

Tips & Tricks for OGCIS Admissions Assessment

BC English

The BC English Admissions Assessment consists of 5 parts: *Infographic*, *Non-fiction Reading*, *Fiction Reading*, *Personal Response*, and the *BC Interview*.

The first four parts are one written assessment. You will receive a Readings Booklet with the Infographic and two Readings. Separately, you will receive the Response Booklet with the questions; you will write your responses on this booklet. The questions include multiple-choice and short responses, and one personal (long) response question at the end. You will have 60 to 80 minutes to write your answers. If you are finished at the 60-minute mark, you may raise your hand and submit your response booklet anytime before the limit of 80 minutes is up.

INFOGRAPHIC

Be prepared to interpret visuals such as charts, graphs, and diagrams. Practice identifying the main message and how the visuals support it.

Tips:

1. Read the title and subtitle to understand the main topic.
2. Look at the overall structure and layout.
3. Examine the visuals (charts, graphs, images) carefully.
4. Pay attention to colors, symbols, and any legends or keys.
5. Follow the logical flow of information.
6. Analyze relationships between different parts of the infographic.
7. Read any supporting text or captions.
8. Identify the key message or conclusion.

NON-FICTION READING

You will read a passage that contains facts and information.

Tips:

1. Focus on the author's purpose and main ideas.
2. Skim the text for main ideas but also practice close reading for details.
3. Look for supporting evidence in the text.
4. Pay attention to the tone and style of writing.
5. Think about how different parts of the text connect.

TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR THE OGCIS ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENT



FICTION READING

You will read a short story.

Tips:

1. Pay attention to characters, setting, and plot.
2. Look for themes or messages in the story.
3. Notice any literary devices used (e.g., metaphors, symbolism).
4. Think about how the story makes you feel and why.

STRATEGIES FOR ALL READING SECTIONS

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Read the question carefully and identify keywords.
2. Try to answer the question in your head before looking at options.
3. Eliminate obviously wrong answers.
4. Use context clues from the text.
5. Don't overthink - trust your first instinct.
6. Review all answer choices before deciding.
7. Guess if necessary – do not leave questions blank.
8. Manage your time - move on if a question is too hard and come back later.

Answering Short Response Questions

Try to do a lot of fiction and non-fiction reading (passages) in English. Try to read passages that include reading comprehension questions as well as written response questions where you write your thoughts using your own words. Try to do a short response for anything you read. Short responses should ideally have a *topic sentence* (what your answer is to the question), *supporting sentences* (evidence to support the topic sentence, such as examples, facts, or experiences), and a *concluding sentence* (to wrap up your response – try to not repeat the topic sentence). Quickly read through your answer to ensure it makes sense and flows logically. If possible, fix any grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors that you can find.

A good website that gives a rough measure of your reading ability is <https://readtheory.org/>. Make an account and take the assessment. It will be a lot more beneficial, as you can practice reading at your own level. Make sure you are logged in each time you go to practice. It also offers a response question option as after reading.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

You will write a longer response to a given prompt, sharing your thoughts and experiences.

Tips:

1. Choose the prompt that you can write about best.
2. Plan your response briefly before writing.
3. Start with a strong opening:

TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR THE OGCIS ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENT



- Include a clear topic sentence that addresses the prompt.
 - Provide context for your response.
4. Develop your ideas:
- Each idea should have a main point.
 - Support your points with specific examples or personal stories.
 - Use supporting sentences to explain your ideas fully.
5. Think deeply about the topic and consider different views.
6. Organize your ideas in a logical order.
7. Write in your own voice and style.
8. End with a thoughtful conclusion:
- Summarize your main points.
 - Leave the reader with a final insight or reflection.

**Note: The length of your response should feel natural and complete. Focus on fully expressing your ideas rather than meeting a specific word count. The quality of your thoughts is more important than the length of your response.*

Other Ways to Practice

Tip 1: A good idea is to keep a diary. In your diary, write down impressions of your day or of thoughts/ideas on the books you read. Go to the library (digital or otherwise) and borrow English books. Write in the diary your impressions or a review, for each book you read.

Tip 2: Try to keep track of vocabulary you do not know by making flash cards. Do not try to memorize vocabulary you do not know right away. Do that at a different time of day, when you are not focusing on reading and writing.

Tip 3: To learn new vocabulary, choose words from a previous day and try to use them in your writing or conversation practice as many times as you can. Keep track of how often you use the new word each day. A good website or app to use is <https://app.memrise.com/courses/japanese-4/>

BC INTERVIEW (SPEAKING)

The BC Interview assessment consists of two parts: a reading comprehension section and an open-ended interview section. In the reading comprehension section, students will read a short passage and answer questions based on the content of the reading. In the open-ended interview section, students will respond to questions about their background, experiences, and opinions. Students will be evaluated on two main areas: the accuracy of their answers in the reading comprehension section, and the depth and thoughtfulness of their responses in the open-ended interview. Students may be asked to complete a task that involves giving a detailed description of something.

Disclaimer:

We do not provide support or tutoring regarding the tips and resources mentioned in this document. We have no affiliation with any websites mentioned and cannot provide support regarding how to use them or how to make/use website accounts. Please be aware that following the advice and tips in this document does not guarantee admission into the BC Program at OGCIS. It is up to the applicant to make the best use of the information provided.

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