

2006

FCAT

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

Student Name _____

READING

READING

SAMPLE TEST & ANSWER BOOK



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 8 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

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Department of State

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 8 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 answer.
- ✓ 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, 16 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

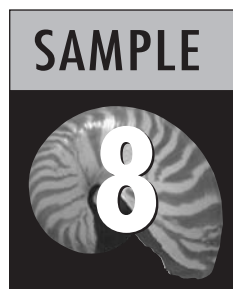
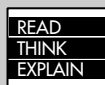


Table of Contents

Zoo Page 4

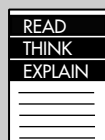
America's Saltiest Sea: Great Salt Lake Page 8

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 "Zoo" before answering Numbers 1 through 8 in the Sample Answer Book.

Zoo

Edward D. Hoch

The children were always good during the month of August, especially when it began to get near the twenty-third. It was on this day that the great silver spaceship carrying Professor Hugo's Interplanetary Zoo settled down for its annual six-hour visit to the Chicago area.

Before daybreak the crowds would form, long lines of children and adults both, each one clutching his or her dollar, and waiting with wonderment to see what race of strange creatures the Professor had brought this year.

In the past they had sometimes been treated to three-legged creatures from Venus, or tall, thin men from Mars, or even snakelike horrors from somewhere more distant. This year, as the great round ship settled slowly to Earth in the huge tri-city parking area just outside of Chicago, they watched with awe as the sides slowly slid up to reveal the familiar barred cages.

In them were some wild breed of nightmare—small, horselike animals that moved with quick, jerking motions and constantly chattered in a high-pitched tongue. The citizens of Earth clustered around as Professor Hugo's crew quickly collected the waiting dollars, and soon the good Professor himself made an appearance, wearing his many-colored rainbow cape and top hat. "Peoples of Earth," he called into his microphone.

The crowd's noise died down and he continued. "Peoples of Earth, this year you see a real treat for your single dollar—the little-known horse-spider people of Kaan—brought to you across a million miles of space at great expense. Gather around, see them,



study them, listen to them, tell your friends about them. But hurry! My ship can remain here only six hours!"

And the crowds slowly filed by, at once horrified and fascinated by these strange creatures that looked like horses but ran up the walls of their cages like spiders. "This is certainly worth a dollar," one man remarked, hurrying away. "I'm going home to get the wife."

All day long it went like that, until ten thousand people had filed by the barred cages set into the side of the spaceship. Then, as the six-hour limit ran out, Professor Hugo once more took microphone in hand. "We must go now, but we will return next year on this date. And if you enjoyed our Zoo this year, phone your friends in other cities about it. We will land in New York tomorrow, and next week on to London, Paris, Rome, Hong Kong, and Tokyo. Then on to other worlds!"

He waved farewell to them, and as the ship rose from the ground the Earth peoples agreed that this had been the very best Zoo yet. . . .

*

*

*

Some two months and three planets later, the silver ship of Professor Hugo settled at last onto the familiar jagged rocks of Kaan, and the horse-spider creatures filed quickly out of their cages. Professor Hugo was there to say a few parting words, and then they scurried away in a hundred different directions, seeking their homes among the rocks.

In one, the she-creature was happy to see the return of her mate and offspring. She babbled a greeting in the strange tongue and hurried to embrace them. "It was a long time you were gone. Was it good?"

And the he-creature nodded. "The little one enjoyed it especially. We visited eight worlds and saw many things."

The little one ran up the wall of the cave. "On the place called Earth it was the best. The creatures there wear garments over their skins, and they walk on two legs."

"But isn't it dangerous?" asked the she-creature.

"No," her mate answered. "There are bars to protect us from them. We remain right in the ship. Next time you must come with us. It is well worth the nineteen commocs it costs."

And the little one nodded. "It was the very best Zoo ever. . . ."

Turn to page 16 in the Sample Answer Book. Answer Numbers 1 through 8. Base your answers on the story "Zoo."

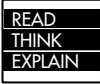
- 1 Read the sentence below.

It was on this day that the great silver spaceship carrying Professor Hugo's Interplanetary Zoo settled down for its annual six-hour visit to the Chicago area.

What does *interplanetary* mean?

- A. between the worlds
 - B. beyond the universe
 - C. inside the planet
 - D. within the galaxy
- 2 With which statement would the author most likely agree?
- F. Strange creatures should be kept in cages.
 - G. It is easy to make money from unsuspecting people.
 - H. Even in the future, people will allow their fears to rule them.
 - I. Though people may look different, they are basically the same.
- 3 How does the reader know that the creatures from Kaan enjoyed the zoo?
- A. The creatures were eager to scurry home.
 - B. The creatures ran up the walls of the cage.
 - C. The creatures stayed to listen to the professor.
 - D. The creatures said it was well worth the money.
- 4 Why are the people on Earth interested in the horse-spider creatures?
- F. They come to Chicago only once each year.
 - G. Their appearance is unlike that of any creatures on Earth.
 - H. They are typical of Martian creatures from other zoo exhibits.
 - I. Their language has a higher pitch than any language on Earth.

5



What was Professor Hugo probably telling the horse-spider creatures while the citizens of Earth were viewing them? Use details and information from the text to support your response.

6

What purpose do the bars on the cages serve?

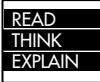
- A. to prevent the creatures from escaping
- B. to make everyone feel safe from each other
- C. to protect the horse-spiders from the humans
- D. to ensure that Professor Hugo feels safe from the horse-spiders

7

According to the story, why do the inhabitants of Earth and Kaan say that this has been the “very best Zoo”?

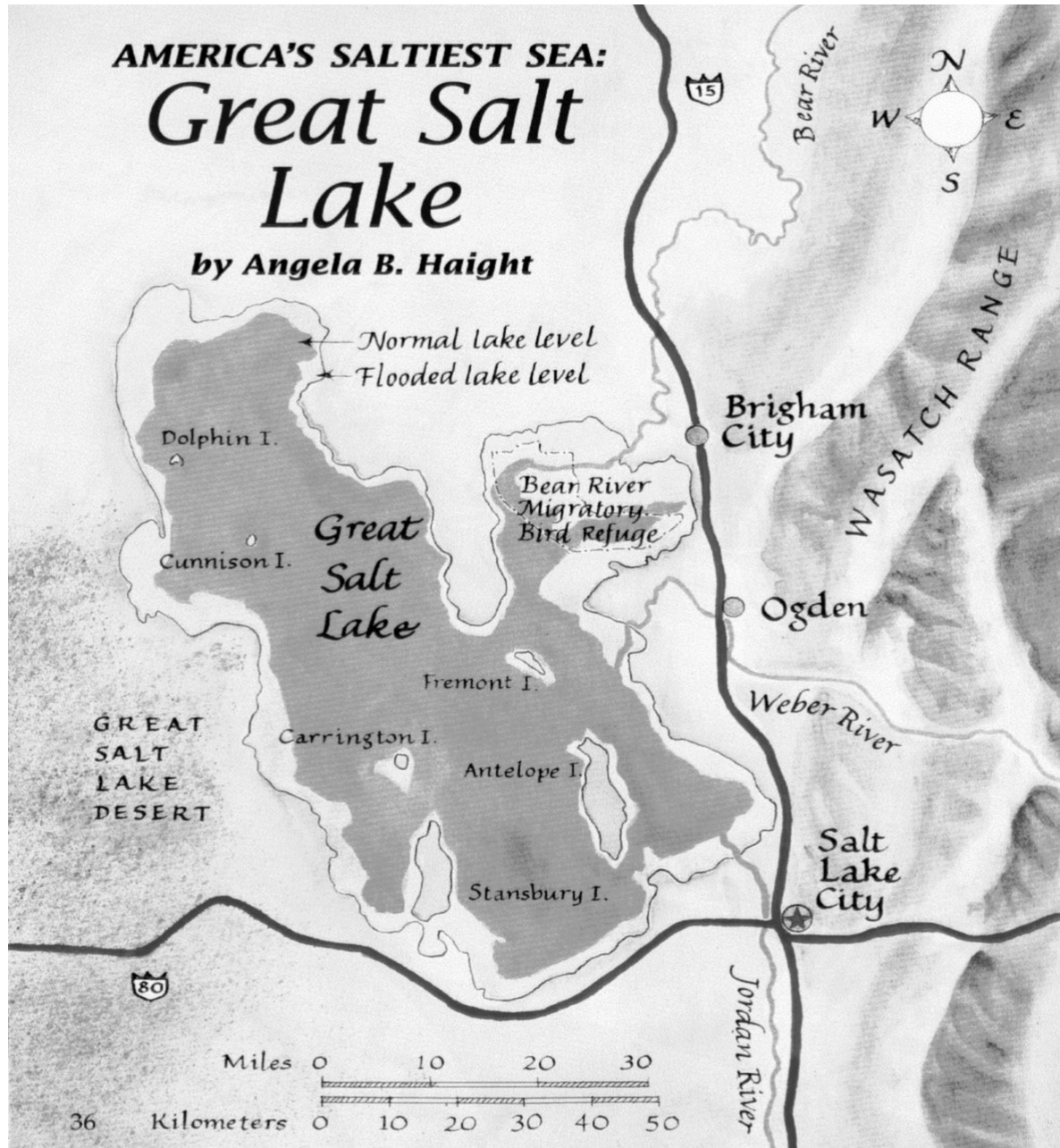
- F. Both groups felt safe because of the protective bars.
- G. Both groups felt the zoo was worth the money spent.
- H. Both groups considered each other frightening creatures behind bars.
- I. Both groups considered each other the strangest creatures they had ever seen.

8



How are the creatures from Kaan and the people from Earth similar? Use examples, details, and information from the story to support your answer.

Read the article "America's Saltiest Sea: Great Salt Lake" before answering Numbers 9 through 16 in the Sample Answer Book.



Map and illustrations by Claudia Carlson

HAVE YOU EVER watched tropical fish gobble up live brine shrimp? Those tiny, wriggling creatures probably hatched from eggs gathered at America's saltiest inland sea, Utah's Great Salt Lake.

While trapping beaver on the Bear River with some friends, explorer Jim Bridger began to wonder where the river went. Some trappers thought it fed into an inland lake; others believed it flowed directly to the Pacific Ocean. Bridger decided to find out.

He wove willows into a large, open basket, then stretched buffalo hides over this frame and lashed them to the rim. When he was finished, he drifted down the river in his bullboat. When he reached the marshes near Great Salt Lake, he noticed that the boat floated higher in the water. Scooping up a handful to drink, he discovered the water was salty and quickly spat it out. Upon returning to camp, he reported that he had reached the Pacific, but on a later trip, he skirted the shoreline and realized his mistake.

In 1847 pioneers arrived in Salt Lake Valley to build a permanent settlement. They noticed mounds of sparkling salt dotting the shore of the lake. Within days they built kettles to boil water and harvest pure salt to trade and use for preserving food.

Everyone enjoyed swimming in the briny water—even nonswimmers remained afloat. The settlers named their new community Great Salt Lake City after their impressive neighbor. However, the pleasant lake soon became a creeping monster. The lake bed is shallow, and the land around it is extremely flat. If the water rises only a few inches, it quickly spreads over many feet of shoreline. By 1867, Great Salt Lake had risen twelve feet and extended its surface about 900 square miles! Fortunately, the water receded before the growing city became a swamp.

The lake has had many ups and

downs since then. At times people thought it might dry up completely, but in the mid-1980s, the water rose so much that it flooded the highway along the southwest shore and ruined hundreds of acres of rich farmland. Great Salt Lake is still the largest body of water west of the Mississippi River; it's approximately 75 miles long and 50 miles wide.

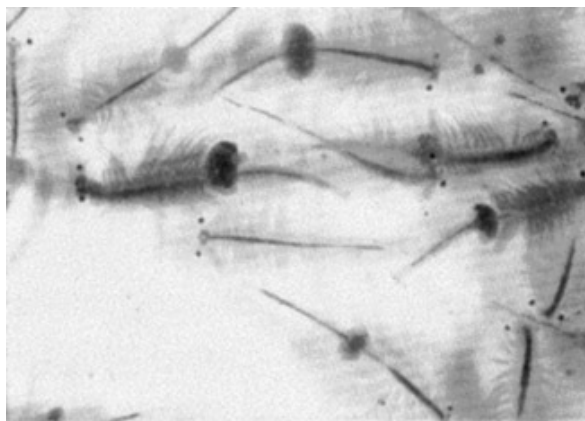
Why is the lake so salty? Rocks contain small quantities of salt that dissolve easily in water. Rain or melting snow releases this salt and carries it

into streams. Great Salt Lake is fed by three rivers as well as several small streams and springs. In most lakes, salt is carried out as fast as it is brought in, keeping the water fresh, but Great Salt Lake has no outlet.

Evaporation takes water out of the lake, but the salt stays.

In dry years more water evaporates, and the lake shrinks and becomes saltier. During wet cycles, the lake grows and the water is less salty. Over the last century, Great Salt Lake has averaged 25 percent salt. Ocean water is only 3 percent salt. Because the water is so salty, companies harvesting at Great Salt Lake can make salt faster and cheaper than those using ocean water.

Great Salt Lake is not a beautiful, picture-postcard mountain lake. At first glance the landscape seems empty and barren. There are no trees on the shore,



brine shrimp

and to the west stretches an immense salt desert. The water itself is another kind of desert. Nothing but algae and brine shrimp can survive such a salty bath.

But despite its barren appearance, the lake is far from dead. Its islands and marshes provide an important rest stop for migratory birds. The mouth of the Bear River, where Jim Bridger drifted into the lake, is a protected bird refuge. Over 200 different species have been identified there as they travel between North and South America. Millions of brine flies living by the shore provide plenty of food. Some birds—California sea gulls, ducks, geese, and pelicans—return every summer to build nests and raise their young at Great Salt Lake.

Without the sea gulls, Salt Lake City might have become a deserted ghost town. Food was scarce the first year after the pioneers hauled their wagons over the Rocky Mountains to the isolated valley. Trekking back to St. Louis for supplies took months, and without a good harvest, the settlers faced starvation. Their newly planted acres of wheat and corn looked promising. But one day clouds of black crickets poured out of the foothills. They blanketed the fields, gorging on the tender green plants. The farmers tried to pick the bugs off, beat them, or even burn them, but it was useless. The insects swarmed across the valley, destroying everything in their path.

Suddenly, large flocks of sea gulls



appeared from their nesting grounds at the lake. The farmers watched in horror. Surely the birds would finish up anything the crickets missed. But instead of joining the destruction, the gulls began scooping up crickets. They returned time and time again, devouring the insects. Enough of the crop was saved for the settlers to survive another winter. That's why the State of Utah honors the California sea gull as its official state bird.

From that first small settlement in the valley, the population has expanded so that now more than a million people live north, south, and east of the lake. Urban growth has had little effect on Great Salt Lake, though. It's a unique geological feature and an unmistakable landmark on the map of the western United States.

"America's Saltiest Sea: Great Salt Lake" Reprinted by permission of *Cricket* Magazine, April 1996, Vol. 23, No. 8, © 1996 by Angela B. Haight, illustrations from the Utah Division of Wildlife.

Turn to page 18 in the Sample Answer Book. Answer Numbers 9 through 16. Base your answers on the article "America's Saltiest Sea: Great Salt Lake."

- 9 Read this sentence.

Fortunately, the water receded before the growing city became a swamp.

Receded means the same as

- A. circulated.
- B. expanded.
- C. renewed.
- D. retreated.

- 10 Which factor contributes to the saltiness of Great Salt Lake?

- F. It has no outlet.
- G. It is near the ocean.
- H. It is populated by brine shrimp.
- I. It has a high concentration of plant life.

- 11 From the author's point of view, Great Salt Lake is especially noteworthy because it has

- A. many unusual properties.
- B. many historical landmarks.
- C. a serene, peaceful atmosphere.
- D. a beautiful, picturesque appearance.

12

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

How have sea gulls contributed to or affected the development of Salt Lake City? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

- 13 Which pair of sentences best supports the idea that the Great Salt Lake is “a unique geological feature and an unmistakable landmark”?
- F. “At first glance the landscape seems empty and barren.” “The lake bed is shallow, and the land around it is extremely flat.”
 - G. “Great Salt Lake is still the largest body of water west of the Mississippi River.” “Over the last century, Great Salt Lake has averaged 25 percent salt.”
 - H. “The mouth of the Bear River, where Jim Bridger drifted into the lake, is a protected bird refuge.” “Millions of brine flies living by the shore provide plenty of food.”
 - I. “In 1847 pioneers arrived in Salt Lake Valley to build a permanent settlement.” “Everyone enjoyed swimming in the briny water—even nonswimmers remained afloat.”
- 14 Here are four definitions of the word *sea* as they appear in the dictionary. Which definition matches the word’s use in the article?
- A. a body of fresh water
 - B. a tract of water within an ocean
 - C. a relatively large body of salt water completely or partly landlocked
 - D. the continuous body of salt water covering most of the earth’s surface
- 15 Which is the BEST heading for the section containing paragraphs 2, 3, and 4?
- F. “Ancient History”
 - G. “Discovery and Early Settlement”
 - H. “Geological Characteristics”
 - I. “Outdoor Fun and Recreation”
- 16

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

 Using details and information from the article, summarize the main points of the article. For a complete and correct response, consider these points.
- its history
 - its interesting features
 - why it is a landmark



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.

BLANK PAGE

Name _____

FCAT Reading Sample Answer Book



Answer all the questions that appear in the Sample Test Book in this Sample Answer Book. Answer each multiple-choice question 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.

1 (A) (B) (C) (D)

2 (F) (G) (H) (I)

3 (A) (B) (C) (D)

4 (F) (G) (H) (I)

5

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

6 (A) (B) (C) (D)

7 (F) (G) (H) (I)

8

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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

9 (A) (B) (C) (D)

10 (F) (G) (H) (I)

11 (A) (B) (C) (D)

12

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

13 (F) (G) (H) (I)

14 (A) (B) (C) (D)

15 (F) (G) (H) (I)

16

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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