

Navigating EQAO Assessments:

A Friendly Guide for Parents and Guardians



Administration and Format

Q When are the EQAO assessments? Is each assessment administered on the same day for every school?

A EQAO assessments are administered in the fall, winter and spring based on the [published administration dates for the current school year](#) for each assessment. Schools have flexibility in scheduling, so each assessment may be given to small groups at different times and on different days within the administration window. You can check directly with your school to confirm the exact administration date for each assessment.

Q How many questions are on each assessment?

A Each assessment differs in the number of questions it includes. Details for each assessment are provided in the table below.

Assessment	Number of Operational Questions
Primary-division assessment (Grade 3)	Language: 29 selected-response and open-response questions Mathematics: 40 selected-response questions
Junior-division assessment (Grade 6)	Language: 31 selected-response and open-response questions Mathematics: 44 selected-response questions
Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics	50 selected-response questions
OSSLT (Grade 10)	37 questions: 35 selected-response questions, two open-response questions

Q How long does a student have to complete an assessment?

A Schools schedule the administration times so that students can take the time they need to complete an assessment.

For the [Grades 3](#) and [Grade 6](#) assessments, the language component is split into four sessions, designed to be completed in approximately 35 minutes each. For the mathematics component, each of the four stages is designed to be completed in approximately 30 minutes.

The [Grade 9](#) mathematics assessment has two 60-minute sessions.

The [OSSLT](#) has two sessions, each designed to take approximately 65 to 75 minutes, respectively.

Students can take the time they need to complete an assessment.

Sessions and stages can be completed back to back, with breaks in between, or on different dates and times.

Q Can a student complete a paper copy of an assessment, or is each assessment only completed online?

A EQAO assessments are now fully online, but alternative versions are available for students who cannot complete the assessments digitally. The open-response questions in the language component of the primary- and junior-division assessments may be completed by the students online or on paper, using a printed response sheet. Teachers may change the response format for open-response questions to meet the needs of their students. You can find more information for each assessment on [EQAO's website](#).

Q Is it necessary for students to explain their answers, or do students just need to select the correct answer?

A For selected-response questions, selecting the correct answer is sufficient. However, students may use paper for rough work to keep track of their work as they determine their answer.

Q Can a student review their answers before submitting their work?

A Yes! Students can go back and change answers at any time until the session or stage the student is working on is submitted.

Q Can I receive a copy of my child's assessment or know which questions they got right and wrong?

A Individual completed assessments and student responses cannot be shared since questions are kept for use in future assessments (this allows for comparability year-over-year). However, students will receive an Individual Student Report (ISR) that provides an overview of their achievement. If you are seeking feedback to help improve your child's success, you can ask your child's teachers, as they will likely have the best insight into the areas that your child could improve in to meet the expectations set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

Results and Reporting

Q When are a student's assessment results made available to parents and guardians or to the student?

A Individual Student Reports are made available to schools at different times for each assessment based on the administration dates. Students will receive their ISR from their school. Information about the administration dates and release of ISRs for each assessment can be found on the EQAO website:

- [Grade 3 Administration Dates](#)
- [Grade 6 Administration Dates](#)
- [Grade 9 Administration Dates](#)
- [OSSLT Administration Dates](#)

Q I see that the Grade 9 assessment results are now included as part of a student's final mark in their Grade 9 mathematics course. How much does the assessment count for and is this mandatory?

A Starting in September 2024, the Ministry of Education has standardized the practice currently used by many teachers of incorporating the results of the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics in the final mark of the Grade 9 mathematics course. Results of this assessment will count for at least 10% and up to a maximum of 30% of a student's final course mark.

Q How is EQAO supporting schools and school boards in improving their results?

A EQAO is dedicated to administering assessments, analyzing the data and reporting on results to continuously enhance Ontario's educational system and support student success. By identifying trends and sharing valuable insights, EQAO empowers educators to focus on effective strategies that improve learning outcomes. EQAO regularly meets and collaborates with educational staff and school boards to review their data and identify factors contributing to improvements in achievement. By working together and sharing best practices, [EQAO helps ensure that educators have the tools and data they need to support student learning.](#)

Support and Resources

Q How can I help my child prepare for an EQAO assessment?

A No extra preparation beyond regular classwork is required to take an assessment, as the assessments align with curriculum expectations. To familiarize your child with the format and the types of questions asked, EQAO practice and sample tests, released questions and other resources are available on the [EQAO website in the “Assessments” section](#).

- [Grade 3](#)
- [Grade 6](#)
- [Grade 9](#)
- [OSSLT](#)

Q My child is in a French Immersion program. Will they complete the assessment in French or English?

A For the primary-division assessment, school boards determine the language of the assessment. Grade 3 students in French Immersion programs may complete

- all components in English.
- the reading and writing components in English, and the mathematics component in French.
- only the mathematics component in French (students do not complete the reading or writing components).

For extra support, students can use French–English and English–French glossaries during the mathematics component. The glossaries are available both online in the e-assessment platform during the assessment, or in a printed copy, which can be provided to students for use during the assessment. The glossaries can be printed from the EQAO website.

Currently, for Grade 6 students in French Immersion programs, all components (mathematics, reading and writing) are completed in English. For students enrolled in a French Immersion program and completing the Grade 9 assessment, the assessment will also be completed in English.

Q Can a student take the assessment again if they are not yet successful or if they are not satisfied with their score?

A For the Grade 10 literacy test (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test [OSSLT]), students who are not yet successful can retake the test.

Grade 9 mathematics students are required to take the assessment each time they enroll in the mathematics course.

For the Grades 3 and 6 assessments, students do not have the opportunity to retake the assessment.

Q My child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Can they get accommodations during the assessment?

A Yes! The EQAO User Guide lists permitted accommodations for students with special education needs or special circumstances. Your child's school will be able to confirm which accommodations listed in your child's IEP can be used during the EQAO assessment.

EQAO offers a range of accommodations to support students with IEPs, including the following:

- Braille and e-Braille formats
- Printable PDF versions (regular or large print)
- Online assessments with audio, with or without full descriptions of all mathematics graphics
- Interpreter/sign language support
- Audio MP3 versions, with or without full descriptions of all mathematics graphics
- Assistive technology, such as Read&Write for Google Chrome, Kurzweil, NVDA, VoiceOver, Read Aloud, JAWS and Natural Reader

In addition, all students can use the built-in accessibility tools such as the zoom-in and zoom-out feature, a text-to-speech reader and a high-contrast view during the assessment.

Special Considerations

Q What if my child is absent on the day the assessment will be administered?

A If your child is absent, they may complete the assessment upon their return as long as it is completed within the administration window. You can contact your school with any questions about the administration dates for each assessment.

Use of Calculators

Q Are calculators permitted to be used during the assessments?

A Yes, students in the primary and junior divisions can use a calculator for the mathematics component. Grade 9 students can use a scientific or graphing calculator. For an easy guide to permitted items for each assessment, refer to the following handy guides:

- [Grades 3 and 6 Handy Guide to Permitted Items](#)
- [Grade 9 Handy Guide to Permitted Items](#)
- [OSSLT Handy Guide to Permitted Items](#)