

Students across Ontario write province-wide tests of their reading, writing and math skills at key stages in their elementary and secondary school education:

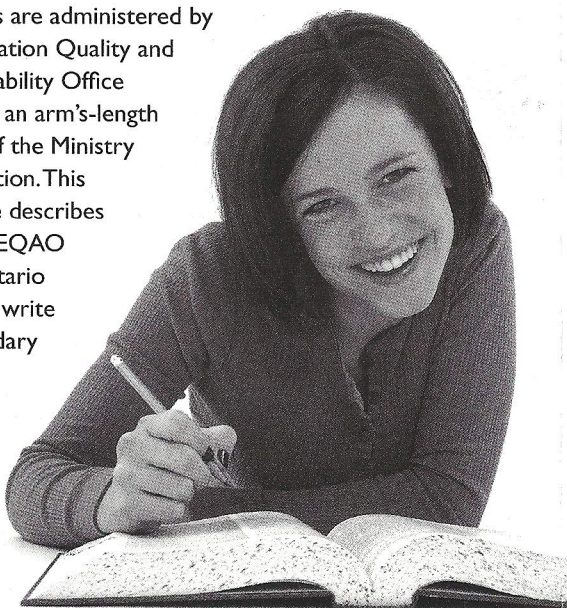
Grade 3 Literacy and math tested at the end of the primary division

Grade 6 Literacy and math tested at the end of the junior division

Grade 9 Math tested in the first year of secondary school

Grade 10 Literacy tested as a graduation requirement

The tests are administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an arm's-length agency of the Ministry of Education. This brochure describes the two EQAO tests Ontario students write in secondary school.



About the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

- This test measures the math skills students are expected to have learned in Grade 9.
- Students who are working toward their Grade 9 academic or applied math credit take this test.
- Different versions of the test are administered in the academic and the applied math courses.
- Students in first-semester math courses take the test in January; students in second-semester or full-year math courses take the test in June.

About the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

- This test measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy (reading and writing) across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.
- Students take this test in Grade 10.
- Successful completion of the OSSLT is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
- There are supports for students who do not pass the OSSLT, including an opportunity to rewrite the test or to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

These are the final two tests in Ontario's province-wide testing program. They provide important information to help you track student progress over time and identify where attention may still be needed.

Why does Ontario conduct province-wide tests?

Ontario's province-wide tests provide an objective and reliable measure of how well students are learning the reading, writing and math skills defined in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

The tests help to

- identify trends in student learning at the school, board and provincial levels;
- pinpoint curriculum areas that need attention and
- strengthen the accountability of the public education system.

Why do we need EQAO tests in addition to classroom tests?

EQAO tests and classroom tests have different goals and provide different kinds of information.

Classroom tests

- measure how well students have learned specific information;
- provide quick results teachers can use to modify teaching;
- may have subjective components, based on the teacher's knowledge of each student and
- provide results that may not be comparable across the school, board or province.

EQAO tests

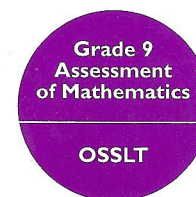
- measure students' cumulative knowledge and skills in relation to a provincial standard;
- are given at key stages of students' education;
- are administered, scored and reported on in a consistent and objective manner and
- provide results that are comparable across the school, board and province from year to year.

Considering EQAO test results alongside classroom test results makes the picture of each student's learning more complete.

What is on the EQAO tests?

Each question on EQAO tests is based on the learning expectations set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*, which is what students are learning in classrooms every day.

Do students have to take the EQAO tests?



All students working toward their academic or applied Grade 9 math credit are expected to take this test.

All students working toward an OSSD must take the OSSLT.

For students with special education needs, some accommodations that are consistent with regular classroom assessment practices are permitted on the provincial tests. Special provisions may also be permitted for English language learners.