

OSSLT Multiple Choice Practice Activity

There are several multiple choice questions on the Literacy Test. Some questions relate to a reading passage while others assess your understanding of language conventions (use of commas, tense, etc.). The questions on this activity are language convention questions from past Literacy Tests.

TIPS

- Read the question carefully.
- When possible, predict the answer before you read the answer choices.
- Read all the answers before choosing your answer.
- Eliminate any answers that you are certain are incorrect (if you need to guess, it is better to choose from fewer answers).
- Answer every question – there is no penalty for a wrong answer.
- On the OSSLT, make sure you have filled in the bubbles on the answer sheet.
- Review your answers to the multiple choice questions with any extra time you have.

1. Which sentence is correctly written?
 - a. I travelled along the trans-Canada highway near North Bay.
 - b. I then continued toward Sudbury, passing the village of wahnapitei.
 - c. Once I got to Sudbury, I went to lake laurentian conservation area.
 - d. Mayor Forin greeted me at the park before tour of the wetland.
2. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
 - a. The flagpole stands on it's own.
 - b. The cat licked its wounded paw.
 - c. Because of the storm it's roof caved in.
 - d. The game is cancelled because its raining.
3. Choose the option that best combines all the information in the sentences below.

Mikko and Paige were friends.

Mikko and Paige had known each other since Grade 3.

Mikko and Paige attended the same college.

- a. Mikko and Paige, who were friends, attended the same college since Grade 3.
 - b. Mikko and Paige were known since Grade 3 and attended the same college.
 - c. Mikko and Paige, friends who had known each other since Grade 3, attended the same college.
 - d. Mikko and Paige attended the same college and had known each other and their friends since Grade 3.
4. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
 - a. I was waiting Imar said, "In the cold!"
 - b. "Wasn't it hot outside" Oliver responded?
 - c. "I was e-mailing," Sara exclaimed, "for three hours!"
 - d. "I went to a scary movie," Maria said "At two o'clock."
 5. Choose the sentence that does not belong in this paragraph.

(1) Traffic is busy on city streets. **(2)** Cars, pedestrians and cyclists must share them. **(3)** Pedestrians often cross the street where it is convenient but not always where it is safe. **(4)** Tall buildings often line the streets. **(5)** Navigating city streets can be a challenge.

- a. sentence 2
- b. sentence 3
- c. sentence 4
- d. sentence 5

6. Choose the best place to insert the following sentence.

They were originally chew sticks made from twigs, feathers, bones and even porcupine quills.

(1) The first toothbrush dates back over 3000 years. (2) In the 1700s, bristled toothbrushes began to appear. (3) Today, they come in all shapes, sizes and colours. (4) With so many choices, it is easy to have good dental hygiene.

- a. after sentence 1
- b. after sentence 2
- c. after sentence 3
- d. after sentence 4

7. Which of the following sentences needs revision?

(1) The Tri-Town Snow Travellers is a snowmobile club in Ontario. (2) When the club was formed in 1968, it focuses on teaching safe driving on snowmobiles. (3) Since then it has raised money to purchase two snow groomers. (4) Now, club members maintain the snowmobile trails so that everyone can ride safely.

- a. sentence 1
- b. sentence 2
- c. sentence 3
- d. sentence 4

8. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a. What time is it in Sao Paula, Brazil!
- b. Put the wrapper in the recycling bin.
- c. I am so tired that I could sleep in class?
- d. Will the hockey game be over in an hour.

9. Choose the option that best combines all the information in the following sentences.

I love basketball.

The Bears are my favourite team.

I hope they win the championship this year.

- a. I love basketball, and I hope the Bears win the championship this year.
- b. I love basketball and the Bears because I hope they win the championship this year.
- c. I love basketball and hope the Bears, my favourite team, win the championship this year.
- d. I love basketball, I love the Bears, my favourite teams, I hope they win the championship this year.

10. Which option tells how to make the following sentence correct?

John Reid, the mayor of Kapuskasing wondered how his city would survive the economic downturn.

- a. Capitalize the word "mayor."
- b. Add a comma after "Kapuskasing."
- c. Replace the period with a question mark.
- d. Use quotations around "how his city would survive the economic downturn."

11. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
- The students is going on the bus.
 - Each of the students is going on the bus.
 - Two students and their teacher is going on the bus.
 - All of the students except for Jim is going on the bus.

12. Choose the sentence that does not belong in the following paragraph.

(1) Eating a variety of nutritious foods is important for good health. **(2)** Fruits and vegetables provide daily vitamins. **(3)** Exercise is an important part of healthy living. **(4)** Protein from meat, dairy foods or legumes is needed for muscle growth. **(5)** Fat intake should be limited. **(6)** A proper diet is important.

- sentence 2
- sentence 3
- sentence 4
- sentence 5

13. Choose the best topic for the paragraph.

They may spend hours downloading their favourite artists' songs. Hats and T-shirts announce their love of various rap or rock groups. Concerts and dance clubs are sold out on Saturday nights. Music can be an important part of a teenager's world.

- Many teenagers love music.
- Teenagers have different tastes in music.
- Teenagers express themselves in different ways.
- Most teenagers spend too much time listening to music.

14. Choose the sentences that are correctly written.

- "It was cold yesterday, he said. I hope it warms up soon."
- "It was cold yesterday, he said. "I hope it warms up soon."
- "It was cold yesterday", he said. I hope it warms up soon".
- "It was cold yesterday," he said. "I hope it warms up soon."

15. Choose the sentence that has the correct punctuation.

- When they had finished eating the children went outside to play.
- When they had finished eating the children, went outside to play.
- When they had finished eating, the children went outside to play.
- When they had finished, eating the children went outside to play.

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS and ANSWERS

The hope of this activity is that students can learn strategies that will help them be more successful not only on the OSSLT, but on answering multiple choice questions in general. Feel free to use the questions and answers in whatever manner you feel most comfortable.

Students will benefit substantially if you share your thinking and model your approach to answer multiple choice questions.

1. a
The best approach to this question is to read each sentence carefully and look for errors in punctuation, tense or capitalization. Eliminate sentences with these errors.
 - b. the name “wahnapitei” should be capitalized
 - c. the name “lake laurentian conservation area” should also be capitalized
 - d. “before tour” is awkward sounding, “before touring” or another alternate phrasing is required.
2. b
This question is about the use of “it’s” which can only be used as a contraction of the words “it is.” “It’s” is not used to communicate ownership or possession.
3. c
This type of question is very common on past Literacy Tests.
 - a. over states the time the girls spent at college
 - b. “were known” does not communicate “had known each other”
 - c. The correct answer – best communicates all three statements.
 - d. “had known each other and their friends” is not accurate
4. c
Questions based on proper use of quotation marks are also very common.
 - a. needs to be modified – “I was waiting,” Imar said, “in the cold.”
 - b. Needs to be modified – “Wasn’t it cold outside?” Oliver asked.
 - c. Correct answer.
 - d. Needs to be modified – “I went to a scary movie,” Maria said, “at two o’clock.”
5. c
In proper paragraph structure the first and last sentences establish and limit the topic of the rest of the paragraph. The best strategy for these questions is to look for the sentence that least fits the topic. Sentence 4 is true, but it does not relate as directly to streets being busy and challenging to navigate.
6. a
The sentence to add relates most directly to early toothbrushes and fits most logically in chronological order.
7. b
This question emphasizes the need to read carefully. The required revision (correction) is a tense issue related to the word “focuses” which should be “focused.”
8. b
Punctuation is the issue here. Options (a) and (d) are questions and require question marks. Option (c) is not a question, so it should not have a question mark.

9. c
Similar to question 3.
a. Does not include all information (favourite team).
b. The phrase “because I hope” does not accurately reflect the statements.
c. The correct answer.
d. Plural of “teams” is grammatically incorrect.
10. b
A good approach here is to eliminate sentences with recognizable errors.
a. The word “mayor” is not being used as part of the noun as in “Mayor John Reid.”
b. With proper use of commas, the phrase “mayor of Kapuskasing,” could be removed from the sentence without changing the meaning of the sentence (it is extra detail).
c. The sentence is not a question.
d. The is no prompt, like “said.” It is unlike that someone would say “his city” instead of “my city.”
11. b
Options (a), (c) and (d) all have plural subjects and would require “are” in place of “is.”
12. b
The paragraph is about healthy eating. While exercise is part of a healthy lifestyle, it does not directly link to the importance of healthy eating.
13. a
The paragraph does not compare musical tastes, different forms of expression or argue that too much time is spent listening to music.
14. d
Quotations need to be used around what is being said. Punctuation needs to be inside the quotation marks. This question is similar to question 4.
15. c
A comma is required to separate the dependent clause “When they had finished eating” from the independent clause “the children went outside” (which could be a sentence on its own). If a similar question appears on the Literacy Test students might be best to assume that a comma is required and focus on determining the best placement. The placement of the comma can dramatically change the meaning of the sentence.