

Released Selections and Test Questions

QUESTIONS

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

2017

Follow along as your teacher reads the instructions.

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.

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

Welcome back, *Keewatin*: Last Great Lakes steamship comes home

1 Skyline International Development announced in October 2011 that it was purchasing the 106-metre-long steamship S.S. *Keewatin* and returning her to Port McNicoll, in the Ontario township of Tay. The vessel, which had been docked in Saugatuck, Michigan, since 1967, was once the crown jewel of the mighty Great Lakes fleet of steamships operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

2 The Scottish-built S.S. *Keewatin* was launched on July 6, 1907. It could carry 288 passengers and a crew of 86, and cruised at a top speed of 14 knots (nautical miles per hour). The steamship and its sister ship S.S. *Assiniboia* were the first Great Lakes vessels equipped with radar.

3 For almost 60 years, the *Keewatin* ferried passengers between Port McNicoll, on Georgian Bay, and Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay) on Lake Superior. They travelled in style: stately features included a grand staircase, an elegant Edwardian-era dining saloon, hand-painted Italian glass and oak trim throughout. However, strict fire codes and faster alternatives made the wood-cabined vessels obsolete by the mid-1960s.

4 Since retirement in 1966, the *Keewatin* has served as a maritime museum. After being restored to its early 20th-century grandeur, it will continue operating as a museum from a new mooring for many years to come. The adjacent waterfront park, with a replica of Port McNicoll's original train station and its English-style gardens, is an additional attraction.

5 "We are thrilled to return the world's last Edwardian passenger steamship to the people of Tay Township and Canada," said Gil Blutrigh, Skyline's chairman and president.



Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** What is suggested by the phrase “crown jewel” in paragraph 1?
- a The *Keewatin* was the finest example of its type.
 - b The *Keewatin* was the largest steamship on the Great Lakes.
 - c The *Keewatin* was the last Scottish-built passenger steamship.
 - d The *Keewatin* was the longest serving steamship on the Great Lakes.
- 2** What word is closest in meaning to “stately” as used in paragraph 3?
- a essential
 - b advanced
 - c innovative
 - d impressive
- 3** What happened to the *Keewatin* in 1966?
- a It was restored.
 - b It was returned to Scotland.
 - c It was removed from service.
 - d It was purchased by Port McNicoll.
- 4** What organizational pattern links paragraphs 3 and 4?
- a pro and con
 - b past to present
 - c general to specific
 - d order of importance
- 5** What is the purpose of the quote used in paragraph 5?
- a to offer factual support
 - b to provide an explanation
 - c to summarize the main idea
 - d to introduce a contrasting view

Open-Response Question

- 6** Why might the *Keewatin* have been a popular ship for travellers? Use specific details from the selection to explain your answer.

Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** Choose the sentence that does **not** belong in the following paragraph.
- (1) Beavers are natural engineers. (2) These mammals occupy slow-moving streams and build dams of sticks and mud. (3) Their dams, which average 10 m to 100 m in length, raise water levels to create ponds. (4) They are one of Canada's national symbols. (5) Beavers are relentless in their efforts to shape their environment.
- a sentence 2
 - b sentence 3
 - c sentence 4
 - d sentence 5
- 2** Which word best completes the following sentence?
- _____ Canada became a country in 1867, it did not officially get its own flag until almost 100 years later, in 1965.
- a While
 - b Since
 - c Firstly
 - d Because
- 3** Which of the following sentences uses a word with an apostrophe correctly?
- a You're gym membership expires in three months.
 - b Despite it's name, there is no coffee in coffee cake.
 - c They're only three spots left on the presentation schedule.
 - d The students determine who's going to be the class president.
- 4** Which option tells how to make the following sentence correct?
- The chairperson of the student council, Marta Alton was proud of her school's participation in the fundraising event.**
- a Capitalize "fundraising."
 - b Put a comma after "Alton."
 - c Remove the apostrophe in "school's."
 - d Replace the comma after "council" with a colon.

Provide your answer in the *Answer Booklet*.

Short Writing Task

- 1 Identify a historical figure you would like to meet. Use specific details to explain why you have chosen this person.

Do not write in this area.

Provide your answer in the *Answer Booklet*.

Talent show enjoyed by huge crowd



1 Task:

Write a **news report** based on the headline and picture above.

- 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 news 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 in the *Answer Booklet* for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

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

Although the Marshmallow Test was an experiment designed to test self-control in four-year-old nursery school pupils, it has become one possible indicator of future success. At Stanford University in the 1960s, researchers told children they could have one thing they really wanted right away—a marshmallow or a candy, for example—but if they could wait 15 minutes, they could have two. The researchers, led by psychologist Walter Mischel, found only about 30 per cent of more than 600 children tested could hold out. When Mischel followed up in the 1980s, he discovered that those who had been able to wait for two marshmallows averaged more than 10 percent higher on college entrance exams than did those who could wait only 30 seconds. The Marshmallow Test predicted success more accurately than how well the children were able to read or do math. Their success can be attributed to their ability to control impulses, sustain attention, and plan and develop strategies to achieve goals. Collectively, these brain skills are known as “executive function” or “self-regulation.” York University professor Stuart Shanker says students can learn the ability to self-regulate. Improving executive function skills involves learning how one’s own brain works, identifying goals and motivations and learning strategies to accomplish those goals. Shanker stresses that learning executive function skills is not the same as learning to comply with orders. Exercising self-regulation comes from within. It is self-directed and it appears to be a key skill in helping kids achieve success.



Provide your answers in the *Answer Booklet*.

Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1** What is emphasized by the word “although” as used in line 1?
- a the following sentence
 - b the purpose of the experiment
 - c the similarity between the two ideas
 - d the unexpected outcome of the experiment
- 2** Who were the subjects of Mischel’s study in the 1980s?
- a a new set of children
 - b students at York University
 - c the children originally tested
 - d a random sample of the population
- 3** Which option is closest in meaning to “attributed to” as used in line 11?
- a blamed on
 - b credited to
 - c opposite to
 - d qualified as
- 4** Why was Stuart Shanker included in this selection?
- a He expressed an opposing opinion.
 - b He invented the Marshmallow Test.
 - c He provided expert supporting information.
 - d He motivated schoolchildren to achieve success.
- 5** Which of the following is an example of self-regulation?
- a completing an online survey
 - b prioritizing assignments in a journal
 - c participating in a spirit-week activity
 - d scheduling auditions for a school play
- 6** What is provided by the statements in lines 13–16?
- a a claim
 - b a proof
 - c a definition
 - d a comparison

Open-Response Question

- 7** State the main idea of this selection, and provide one specific detail from the selection that supports it.

UNRELEASED ITEMS

The following March 2017 OSSLT questions are not being released this year:

Components	Questions
Long Writing (Series of Paragraphs)	1
Multiple-Choice Writing Items	2–5
Narrative (Reading)	6–14
Dialogue (Reading)	15–21
Short Writing	22
Graphic (Reading)	23–28

Permissions and Credits

Section I: Reading

Adapted from “S.S. Keewatin Coming Home to Canada,” downloaded from Newswire: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/85763J/S-S-Keewatin-coming-home-to-Canada>. © Skyline International Development, www.skylineinvestments.com. Reprinted with permission. Photo © Scott Garrett/CPR Photo.

Section V: Reading

Adapted from “Part 3: How a marshmallow can predict your future” by Alanna Mitchell, published in the *Toronto Star*, November 2, 2009. Reproduced courtesy of the Atkinson Foundation. © Photo: Keith Beaty/Getstock.