

Tips for Taking FCAT Reading

This practice FCAT Reading will help you get to know the kinds of questions on the actual FCAT. This practice test has a Practice Reading Section and Questions. Each Reading Section has two reading passages for which there are a total of 16 comprehension questions. You should answer all the questions in about 30–45 minutes. Your teacher can explain any question in the test that you don't understand. After you finish taking the test, your teacher can review the answers with you.

Read these tips to help you when you take FCAT Reading. Think of these tips as you take the practice FCAT Reading.

- There are two kinds of questions in the FCAT: multiple-choice and “Read, Think, and Explain” questions.
- Take 5 minutes to write an answer for the short “Read, Think, and Explain” questions. Take 10 minutes to answer the long ones.
- Be sure to read all directions carefully. If you do not understand directions, ask your teacher for help.
- It is normal to be nervous when you take a test. Try to relax and think about the readings.
- Read the whole passage once before you answer any of the questions.
- You are allowed to go back and read the passages as many times as you want to. Read them carefully.
- Be careful not to leave marks around the answer bubbles. Try to fill them in neatly.
- When you answer the “Read, Think, and Explain” questions, think and organize what you want to say before writing down your ideas.
- Write your short- and long-responses neatly so that anyone can read them.
- After you read the passage, first answer the questions you know. Skip the ones that are too hard and go back later.
- Do not worry if you do not know the answers to questions. Keep going! Partial credit is given for “Read, Think, and Explain” questions, so write whatever you know.
- If there is time, go back and make sure that you are giving the best possible answer for each question.

Questions about FCAT Reading

This Workbook gives examples of possible FCAT Reading passages and questions. Taking the practice test will help you get to know the kinds of FCAT questions that you will see on the FCAT reading test.

What is the FCAT reading test?

FCAT Reading assesses comprehension and thinking skills using questions about literature and informational reading selections. Some passages fit into other content areas such as science, foreign language, mathematics, health education, physical education, social studies, and the arts.

What are the questions on FCAT Reading like?

FCAT Reading has multiple-choice questions and short and long “performance task” questions.

What are performance tasks?

Performance tasks have you think about the answers to questions before you answer them. They are called out with the directions “Read, Think, and Explain” in the symbols that are next to them in the test.

Why do students need to take this test?

The students in Florida today need to learn a lot to be ready for the job market. The world requires many technical skills and high reading ability. FCAT Reading measures these higher standards that Florida students are learning.