

## Released Selections and Test Questions

# QUESTIONS

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

2018

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**Follow along as your teacher reads the instructions.**

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**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.*

Provide your answer in the *Answer Booklet*.

**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.).

**Audience:**

an adult who is interested in your opinion

**Length:**

The lined space provided in the *Answer Booklet* for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

**Topic:**

**Does homework improve learning?**

**Do not write in this area.**

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** Choose the sentence that does **not** belong in the following paragraph.
- (1) The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program provides service dogs to Canadians with disabilities. (2) Puppies attend a training school after spending their first year with a foster family. (3) The foster family teaches puppies basic obedience and exposes them to everyday experiences. (4) The puppies can be taught many tricks. (5) A puppy wearing a green Lions Foundation jacket is likely training for a future of service.
- a sentence 2
  - b sentence 3
  - c sentence 4
  - d sentence 5
- 2** Where is the best place to insert this sentence?
- Dried fruit, on the other hand, requires no preparation and is a good option for some people if time is limited.**
- (1) If you plan ahead, it is easy to have healthy choices on hand when you are hungry. (2) Raw vegetables, such as peppers or cucumbers, are easy to eat on the go but require some effort to cut up. (3) These natural snacks will help you avoid eating junk food. (4) When you make nutritious choices, snacks can give you what you need to keep going throughout the day.
- a after sentence 1
  - b after sentence 2
  - c after sentence 3
  - d after sentence 4
- 3** Which option tells how to make the following sentence correct?
- What's clear is that when people exercise, they increase the amount of a particular protein, that acts like fertilizer for the brain.**
- a Remove the second comma.
  - b Remove the apostrophe in "What's."
  - c Replace the first comma with a colon.
  - d Replace the period with a question mark.
- 4** Which sentence is written correctly?
- a She sings better than I do.
  - b Him and I attended the party.
  - c Carolina's gift is from she and me.
  - d Us students are most likely to succeed.

Read the selection below and answer the questions in the *Answer Booklet*.

## Canada's Young Rock Stars: The Brothers Dubé



Quinn, Liam and Jan

When the Brothers Dubé saw the Beach Boys perform in 2011 in Tennessee, U.S.A., they never imagined that they themselves would be playing on the same stage as this legendary Californian rock band. But that's exactly what happened on August 18, 2013. The brothers from our nation's capital opened the performance for the Beach Boys at Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) Bandshell.

"It's pretty crazy, considering that I'm 12 years old," said drummer Quinn Dubé about the show at the CNE. Pretty amazing, indeed, when you consider that the band's senior member, Liam, who plays guitar, is just 17.

Quinn and Liam, along with their brother Jan, who is 14 and the band's lead singer and bass player, started playing instruments when they were kids. Their father, Rob, taught them the fundamentals of music. Since then, "Canada's Youngest Rock Band" has steadily improved, taking lessons and putting in a lot of intense practicing time.

In 2006, they started recording songs, mainly to entertain their mother, Michele, who was not well. "She really liked [the band] The Police," Quinn said. He and his brothers recorded the song "So Lonely" and posted it on the Internet through YouTube.

The boys continued to play after their mother died in 2008. In fact, they started busking—performing in public areas—to support charities. They raised funds for medical research as well as an eye-popping \$150 000 in donations to help orphans in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake there. The Dubé brothers' work even drew attention from Stephen Harper, Canada's prime minister at the time, who sent them a letter praising them for their philanthropy.

As they have grown older, the brothers have had to address the issue of their deepening voices, which has led to some adjustments in their quest to establish their own particular sound. "We're just trimming it down slowly and redefining who we are as time goes on," said Liam. They're certainly on the right track; they've already become stars across Canada—and clearly captured the Beach Boys' interest, which led to the CNE invitation.

Read the selection below and answer the questions in the *Answer Booklet*.

- Not surprisingly, the Brothers Dubé spent the summer of 2013 preparing for their performance, practising three hours each day in the basement of their Ottawa home and planning for a fun playlist that included a makeshift hockey-stick guitar they had built. 7
- Lots of practice means that they spend significant amounts of time together, and, like all brothers, they do argue occasionally. Jan says it can be frustrating sometimes but points out that “we all know we can yell at each other, and no one will hold a grudge.” He can’t imagine playing in a band without his brothers: “It’s pretty fun. It’s like a family journey for us.” The brothers have had lots of support from their dad, who helps his sons maintain balance in their lives with their music, their charity efforts and, of course, their homework. 8
- The next step, after opening for the Beach Boys, was the release of a couple of extended play, or EP, albums (recordings with more than just a single song but less than a full album). A tour could also be in the cards—but only when they’ve finished school. 9
- The Brothers Dubé are in no rush: “We don’t want to become really big really fast. We have time on our side,” Liam said. “We’re not looking to be famous or be the next [band like] Nirvana or Foo Fighters . . . . We just love playing music.” 10

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** Where are the Brothers Dubé from?
- a Ottawa
  - b Toronto
  - c California
  - d Tennessee
- 2** Which event happened first?
- a The band released an EP.
  - b The band posted a song on YouTube.
  - c The band was invited to play at the CNE.
  - d The band raised money for orphans in Haiti.
- 3** How is the information in paragraphs 3 to 6 organized?
- a from past to present
  - b from general to specific
  - c as a problem and solution
  - d as a comparison and contrast
- 4** Which word is closest in meaning to “philanthropy” as used in paragraph 5?
- a talent
  - b popularity
  - c generosity
  - d imagination
- 5** Which quote best captures the unique aspect of the band’s success?
- a “It’s pretty crazy, considering that I’m 12 years old.” (paragraph 2)
  - b “We’re just trimming it down slowly and redefining who we are as time goes on.” (paragraph 6)
  - c “We don’t want to become really big really fast.” (paragraph 10)
  - d “We just love playing music.” (paragraph 10)
- 6** Why hadn’t the Brothers Dubé gone on tour yet?
- a Their voices were changing.
  - b They had to finish school first.
  - c They had been busy recording.
  - d They were very involved with charity work.

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

- 7** What does paragraph 8 emphasize about the boys?
- a their passion for music
  - b their ambition to be famous
  - c their ongoing sibling tension
  - d their strong personal relationships
- 8** What is the function of the dashes in paragraph 5?
- a to add emphasis
  - b to set off a definition
  - c to indicate a shift in topic
  - d to indicate an interrupted thought
- 9** Why did Liam say “We have time on our side” (paragraph 10)?
- a The brothers practise daily to improve their skills.
  - b The brothers balance school, charity work and music.
  - c The brothers have played music since they were young.
  - d The brothers have many years in which to build a career.

Read the selection below and answer the questions in the *Answer Booklet*.



Olivia slumped forlornly before a computer in the school guidance office. She glared at her course selection sheet, until Anton sat down beside her. 1

“Hi, Anton. I haven’t seen you around lately.” 2

“I’ve been off-site doing a four-credit co-op placement at Morrison Electrical,” Anton explained. 3

Olivia straightened up. “Do you like it?” 4

“I’m learning so much working on that new hotel—following the wiring layout, setting the switch boxes, running the wire. Mr. Morrison is really patient and knowledgeable.” He glanced at the screen. “Planning your future?” 5

Olivia slouched back in her chair. “So many of these Grade 11 courses seem irrelevant. When will I use them? Besides, I don’t want to sit all day—I want to *do* something.” 6

“Like what?” 7

“Well, my favourite class is transportation,” said Olivia. “I’m thinking of getting into auto body repair. Our careers teacher told us that skilled trades will make up 40 percent of new jobs in the next two decades.” 8

“In that case, you should consider co-op courses and apply for OYAP, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. Even before graduation, you could start accumulating hours to become certified in auto body repair. Why don’t you research it?” 9

Olivia clicked her way to the OYAP admission requirements. “I need to be 16 and have 16 credits. That’s no problem.” 10

She delved deeper. “Look at all the potential apprenticeships—carpentry, welding, early childhood education, horse grooming!” 11

“To get my electrician certification, I need 9000 hours of on-the-job and in-class training,” said Anton. “What does auto body repair require?” 12

“It says 7200. I’d better get started. Where do I sign up?” 13

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** What do the verbs in paragraph 1 suggest about Olivia?
- a She is excited.
  - b She is curious.
  - c She is nervous.
  - d She is discouraged.
- 2** What does the dash in paragraph 5 introduce?
- a a change of topic
  - b a list of examples
  - c three unrelated ideas
  - d a long pause in the conversation
- 3** Why does Olivia state that “skilled trades will make up 40 percent of new jobs” (paragraph 8)?
- a to explain that job prospects in the trades are poor
  - b to persuade Anton that he should consider a new trade
  - c to confirm that she’s making an informed choice about her future
  - d to show Anton that she already knows about the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
- 4** Which of the following events occurs first?
- a Olivia decides to sign up for OYAP.
  - b Olivia tries to choose her Grade 11 courses.
  - c Anton completes a four-credit co-op placement.
  - d Olivia and Anton research OYAP admission requirements.
- 5** What does the word “delved” (paragraph 11) indicate about Olivia’s actions in paragraphs 11 to 13?
- a She reacts with surprise.
  - b She skims the screen quickly.
  - c She slouches more in the chair.
  - d She searches the site more thoroughly.

### Open-Response Questions

- 6** What do Anton’s words and actions reveal about his character? Use specific details from the selection to support your answer.
- 7** Why is the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program a good option for some students? Use specific details from the selection to support your answer.

Provide your answer in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Short Writing Task

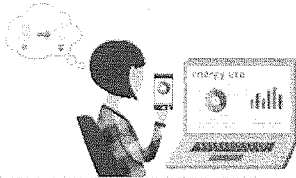
- 1** Name an event you would like to attend. Use specific details to explain why you would like to attend this event.

**Do not write in this area.**

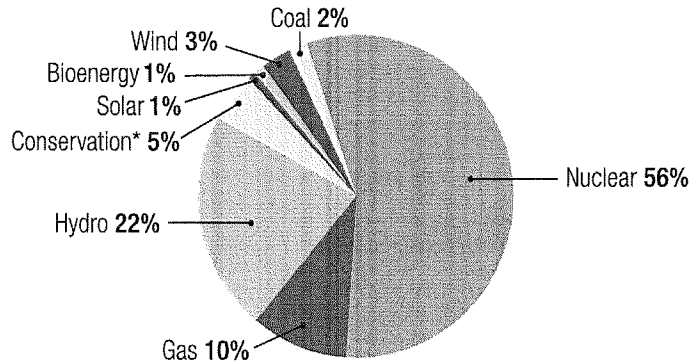
Read the selection below and answer the questions in the Answer Booklet.

# Energy Usage in Ontario, 2013

More than \$11 billion was invested in Ontario's energy networks between 2003 and 2013, which has made Ontario a world leader in energy technology. The Green Button Initiative allows people to use phone apps and Web sites to examine and monitor their home energy use.



Ontario's Electricity Production and Conservation,\* 2013



\* "Conservation" refers to energy that has been saved and then put back into the system.

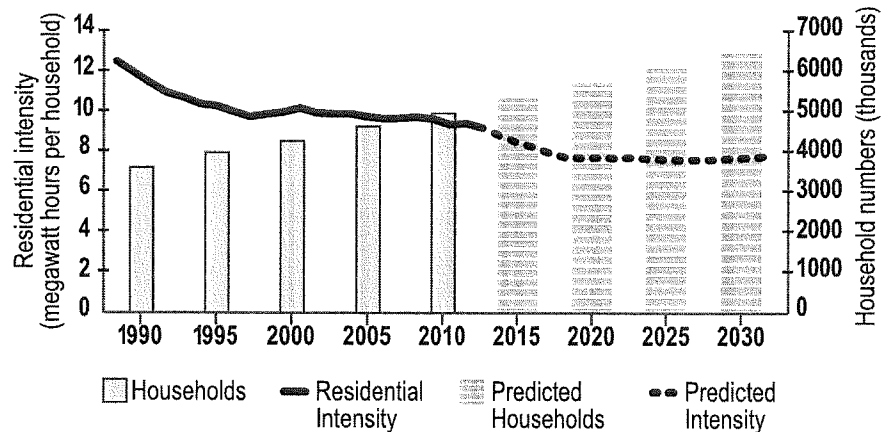
## Household Energy Usage

Households are becoming more efficient, and this trend is predicted to continue.

Ontario's energy use has changed substantially in the last decade. As our economy continues to grow, our homes, businesses and industries are becoming more efficient. Residential use of energy alone has fallen since 1990.

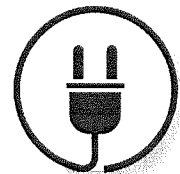
### Units of Power

- 1 kilowatt (kW) = 1000 watts
- 1 megawatt (MW) = 1000 kilowatts
- 1 terawatt (TW) = 1 billion kilowatts



## How Much Energy Is in a Kilowatt Hour (kWh)?

Electricity helps us perform everyday tasks such as lighting our homes and cooking meals. Here's a quick guide to what one kilowatt hour of electricity will allow you to do:



Surf the Web for 5 hours



Iron 11 shirts



Bake 1 cake



The typical Ontario household uses between 800 and 1000 kWh a month.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Electricity consumption does vary by appliance model and use. You can use a plug-in energy meter to find out exactly how much energy your appliances use.

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** What trend does the “Household Energy Usage” graph demonstrate?
- a no change
  - b sudden change
  - c gradual change
  - d unpredictable change
- 2** What information is provided in the “DID YOU KNOW?” section at the bottom of the page?
- a Energy usage is linked to consumer purchases.
  - b Energy usage varies according to the size of the household.
  - c Energy usage per household is typically constant from month to month.
  - d Energy usage depends primarily on the time of day when the appliance is used.
- 3** Which statement describes the organization of the pie chart?
- a The sections are ordered alphabetically.
  - b All sources of renewable energy are grouped together.
  - c All sources of fossil fuel energy are grouped together.
  - d The sections are ordered clockwise from largest to smallest percentage.
- 4** What is the purpose of the asterisk (\*) beside the word “Conservation” in the upper-right box?
- a to add emphasis to the heading
  - b to direct the reader to the graph
  - c to link a word to its explanation
  - d to separate the heading from the year
- 5** Why does the selection include information about surfing the Web, baking a cake and ironing shirts?
- a It compares renewable sources of energy.
  - b It shows how to reduce energy consumption.
  - c It ranks household activities in order of importance.
  - d It provides real-life examples to explain energy consumption.
- 6** Which graphic feature of this selection could demonstrate whether the Green Button Initiative has been successful?
- a the percentages in the pie chart
  - b the line in the “Household Energy Usage” graph
  - c the bars in the “Household Energy Usage” graph
  - d the number of shirts in the “How Much Energy Is in a Kilowatt Hour (kWh)?” text box

## UNRELEASED ITEMS

The following April 2018 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

### Permissions and Credits

#### Section III: Reading

Adapted from “Brothers Dubé, ‘Canada’s Youngest Rock Band,’ to open for Beach Boys,” by Karissa Donkin, published in the *Toronto Star*, August 12, 2013. Reprinted with permission—Torstar Syndication Services. © Photo: Sean Sisk Photography.

#### Section IV: Reading

Written for EQAO.

#### Section VI: Reading

Source: *Achieving Balance: Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan*. © Queen’s Printer for Ontario, 2013. Please visit [www.ontario.ca/empowerme](http://www.ontario.ca/empowerme) for up-to-date information about energy in Ontario. Credits: Ontario Ministry of Energy and IESO.