

PRACTICE EXAM 17: OSSLT SIMULATION

(37 QUESTIONS)

Session A

Reading Selection: Opinion/Editorial Text

Read the following text and answer questions 1–6.

Our city's decision to cut funding for public libraries is, frankly, a shortsighted blunder that will harm us for years. The council claims the libraries are "underused," but the numbers tell a different story. Last year, the city's branches recorded over 800,000 visits and lent more than two million items. These are not the figures of a dying institution; they are the figures of a thriving one that the council has chosen to ignore.

Libraries are far more than buildings full of books. They provide free internet to families who cannot afford it, quiet study spaces for students, and programs for seniors and newcomers. To call such a service "underused" is not just wrong — it is an insult to the thousands who rely on it every week.

Supporters of the cuts argue that the money is needed elsewhere, and budgets do involve hard choices. But surely a service used by hundreds of thousands deserves better than the chopping block. The council should reverse this reckless decision before the damage is done. Our libraries have served this city faithfully; it is time the city returned the favour.

1. What is the author's main opinion in this text?
 - A. The city's libraries recorded over 800,000 visits last year
 - B. The city should reverse its decision to cut library funding
 - C. Libraries provide free internet to families in need

D. Budgets always involve difficult choices for the council

2. Which statement from the text is a fact rather than an opinion?

A. The funding cut is a shortsighted blunder

B. Calling the libraries "underused" is an insult

C. The council's decision is reckless and must be reversed

D. The branches recorded over 800,000 visits last year

3. The phrase "shortsighted blunder" mainly reveals that the author

A. has a strong negative opinion of the funding cut

B. is presenting a neutral summary of the decision

C. agrees with the council's reasoning

D. is quoting a statement made by the council

4. Why does the author include the figures of 800,000 visits and two million items?

A. To prove that the libraries are too expensive to run

B. To show that the council made a wise decision

C. To suggest the libraries should be open longer

D. To counter the council's claim that libraries are "underused"

5. How does the author treat the argument that "the money is needed elsewhere"?

A. The author ignores it entirely throughout the text

B. The author fully agrees and drops their own position

C. The author acknowledges it but argues the libraries still deserve funding

D. The author claims the money is not needed anywhere

6. Which feature of the text best shows that it is an opinion piece rather than a neutral report?

A. It includes specific numbers about library use

B. It uses emotional, persuasive language to argue a position

C. It mentions that libraries serve seniors and newcomers

D. It refers to a decision made by the city council

Reading Selection: Information Paragraph

Read the following paragraph and answer questions 7–11.

When we talk about the "speed of the internet," we are usually describing two different things that are easy to confuse. The first is bandwidth — how much data can flow through a connection at once, often compared to the width of a pipe. A wider pipe carries more water; higher bandwidth carries more data. The second is latency — the delay before data begins to move, like the time it takes for water to start flowing once you open a tap. A connection can have high bandwidth but also high latency, which is why a fast download speed does not always mean a webpage loads instantly. Understanding the difference helps explain why two connections advertised at the same "speed" can feel very different to use.

7. What two things does the paragraph say are easy to confuse?

A. Downloading and uploading data

B. Internet and telephone connections

C. Bandwidth and latency

D. Water pressure and pipe width

8. According to the paragraph, what is bandwidth?

A. How much data can flow through a connection at once

B. The delay before data begins to move

C. The total amount of data ever downloaded

D. The number of devices using a connection

9. The paragraph compares latency to

A. the width of a water pipe

B. the amount of water in a tank

C. the time before water starts flowing from a tap

D. the pressure pushing water through a pipe

10. Why does a fast download speed not always mean a webpage loads instantly?

A. Because the webpage contains too many images

B. Because the connection is shared with other users

C. Because a connection can have high bandwidth but high latency

D. Because download speed only matters for large files

11. What is the author's main purpose in this paragraph?

A. To explain the difference between bandwidth and latency

B. To persuade readers to buy a faster internet connection

C. To compare the internet to a city water system

D. To argue that internet speeds are advertised dishonestly

Reading Selection: News Report

Read the following news report and answer questions 12–17.

Students' Recycling Project Cuts School Waste in Half

A student-led recycling initiative has reduced waste sent to landfill from Oakfield Secondary School by roughly fifty percent in a single year, according to figures released by the school this week. The project, run by the school's environmental club, introduced clearly labelled sorting stations and a team of student "waste monitors."

The club launched the program after an audit found that most of the school's garbage was actually recyclable or compostable. "We weren't producing too much waste — we were just throwing the wrong things in the wrong bins," said club president Leah Donovan. The monitors help classmates sort items correctly during lunch periods.

School officials confirmed the reduction using monthly weight records from the waste collection company. The savings have also lowered the school's disposal costs.

The club now plans to share its approach with other schools in the district that have expressed interest.

12. What is the main idea of this news report?

A. A student recycling project cut the school's landfill waste in half

B. An audit found most school garbage was recyclable

- C. Student monitors help classmates during lunch periods
- D. The school lowered its waste disposal costs this year

13. What did the audit reveal that prompted the project?

- A. The school produced far more garbage than other schools
- B. Most of the school's garbage was recyclable or compostable
- C. The recycling bins were too small for the school's needs
- D. Students were refusing to use the recycling bins at all

14. How did school officials confirm the waste reduction?

- A. By surveying students about their recycling habits
- B. By counting the number of bins around the school
- C. By using monthly weight records from the collection company
- D. By estimating the savings on disposal costs

15. Leah Donovan's quotation mainly explains that the problem was

- A. the school did not have enough recycling bins
- B. students produced far too much garbage overall
- C. the collection company charged too much
- D. items were being sorted into the wrong bins

16. What does the report identify as an additional benefit of the project?

- A. It lowered the school's waste disposal costs
- B. It increased the number of students in the club

- C. It improved the school's test scores
- D. It reduced the time spent cleaning the school

17. What does the club plan to do next?

- A. Build a composting facility at the school
- B. Hire a professional wastemanagement company
- C. Share its approach with other interested schools
- D. End the program now that waste has been reduced

Reading Selection: Dialogue

Read the following dialogue and answer questions 18–22.

Dev: This review says our restaurant is "the best in the city." We should put it on the front window.

Aisha: Read the whole thing. It's one customer's blog. No rating system, no comparison — just their opinion after one visit.

Dev: But it's a great quote.

Aisha: It's a great opinion. There's a difference. If we put "best in the city" on the window, we're presenting one person's feeling as if it were an established fact.

Dev: People put quotes like that on windows all the time.

Aisha: And shoppers have learned to distrust them, because half of them are just cherrypicked praise. What if we quoted something specific instead — "the bread is made fresh every morning"? That's a fact. People can check it.

Dev: (considering) ...A fact they can verify versus an opinion they'll suspect.

Aisha: Exactly. Facts build trust. Opinions dressed up as facts destroy it.

18. What does Dev want to put on the restaurant window?

- A. A list of the restaurant's daily specials
- B. A review calling the restaurant "the best in the city"
- C. A photograph of the freshly made bread
- D. A formal star rating from a review website

19. Why does Aisha object to using the "best in the city" quote?

- A. The review was written by a rival restaurant
- B. It presents one person's opinion as an established fact
- C. The review was too short to be useful
- D. The quote contains a spelling error

20. What does Aisha suggest using instead?

- A. A quote from a professional food critic
- B. A star rating from a review website
- C. A specific, verifiable fact about the restaurant

D. No quotes on the window at all

21. According to Aisha, why have shoppers "learned to distrust" praise quotes?

A. Because the quotes are usually written by the owners

B. Because most customers never read them

C. Because shoppers prefer photographs to words

D. Because many such quotes are cherrypicked praise

22. What is the main point Aisha makes by the end of the conversation?

A. Verifiable facts build trust, while opinions posing as facts destroy it

B. Restaurants should never display customer reviews

C. Opinions are always more persuasive than facts

D. Blog reviews are more reliable than professional ones

Session B

Writing — Conventions and Sentence Skills (Objective Language and Tone)

Answer questions 23–35.

23. Which sentence is written in neutral, objective language?

- A. The ridiculous new policy unfairly punishes hardworking students
- B. The new policy requires students to submit assignments online
- C. The outrageous policy will obviously ruin everyone's grades
- D. The terrible new policy is a disaster for the whole school

24. Which sentence states a fact rather than an opinion?

- A. The museum is the most exciting place in the entire city
- B. Everyone should visit the museum at least once a year
- C. The museum's exhibits are far better than any others
- D. The museum opened to the public in 1962

25. Which sentence removes the loaded, emotionally charged language?

- A. The greedy company shamelessly raised its prices again
- B. The dreadful company hiked prices on its loyal customers
- C. The company raised its prices by five percent this year
- D. The heartless company robbed customers with higher prices

26. Which sentence is the most objective description of an event?

- A. The reckless driver foolishly ignored the obvious warning signs
- B. The driver passed three warning signs before the closed bridge
- C. The careless driver stupidly drove past every single sign
- D. The terrible driver shamefully sped past the warning signs

27. Which sentence uses biased language?

- A. The committee reviewed the proposal over two meetings
- B. The report listed three options for the council to consider
- C. The survey collected responses from 500 participants
- D. The so-called "expert" pushed his absurd opinions on everyone

28. Which sentence matches a formal, objective tone suitable for a report?

- A. The study found a link between sleep and academic performance
- B. The study totally proved that sleep is everything for grades
- C. Honestly, the study showed sleep matters way more than people think
- D. The amazing study revealed the shocking truth about sleep

29. Which sentence presents information without bias?

- A. The misguided plan will clearly fail to help anyone
- B. The brilliant plan is exactly what the town desperately needs
- C. The foolish council rushed the plan through without thinking
- D. The plan proposes adding two new bus routes downtown

30. Which revision replaces the subjective wording with objective wording? "The lazy students disgracefully failed to finish the disappointing project."

- A. The careless students shamefully abandoned the weak project
- B. The students did not complete the project by the deadline
- C. The unmotivated students sadly gave up on the dull project
- D. The students pathetically failed to finish the poor project

31. Which sentence is the most neutral report of the data?

- A. Sales rose by twelve percent in the final quarter
- B. Sales skyrocketed by an incredible twelve percent
- C. Sales shot up by a stunning twelve percent at last
- D. Sales finally jumped twelve percent, as they should have

32. Which sentence avoids emotionally charged language?

- A. The crowd of troublemakers stormed angrily into the meeting
- B. The mob of furious protesters disrupted the peaceful meeting
- C. About fifty people attended the council meeting to object
- D. The unruly horde shouted down the helpless council members

33. Which sentence states an opinion rather than a fact?

- A. The new bridge is 400 metres long
- B. Construction of the bridge began in March
- C. The new bridge is the finest structure ever built here
- D. The bridge connects the two sides of the river

34. Which sentence is written objectively, without slanting the reader's view?

- A. The wasteful program squanders taxpayers' hardearned money
- B. The program costs the city two million dollars a year to run
- C. The pointless program drains the city's precious resources
- D. The shameful program throws away millions every year

35. Which revision makes the sentence neutral and factbased? "The clueless new manager made a string of laughable decisions."

- A. The incompetent new manager made several poor decisions
- B. The new manager made several decisions in the first month
- C. The hopeless new manager bungled decision after decision
- D. The foolish new manager made one bad call after another

OpenResponse Writing Tasks

36. Short Writing Task



Headline: "School Community Plants 100 Trees to Mark Its Centennial"

Using the headline and image above, write a short news report (one to two paragraphs) about this event. Open with a strong lead that answers the key questions (Who, What, When, Where, and, where it fits, Why and How), include at least one realistic quotation, and keep a factual, thirdperson tone. You may invent reasonable details as long as they fit the headline and image.

37. Long OpenResponse Task

Some people believe that news and current events should be a required subject in high school. Others believe students have enough required subjects already.

In your opinion, should the study of news and current events be a required subject in high school? Write a multiparagraph response (an opinion piece) in which you state your position clearly and support it with reasons and specific examples. Be sure to organize your response with an introduction, body paragraphs that each develop one reason, and a conclusion.

Answer Key and Explanations

1. B — The author's main opinion is that "the council should reverse this reckless decision" to cut library funding. The whole piece argues for reversal. The other options are facts or supporting points, not the central opinion.

2. D — That the branches "recorded over 800,000 visits last year" is a verifiable fact. The other options are judgments — "blunder," "insult," "reckless" — that express opinion. Distinguishing the measurable claim is the skill.

3. A — "Shortsighted blunder" is charged, negative wording revealing the author's strong disapproval of the cut. It conveys opinion, not neutral reporting. The other options misread the phrase.

4. D — The figures counter the council's claim that libraries are "underused" by showing heavy use. They serve as evidence against that label. The other options misstate their purpose.

5. C — The author acknowledges "budgets do involve hard choices" but argues the libraries "deserve better," holding the position. It is a concession followed by rebuttal. The other options misdescribe the move.

6. B — The text's emotional, persuasive language ("insult," "reckless," "deserve better") marks it as an opinion piece, not neutral reporting. Persuasion through charged wording is the giveaway. The other options describe features a neutral report could also have.

7. C — The paragraph says bandwidth and latency "are easy to confuse." Those are the two things. The other options are not what the paragraph contrasts.

8. A — Bandwidth is defined as "how much data can flow through a connection at once." That is the stated meaning. The other options describe latency or unrelated ideas.

9. C — Latency is compared to "the time it takes for water to start flowing once you open a tap." The tapdelay image illustrates it. Bandwidth, not latency, is the pipe width.

10. C — A fast download may not load a page instantly because "a connection can have high bandwidth but also high latency." The delay slows the start. The other options are not the stated reason.

11. A — The paragraph explains the difference between bandwidth and latency, so its purpose is to inform. It clarifies a common confusion. The persuasive and argumentative readings miss the tone.

12. A — The report centres on a student project that "reduced waste sent to landfill... by roughly fifty percent." That cut is the main idea. The other options are supporting details.

13. B — The audit "found that most of the school's garbage was actually recyclable or compostable," prompting the project. That finding sparked it. The other options misstate the audit.

14. C — Officials confirmed the reduction "using monthly weight records from the waste collection company." That data verified it. The other options are not how it was confirmed.

15. D — Donovan explains, "we were just throwing the wrong things in the wrong bins" — items were missorted, not overproduced. Sorting was the problem. The other options misread the quotation.

16. A — The report notes "the savings have also lowered the school's disposal costs." That is the additional benefit. The other options are not mentioned.

17. C — The club plans "to share its approach with other schools in the district." That is the stated next step. The other options contradict the report.

18. B — Dev wants to put a review calling the restaurant "the best in the city" on the window. That quote is what he proposes. The other options are not his suggestion.

19. B — Aisha objects that the quote presents "one person's feeling as if it were an established fact." It dresses opinion as fact. The other options misstate her concern.

20. C — Aisha suggests a "specific" and verifiable fact, like "the bread is made fresh every morning." A checkable fact replaces the opinion. The other options are not what she proposes.

21. D — Shoppers distrust praise quotes because "half of them are just cherrypicked praise." Selective quoting breeds suspicion. The other options misstate her reasoning.

22. A — Aisha's closing point — "Facts build trust. Opinions dressed up as facts destroy it" — is that verifiable facts build trust while disguised opinions destroy it. That is her main idea. The other options reverse or misread it.

23. B — "The new policy requires students to submit assignments online" reports the policy neutrally, without judgment. The other options use loaded words ("ridiculous," "outrageous," "terrible"). Objective language avoids such charged terms.

24. D — "The museum opened to the public in 1962" is a verifiable fact. The other options express opinions ("most exciting," "should visit," "far better"). A fact can be checked; an opinion cannot.

25. C — "The company raised its prices by five percent this year" removes the loaded words ("greedy," "dreadful," "heartless," "robbed"). It states the action neutrally. Objective wording reports without slanting.

26. B — "The driver passed three warning signs before the closed bridge" describes the event without judgment. The other options add loaded words ("reckless," "foolishly," "stupidly"). Neutral reporting states what happened.

27. D — "The so-called 'expert' pushed his absurd opinions" uses biased, dismissive language ("so-called," "absurd," "pushed"). The other options report neutrally. The slanted wording reveals bias.

28. A — "The study found a link between sleep and academic performance" uses formal, objective language. The other options use slang or hype ("totally proved," "honestly," "amazing... shocking"). A report calls for neutral diction.

29. D — "The plan proposes adding two new bus routes downtown" presents the plan without bias. The other options judge it ("misguided," "brilliant," "foolish"). Unbiased reporting states the facts.

30. B — "The students did not complete the project by the deadline" replaces the subjective words ("lazy," "disgracefully," "disappointing") with a neutral statement. The other options keep loaded language. Objective wording removes judgment.

31. A — "Sales rose by twelve percent in the final quarter" reports the data neutrally. The other options add hype ("skyrocketed," "stunning," "as they should have"). A neutral report avoids charged intensifiers.

32. C — "About fifty people attended the council meeting to object" describes the crowd neutrally. The other options use charged words ("troublemakers," "mob," "unruly horde"). Objective language avoids emotional labels.

33. C — "The new bridge is the finest structure ever built here" is an opinion — a value judgment that cannot be verified. The other options state checkable facts (length, dates, function). The superlative signals opinion.

34. B — "The program costs the city two million dollars a year to run" states the cost without judgment. The other options add loaded words ("wasteful," "pointless," "shameful"). Objective reporting gives the figure neutrally.

35. B — "The new manager made several decisions in the first month" removes the subjective words ("clueless," "laughable") for a neutral statement. The other options keep judgmental language ("incompetent," "hopeless," "foolish"). Factbased wording avoids insult.

OpenResponse Writing Tasks — Model Responses and Scoring Notes

36. Short Writing Task — News Report (Model Response)

Students, teachers, and families at Glenview Secondary School planted 100 young trees along the edge of the school's sports field on Saturday to mark the school's onehundredth anniversary. Working through the morning with shovels and wheelbarrows, volunteers of all ages set the saplings in a long row, creating what organizers hope will one day be a shaded border around the field.

The planting was chosen as a way to celebrate the centennial with a gift to future students. "We wanted to leave something that will still be growing a hundred years from now," said principal Marie Lefèvre. The school plans to add a small plaque recording the anniversary and the names of the classes that took part.

Scoring notes (rubricaligned): A strong response leads with the 5 Ws (who: Glenview school community; what: planted 100 trees; when: Saturday; where: school sports field; why: mark the centennial), keeps a neutral thirdperson tone, and includes at least one realistic quotation. Midlevel responses cover the basic facts but may omit a W, slip into firstperson or opinion, or lack a quotation. Lowlevel responses read as a personal story, drift from the headline, or contain frequent conventions errors that interfere with meaning. Reward journalistic structure and factual tone over length.

37. Long OpenResponse Task — Opinion Piece (Model Response)

The study of news and current events should be a required subject in high school. While students already carry a full course load, learning to follow and evaluate the news is essential, because it builds informed citizens, sharpens critical thinking, and connects classroom learning to the real world.

The strongest reason is that studying current events prepares students to be informed citizens. In a democracy, people are expected to vote, form opinions, and understand the issues that affect their lives, yet many young people leave school without ever learning how to follow the news. For example, a student who studies how a local election works and what the candidates stand for is far better prepared to participate as an adult than one who never discussed it. An informed public depends on this kind of preparation.

A second reason is that a currentevents course teaches critical thinking about information. Today students are flooded with news from social media, much of it biased or false. A class that teaches them to check sources, spot bias, and tell fact from opinion gives them tools they will use for life. A student who learns to question a sensational headline is far less likely to be misled by it later.

Some argue that students already have enough required subjects and that adding another would crowd the timetable. This is a fair concern, since school days are limited. However, current events do not need a separate hour every day; the subject can be woven into existing classes like English or social studies, or taught as a short unit. The benefit is too important to leave out entirely.

For these reasons, the study of news and current events should be required in high school. The informed citizenship and critical thinking it builds are essential skills, and they can be taught without overwhelming an already full schedule.

Scoring notes (rubric-aligned): A strong response takes a clear, consistent position, develops two or three reasons each in its own paragraph using the Reason–Explanation–Example pattern, acknowledges and rebuts the opposing view, and restates the position in fresh words at the close. Conventions are controlled, with varied sentences. Midlevel responses give a position and reasons but may underdevelop them (listing rather than explaining), show weaker organization, or contain conventional errors that occasionally distract. Lowlevel responses fail to take a clear position, drift off the prompt, or contain frequent errors that interfere with meaning. Reward depth of development and clear organization over length. (The model takes the "should be required" side for illustration; an equally well-developed response arguing the opposite would score just as highly.)