

**BOOKLET**

Sample Test Booklet  
2012

**1**

# Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

**SESSION 1**

**Read carefully before writing the test:**

- Check the identification numbers of your three documents to see that the final 12 digits all match. If they do not, report the problem to the teacher in charge.
- Check the pages of this *Test Booklet* to see that they are in order. If they are not, report the problem to the teacher in charge.
- Read all instructions before responding to the questions.
- Use only pencil or blue or black pen in the *Test Booklet* and on the Student Answer Sheet.
- Attempt all questions. If you leave a question blank, the question will be scored zero.

**Multiple-Choice**

- Choose the best or most correct answer for each question.
- You must record your multiple-choice answers on the Student Answer Sheet. Multiple-choice answers recorded in the *Test Booklet* will not be scored.

To indicate your answer, **fill in the circle completely**, as shown below.

Like this: ● Not like this: ⊗ ✓ ◐ ●

- If you fill in more than one circle for a question, the question will be scored incorrect.
- If you wish to change a multiple-choice answer, erase or cross out your answer and fill in the circle for your new answer. Ensure that your final answer is clear.

**Written Answers**

- For all questions that ask for a written answer, **write legibly on the lined space provided** in the *Test Booklet*.
- For the writing sections, pay attention to clarity, organization, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.
- There is space in the *Test Booklet* for rough notes. Nothing you write in these spaces will be scored.

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**You are now ready to start *Test Booklet 1: Session 1*.**  
**Remember to record all your multiple-choice answers on the Student Answer Sheet.**

# **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test**

## **Session 1**

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

## Greasing the Wheels of Change

1 Since starting their road trip in British Columbia on October 1, 2008, Cloe Whittaker and Tyson Jerry have stopped at many fast-food restaurants. But the pair aren't breaking for snacks—they're refuelling their van.

2 Under the name "Driven to Sustain," the two young environmentalists are driving across each province, territory and state in Canada and the U.S. and then into Mexico in a van powered by vegetable oil. The van can travel 8 km on a litre of this fuel.

3 The couple obtain used oil free from local restaurants, saving hundreds of dollars and carbon emissions. "People behind us say the van smells like barbecue, but to me, it's not an obvious difference," Whittaker said.

4 The pair hope to set a world record for the longest journey by car using alternative fuel, with a goal of covering 45 000 kilometres in about six months. The title currently belongs to four Germans, who drove 38 137 kilometres on natural gas two years ago.

5 Growing up around Georgian Bay inspired Jerry's respect for nature. He worked as a tree planter while studying environmental management. Whittaker grew up camping in the prairies. She finished her degree in anthropology and environmental studies a year ago. The pair met last summer and realized they shared goals for sustainable living.

6 "We're not looking to become famous," Jerry said.

7 "We want to convey the idea that people have a choice. We have this incredible technology [for the car], but really, change has to come from people's mentalities," Whittaker said after meeting with the student ecological club at an Ontario high school.



Adapted from "Greasing the wheels of change" by Paola Loriggio, published in the *Toronto Star*, November 25, 2008. Reprinted with permission—Torstar Syndication Services.

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

**1** According to the selection, why did Whittaker and Jerry make frequent stops?

- A to present their ideas
- B to buy some fast food
- C to give their van a rest
- D to obtain used cooking oil

**2** Why were Whittaker and Jerry working together?

- F They loved fast food.
- G They grew up together.
- H They had similar beliefs.
- J They planted trees together.

**3** What was the environmental benefit of the “Driven to Sustain” project?

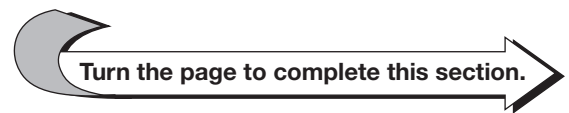
- A It used natural gas.
- B It reduced fuel costs.
- C It recycled a waste product.
- D It resulted in a better-smelling emission.

**4** What word is closest in meaning to “convey” as used in paragraph 7?

- F carry
- G change
- H continue
- J communicate

**5** Which event described in the selection happened first?

- A The road trip began in British Columbia.
- B Whittaker and Jerry met during the summer.
- C A German car using alternative fuel set a world record.
- D Whittaker finished her university degree in anthropology.



**Written Answer**

**6** Did Whittaker and Jerry choose an effective way to promote their message? Use specific details from the selection to support your answer.

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**Rough Notes**

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

**End of Section A.**

**Continue to Section B.** 

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

- 1** Which sentence does **not** belong in the following paragraph?

(1) In keeping with tradition, the Olympic flame burned throughout the 2010 Vancouver Games. (2) The flame was flown to Canada from Greece and relayed across the country by 12 000 runners. (3) Imagine running over rough terrain with a torch in hand. (4) The flame even travelled by boat, snowmobile and dogsled. (5) It was extinguished at the closing ceremonies to signal the end of the games.

- A sentence 2
- B sentence 3
- C sentence 4
- D sentence 5

- 2** Choose the sentence that best combines the following sentences.

**Computers are useful tools.  
Computers allow students to keep their homework neat.  
Computers are too expensive for some students.**

- F Computers are useful tools, but they are too expensive for some students.
- G Students can keep their homework neat because computers are useful tools.
- H Although they are too expensive for some students, computers are useful tools that allow students to keep their homework neat.
- J Computers are useful tools for students, and they allow students to keep their homework neat, and they are too expensive for some students.

- 3** What punctuation is missing from this sentence?

**If I wear my running shoes to school on an icy day I might slip and fall.**

- A a colon
- B a period
- C a comma
- D a semicolon

- 4** Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- F “Oh no” she exclaimed. “What will we do next?”
- G “All right,” sighed Miguel, “we’ll try harder tomorrow.”
- H “Watch out!” cried Manuel, “The bus is coming right now!”
- J “Wow! Where did you find that beautiful dress” Sara asked?

- 5** Which sentence is written correctly?

- A Greg and him fixed the car.
- B We told her and Sarah the news.
- C The bill was addressed to he and I.
- D Them and their parents paid for the repair.

End of Section B. Continue to Section C.

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

The Six String Nation guitar symbolizes Canadian national unity. Radio host Jowi Taylor came up with the idea for the guitar in 1995. He asked George Rizsanyi, a luthier, to build a guitar from materials representing remarkable people and places, diverse geographic regions and natural wonders of Canada. For over 10 years, the two men gathered 64 pieces of wood, metal and bone to make the instrument. The front piece was made from the wood of a 300-year-old golden spruce tree, honoured by the Haida peoples of British Columbia. 5

Other wood pieces came from the deck of the *Bluenose II* (a Nova Scotia sailing ship that appears on the Canadian dime) as well as from Paul Henderson’s hockey stick and former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau’s canoe paddle. The most significant piece for Rizsanyi is an inside strut made from Pier 21. This is the Halifax dock where his family entered Canada. 10

The guitar includes metal from a seat at Montreal’s famous arena, the Forum, and a gold dot from one of Maurice Richard’s Stanley Cup rings. It also contains pieces of the world’s oldest rock, found near Great Bear Lake, NWT, and a moose antler used in First Nations ceremonies. The finished guitar made its musical debut on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on July 1, 2006. Since this first performance, it has been on tour across the nation. Canadian musicians such as Feist, 15

Hawksley Workman and Bruce Cockburn have performed with it. Six String Nation is a powerful representation of all Canadians, connecting people, their stories and their communities.



Adapted from “Guitar Hero,” published in *CAA Magazine*, May 2008. Reprinted with permission. Photo: © Jonathan Haywood/CP Images.



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

- 1** Which of the following was used in the guitar to represent one of the “natural wonders of Canada” (line 4)?
- A wood from a 300-year-old tree
  - B wood from Pierre Trudeau’s paddle
  - C wood from the deck of the *Bluenose II*
  - D wood from Paul Henderson’s hockey stick
- 2** How are the descriptive details in lines 5 to 13 grouped?
- F by the age of the pieces
  - G by the types of materials
  - H by the steps in construction
  - J by the importance of the components
- 3** Which line shows the use of a comma to separate items in a list?
- A line 3
  - B line 6
  - C line 11
  - D line 14
- 4** Why was July 1, 2006, an important date for the Six String Nation guitar?
- F Feist played the guitar that day.
  - G The guitar’s construction was finished.
  - H Canada Day was celebrated on Parliament Hill.
  - J It was the first time the guitar was played for an audience.
- 5** What is the most likely reason it took over 10 years to build the Six String Nation guitar?
- A The guitar required exactly 64 pieces.
  - B The materials had to be chosen carefully.
  - C Taylor had to get permission from parliament.
  - D Several guitar makers contributed to the process.
- 6** What is the purpose of this selection?
- F to persuade readers to listen to the guitar
  - G to provide facts about the parts of the guitar
  - H to describe the steps in the construction of the guitar
  - J to explain the reasons why musicians want to play the guitar



**Written Answer**

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

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**Rough Notes**

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

End of Section C. Continue to Section D.

**Short Writing Task** (Answer in full and correctly written sentences.)

**1** Should every teenager join a team or club? Use specific details to explain why or why not.

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**Rough Notes**

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

End of Section D. Continue to Section E.

## 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.

## Volunteers Help with Community Project



### 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.

Canada is a country that champions itself as a world leader in multiculturalism and diversity. Why then does it continue to have a national holiday to honour a British monarch who died 107 years ago while it doesn't have a single national holiday to honour a Canadian? Canada is almost the last country to mark Victoria Day. Even the British don't commemorate it. Instead, they celebrate the Queen's Birthday on a June Saturday, not a weekday. Countries change, as Canada has. Canada started celebrating Victoria's birthday in 1845, when it was still a British territory. Part of the transformation for Canada has been to drop the notion that we are tied to Britain. True, Queen Elizabeth II is our head of state, but polls indicate just five percent of us know that. Quebec has had several names for the day, and now calls it Patriots' Day, to commemorate those who struggled for democratic government during the Lower Canada Rebellion of 1837–1838. The United States has Presidents' Day and Martin Luther King Day. We could have Prime Ministers' Day, or maybe Jacques Cartier Day or Peacekeepers' Day. The choices for a new name are endless, but the point is simple: It is time to stop calling the May holiday Victoria Day. We should not get rid of the holiday Monday; everybody loves long weekends. However, we need to rename it for a person or event with more meaning to a *modern* Canada.



Adapted from "Let's get rid of Victoria Day" by Bob Hepburn, published in the *Toronto Star*, May 15, 2008. Reprinted with permission—Torstar Syndication Services.

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

- 1** Which is a holiday that is currently celebrated in Canada?
- A Patriots' Day
  - B Peacekeepers' Day
  - C Jacques Cartier Day
  - D Prime Ministers' Day
- 2** What word is closest in meaning to "commemorate" as used in line 5?
- F want
  - G need
  - H question
  - J recognize
- 3** Beginning the sentence with "True" (line 8) indicates that the writer is
- A changing his mind.
  - B recognizing a different viewpoint.
  - C trying to correct a misunderstanding.
  - D providing a fact to support his opinion.
- 4** Which holiday celebrates one individual rather than several people?
- F Patriots' Day
  - G Presidents' Day
  - H Queen's Birthday
  - J Peacekeepers' Day
- 5** Why are so many holidays mentioned in this selection?
- A to provide examples for Canada to consider
  - B to show that the good holiday names are taken
  - C to emphasize that Canada has too many holidays
  - D to list other holidays the author is concerned about
- 6** This selection is an example of a
- F story.
  - G dialogue.
  - H news report.
  - J supported opinion.



**Written Answer**

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

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**Rough Notes**

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

**End of Booklet 1.**



**Education Quality and  
Accountability Office**



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