



## TIPS FOR READING A GRAPHIC TEXT

- On the OSSLT, you will answer **multiple choice questions** related to graphic texts.
- Graphic texts are texts which give you information in a **visual form**. Graphic texts on the OSSLT may include graphs, charts, timelines, maps, process flows, diagrams, floor plans, illustrations, etc. Graphic texts also include many important words.
- When you first see the graphic, **SCAN** it! Try to develop an overall impression of its content and possible meaning. Look at the graphics and try to identify what information they are trying to convey.
- Now **READ** the text. First, read the **heading** or title. Try to find text which tells you what the graphic is trying to show. Read **subheadings**. These will often be bolded or offset from the other words in a larger or bolder font.
- Read each **label** and **caption** and look at the part of the visual it describes. Pay attention to **legends**. **Legends** or **keys** explain the different patterns, shading, abbreviations, symbols, icons, or line patterns that appear on maps, charts, floor plans, and diagrams.
- Follow any **arrows** or numbers in a logical way.
- Graphics are supposed to clarify and explain information. Take the time to reflect on the information and **draw conclusions** about it. In other words, reflect on what the graphic made you think or feel.

When you need to answer the multiple choice questions related to the graphic text you will need to **go back to the graphic** and consider it carefully more than once. Don't rush.