

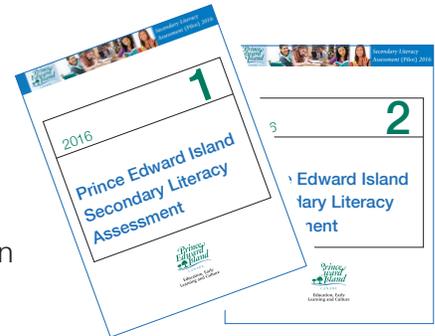


Information Bulletin

Prince Edward Island Secondary Literacy Assessment (SLA)

What is the SLA?

The SLA is a provincial test (online) of the literacy (reading and writing) skills students have acquired by Grade 10. It is based on the literacy expectations across all subject areas to the end of Grade 9. Separate but parallel forms are developed each year for the English- and French-language tests. Successful completion of the SLA, or under certain circumstances the Secondary Literacy Course, is one of PEI's graduation requirements. The SLA is administered and completed online.



What Does The SLA Assess?

The SLA assesses reading and writing skills. In accordance with *The PEI Curriculum*, reading for the SLA is defined as the process through which a reader actively constructs meaning for a variety of written texts. The narrative, informational and graphic reading selections in the SLA focus on three reading skills:

- **Reading Skill 1:** understanding explicitly stated information and ideas
- **Reading Skill 2:** understanding implicitly stated information and ideas (i.e., making inferences)
- **Reading Skill 3:** making connections between information and ideas in a reading selection and personal knowledge and experience (i.e., interpreting reading selections by integrating the information and ideas in a reading selection with personal knowledge and experience)

Writing for the SLA is defined as the constructive process of communicating in various written forms. Through a combination of multiple-choice questions and two short and two long open-response writing tasks, the SLA focuses on three writing skills:

- **Writing Skill 1:** developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details
- **Writing Skill 2:** organizing information and ideas in a coherent manner
- **Writing Skill 3:** using conventions (i.e., spelling, grammar, punctuation) in a manner that does not distract from clear communication

The SLA consists of two booklets of reading and writing items (questions) and tasks.

- 31 multiple-choice reading items related to five reading selections;
- four open-response items related to three of the five reading selections;
- eight multiple-choice writing items;
- two short open-response writing tasks and
- two long open-response writing tasks (a series of paragraphs expressing an opinion and a news report).