

BOOKLET

Literacy Strategy Practice Test  
2013/2014

**2**

# Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

**CONTAINS RELEASED  
SELECTIONS AND  
TEST QUESTIONS**

## Writing a News Report

- 1 Task:** Write a **news report** on the next page based on the headline and picture below.
- You will have to make up the facts and information to answer some or all of the following questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
  - You must relate your newspaper report to **both** the headline **and** the picture.

**Purpose and**

**Audience:** to report on an event for the readers of a newspaper

**Length:** The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

## Storm Shuts Down Region



### Rough Notes

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

*Write your report on the lines provided on the following page.*



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

- 1 “Good evening! My name is Ben. I’ll be your server tonight,” the waiter said brightly.
- 2 “Hi, Ben. We’ll be your customers this evening.” Ali imitated the waiter’s cheery tone.
- 3 “Would you like to hear about our specials?” Without waiting for an answer, Ben began to recite the list he had repeated so many times already that evening. “We have a vegetarian frittata made of farm-fresh eggs, grilled mushrooms and roasted peppers . . . .”
- 4 “That’s enough, Ben,” interrupted Dana. “We know what we want. We had twenty minutes to look at the menu while we waited for a table. First, can you please bring us both a ginger ale? No ice.”
- 5 Ali shook his head. “I’d rather have a coffee. There were so many customers waiting in your front entrance that we had to wait outside *in the cold*. Why so busy, Ben?” Ali asked.
- 6 “Well, it’s 7:00 on a Saturday night. We’re usually full by 6:00. I’m sorry you had to wait but I’ll do what I can to bring your food quickly. Shall I finish taking your order now? So far, we have one ginger ale, no ice, and one coffee.”
- 7 “Actually, Ben, I’ll change that ginger ale to a hot chocolate.”
- 8 “Coming up! And to eat?”
- 9 “We’ll be sharing an order of fries.”
- 10 “That’s it? You waited twenty minutes in the cold to order *one* plate of fries?” There was a brief pause. Then Ben returned to his waiter’s voice. “Very good. I’ll place your order right away.”
- 11 Dana and Ali smiled as Ben left their table.
- 12 The restaurant owner gestured to Ben, calling him over. “What’s going on with those two? They insisted on waiting for a table in your section,” she told him.
- 13 “They’re my younger brother and sister,” Ben explained, rolling his eyes in exasperation.

**Multiple-Choice** (Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

1 Which statement was most likely spoken before the events in this selection took place?

- a “I keep forgetting to tell people about our specials,” said Ben.
- b “This restaurant is too busy. Let’s go somewhere else,” said Ali.
- c “No, thanks. We’d rather wait for a table in that section,” said Dana.
- d “We’re not usually this crowded on Saturday,” said the restaurant owner.

2 When Ben recites the list in paragraph 3, he shows that he

- a has memorized the information.
- b is confused by so many choices.
- c does not care what his customers want.
- d must speak loudly in the busy restaurant.

3 What is the main purpose of the italics in paragraphs 5 and 10?

- a identify direct speech
- b indicate who is talking
- c highlight unusual words
- d emphasize tone of voice

4 Who is speaking in paragraph 7?

- a Ali
- b Ben
- c Dana
- d the restaurant owner

---

Writing – Information Paragraph

5. Explain whether or not Ben is a good waiter. Use specific details from your own experience and examples from the selection to support your explanation.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Rough Notes**

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

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

**Background Information** (Record your answer on this page)

We need to know about your background, so we can see how students with different experiences do on the test. All responses will be summarized and reported at the school, board and provincial levels.

Read each question carefully. If no answer seems exactly right, fill in the circle on the Student Answer Sheet with the response closest to what you want to say.

**Language Background**

- 1** a) Is English the first language you learned at home?  
Y Yes N No
- b) What languages do you speak at home (choose one only)?
- A Only or mostly English
- B Another language (or languages) as often as English
- C Only or mostly another language (or other languages)

**Home Computer Use**

- 2** Indicate how often you use a computer at home for homework (choose one only).
- A I don't have a computer at home.
- B I never or hardly ever use the computer for homework.
- C I use the computer once or twice a month for homework.
- D I use the computer once or twice a week for homework.
- E I use the computer almost every day for homework.

**Reading**

- 3** Indicate the types of materials you read in English outside school most weeks.
- a) Non-fiction books, e.g., biographies  
Y Yes N No
- b) Comics  
Y Yes N No
- c) Web sites, e-mail, chat messages  
Y Yes N No
- d) Letters  
Y Yes N No
- e) Magazines  
Y Yes N No
- f) Manuals, instructions  
Y Yes N No
- g) Newspapers  
Y Yes N No
- h) Novels, fiction, short stories  
Y Yes N No
- i) Song lyrics, poems  
Y Yes N No
- j) Religious or spiritual writings  
Y Yes N No
- 4** Indicate the number of hours a week you read materials written in English outside school, not including your homework (choose one only).
- A One hour or less
- B More than one hour but less than three hours
- C More than three hours but less than five hours
- D Five hours or more

**5** Indicate what English-language materials you have at home.

- a) Dictionaries, encyclopedias (print or electronic)  
Y Yes N No
- b) Books  
Y Yes N No
- c) Newspapers  
Y Yes N No
- d) Magazines  
Y Yes N No

**7** Indicate the number of hours a week you write in English outside school, not including your homework (choose one only).

- A One hour or less
- B More than one hour but less than three hours
- C More than three hours but less than five hours
- D Five hours or more

### Writing

**6** Indicate the types of writing you do in English outside school most weeks.

- a) E-mail, chat messages  
Y Yes N No
- b) Letters, journals, diaries  
Y Yes N No
- c) Notes, directions, instructions  
Y Yes N No
- d) Song lyrics, poems  
Y Yes N No
- e) Stories, fiction  
Y Yes N No
- f) Work-related writing  
Y Yes N No





# Student Answer Sheet

For your multiple-choice answers to be included in the calculation of your final results, they must be entered on this sheet.

- To indicate your answer, **use only pencil or blue or black pen to circle the correct letter completely:**
- If you complete more than one circle for a question, the question will be scored incorrect.
- If you leave a question blank, the question will be scored zero.
- If you wish to change a multiple-choice answer, erase or cross out your answer and complete the circle for your new answer.

## **Section I Writing – News Report**

Respond in booklet

## **Section II Reading - Narrative**

1. a b c d

2. a b c d

3. a b c d

4. a b c d

5. Respond in booklet – **Writing Opinion Piece**



---

The information in this booklet is being collected under the authority of clause 4 (1) (b) and subsection 9 (6) of the *Education Quality and Accountability Office Act*, 1996, for the purposes of administering and scoring tests of pupils in secondary schools and evaluating the quality and effectiveness of secondary education, in accordance with section 3 of the Act. Inquiries regarding this collection should be directed to the Senior Policy Analyst, EQAO, 2 Carlton Street, Suite 1200, Toronto, ON M5B 2M9 • 1-888-327-7377.