

# PRACTICE EXAM 26: OSSLT SIMULATION

## (37 QUESTIONS)

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### Session A

#### Reading Selection: Real-Life Narrative (Open Ending)

Read the following narrative and answer questions 1–6.

Dad slid the keys across the kitchen table. "Test's at ten tomorrow. You ready?"

I had failed my road test the first time — badly. I'd rolled through a stop sign and clipped a curb on the parallel park, and the examiner had barely finished her sentence before I knew. For two months afterward I refused to drive at all. The car sat in the driveway like a reproach.

But Dad had not let me quit. Every evening after dinner for the past three weeks, we had gone out together — empty parking lots first, then quiet streets, then, finally, the very road where I had failed. He made me parallel park between two garbage bins until I could do it without thinking, until my hands stopped shaking at four-way stops. "You don't fail because you can't drive," he'd said one evening. "You failed because you panicked. So we practise until there's nothing left to panic about."

Now I picked up the keys. They were lighter than I remembered. Tomorrow at ten I would pull up to the same testing centre, with the same examiner, perhaps, watching. But my hands were steady tonight, and the parallel park no longer frightened me. I turned the keys over in my palm, and for the first time in two months, I wanted to drive.

1. What can the reader most likely predict about the narrator's second road test?

- A. The narrator will refuse to take the test again
- B. The narrator will fail in exactly the same way
- C. The narrator will ask someone else to take it
- D. The narrator is likely to pass, having prepared thoroughly

2. What conclusion can be drawn about the narrator's father?

- A. He was patient and committed to helping the narrator succeed
- B. He was disappointed and gave up on the narrator
- C. He forced the narrator to drive against their will
- D. He believed the narrator would never learn to drive

3. Why had the narrator failed the first road test?

- A. The car had broken down during the test
- B. The narrator panicked and made mistakes
- C. The examiner was unfair and too strict
- D. The narrator had never practised at all

4. What does the detail that the keys "were lighter than I remembered" mainly suggest?

- A. The narrator had bought a new, lighter set of keys
- B. The car was smaller than the narrator recalled
- C. The narrator's fear of driving had lessened
- D. The narrator was too weak to hold them before

5. Based on the narrative, what is the father's main belief about failure?

- A. Failure means a person should give up the activity
- B. Failure cannot be overcome once it happens
- C. Failure is always the examiner's fault
- D. Failure can be overcome through enough practice

6. What does the narrator's wanting "to drive" again at the end most likely signal?

- A. The narrator has decided to cancel the test
- B. The narrator still dreads getting behind the wheel
- C. The narrator's confidence has returned
- D. The narrator plans to drive somewhere far away

**Reading Selection: Information Paragraph**

Read the following paragraph and answer questions 7–11.

Scientists studying a remote island have noticed an alarming trend: the island's only freshwater pond is shrinking a little more each year. The pond is fed by rainfall, but rising temperatures are causing more water to evaporate than the rains replace. The island's animals — birds, insects, and a rare species of frog found nowhere else — all depend on this single source of fresh water. If the current trend continues, researchers predict the pond could vanish entirely within two decades. Without it, the island's unique frog would have no place to breed, and the species could disappear. Scientists are now studying whether the frogs might be relocated before it is too late.

7. What trend have scientists noticed on the island?

- A. The island's animals are growing larger each year
- B. The number of rare frogs is increasing rapidly
- C. The island's only freshwater pond is shrinking
- D. Rainfall on the island has increased sharply

8. According to the paragraph, what is causing the pond to shrink?

- A. Animals are drinking more water than before
- B. The rains have stopped falling completely

- C. A crack has formed in the bottom of the pond
- D. Rising temperatures cause more evaporation than rain replaces

9. What do researchers predict if the current trend continues?

- A. The pond will grow back to its original size
- B. The pond could vanish entirely within two decades
- C. The island's temperatures will begin to fall
- D. New ponds will form across the island

10. What conclusion does the paragraph draw about the rare frog?

- A. Without the pond, the frog species could disappear
- B. The frog can survive easily without fresh water
- C. The frog will move to a new island on its own
- D. The frog population is already increasing

11. What does the paragraph suggest scientists may do to help?

- A. Build a new, larger pond elsewhere on the island
- B. Add more rainfall using artificial means
- C. Relocate the frogs before it is too late
- D. Lower the island's temperature artificially

### **Reading Selection: News Report**

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

## City Tests Car-Free Sundays Downtown

Starting next month, the city will close ten blocks of its downtown core to cars every Sunday for a three-month trial, opening the streets to pedestrians, cyclists, and outdoor markets. City officials say the experiment will help them decide whether to make the change permanent.

The trial follows similar programs in other cities, where car-free zones boosted foot traffic for local shops. "We expect more people will linger and spend time downtown when they're not dodging traffic," said city planner Nadia Brooks. Some business owners are hopeful, while others worry that losing parking could drive customers away.

The city will measure foot traffic, shop sales, and public feedback throughout the trial. If the results are positive, officials say car-free Sundays could become a regular feature, and the program might even expand to more streets.

A final decision is expected early next year.

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

- A. Other cities have already closed their downtowns to cars
- B. Business owners disagree about losing parking spaces
- C. The city planner expects more people to come downtown
- D. The city is testing car-free Sundays downtown for three months

13. Why is the city running the trial?

- A. To permanently ban all cars from the downtown core
- B. To raise money from outdoor market vendors
- C. To reduce the number of buses running downtown
- D. To decide whether to make the change permanent

14. What do some business owners worry about?

- A. That the markets will block their store entrances
- B. That losing parking could drive customers away

- C. That cyclists will damage the closed streets
- D. That the trial will last longer than planned

15. What does the city plan to measure during the trial?

- A. The number of cars parked in nearby lots
- B. The weather conditions on each Sunday
- C. Foot traffic, shop sales, and public feedback
- D. The number of cyclists who break traffic rules

16. Based on the report, what can the reader predict might happen if the trial succeeds?

- A. The city will reopen the streets to cars permanently
- B. The program could expand to more streets
- C. The downtown shops will all be required to close
- D. The trial will be cancelled before it ends

17. When is a final decision expected?

- A. By the end of next month
- B. At the start of the trial period
- C. Early next year
- D. Not for several more years

## Reading Selection: Dialogue

Read the following dialogue and answer questions 18–22.

Coach: The forecast says rain for Saturday's final. Heavy rain.

Jordan: So the game's cancelled?

Coach: Not necessarily. But if it rains like that, the field will be slick. What does that change about how we play?

Jordan: ...Long passes get risky. The ball skids. We'd be better off keeping it short and on the ground.

Coach: Good. And the footing?

Jordan: Cleats slip on quick turns. So fewer sharp cuts, more controlled movements.

Coach: You're thinking ahead. That's the whole point. A team that plans for the conditions before they arrive doesn't panic when they do. The other side will be improvising in the rain. We'll already have our answer.

Jordan: So we practise the wet-weather plan tomorrow, even though it's sunny now.

Coach: Exactly. You prepare for the game you're going to play, not the weather outside the window today.

18. What is the coach preparing the team for?

- A. Playing the final in heavy rain
- B. A game that has already been cancelled

- C. A change in the team's uniform
- D. Practising indoors instead of outside

19. Based on the dialogue, how should the team adjust if the field is slick?

- A. Rely on long passes through the air
- B. Keep the ball short and on the ground
- C. Make as many sharp cuts as possible
- D. Refuse to play until the rain stops

20. What conclusion does the coach draw about teams that plan ahead?

- A. They don't panic when the conditions arrive
- B. They always win regardless of the weather
- C. They prefer to improvise during the game
- D. They should cancel games in bad weather

21. Why does the coach want to practise the wet-weather plan "even though it's sunny now"?

- A. Because the team enjoys practising in the sun
- B. Because the sunny weather will not last the day
- C. To be ready before the rainy conditions arrive
- D. Because the field is already too wet to use

22. What does the coach mean by "prepare for the game you're going to play, not the weather outside the window today"?

- A. Plan for the expected conditions, not the current ones
- B. Ignore the weather forecast entirely

- C. Only practise when the weather is good
- D. Wait until game day to make any plans

## Session B

Writing — Conventions and Sentence Skills (Conditionals, Future, and Consequence)

Answer questions 23–35.

23. Which sentence uses the conditional correctly? "If it rains tomorrow, the game \_\_\_\_ postponed."

- A. would have been
- B. will be
- C. was
- D. had been

24. Which sentence correctly expresses a future prediction?

- A. By next year, the company will have opened three new stores
- B. By next year, the company has opened three new stores
- C. By next year, the company opened three new stores
- D. By next year, the company had opened three new stores

25. Which sentence shows a logical if/then relationship?

- A. If you water the plant, but it stays in the dark closet always
- B. If you water the plant, the plant in the closet, dark though
- C. Watering the plant, if dark, the closet stays the same way

D. If you water the plant regularly, it will grow stronger

26. Which sentence uses the future tense consistently?

A. Tomorrow we travel to the city and then we visited the museum

B. Tomorrow we will travel to the city and then visit the museum

C. Tomorrow we travelled to the city and will visit the museum

D. Tomorrow we will travel to the city and then visiting the museum

27. Which sentence correctly expresses a hypothetical situation? "If I \_\_\_\_\_ more time, I would learn another language."

A. will have

B. have had

C. had

D. will had

28. Which sentence expresses a likely consequence clearly?

A. Unless you study, you, the exam, it might be hard for you

B. Unless you study, you may struggle on the exam

C. Unless studying, the exam will be a struggle for you then

D. Unless you study, struggling on the exam happens to you

29. Which sentence uses a conditional to show a result that did not happen?

A. If she trains hard, she will win the race next week

B. If she trains hard, she wins the race every time now

C. If she had trained harder, she would have won the race

D. If she trains hard, she would win the race someday soon

30. Which sentence correctly predicts a future outcome?

A. If the trend continues, the pond will disappear within years

B. If the trend continues, the pond disappeared within years

C. If the trend continued, the pond will have disappeared then

D. If the trend continues, the pond had disappeared within years

31. Which sentence expresses the conditional relationship most clearly?

A. Should the bridge close, drivers will need to find another route

B. The bridge closing, drivers, another route they will need then

C. Closing the bridge, drivers find a route, another one somewhere

D. The bridge, should it close, drivers another route find will

32. Which sentence uses future tense correctly to describe a plan?

A. Next summer, the students built a garden behind the school

B. Next summer, the students building a garden behind the school

C. Next summer, the students have built a garden behind the school

D. Next summer, the students will build a garden behind the school

33. Which sentence shows a clear cause-and-consequence link?

A. Because the dam was weakened by the flood, it may collapse

B. The dam, weakened, the flood, collapsing, it might do that

C. Weakened by the flood, collapse the dam may do soon

D. The dam was weakened the flood it may collapse now

34. Which sentence correctly uses a conditional for an unlikely situation? "If I \_\_\_\_\_ the lottery, I would travel the world."

A. win

B. will win

C. have won

D. won

35. Which sentence best expresses a future possibility?

A. The experiment might succeeded if the temperature is right

B. The experiment will succeeding if the temperature is right

C. The experiment might succeed if the temperature is right

D. The experiment succeeding might if the temperature right

### **Open-Response Writing Tasks**

36. Short Writing Task



**Headline: "School Installs Solar Panels Expected to Cut Power Bills in Half"**

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, third-person tone. You may invent reasonable details as long as they fit the headline and image.

37. Long Open-Response Task

Some people believe that it is wise to plan carefully for the future. Others believe it is better to live in the present and let the future take care of itself.

In your opinion, is it better to plan carefully for the future or to focus on living in the present? Write a multi-paragraph 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 with Explanations

1. D — The narrator has practised for three weeks until "the parallel park no longer frightened me," so a pass is the most likely outcome. The preparation points toward success. The other options contradict the narrator's readiness.

2. A — The father "had not let me quit" and practised "every evening after dinner for the past three weeks," showing patience and commitment. His steady support defines him. The other options contradict his actions.
3. B — The narrator failed because, as the father says, "you panicked" — rolling a stop sign and clipping a curb from nerves. Panic, not inability, caused it. The other options misstate the cause.
4. C — The keys feeling "lighter than I remembered" signals that the narrator's fear of driving had lessened. The lightness is emotional, not literal. The other options read it too literally.
5. D — The father believes failure "can be overcome through enough practice" — "we practise until there's nothing left to panic about." Practice defeats fear. The other options contradict his view.
6. C — Wanting "to drive" again "for the first time in two months" signals the narrator's returning confidence. The desire marks recovery. The other options contradict the hopeful close.
7. C — Scientists noticed "the island's only freshwater pond is shrinking a little more each year." That shrinking is the trend. The other options misstate it.
8. D — The pond shrinks because "rising temperatures are causing more water to evaporate than the rains replace." Evaporation outpaces rainfall. The other options misstate the cause.
9. B — Researchers predict "the pond could vanish entirely within two decades" if the trend continues. That is the forecast. The other options contradict it.
10. A — The paragraph concludes that without the pond, "the species could disappear" — the frog could vanish. Its survival depends on the water. The other options contradict the text.
11. C — Scientists are "studying whether the frogs might be relocated before it is too late." Relocation is the possible help. The other options are not mentioned.

12. D — The report centres on the city "testing car-free Sundays downtown" for a three-month trial. That trial is the main idea. The other options are supporting details.

13. D — The city runs the trial "to decide whether to make the change permanent." The test informs that decision. The other options misstate the purpose.

14. B — Some owners "worry that losing parking could drive customers away." Lost parking is their concern. The other options are not mentioned.

15. C — The city will measure "foot traffic, shop sales, and public feedback." Those are the metrics. The other options are not what is tracked.

16. B — The report says "the program might even expand to more streets" if results are positive, so success could bring expansion. That is the predictable outcome. The other options contradict the report.

17. C — "A final decision is expected early next year." That is the timing. The other options misstate it.

18. A — The coach is preparing the team for "playing the final in heavy rain," which the forecast predicts. Rain readiness is the focus. The other options misstate it.

19. B — On a slick field, Jordan concludes the team should "keep it short and on the ground" since long passes "skid." Short play suits the wet. The other options contradict the reasoning.

20. A — The coach concludes a team that plans ahead "doesn't panic when [conditions] do" arrive. Preparation prevents panic. The other options misstate his point.

21. C — The coach wants to practise the wet-weather plan now "to be ready before the rainy conditions arrive." Early practice ensures readiness. The other options misread the reason.

22. A — "Prepare for the game you're going to play, not the weather outside the window today" means plan for the expected conditions, not the current ones. Anticipate, don't react. The other options misread the advice.

23. B — "If it rains tomorrow, the game will be postponed" pairs a present-tense condition with a future-tense result. The other options use the wrong tense for a real future condition. Real conditionals take "will" in the result.

24. A — "By next year, the company will have opened three new stores" uses the future perfect for an action completed by a future point. The other options use the wrong tense. Future perfect fits "by next year."

25. D — "If you water the plant regularly, it will grow stronger" states a clear if/then relationship with a logical result. The other options are scrambled fragments. The condition leads cleanly to the consequence.

26. B — "Tomorrow we will travel to the city and then visit the museum" keeps both future actions consistent under "will." The other options mix tenses or use a gerund. Consistent future tense is the rule.

27. C — "If I had more time, I would learn another language" pairs the past-form condition with "would" for a hypothetical. The other options use the wrong form. Hypothetical conditionals use the past form with "would."

28. B — "Unless you study, you may struggle on the exam" expresses a likely consequence clearly. The other options are scrambled or use the wrong form. "Unless... may" states the conditional result cleanly.

29. C — "If she had trained harder, she would have won the race" uses the past perfect with "would have" for a result that did not happen. The other options describe real or future conditions. Unreal past conditionals take "had" plus "would have."

30. A — "If the trend continues, the pond will disappear within years" pairs a present condition with a future result. The other options use the wrong tense. Real future conditionals take "will."

31. A — "Should the bridge close, drivers will need to find another route" uses "should" to express the condition clearly. The other options are scrambled. The inverted conditional reads cleanly with the future result.

32. D — "Next summer, the students will build a garden" uses the future tense for a plan. The other options use past, gerund, or present perfect forms. A future plan takes "will."

33. A — "Because the dam was weakened by the flood, it may collapse" links cause to a possible consequence clearly. The other options are scrambled fragments. "Because... may" states the cause and likely result.

34. D — "If I won the lottery, I would travel the world" uses the past form for an unlikely situation with "would." The other options use the wrong form. Unlikely hypotheticals take the past form with "would."

35. C — "The experiment might succeed if the temperature is right" pairs "might succeed" with a clear condition. The other options misuse the verb forms ("succeeded," "succeeding"). "Might succeed" correctly expresses future possibility.

### **Open-Response Writing Tasks — Model Responses and Scoring Notes**

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

Crews and student volunteers at Northview Secondary School began installing rows of solar panels on a newly built carport this week, in a project expected to cut the school's electricity bills by roughly half. Working alongside a licensed electrician, students in the school's environmental program helped mount panels over the parking lot, where the structure will both generate power and shade parked vehicles.

The project was funded through a mix of a government green-energy grant and money the school had set aside for the purpose. "If the panels perform as projected, the savings will pay for the whole system within a few years," said project lead and science teacher Omar Haddad. The school plans to display the energy the panels generate on a screen in the front hall so students can track the results.

Scoring notes (rubric-aligned): A strong response leads with the 5 Ws (who: Northview school/students and crews; what: installing solar panels to cut power bills; when: this week; where: the school parking lot/carport; why: save on electricity), keeps a neutral third-person tone, and includes at least one realistic quotation. Mid-level responses cover the basic facts but may omit a W, slip into first-person or opinion, or lack a quotation. Low-level 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 Open-Response Task — Opinion Piece (Model Response)**

It is better to plan carefully for the future than to simply live in the present and hope things work out. While living in the moment has its place, careful planning leads to greater security, better opportunities, and the freedom to handle whatever the future brings.

The strongest reason is that planning creates security. People who think ahead — saving money, preparing for setbacks, setting goals — are far better protected when difficulties arise. For example, a student who plans their study schedule weeks before an exam is calm and ready when test day comes, while one who lives only in the present may find themselves panicking the night before. Planning turns an uncertain future into one a person is prepared to meet.

A second reason is that planning opens up opportunities that would otherwise be missed. Many of life's biggest rewards — a career, an education, a major goal — require steps taken long in advance. A person who decides early what they want and works toward it can reach destinations that someone drifting through each day never will. By looking ahead, planners put themselves in a position to seize chances when they appear.

Some argue that focusing too much on the future means missing the joys of the present, and that no amount of planning can control what is to come. This is a fair point — life is unpredictable, and a person who only plans and never enjoys today pays a real cost. However, planning and living well are not opposites. Good planning actually frees people to enjoy the present, because they are not weighed down by worry about what comes next.

For these reasons, it is better to plan carefully for the future than to leave it to chance. The security and opportunities that planning provides outweigh the appeal of living only for today, and wise planning makes it possible to enjoy the present without fear of the future.

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. Mid-level responses give a position and reasons but may under-develop them (listing rather than explaining), show weaker organization, or contain conventions errors

that occasionally distract. Low-level 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 "plan for the future" side for illustration; an equally well-developed response arguing for living in the present would score just as highly.)