2006

FCAT

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

Student Name

READING

READING
SAMPLE TEST & ANSWER BOOK

999-8243-52-1

FCAT Sample Test Materials

These sample test materials are designed to help you prepare to answer FCAT questions. These materials introduce you to the kinds of questions you will answer when you take FCAT and include hints for responding to the different kinds of FCAT questions. The FCAT Reading sample test materials for Grade 10 are composed of the books described below:

☑ **Sample Test and Answer Book**
Includes sample reading passages, a sample test, a sample answer book, and instructions for completing the sample test. (Copies are available for all students in the tested grade.)

☐ **Sample Answer Key**
Includes answers and explanations for the questions in the sample test. (Copies are available for classroom teachers only.)

☑ = This book

The Administrator
Assessment and School Performance
Florida Department of Education
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Taking the FCAT Reading Sample Test

Hints for Taking the FCAT Reading Test

Here are some hints to help you do your best when you take the FCAT Reading test. Keep these hints in mind when you answer the sample questions.

- ✓ **Learn how to answer each kind of question. The FCAT Reading test for Grade 10 has three types of questions: multiple-choice, short-response, and extended-response.**
- ✓ **Read the directions carefully. Ask your teacher to explain any directions you do not understand.**
- ✓ **Read the passages and questions very carefully. You may look back at a passage as often as you like.**
- ✓ **Answer the questions you are sure about first. If a question seems too difficult, skip it and go back to it later.**
- ✓ **Be sure to fill in the answer bubbles correctly. Do not make any stray marks around answer spaces.**
- ✓ **Think positively. Some questions may seem hard, but others will be easy.**
- ✓ **Check each answer to make sure it is the best answer for the question asked.**
- ✓ **Relax. Some people get nervous about tests. It's natural. Just do your best.**

How to Answer the "Read, Think, Explain" Questions

Answers to the short- and extended-response questions can receive full or partial credit. You should try to answer these questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer. If a portion of the answer is correct, you will get a portion of the points.

- **Allow about 5 minutes to answer the short "Read, Think, Explain" questions and about 10 to 15 minutes to answer the long questions.**
- **Read the question carefully.**
- **If you do not understand the question, go back and review the passage.**
- **Think carefully and organize your thoughts before starting to write the answers.**
- **Write your answer on the lines provided in the Sample Answer Book.**
- **Remember to include details and information from the passage in your answer.**
- **Use clear, concise language to explain your answer.**
- **Be sure to answer every part of the question.**
- **Reread the answer to make sure it says what you want it to say.**

Directions for Taking the Reading Sample Test

The Sample Test contains two reading passages, 15 sample questions, and a Sample Answer Book. It should take about 30 to 45 minutes to read the passages and answer all the questions. You will mark your answers in the Sample Answer Book which begins on page 15. If you don't understand a question, just ask your teacher to explain it to you. Your teacher has the answers to the sample test questions.

Before you begin, remove the Sample Answer Book by tearing along the dotted line.

FCAT Reading Sample Test

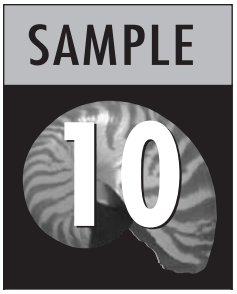
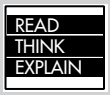


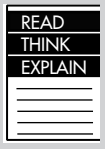
Table of Contents

After you have read each passage, read the questions and then answer them in the Sample Answer Book.



This symbol appears next to questions that require short written answers. Use about 5 minutes to answer each of these questions.

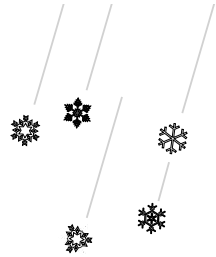
A complete and correct answer to each of these questions is worth 2 points. A partially correct answer is worth 1 point.



This symbol appears next to questions that require longer written answers. Use about 10 to 15 minutes to answer each of these questions.

A complete and correct answer to each of these questions is worth 4 points. A partially correct answer is worth 1, 2, or 3 points.

Read the story "Snow" before answering Numbers 1 through 6 in the Sample Answer Book.



Snow

by JOHN HAINES

To one who lives in the snow and watches it day by day, it is a book to be read. The pages turn as the wind blows; the characters shift and the images formed by their combinations change in meaning, but the language remains the same. It is a shadow language, spoken by things that have gone by and will come again. The same text has been written there for thousands of years, though I was not here, and will not be here in winters to come, to read it. These seemingly random ways, these paths, these beds, these footprints, these hard, round pellets in the snow: they all have meaning. Dark things may be written there, news of other lives, their sorties[1] and excursions, their terrors and deaths.

I was walking home from Redmond Creek one morning late in January. On a divide between two watersheds[2] I came upon the scene of a battle between a moose and three wolves. The story was written plainly in the snow at my feet. The wolves had come in from the west, following an old trail from the Salcha River, and had found the moose feeding in an open stretch of the overgrown road I was walking.

The sign was fresh, it must have happened the night before. The snow was torn up, with chunks of frozen moss and broken sticks scattered about; here and there, swatches of moose hair. A confusion of tracks in the trampled snow—the splayed, stabbing feet of the moose, the big, furred pads and spread toenails of the wolves.

I walked on, watching the snow. The moose was large and alone, almost certainly a bull. In one place he backed himself into a low, brush-hung bank to protect his rear. The wolves moved away from him—those moose feet are dangerous. The moose turned, ran on for fifty yards, and the fight began again. It

[1] **sortie:** an outing or excursion
[2] **watershed:** a ridge of high land dividing different river systems

became a running, broken flight that went on for nearly half a mile in the changing, rutted terrain, the red morning light coming across the hills from the sun low in the south. A pattern shifting and uncertain; the wolves relenting, running out into the brush in a wide circle, and closing again: another patch of moose hair in the trodden snow.

I felt that I knew those wolves. I had seen their tracks several times before during that winter, and once they had taken a marten from one of my traps. I believed them to be a female and two nearly grown pups. If I was right, she may have been teaching them how to hunt, and all that turmoil in the snow may have been the serious play of things that must kill to live. But I saw no blood sign that morning, and the moose seemed to have gotten the better of the fight. At the end of it he plunged away into thick alder brush. I saw his tracks, moving more slowly now, as he climbed through a low saddle,[3] going north in the shallow, unbroken snow. The three wolves trotted east toward Banner Creek.

What might have been silence, an unwritten page, an absence, spoke to me as clearly as if I had been there to see it. I have imagined a man who might live as the coldest scholar on earth, who followed each clue in the snow, writing a book as he went. It would be the history of snow, the book of winter. A thousand-year text to be read by a people hunting these hills in a distant time. Who was here, and who has gone? What were their names? What did they kill and eat? Whom did they leave behind?

[3] **saddle:** a ridge between two peaks

Turn to page 16 in the Sample Answer Book. Answer Numbers 1 through 6. Base your answers on the story "Snow."

1 What does the author mean by this sentence from the essay?

These seemingly random ways, these paths, these beds, these footprints, these hard, round pellets in the snow: they all have meaning.

A. Signs in the snow lead to different interpretations of the truth.

B. Signs in the snow lead to different directions in the wilderness.

C. Patterns in the snow can be connected to form a story of nature.

D. Patterns in the snow can be connected to lead the observer to safety.

2 According to the author, which word BEST describes the story of snow?

F. frightening

G. random

H. timeless

I. violent

3 Which writing strategy does the author employ to express his views about snow?

A. use of complex plot

B. use of descriptive language

C. development of varied structure

D. development of believable characters

4 After examining the moose's tracks, the author concluded that the moose was

F. cold.

G. confused.

H. large.

I. weak.

5 READ THINK EXPLAIN How does the author create suspense in relating the story about the animals in the snow? Use details and information from the essay to support your response.

6 What is the mood of the opening and closing paragraphs?

A. chaotic

B. curious

C. forlorn

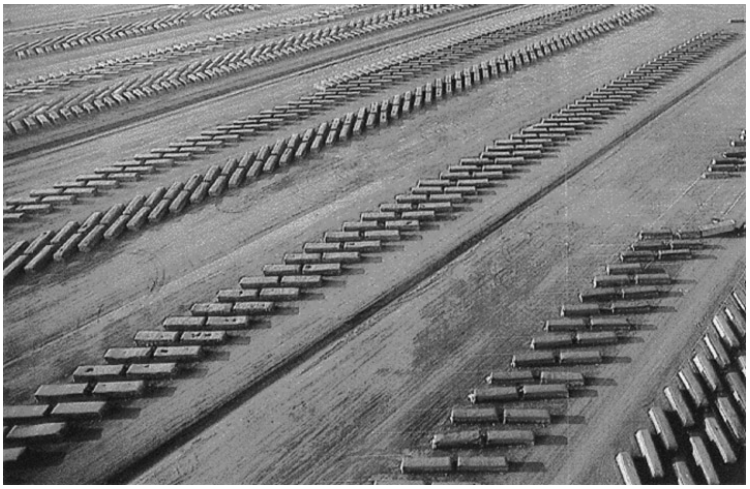
D. thoughtful

Read the story "King of Fibers" before answering Numbers 7 through 15 in the Sample Answer Book.

King of Fibers

BY JON THOMPSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CARY WOLINSKY

Spun into thread, ground into currency, crushed into vegetable oil, cotton tests the human imagination. As uses multiply, demand keeps growing for the plant (inset) that can be tough as rope and sheer as fine muslin—or as useful as a terry cloth towel.



Giant loaves of cotton, protected from moisture by plastic wrap, await ginning in central California at J. G. Boswell Co., the world's largest private cotton grower. Cotton yields are rising across the U.S., even as fewer farmers grow the crop.

THE ORIGIN OF COTTON is something of a mystery. There is evidence that people in India and Central and South America domesticated separate species of the plant thousands of years ago. Archaeologists have discovered fragments of cotton cloth more than 4,000 years old in coastal Peru and at Mohenjo Daro in the Indus Valley. By A.D. 1500, cotton had spread across the warmer regions of the Americas, Eurasia, and Africa.

Today cotton is the world's major nonfood crop, providing half of all textiles. In 1992, 80 countries produced a total of 83 million bales, or almost 40 billion pounds. The business revenue generated—some 50 billion dollars in the United States alone—is greater than that of any other field crop.

Most of the five billion pounds that U.S. mills spin and weave into fabric each year ends up as clothing. "Cotton is a wonderful classic," says Adrienne Vittadini, a New York designer of women's sportswear, who uses cotton in 65 percent of her collection. "It takes color beautifully. You can achieve a lot of different textures just by knowing what sort of cotton to use. You have combed cotton, with a dull finish; high twist cotton, with a crepey finish; all sorts of cotton bouclés for hand knitting. For any reputable company, cotton signifies quality. It's our bread and butter."

But cotton spins its way into much more than apparel. It makes book bindings, fishnets, handbags, coffee filters, lace, tents, curtains, and diapers.

Few other fibers endure tough conditions as well as cotton, perhaps the main reason it figures so prominently in the medical supply industry. "Cotton is used for bandages and sutures for exactly the same reason it's used in textiles: It's durable in a lot of different environments," says Dr. Thomas Stair, head of emergency medicine at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Such attributes may explain why firefighters once preferred cotton fire hoses: The fibers soaked up enough water to keep the hose wet and protect it from flames. Modern fire hoses are usually made from synthetics, which are less expensive and last longer than cotton. But U.S. armed forces still use cotton hoses on their ships, where scorching, sunbaked decks melt the man-made material.

Scientists have found that cotton may even clean up oil spills better than polypropylene fibers, which are the usual material for sopping

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JON THOMPSON, a writer who lives in London, has a special interest in textiles. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC contract photographer CARY WOLINSKY has developed a similar interest, covering both wool (May 1988) and silk (January 1984) for the magazine.

Shredded and pulped, old dollars find new life as light green stationery at Crane & Co. of Dalton, Massachusetts, which also makes all the paper for U.S. currency from cotton and linen. The recycled paper retains the distinctive hue of the original bills—an idea pioneered by New Mexico papermaker Stefan Watson, the first to turn denim waste into paper the color of faded jeans.

up such waste. A few years ago researchers showed that cotton absorbed more crude oil in a saltwater bath. Other researchers had already demonstrated that cotton worked as well as polypropylene in freshwater—and cotton is biodegradable. Recently a Texas firm began marketing InstaSorb, a cotton sorbent that oil companies have successfully used to clean up spills in lakes and rivers.

Crane & Co. of Dalton, Massachusetts, has been turning cotton rag into high-quality stationery and paper for U.S. currency for more than a century. Tim Crane, a sixth-generation paper maker, recently came up with a novel idea for recycling the 13.6 million pounds of money taken out of circulation each year, which would otherwise end up in landfills. "I said, let's just grind it up, add water, and see what it looks like," says Tim, who has turned more than 750 million dollars' worth of discontinued bills into stationery called Old Money. "As it turns out, it's a rather pleasing color of green."

IN THE 1850s, while Tim's ancestors were collecting rags from farmers' wives in New England, one William Fee of Cincinnati invented a device to knock the hard hulls from the kernels of cottonseed and thus firmly established the cottonseed oil processing industry. After Fee's invention, cottonseed mills sprang up around the South. By 1879 Procter & Gamble had created Ivory soap from the oil, and three decades later it introduced crystallized cottonseed oil as Crisco, America's first vegetable shortening.

Since then the little seed and its component parts have become big business. Oil from the kernels is used in margarine, salad dressings, and cooking oils. Meal from the kernels makes fish bait and organic fertilizer and provides feed for cattle across the nation.

Cotton zealots love to boast about what's been called "fabulous fuzz," the short fibers, or linters, left on cottonseed after ginning. Chemically, linters are almost pure cellulose, a carbohydrate found in all plants. When the linters are washed, bleached, and dried into pulp, they can be mixed with chemicals and converted into such disparate things as guncotton (a smokeless gunpowder), sausage casings, linoleum, cellophane, rayon, photographic film, dynamite, fingernail polish, and molded plastics. Nitrocellulose helps propel solid fuel rockets. Methylcellulose thickens ice cream, smooths makeup, and puts the chew in chewing gum.

For years scientists have known that cottonseed is one of the most nutritious vegetable seeds in the world, having all nine essential amino acids, which help build the proteins needed for a well-balanced diet. They realized the humble seed's promise for alleviating hunger, especially in nations where people cannot afford high-protein foods such as meat, milk, and eggs, but there was a catch: gossypol, a potentially toxic chemical that is taken out of cottonseed oil during refining but remains in the meal. As early as the 1960s researchers had discovered a strain without gossypol, but the new plants had short fibers and were hard to grow.

Most scientists gave up the search, but Woodrow T. Rogers, a cotton farmer in Waco, Texas, never conceded defeat. After 25 years of painstakingly crossbreeding wild cotton plants low in gossypol with long-fibered Texas strains, the 79-year-old Rogers has developed a plant that he believes will be a commercial success. It has an edible cottonseed and the long fibers wanted by farmers for textile production.

Last year Rogers contracted with Alliance USA, a health food company in Dallas that has sold hundreds of thousands of energy bars fortified with cottonseed. The firm also adds cottonseed to caramel popcorn.

"This is only the beginning," says Rogers, who plans to increase the land planted with his cotton from 2,000 to 100,000 acres over the next five years. "If you replaced a quarter of the corn in a tortilla with cottonseed meal, you would increase the protein from 4 percent to 12. If you replaced a fourth of the wheat flour in a hamburger bun, it would have more protein than the hamburger."

Turn to page 16 in the Sample Answer Book. Answer Numbers 7 through 15. Base your answers on the story "King of Fibers."

7 Read this sentence from the article.

> **When the linters are washed, bleached, and dried into pulp, they can be mixed with chemicals and converted into such disparate things as guncotton...sausage casings, linoleum, cellophane, rayon, photographic film, dynamite, fingernail polish, and molded plastics.**

What does the word *disparate* mean?

F. different

G. extreme

H. inclusive

I. useful

8 Why did cotton become a major crop?

A. Inventors developed additional uses for cotton.

B. Markets for cotton evolved soon after its discovery.

C. Cotton could be grown in many different locations.

D. Merchants shared information about cotton on their travels.

9 Cotton fabric is popular primarily because it is

F. beautiful.

G. dense.

H. durable.

I. economical.

10 One of cotton's advantages in cleaning up oil spills is that it

A. contains fibers that dissolve the oil.

B. grows near areas where oil spills occur.

C. breaks down oil into harmless substances.

D. decomposes naturally after it absorbs the oil.

11 READ THINK EXPLAIN Why was the gossypol research conducted by Woodrow Rogers important? Support your answer with details and information from the article.

12 The armed forces have found that on ships, cotton fire hoses are preferable to synthetic fabrics because the cotton hoses are

F. factory-made.

G. heat resistant.

H. longer lasting.

I. less expensive.

13 According to the article, cotton is used in both textiles and the medical field because of its

A. facility for eliminating waste.

B. variety of textures after milling.

C. capacity for absorption of liquids.

D. ability to withstand many conditions.

14 Which statement from the text provides the best evidence of cotton's durability?

F. "In 1992, 80 countries produced a total of 83 million bales, or almost 40 billion pounds."

G. "Archaeologists have discovered fragments of cotton cloth more than 4,000 years old..."

H. "Most of the five billion pounds that U.S. mills spin and weave into fabric each year ends up as clothing."

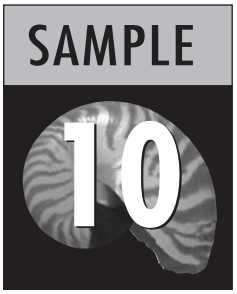
I. "The business revenue generated—some 50 billion dollars in the United States alone—is greater than that of any other field crop."

15 READ THINK EXPLAIN How did William Fee contribute to the cotton industry and everyday life? Support your answer with details and information from the article.

This is the end of the Reading Sample Test.
Until time is called, go back and check your work or answer questions you did not complete. When you have finished, close your Sample Test Book and Sample Answer Book.

Name_____

FCAT Reading Sample Answer Book



Answer all the questions that appear in the Sample Test Book in this Sample Answer Book. Answer multiple-choice questions by filling in the bubble for the answer you select. Write your answers to "Read, Think, Explain" questions on the lines provided.

To remove your Sample Answer Book, carefully tear along the dotted line.

Fold and Tear Carefully Along Dotted Line.

Go On

1 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

2 Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ

3 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

4 Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ

5

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

6 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

Now turn to page 8 in your Reading Sample Test Book.

7 Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ

8 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

9 Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ

10 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

11

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

12 Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ

13 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

14 Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ

15

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This is the end of the Reading Sample Answer Book.
Until time is called, go back and check your work or answer questions you did not complete. When you have finished, close your Sample Test Book and Sample Answer Book.

Notes

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