




2021-2022 Literacy Test

Your Guide to Success



**The Ontario
Secondary School
Literacy Test
(OSSLT)
Information and
Prep Material**



Grade 10s at KCI will be writing the
OSSLT in their homeroom classrooms on
Thursday, May 5, 2022



What is the OSSLT?

The Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is an assessment of your reading and writing skills (based on the Grade 9 curriculum expectations), and is a **graduation requirement**.

This year, because of the large number of students who need to write - all Grade 10, 11 and 12 (non-graduating) students - KCI has determined that:

- **Grade 11 and 12 students not graduating this year had the opportunity to write in the Fall**
- **Grade 10 students and those unsuccessful on the November test will now have the opportunity to complete the test in the Spring, on May 5th**
- students who are unsuccessful this year can also fulfill the requirement by taking the Literacy Course (OLC40) next year

No Sweat!



This test is a lot easier to manage than in previous years:

- **everyone does it on computer (your WRDSB-issued Chromebook)**
 - lots of accessibility tools, so lots of accommodations built right in
- **goal has been to move from “high stakes, high stress” to a lower stress, more comfortable version of the test**
 - the software is very user-friendly
 - it will be completed in your first period classroom, when possible
- **students can work on each part of the test with extra time available**
 - there are two sessions scheduled, both on the same day (with a break in between)
 - the sessions are designed to take 60 minutes, so extra time is built in to the schedule
- **May 5th will be a Blended Learning Day**
 - students not writing the test will be working asynchronously from home

Things to remember for the test days:

- Bring a fully charged **Chromebook** to school!
- Bring a **pen/pencil**. You will be provided with scrap paper for any note-taking you may wish to do.
- Bring a **computer mouse** if you prefer to use it with your Chromebook
- Bring **headphones** if you want to use the text to speech functions within the test platform. **If you do not bring headphones, you will not be allowed to use this feature.**
- **You will NOT be allowed to have your phone** during the test. Keep it put away in your backpack until the test session is fully completed.

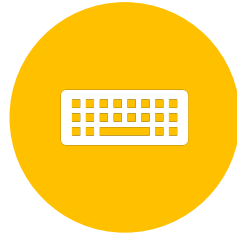
What's in the OSSLT?



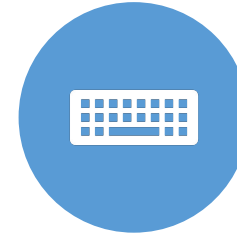
THE OSSLT IS AN ONLINE ASSESSMENT THAT COMPRISES **TWO SESSIONS** (SESSION A AND SESSION B) CONTAINING A **TOTAL OF 33 QUESTIONS**:



31 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (INCLUDING MULTIPLE SELECT QUESTIONS (INCLUDING DRAG AND DROP, DROPDOWN MENU, CHECKLIST))



1 SHORT WRITTEN RESPONSE (approximately 100 WORDS)



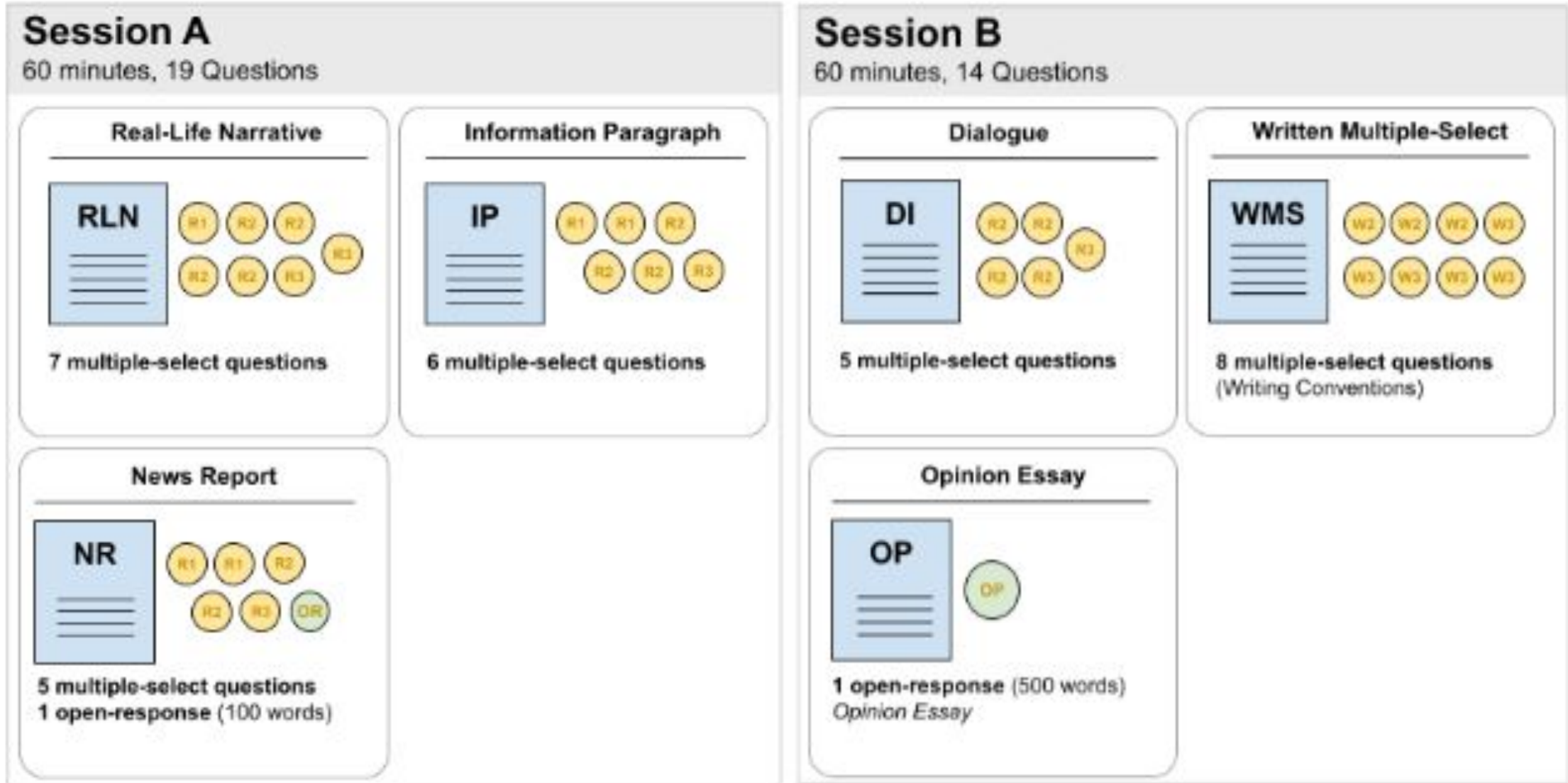
1 OPINION ESSAY (approximately 500 WORDS)



EACH SESSION IS DESIGNED TO BE COMPLETED IN **60 MINUTES**, AND STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE EACH SESSION IN ONE SITTING.

- At the beginning of Session A, you will have time to complete a Minds-On thinking activity and browse the help menu and tools.
- At the end of Session B, you will complete a Student Questionnaire to provide feedback about the assessment and your literacy habits.

Test Structure



How to Use the New Test Technology

The following short videos (1-3 minutes long each) show you how to use the technology in the test. Watch each one to familiarize yourself with the tools available and the structure of the new test.

[General Instructions](#)

[Tools Page](#)

[Help Page](#)

[Tools: Listen, Zoom, Line Reader, High Contrast](#)

[Tools: Draw, Highlight Erase](#)

[Rough Notes](#)

[Flagging Questions/Review and Submit](#)

[Starting the Test/Back to the Map](#)



100%



Strategies for Success

The following slideshows (and one video) are lessons for how to approach and answer each of the different kinds of questions you might be asked on the OSSLT. They are also good test-taking and grammar tips for any student. Check out each one.



Multiple Choice Questions

Finding Main Idea

Making Inferences

Punctuation and Grammar

Open Response Questions

Opinion Essay

Transition Words and Phrases

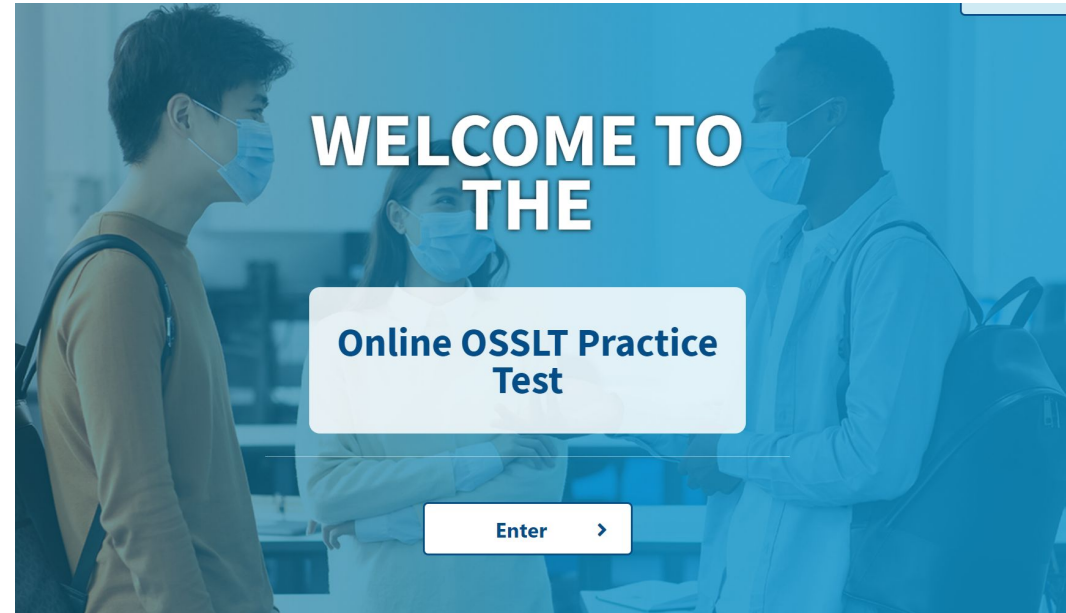


QUESTIONS	
1-	<u>A</u> B C D
2-	A B <u>C</u> D
3-	A <u>B</u> C D
4-	A <u>B</u> C D
5-	A B <u>C</u> D
6-	<u>A</u> B C D

Try the Practice Test Online

Link to the online

[Practice Test](#)



What is assessed by the OSSLT?

In the **reading component** of the test, students use strategies to interact with a variety of selections to construct an understanding of the texts by responding to multiple-choice questions and one open-response question. These selections focus on three reading skills:


1. understanding explicitly stated information and ideas
2. understanding implicitly stated information and ideas (making inferences)
3. making connections between information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience (interpreting reading selections by integrating information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience)



What is assessed by the OSSLT?

In the **writing component**, students respond to multiple-choice questions and demonstrate their ability to communicate ideas and information clearly and coherently through one long-writing response.

The combination of these written and multiple-choice questions focuses on three writing skills:

1. developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details
 2. organizing information and ideas in a coherent manner
 3. using conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) in a manner that does not distract from clear communication
- 

How is a student outcome of “successful” or “not yet successful” determined?



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The **Individual Student Report** provides the outcome and a single literacy score for all students. Individual student results for the Spring OSSLT window will be reported by the end of June 2022

This scoring process is based on the relationship between students’ overall ability in reading and writing and their performance on individual questions.

Each student’s outcome is determined by the pattern of responses to the multiple-choice questions and by the scores achieved on the written response questions.

An Individual Student Report will be generated for students after the written responses are scored.

What Does **Session A** Look Like?

There will be a “Minds-On” thinking activity at the beginning of Session A to frame student thinking as they start the test.

Multiple-Select questions including traditional multiple-choice, drop-down, drag and drop and checklists.

- **Real-Life Narrative (RLN)**: a reading selection and seven multiple-select reading questions.
- **Information Paragraph (IP)**: a reading selection and six multiple-select reading questions.
- **News Report (NR)**: a reading selection, one written response and five multiple-select reading questions.



What Does **Session B** Look Like?

The Opinion Essay is the long writing part of the OSSLT. Make sure you allow yourself enough time to complete this section of the OSSLT!

- **Dialogue (DI)**: a reading selection and five multiple-select reading questions.
- **Writing Multiple-Select (WMS)**: eight multiple-select writing questions.
- **Opinion Essay (OP)**: one written response composed of a series of paragraphs supporting an opinion.

There will also be a **Student Questionnaire** for you to complete at the end of **Session B**.



Now let's look at the OSSLT Rubric for the Opinion Essay portion of the test: *Keep in mind that the Opinion Essay receives two score codes; one for writing conventions and one for topic development/content.*

The Opinion Essay Written Response Rubric for **WRITING CONVENTIONS** includes 4 score codes.

You should be aiming to receive a **Code 30** or **40** for the Writing Conventions score on this part of the OSSLT :)

Code	Descriptor
Blank	Nothing is typed in the text box.
I	Illegible; random characters; not written in English.
10	There is insufficient evidence (fewer than 30 words) to assess the use of conventions. OR Errors in conventions interfere with communication.
20	Errors in conventions distract from communication.
30	Errors in conventions do not distract from communication.
40	Control of conventions is evident in written work.

Now let's look at the OSSLT Rubric for topic development.

The Opinion Essay Written Response Rubric for **TOPIC DEVELOPMENT** includes 6 score codes.

You should be aiming to receive a **Code 50** or **60** on this part of the OSSLT :)

OSSLT Opinion Essay Rubric and Scoring Guide for Topic Development	
Code	Descriptor
Blank	Nothing is typed in the text box.
I	The response is one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a comment on the task• irrelevant or off-topic (unrelated to the prompt)• illegible; random characters; not written in English
10	The response is related to the prompt but does not express an opinion. OR The response expresses an opinion with no supporting details or provides details unrelated to the opinion. There is no evidence of organization.
20	The response is related to the prompt, but only part of the response expresses and supports an opinion. OR The response is related to the prompt, and expresses and supports an opinion, but the opinion is unclear or inconsistent. There are insufficient supporting details: too few or repetitious. There is limited evidence of organization.
30	The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion. There are insufficient and/or vague supporting details or the connection of the details to the opinion is not always clear. There is evidence of organization, but lapses distract from the overall communication.
40	The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient supporting details; however, only some are specific. The organization is mechanical and any lapses do not distract from the overall communication.
50	The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details. The organization is logical.
60	The response is related to the assigned prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen. The organization is coherent demonstrating a thoughtful progression of ideas.

The Opinion Essay prompt from the Practice Test asks you to:

Write an essay expressing an opinion on the following topic:

Do people depend too much on technology?

Be sure to include the following:

- an introduction, supporting body paragraphs and a conclusion.
- relevant reasons, examples and facts to support your opinion.
- a clear explanation of your arguments.

A strong response will be close to 500 words!

Let's look at some student sample responses, first for Writing Conventions and then for Topic Development so you know what the Scorers will be looking for!

Writing Conventions

Code 20: Student Response and Annotation

Long time ago, People didn't. However, People do flow. Technolo gy makes to improve our life. A lot of PeoPle might be more comfortable than before some technology keeP changing our life by now. EsPecially, many stuffs technology changed our life. For examPle, cell Phone television, microwave, refrigerator, computer etc I'm going to explain how those changed our life. First It is electricity stuffs. In the olden days cell Phone was used for calling. However, It is using for listening to music watching videos or television, searching something. Studying. watching the clock. Playing game. and nevigation So, we can Play a lot of things like this because of technology. It's going to be developed more. Second It is building up techno logy. When I was younger, People were able to build the buildings through wood or leaves but we can build many buildings through the metals, gold, ice, iron, and stone etc. Finally, It is car technology

Annotation: Errors in conventions distract from communication. Reading rhythm is interrupted by incomplete sentences (*Long time ago, People didn't. Searching something. Studying. Watching the clock. Playing game, and navigation. Finally. It is car technology*), errors in usage (*Technology makes to improve our life. Many stuffs technology changed our life.*), and a lack of punctuation (*For example, cell phone television, microwave, refrigerator, computer etc I'm going to explain...A lot of people might be more comfortable than before some technology keep changing...*).

Writing Conventions

Code 40: Student Response and Annotation

As a teenager, I believe that people depend on technology way more than they should. Now a days people depend on technology to do the jobs they can do themselves. It's as easy as just saying "Hey Siri" or "Hey Alexa." What happens when your phone dies? people automatically go searching for a charger because their phone is their "only" source of entertainment. Why not just go outside and read a book instead? People depend on technology to send a "text" or a message to someone in the same building as them. Instead of using your phone you could go actually have a face-to-face conversation with that person. If we go back in time we would see that people did everything by hand. They washed dishes by hand, Sent letters, built homes, and actually interacted face-to-face. What if one day we wake up and all our technology is gone? people aren't going to know what to do because we grew up in a day and

Annotation: Errors in usage (medical purpose... Being overly depending on technology) and spelling (weather, uncertainty, ceriton, malfuctions, excesivly), and comma splices (One of the most important benifits of Technology is saving materials, space, and lowering expences for businesses, for instance saving...) do not distract from communication.

People aren't going to think about going to hang out with their friends at the mall or going outside to play a game of soccer with their family, and when I think about that, it makes me sad! When I think back to when I was younger, we did not depend on technology to do everything and anything for us, and I miss that. I miss being able to play a game of soccer without technology getting in the way of things. People depend on technology too much, and I do not think that it's a good thing!

Annotation: Control of conventions is evident. Errors in spelling (*Now a days*) and a lack of capitalization after a question mark (*dies? people automatically go searching...gone? people aren't...*) do not undermine the overall control of conventions.

Topic Development

Code 30: *Student Response and Annotation*

Yes, people depend on technology too much. Education, social skills and situational awareness.

To begin, in classrooms every student has a phone with them-also glued to it. This is a huge distraction and for sure leaves some students without a strong understanding in whichever course.

Secondly, teenagers aren't properly socializing! Everything happens on online platforms and social media, nothing real.

Last, but certainly not least, situational awareness is greatly effected by cellphones and technology. For example the big game "Pokemon Go" ended with people struck by cars while glued to your phone! Prevntable.

Annotation: The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion (*Yes, people depend on technology too much*). There are insufficient and vague supporting details. (*Secondly, teenagers aren't properly socializing! Everything happens on online platforms and social media, nothing real.*) and (*...situational awareness is greatly effected by cellphones and technology.*) There is evidence of organization. The introduction states the opinion and there is a concluding statement (*To conclude, people are very dependent on technology*).

Topic Development Code 50: Student Response and Annotation

People do not depend on technology too much. I think That technology is something that is needed for various of reasons. Technology helps us figure out certain things faster, it is useful for safety and technology will advace in the future and the more we use them now, the better. Technology is very important to humanity...

Firstly, technology helps us figure out certain things faster and it lets us research. For example, if you were looking for the definition of a word, the internet would be faster than looking in the dictionary. The calculater's on our phones let us do basic maths that we cannot do in ar heads which spares you time. Technology has an important facter on our lives, it helps us gain knowledge by the blink of an eye.

Secondly, our phones and other technology are useful for yor safety. Our phones have a special features for emergencies and without them you can be in danger; for example; amber alerts, weather warnings, and also emergency SOS. If you are lost, you can simply open up google maps, and find your way into a safe place where you would know your way. Technology are useful for many reasons and it secures your safety which is very importat, a simple phone call can save your life.

Thirdly, the future will be filled with all sorts of technology and will be more apart of our life then ever. The trend in the future for many careers will be technology as it will help us complete the work more efficiently and more accurately. The understanding of technology is important because it will be more essential as generations pass; so having technology skills are expected in reference to the future. The more we use our technology now, the better knowledge we will be in the future.

In conclusion, technology is very important to our lives and we do not depend on it too much. It is essential for research purposes, useful for you safety and the future will be filled with technology so the more you know, the better. I think that technology will advance tremendesly as generations pass so the skill of technology will be needed. Technology will be emitted in our lives forever, we either take advantage of it or waste it for no good reason.

Annotation: A clear and consistent opinion is developed (*People do not depend on technology too much*) with sufficient specific supporting details (*the internet would be faster than looking in the dictionary*) and (*Our phones have a special features for emergencies and without them you can be in danger, for example; amber alerts, weather warnings, and also emergency SOS*).

The final body paragraph is a bit weaker than the first two in that the example is less specific (*the future for many careers will be technology as it will help us complete the work more efficiently and more accurately*); therefore, this response would not be scored a 60.

The organization is logical. The body develops the ideas in the same order as they are set out in the introduction, and the main ideas are summarized in the conclusion.

Although the body paragraphs are somewhat mechanical in that they use *Firstly...Secondly...Thirdly*, the caliber of the discussion following the introductory statements is consistent with the requirements of a Code 50.



Topic Development Code 60: Student Response and Annotation

The advancement of technology has in many ways made our lives much easier. The things we could never think about happening in the past have been made possible with the advancement of technology. However, with technology making our lives easier, we humans have started to depend on it too much. In my opinion, people depend too much on technology as it is becoming a tool for fast, effective communication, being used for school purposes increasingly as well as personal entertainment.

Technological advancements have made communication much faster and easier. For messages that had to once be delivered by people physically delivering the message, we can now call, text or email. However, the fact that it is easier doesn't make it difficult to notice that everyone is communicating through screens and less in person. Studies have shown that teens aged 15-18 have problems communicating with people in person due to the growing use of cell phones and computers. The increased use of cell phones and computers hinders with real life communication of many individuals and this is because we are becoming to dependent on technology for communication purposes.

In addition, the use of cellphones and computers in school and for school purposes have contributed to making people more dependent on technology. For instance, homework was once physically written on the board and students used to have to write it down themselves. With technology advancing, the teacher can now post the homework on an app like Google classroom and have kids submit homework online as well. However, this can cause problems since things like autocorrect and grammarly will help fix student's mistakes but students will never learn how to spell words correctly without grammarly or autocorrect. It's been shown that students who type their work and use autocorrect will naturally spell worse than those who don't since their spelling mistakes are fixed automatically. The increased use of technology in classrooms has made people more dependent on it.

Finally, our use of technology for personal entertainment also makes us more dependent on technology. Kids in the past used to take part in more physical activity to have fun but with televisions around, kids are entertained while being seated which promotes obesity as well. However, it sounds easier to sit around and have fun which makes us more dependent on technology.

In conclusion, I believe that people are becoming too dependent on technology as it is becoming an easier way to communicate, complete schoolwork and entertain ourselves.

Annotation: A clear and consistent opinion is developed (*In my opinion, people depend too much on technology...*). There are sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen (*Studies have shown that teens aged 15 – 18 have problems communicating with people in person due to the growing use of cellphones*) and (*students who type their work and use autocorrect will naturally spell worse than those who don't...*). The organization is coherent and demonstrates a thoughtful progression of ideas. The discussion in the body paragraphs follows the order laid out in the introduction. Although the third body paragraph and the conclusion are short, the thoughtfulness of the response and the effective organization are consistent with a Code 60.

Now let's head over to the [Online OSSLT Practice Test!](#)



Remember that when you write the OSSLT, you will have approximately **75 minutes** for each of the Sessions (A and B). In between the sessions, you will have time for a 15 minute break.



The following slides will provide you with more opportunities to familiarize yourself with the kind of reading, questions and writing you will be asked to do on the OSSLT!



Additional Practice for Session A

The News Report: This part of the OSSLT includes a reading selection about an interesting event. Then you will write a short response to a prompt and answer 5 multiple-choice questions.
Here's an example of the kind of [reading selection](#) you may encounter:



Sample Questions

1. What is remarkable about this photo being one of the finalists in the 2021 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition?
 - The photographer was a Maasai guide.
 - The photographer waited hours for the right image.
 - The photographer was on holiday.
 - The photographer was an amateur.

2. When do female cheetahs roam with other cheetahs?
 - when they are hunting
 - when they are with their cubs
 - when they are looking for a mate
 - when they are looking for new territory

Additional Practice for Session B

The **Opinion Essay** is your chance to write a response to a prompt that you can express an opinion about.

It is recommended that you begin your written response by stating a clear opinion **for** or **against** the prompt.

Be sure to include the following:

- an introduction, supporting body paragraphs and a conclusion.
- relevant reasons, examples and facts to support your opinion.
- a clear explanation of your arguments.

Rough Notes

You will have access to a Rough Notes Tool that you can use to organize your writing!

Examples of past OSSLT prompts for the Opinion Essay have included...

Should high schools have student uniforms?

Should high school students have part-time jobs?

Should students have to volunteer for 40 hours before they can graduate?

Additional Practice for Session B

A well-known football coach once said, "**Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.**" Do you **agree** or **disagree** with this statement?

Be sure to include the following:

- an introduction, supporting body paragraphs and a conclusion.
- relevant reasons, examples and facts to support your opinion.
- a clear explanation of your arguments.

Be sure to include the following:



Type your response below (approximately 500 words).

an introduction, supporting body paragraphs and a conclusion.

a clear explanation of your arguments.

relevant reasons, examples and facts to support your opinion.

Additional Practice for Session A

The Real-Life Narrative: This part of the OSSLT includes a reading selection about an extraordinary person. It is followed by 7 questions.

Here's an example of the kind of [reading selection](#) you may encounter:



Sample Questions

1. Which sentence from the article shows that the author admires Chadwick Boseman? *

- Boseman has played many Black heroes on screen.
- Boseman was known for demonstrating inner strength in his performances.
- In 2019, Boseman accepted a Screen Actor's Guild award for "Black Panther."
- It's truly incredible what the iconic Boseman was able to do over the course of a much too short career in acting.

2. Why did Chadwick Boseman feel both positively and negatively about the entertainment business?

- While it made him extremely wealthy, it frequently limited the types of roles available to him.
- While it personally gave him notable opportunities, it also excluded many people who look like him.
- It helped him to connect with young Black audiences, but also contributed to his health problems.
- It allowed him to become famous doing what he loved, but also made his personal life more difficult.

Additional Practice for Session A

The Information Paragraph:

This part of the OSSLT includes a reading selection about an interesting and factual topic. It is followed by 6 multiple-choice questions.

Here's an example of the kind of [reading selection](#) you may encounter:



Sample Questions

1. What is the effect of comparing the rings of a turtle shell to that of a tree?
 - It increases the reader's understanding by providing an exemplar.
 - It increases the reader's understanding by using a symbol.
 - It increases the reader's understanding by using a universal example.
 - It increases the reader's understanding by using emotional appeal.

2. Identify which one of the following statements best summarizes the main idea from the information paragraph.
 - Turtles can be found in many parts of the world
 - Turtle shells offer more than one defense.
 - Turtle shells can indicate age and provide protection.
 - Turtles are resilient creatures that can thrive in various habitats.

Additional Practice for Session B

The Dialogue: This part of the OSSLT includes a reading selection about an extraordinary person and then answer 6 multiple-choice questions. Here's an example of the kind of [reading selection](#) you may encounter:



Sample Questions

1. What two things does paragraph 1 suggest about Jolene's mood?
 - She is confident.
 - She is tired.
 - She is energetic.
 - She is discouraged.

2. How do the italics in paragraph 5 function to create meaning?
 - The italics introduce a long pause in the dialogue.
 - The italics introduce a series of related ideas.
 - The italics introduce a change of topic.
 - The italics introduce emphasis to the words.

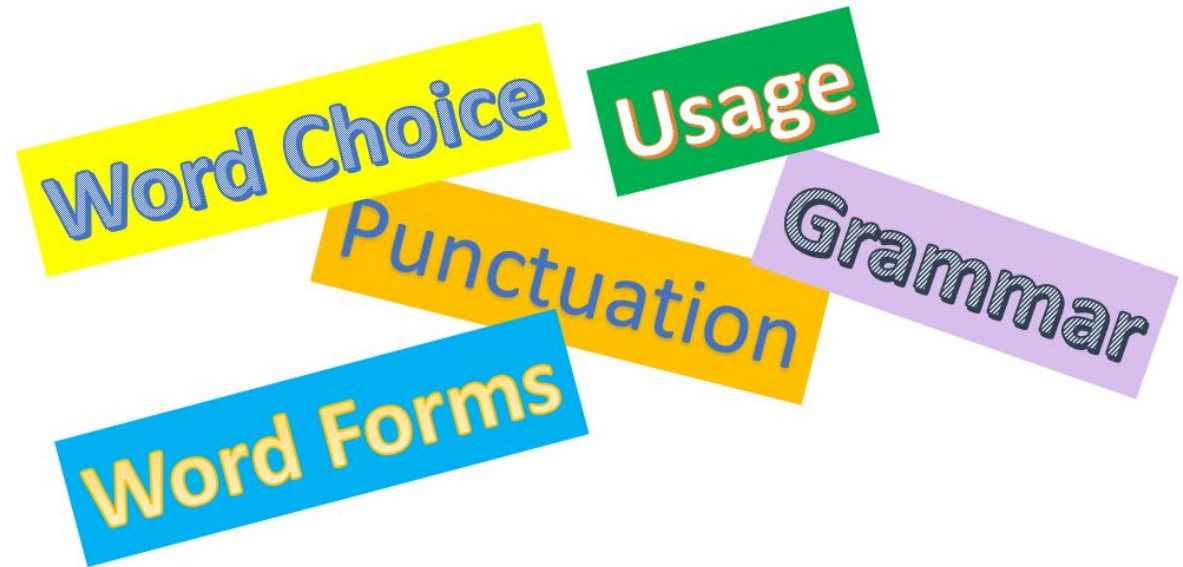
3. Which word is closest in meaning to "assume" as used in paragraph 11?
 - determine
 - offer
 - ignore
 - describe

Additional Practice for Session B

Writing Conventions

Multiple-Choice

Questions: This part of the OSSLT includes 8 questions that test your knowledge of writing conventions.



Sample Questions

Choose the options that best completes the sentence below

- Its/their/it's
- Its/they're/its
- It's/their/it's
- It's/their/its

_____ been 2 weeks since the players left _____ uniforms
on a bus on _____ way to Ottawa.

Which sentence below is written correctly?

- School has become a challenge for students who had devices.
- Devices were handed out to everyone tomorrow.
- Students were tired of waiting for their device to hand out.
- Students with newer devices were finished on time.