

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST: GRADES 3 – 8, AND 11



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❖ **Students are required to take the OSAS ELA Summative Test in Grades 3rd – 8th and 11th.**

- Your child's school will select testing dates between:
 - **February – June** (*Grade 11*) and
 - **April – June** (*Grades 3 – 8*)

❖ The test is made up of test items aligned to the **Oregon English Language Arts and Literacy Standards**.

❖ **The OSAS ELA Summative Test measures the following skills:**

- **Reading:** Identify key details and main/central idea; Analyze text features; Use reasoning and evidence from the text to support reading comprehension; and Understand word meanings and author's use of language
- **Writing:** Write a full composition essay; Edit and Revise writing; and Accurately use grammar, language and vocabulary
- **Listening:** Listen closely and analytically to comprehend a range of literary and informational topics
- **Research:** Engage in research; Investigate topics; and Analyze and present research information*

OREGON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS SUMMATIVE TEST

The mission of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is to foster equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners, and communities. ODE, along with your district and local school board, helps ensure your child has every advantage to reach their full potential.

The need for high-quality literacy education is essential in preparing students for the future. Students need the kind of preparation that supports their learning now and gives them the tools and skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly and continuously changing world.

Your child's school has provided rich, meaningful instruction to support the **Oregon English Language Arts and Literacy Standards**. These standards

serve as a set of expectations for what all students across Oregon should know and be able to do at each grade level.

To measure your student's progress toward these standards, the State of Oregon tests students using **Oregon's Statewide Assessment System (OSAS) ELA Summative Test**.

This test requires students to engage in different questions and tasks that align with the multiple skills included in literacy (i.e. reading, writing, etc.). The OSAS ELA Summative Test measures how well students are learning Oregon's challenging academic standards and can help families, schools, and districts understand how students are learning. You can use this test result as a part of ongoing conversations with educators about your child's learning.

The OSAS ELA Summative Test is only one way to measure your child's learning. Educational decisions should be based on more than state test results. Your child also shows progress on grade-level standards and skills through teacher observations, classroom work and projects, and other school activities.

** Presenting research information is included in the student's writing composition activity.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW CAN I BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS ARE ON THE OSAS ELA SUMMATIVE TEST?

Students will see a variety of test items (i.e., multiple choice, multiple select, hot text, etc.). ODE publicly publishes and provides both [Sample Tests](#) and [Sample Items](#). For the ELA Performance Task, students will answer a short research question and type a research-based essay.

HOW IS THE OSAS ELA SUMMATIVE TEST STRUCTURED AND HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The summative test is not timed; students may have as much time as they need to complete the assessments. The OSAS ELA Summative Test is divided into two parts. For the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT), in general, most students will need approximately 45 - 60 minutes. For the Writing Performance Task, it is common to provide two 45-minute test sessions to complete a short research question and write a research-based essay.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT BETWEEN THE COMPUTER ADAPTIVE TEST (CAT) AND THE PERFORMANCE TASK (PT)?

During the CAT portion of the test, the test item difficulty will adapt to the appropriate level based on the student's previous responses. This allows for a more accurate representation of a student's understanding. During the PT, a student will be given a prompt based on their enrolled grade and asked to write either an opinion or informational essay based on a given research topic.

WHAT IF STUDENTS ARE ABSENT DURING AN ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION?

Students can take the OSAS ELA Summative Test at any time during the [ODE state testing window](#).

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO MY CHILD WHILE TAKING THE OSAS ELA SUMMATIVE TEST?

All students have access to numerous tools and accessibility features to use on the OSAS ELA Summative Test. Some "Universal Tools" include a highlighter, line reader, strike-through text to eliminate answer choices, and scratch paper. The definitions of each tool and a full list of available Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations can be found in the [Oregon Accessibility Manual](#). Please talk with your child's educator about what supports may be helpful for your child during test administration.

WHEN WILL TEST SCORES OR RESULTS BE AVAILABLE?

ODE will publicly release statewide test results approximately in October during the next academic school year. This allows ODE to validate all test results with districts. Parents will receive an official score report from their district at the beginning of the next school year.

- **Note:** *Preliminary unofficial estimated scores are available to districts within 10 days once the student has completed both the CAT and PT portions of the test.*

WHAT TYPES OF RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE?

Students will receive an "Overall Score" and "Achievement Level" (1 - 4) for ELA based on all tested skills (reading, writing, listening, and research). Additionally, students will receive a specific scale score for reading and writing.

HOW ARE RESULTS FROM THE OSAS ELA SUMMATIVE TEST USED?

Schools can use the results to identify specific areas to focus more attention on in the next school year.

Note: *The OSAS ELA Summative Test is only one way to measure your child's learning. Educational decisions should be based on more than state test results.*



CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact your child's school for more information about the OSAS English Language Arts Summative Test.

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