



# Getting Ready for the OSSLT

The OSSLT has **multiple choice** and **open response questions** that focus on the reading skills required in school and daily life:

- understanding explicitly (directly) stated ideas and information
- understanding implicitly (indirectly) stated ideas and information
- making connections between information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience.

The reading selections include: **an information paragraph, a news report, a dialogue, a real-life narrative, and a graphic text.**

## Strategies to answer Multiple-Choice Questions:

- Read the question carefully before looking at the possible answers.
- After reading the question and the possible answers, re-read once more.
- If the question refers to information found in a reading passage, refer back to the reading selection. If necessary, re-read relevant parts of the selection and then re-read each multiple choice question.
- If the question refers to a specific paragraph, or part of the reading passage, do not assume that the answer is found within that paragraph or part. Many times, the answer is shortly before or after the paragraph or part.
- Eliminate any answers that certainly cannot be the answer. Be aware of distracters (answers containing words that appeared in the text, but don't relate to the question).
- Look at the remaining answers. Use process of elimination to help determine the correct answer if it is still unclear.
- Choose the best or most correct answer.
- Record the answer on the Student Answer Sheet as described in the test instructions.



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The Open-Response questions will be linked to three of the five reading selections on the OSSLT: **information paragraph, news report, and dialogue.**

## Strategies to answer Open-Response Questions:

- Start by turning the question/topic into a statement.  
For example, if the question is: “What is one character trait that describes Amy?”  
Write: “One character trait that describes Amy is...”  
**Or**  
If the question is: “State the main idea of the passage.”  
Write: “The main idea of the passage is...”
- In the response, be sure to add specific and relevant details from the reading selection
- When including an example from the reading selection, try to give direct details, examples, and quotations (e.g. “The author describes Amy as being loyal and loving...”).  
Do not simply give paragraph or line references (e.g. “The author describes Amy in paragraph 3...”).
- Make connections between ideas and information in the reading selection and personal experiences.
- Six lines will be provided for the answer. Fill as close to six lines as possible. Do not go over the space provided.
- Write the response in complete sentences, using formal English. Assessment will be based on both the content of the answer and the writing skills.
- Re-read, edit, and correct any errors before moving on.