

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Released April 2018 OSSLT

Item-Specific Rubrics and Sample

Student Responses with Annotations

EQAO OSSLT April 2018
Scoring Guide for Long Writing Topic Development
Section I Opinion

Q: Does homework improve learning?

Code	Descriptor
Blank	The pages are blank with nothing written or drawn in the space provided.
Illegible	The response is illegible, or irrelevant to the prompt.
Off topic	The response is off topic.
Code 10	The response is related to the prompt but does not express an opinion. OR The response expresses an opinion with no supporting details or provides details unrelated to the opinion. There is no evidence of organization.
Code 20	The response is related to the prompt, but only part of the response expresses and supports an opinion. OR The response is related to the prompt, and expresses and supports an opinion, but the opinion is unclear or inconsistent. There are insufficient supporting details: too few or repetitious. There is limited evidence of organization.
Code 30	The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion. There are insufficient and/or vague supporting details or the connection of the details to the opinion is not always clear. There is evidence of organization, but lapses distract from the overall communication.
Code 40	The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient supporting details, however only some are specific. The organization is mechanical and any lapses do not distract from the overall communication.
Code 50	The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details. The organization is logical.
Code 60	The response is related to the assigned prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen. The organization is coherent demonstrating a thoughtful progression of ideas.

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Code 10

I Do NOT know if homework improves
learning because I have never done any homework.
I guess homework might improve some kids
learning if they do, do homework.

Annotation: The response provides two statements of opinion (*I do not know if homework improves learning because I have never don't any homework..., I guess homework might improve some kids learning if they do, do homework.*) but does not provide supporting details for either statement.

There is no evidence of organization.

Code 20

I do think that home work improves learning because when you do home work to shows you how to do what it is.

Secondly I think home work help learning is because when you do it it helps you remember remember how to do it and so you know of the top of your head what the answers are and you pass the test

Finally, This is I think doing home work will help improve your learning and it will help you to get a better mark to pass and get the credit.

Annotation: The response is related to the prompt, and expresses and supports an opinion (*I do think that home work improves learning...*). There are repetitious supporting details in the first two paragraphs (*...when you do homework to shows you how to do what it is... when you do it helps you remember how to do it...*). The third paragraph adds minimal additional information (*...it will help you get a better mark to pass and get the credit*), but overall, the details are still insufficient.

There is limited evidence of organization.

Code 30

My opinion on, does homework improve learning?
Homework to me does not improve learning because it is work that is meant for home, and it is just extra work you do for things you already have been working on or for work that you already know. If homework improved your learning it should be for work on a new lesson or new subject.

Homework to me is pointless because most of the time people just copy off friends or other people, the next day if they don't have it don't. Also a lot of people don't do homework because it isn't worth a lot of marks so kids and teens don't care too much for it.

These are the reasons why I don't think that homework improves your learning.

Annotation: The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion (*Homework to me does not improve learning...*). There are insufficient details and the details included are vague (*...it is just extra work you do for things you already have been working on or for work you already know*).

Although limited use is made of transition words, there is evidence of organization with an introduction, a body and a concluding statement.

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Code 40

Yes, I believe that homework is beneficial to your learning because it is easier to remember things when you write it down, Secondly, the questions that you do may be on a test that you have, and lastly, if you do work several times then you will start to understand it.

Firstly, I believe it is easier to remember things when you write it down because when you write you begin to think about what you're writing. So as you're writing, everything that that you think about gets memorized in your brain.

Secondly, I believe that some of the questions that you do in your homework may be on the tests that you get later on, so if you complete the homework, most likely you will get good marks on a test that you were not prepared for.

Lastly, I believe doing homework will improve your learning if you tend to do similar questions several times because the more you do homework is the more you'll understand. For example, if you play the same song several times in your headphones, then it is very likely that it will get stuck in your head.

Annotation: A clear and consistent opinion is developed (*Yes, I believe that homework is beneficial to your learning...*) with sufficient supporting details. Most details are general (...*when you write you begin to think about what you're writing.*); homework, some are specific (...*if you play the same song several times in your headphones, then it is very likely that it will get stuck in your head.*).

The organization is mechanical (*Firstly...Secondly...Lastly...*) and follows the order laid out in the introductory paragraph. There is an introduction, a body and a conclusion.

Code 50

In school, students are forced to do homework out of class, on their own time. Some people believe that doing so does not improve your learning what so ever. But in my opinion, I believe it does for these three reasons. Doing homework like text book work is easier for some students to learn than listening to a teacher talk all day, it helps students that struggle in subjects, and it can get students more responsible and prepared for college.

First of all, doing text book work is easier for some students to learn than listening to a teacher talk all day. Some students find it hard to listen to a teacher talking about a lesson because they can not focus very well with the multiple distractions that are in the class room. Distractions may cause students to doze off and not pay attention to the teacher which will affect their grade poorly. But if students go home and do the homework that is assigned by their teacher, they can go into a quiet room and learn what they missed in class to catch up and improve their mark. Therefore, I believe homework does improve learning.

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Second of all, homework can help students that are struggling. If a student is paying attention but still can not understand the subject to the fullest, homework can help. These students just have to go home and do the extra work assigned to help them understand more. If the students keep this up their mark is guaranteed to go up and improve because the homework is like extra help. Therefore, I believe that homework does improve learning.

Last of all, doing your homework in high school and getting it all done every night is a good habit because it gets your more responsible and ready for college. In college you have to be able to take on big responsibilities for your future career and things like homework will help students get ready and prepared for responsibilities. Therefore, I believe that homework does improve learning.

Overall, I think that homework does improve learning for these three reasons. It is easier for some people to learn, it can help students that are struggling, and get you prepared for big responsibilities that may occur later in life.

Annotation: A clear and consistent opinion is developed (...But in my opinion, I believe it does... Therefore I believe homework does improve learning...) with sufficient specific supporting details (...they can not focus very well with the multiple distractions that are in the room... In college you have to take on big responsibilities for your future career). Reasons are developed with examples and explanations (If students go home... they can go into a quiet room and learn what they missed in class to catch up and improve their mark).

The organization is logical. The body develops the ideas from the introduction and the main ideas are then summarized in the concluding paragraph.

Code 60

Homework is the one word students dread hearing. Many kids hate the idea of going home from school, just to do more school. Little do students know that homework is only helping them. Homework allows students to practise, homework gives students something to do, and it strengthens a child's mind.

Students often think practise isn't important. A survey conducted showed 85% of students believe that extra practise isn't important. This is untrue. Practising allows students to think and gives them chances to present questions to a teacher for clear understanding. Also, practise makes students remember better. Not as pointless as students think.

Students usually get home and are distracted by social media, games, or television. 63% of students spend over 5 hours at night on electronics. Homework gives students something important to do. Instead of playing mind rotting games, homework makes students exercise their skills. Kids will be doing something productive that is helping them learn more useful things. Homework is a better distraction at home and it encourages students to be able to learn and clarify the material. Homework is more productive and can keep students from forgetting all the knowledge that they have learned.

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children have brains that are developing. Homework strengthens the brain. According to David Joe, a neurologist, spending 1-3 hours doing homework a day decreases the risks of ADHD in children. Homework makes students practise so they are constantly learning. Student can develop new learning strategies that will help their brains. The brain is exercised by homework and improves the ability to learn.

As you can now see, homework is very important. Learning something will only stick with a student for a certain time but homework creates work in which a student can practise, do at home throughout the day, and improve their brain. Learning without homework would make students forget easily so therefore, homework only improves learning ability.

Annotation: A clear and consistent opinion is developed (...homework is only helping them...homework makes students exercise their skills...homework is very important...) with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen (...conducted a survey that showed 85% of students believe that extra practice isn't important...Practising allows students to think and gives them chances to present questions to a teacher; Homework strengthens the brain. According to David Joe, a neurologist, spending 1 – 3 hours doing homework a day decreases the risk of ADHD in children.)

The organization is coherent and demonstrates a thoughtful progression of ideas. The introduction and topic sentences are effective in engaging the reader. The student's arguments are introduced in the first paragraph and they are further developed in the body paragraphs. The conclusion summarizes the main points and extends the student's arguments (*Learning without homework would make students forget easily so therefore, homework only improves learning ability.*).