell me you came from Burlington. You think that's far? How about Kapuskasing?' This is the type of person she is."

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There are comebacks, and there are *comebacks*.

12

Multiple-Choice

(Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 1** Where was Chainey living when she was diagnosed with kidney disease?
- a Spain
 - b Toronto
 - c Burlington
 - d Kapuskasing
- 2** Early on, how did Chainey demonstrate her dedication to high jumping?
- a She went to Kapuskasing to train competitively.
 - b She competed at the Canadian track and field championships.
 - c She competed even though she had received dialysis treatments.
 - d She frequently travelled long distances to train at York University.
- 3** How is the information in paragraphs 1 to 3 organized?
- a present to past
 - b cause and effect
 - c similarities and differences
 - d more important to less important
- 4** What is the purpose of the dashes in paragraph 1?
- a to set off an explanation
 - b to replace quotation marks
 - c to indicate a change in topic
 - d to separate an idea and an example
- 5** Why is paragraph 5 important to the selection?
- a It reveals Chainey's determination.
 - b It describes the dangers of dialysis.
 - c It proves that Chainey should not compete.
 - d It explains why high jumping is an elite sport.
- 6** Which word is closest in meaning to "deterred" as used in paragraph 7?
- a stopped
 - b punished
 - c confused
 - d exhausted
- 7** What impact did kidney disease have on Chainey?
- a Chainey became dissatisfied with anything less than a win.
 - b Chainey stopped using jumping as an escape from her troubles.
 - c Chainey valued her fellow competitors as encouraging supporters.
 - d Chainey no longer expected to be flawless in what she attempted.
- 8** Why was Chainey satisfied with her finish at the national championships?
- a She had jumped her personal best.
 - b She had met her coach's expectations.
 - c She had defeated her closest competitor.
 - d She had returned to the sport she enjoyed.

- 9** What idea connects the introductory paragraph to the conclusion?
- a** Chainey is a champion high jumper.
 - b** Chainey's last place finish is a victory.
 - c** Chainey's kidney disease is a curable illness.
 - d** Chainey has qualified for the national championships.

End of Section III. Continue to Section IV. 

Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow it.



“Is tomorrow the big day?” asked Hanna. Her father was lost in thought. “Dad?” 1

“Sorry.” Gerry snapped out of his reverie. “I can’t focus. Nerves, I guess.” 2

“Don’t be nervous,” said Hanna. “You’re a fantastic chef!” 3

“Thanks. It’s not the cooking that I’m worried about—it’s the pace. ‘Go! Hurry!’ People yelling ... getting annoyed.” 4

Hanna could see his anxiety. “But we have given you lots of practice dealing with impatient, noisy people,” she said. “You have an advantage over the 20-year-old apprentices! *They* haven’t been cooking for five kids for 18 years.” 5

“True,” acknowledged Gerry. “It’s just scary trying a new career at 44, even with the help from the Second Career program.” 6

“Remember the night before I started that lifeguarding job? I was a wreck, and you and Mom gave me great advice.” 7

“What?” 8

“Take a deep breath,” she replied. “Go for a walk.” 9

Gerry exhaled loudly. “That helps. Any other tips?” 10

“You distracted me with a funny story—remember your lab partner who used salt instead of sugar?” 11

“Poor Steve,” recalled Gerry, chuckling. “Let’s hope I don’t make mistakes like that!” 12

“You won’t,” said Hanna reassuringly. “And Mom suggested that I visualize the end of my first day. Picture yourself cleaning your station after your shift and imagine the feeling of accomplishment.” 13

Gerry closed his eyes and swished his hands out in front of him, wiping an imaginary counter. 14

They burst out laughing. “Feeling of relief, or maybe exhaustion,” added Gerry. “Forget visualization, how about that walk?” 15

Multiple-Choice

(Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 1** What would be the most appropriate title for this selection?
- a A New Start
 - b A Chef's Special
 - c Father Knows Best
 - d Practice Makes Perfect
- 2** What is indicated by the single quotation marks in paragraph 4 around "Go! Hurry!"?
- a Gerry is talking to himself.
 - b Two people are talking at the same time.
 - c Gerry is speaking someone else's words.
 - d The words are thoughts, not conversation.
- 3** What does Hanna mean when she says "I was a wreck" (paragraph 7)?
- a She was exhausted from lifeguarding.
 - b She feared starting a new lifeguarding job.
 - c She was injured while she was on the job.
 - d She needed help from the Second Career program.
- 4** How does Gerry feel when he exhales loudly in paragraph 10?
- a He is beginning to relax.
 - b He is exhausted with worry.
 - c He is impatient with his children.
 - d He is irritated to receive so much advice.

Written Answer

5 Does Gerry believe that Hanna’s suggestions will help him? Use specific details from the selection to support your answer.

6 What does this selection show about Gerry and Hanna’s relationship? Use specific details from the selection to explain your answer.

Rough Notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

End of Section IV. Continue to Section V. 

Short Writing Task (Answer in full and correctly written sentences.)

- 1** Identify one action you take in your daily life to be healthy. Use specific details to explain how this action contributes to your health.

Rough Notes

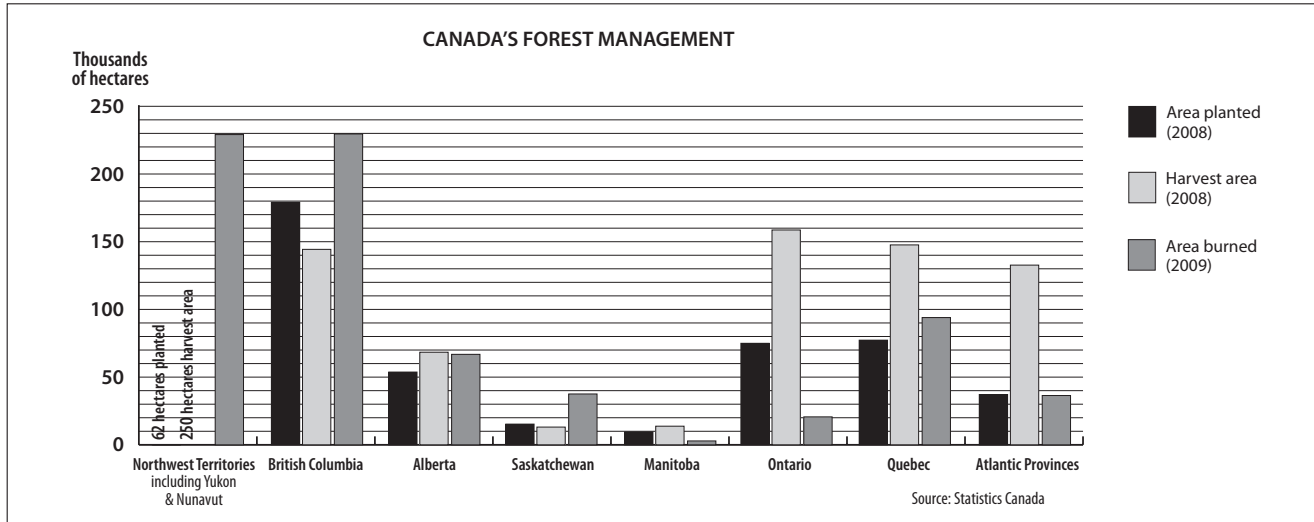
Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

End of Section V. Continue to Section VI. 

Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow it.

Canada's Forests

Canada is the world's leading exporter of softwood lumber, panels, pulp and newsprint, and the third largest exporter of printing and writing paper. Canada's forest management includes sustainable harvesting of forests, replanting of harvested areas and tracking threats to forests, including damage due to fires.

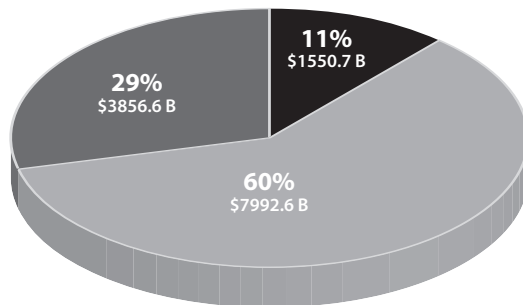


Ontario's Forest Industry

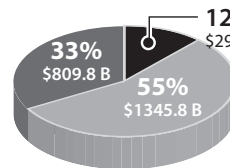
Ontario's forest industry contributes substantially to the provincial economy. The three major sectors of the forest industry in Ontario are represented in the pie graphs below.



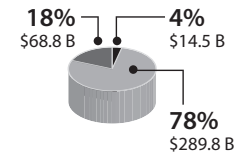
REVENUE FROM ONTARIO'S FOREST-INDUSTRY-MANUFACTURED GOODS
\$13.4 trillion (2008)



WAGES AND SALARIES IN ONTARIO'S FOREST INDUSTRY
\$2.446 trillion (2008)



NEW INVESTMENTS IN ONTARIO'S FOREST INDUSTRY
\$373 billion (2009)



Main sectors of the forest industry:

- Forestry and logging
- Pulp and paper product manufacturing
- Wood product manufacturing

Multiple-Choice

(Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 1** What word is closest in meaning to “exporter” as used in the paragraph below the title?
- a investor
 - b purchaser
 - c distributor
 - d manufacturer
- 2** Why is a bar graph appropriate for the forest management data?
- a It shows decreasing size.
 - b It shows changes over time.
 - c It shows increasing importance.
 - d It shows a comparison of categories.
- 3** How is the “Canada’s Forest Management” graph organized?
- a by degree of success
 - b by size of production
 - c by changes over time
 - d by geographic location
- 4** What was true about British Columbia’s forest management in 2008–2009?
- a Less area was burned than planted.
 - b More area was burned than planted.
 - c Less area was planted than harvested.
 - d More area was harvested than burned.
- 5** What is an accurate conclusion that can be drawn from the information in the pie charts?
- a Wood product manufacturing generated the largest percentage of revenue but the smallest percentage of wages in 2008.
 - b The percentages of revenue and those of wages and salaries from the major sectors of Ontario’s forest industry were similar in 2008.
 - c The largest percentage of wages came from pulp and paper product manufacturing in 2008, even though that sector generated the smallest amount of revenue in 2008.
 - d The smallest amount of money was invested in forestry and logging in 2009, even though that sector generated the largest amount of revenue in 2008.
- 6** What conclusion can be supported by information in this selection?
- a The forest management of each region or province is unique.
 - b It is likely that Alberta’s forest industry is similar to that of Ontario.
 - c The pie charts suggest that forestry and logging in Ontario is the most profitable sector.
 - d Manitoba’s forest industry determines Canada’s international position as an exporter of forest products.

Unreleased Items

The following March 2014 OSSLT questions are not being released this year:

Components	Questions
News Report (Reading)	1–6
Multiple-Choice Writing Items	7–10
Short Writing	11
Long Writing (News Report)	12
Information Paragraph (Reading)	13–19

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Accountability Office**



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