

F-1 Understand that the FCAT is a test that measures school performance based on standards in language arts, science, and math courses.

F-2 Study hard in each and every class because reading, math and science can be found in every class that you take.

F-3 Determine that performing well in school and on the FCAT is a big priority in your life.

F-4 Limit the amount of TV that you watch. Instead, read a favorite magazine, book, or read something interesting on the Internet.

F-5 Read newspapers, magazines, food labels, recipes, letters, and instructions, in addition fiction and nonfiction books.

F-6 Use FCAT Explorer—FREE!—Online FCAT Practice for all middle school students.

F-7 Learn how to answer each type of question asked on the FCAT: multiple choice, gridded response, short answer, extended response.

F-8 There is no penalty for guessing; therefore, it is best to try to answer all the questions, even if you are not sure of the correct answers.

F-9 Get a normal night's sleep for each of the five days prior to testing (including weekends). Sleep loss is cumulative and can lead to poor performance.

F-10 Pay attention to the test taking strategies your teachers have been sharing.

F-11 No Matter What! Do your best!

F-12 Avoid a breakfast high in sugar. Eggs and orange juice will give you endurance.

F-13 Determine the strategy you are going to use to tackle the reading passages and practice using it.

F-14 Determine a strategy that you will use when faced with short or long response questions.

F-15 Relax....don't panic...you will do fine.

C-16 Be sure to be present on test day. Students do better when they take the test with their class.

C-17 Drink enough water so that you stay hydrated. But remember, going to the bathroom cuts down on the amount of time you have to take the test.

C-18 Avoid strenuous activity before school, like running, football, or basketball, so that you save your energy for the test.

C-19 Listen carefully to all test taking directions and ask questions if something is not clear.

C-20 No Matter What! Think positively; tell yourself that you can do this.

C-21 To help calm down, breathe in and out slowly and deeply.

C-22 Long Response questions (Read, Think, Explain or Read, Solve, Explain) are worth four points. They may have two or more problems to solve within each one. You may also be asked to explain how you solved the problem with sentences and or pictures. Plan to write four examples and details from the passage to support your answer using 5-7 sentences. You need to spend more time on these. Ten minutes is recommended.

C-23 Short Response questions (Read, Think, Explain) count twice as much as a multiple choice. Don't leave these blank! Try to put down two examples with two details to support your answer.

C-24 NO MATTER WHAT—BE ON TIME!

C-25 Long and short answer strategy: Turn the question into your topic sentence. For example, Question: What color is the car? Topic Sentence: The color of the car is blue.

C-26 Remember: Write your answer in your own words. If you are using an example from the passage, you must place it in quotes.

C-27 Only writing in the box is scored. Don't go outside the box.

C-28 Keep your short or extended answers to the point and based on the passage only, not based on your personal opinions or experience.

C-29 As you are taking the test, systematically check to be sure that you are bubbling your answer in the correct area and number.

C-30 As you're reading a multiple-choice question, try to come up with the answer in your head before you look at the choices.

A-31 Occasionally check the time to make sure you are on track.

A-32 For each item, very carefully read the entire test item and all the possible answers.

A-33 Answer the easier items first, and come back to the harder questions. BUT, be sure to watch what you bubble on the answer sheet.

A-34 Underline important information as you read.

A-35 Cross-out the answers you know are not correct.

A-36 Circle what you think is the correct answer on the test booklet.

A-37 NO MATTER WHAT—keep a positive state of mind, and do your best.

A-38 Move on to the next question if you are confused and are having a difficult time remembering something. Coming back later sometimes triggers your memory to remember what you have forgotten.

A- 39 Mark the questions you want to come back to on you TEST booklet only.

A-40 Make no stray marks on your answer sheet. A machine scans each test. A stray mark may make it impossible to scan or score.

A-41 If you decide to change an answer, completely erase the old one.

A-42 If you answer all the questions in a given section and there is still time left, go back and be a detective. Reread each question and your answer and see if they make sense.

A-43 Don't leave blanks – there is no penalty for guessing.

A-44 Tackle the test. Score as many points as you can.

A-45 Don't let the test trick you. Always read to the end of the answer choices. Cross-off answers you know are wrong.

T-46 Change answers only when you are certain. The answer which comes to mind first is often correct.

T-47 Keep a steady pace and do not let more difficult questions affect your attitude and steal your valuable time.

T-48 Get an idea what the passage is about before reading it. Look at the title, pictures, subtitles.

T-49 Determine how the passage is organized so you know where to find the information by reading the first sentence of each paragraph of the passage before reading the entire passage.

T-50 Read the questions before you read the passage so you know what you are looking for. It also gives you more information about the passage you are about to read.

T-51 Read the entire passage after you have the idea of what the passage is about, know how it is organized, and know what you are to look for by reading the questions first.

T-52 Look at the pictures and graphics to help you understand the passage.

T-53 Write so that others can understand what you mean. (Keep the reader in mind.)

T-54 Identify difficult words by looking for little words inside big words, knowing the meaning of a word's parts, and using the words surrounding it to determine the meaning.

T-55 Go back to the passage for clues to help you answer the questions.

T-56 It is better to receive partial credit than no credit on a Read, Think, and Explain questions. So keep going and write down what you know.

T-57 Write on the test! Yes! You can write on the test! Use circles, underlining, arrows, and other marks that will help you solve problems and answer questions.

T-58 Do not be disturbed about other students finishing before you do. Take your time, don't panic, and you will do much better on the test.

T-59 Draw pictures to help solve math problems. Students who mark on the test booklets score higher. You can too!

T-60 Use the formulas provided.

Oh!-61 Does the answer make sense? Did the strategy work?

Oh!-62 Avoid being lazy! You only fail yourself if you don't try and give it your best.

Oh!-63 Your seventh grade FCAT scores determine the courses you will take in high school.

Oh!-64 A passing score of 300 in 10th grade is necessary in math, reading, and science to earn your high school diploma.

Oh!-65 Science FCAT assesses physical and chemical sciences, earth and space sciences, life and environmental sciences, and scientific thinking.

Oh!-66 Math FCAT assesses number sense, measurement, geometry, algebraic thinking, and probability.

Oh!-67 Reading FCAT assesses words and phrases in context, main idea, plot, purpose, comparisons, cause and effect, reference and research, and validity of information.

Oh!-68 Over 600 teachers from across Florida help to write the questions for the FCAT. It is not written by people from other states.

Oh!-69 The Science FCAT is given in 5th, 8th, and 11th grades.

Oh!-70 The science, math, writing, and reading FCATs are a graduation requirement.

Oh!-71 4th, 8th, and 10th grade students have short and extended response questions to answer. This is why they have additional time for testing.

Oh!-72 High school students may retake the test if they don't pass the test in 10th grade. However, the passages are longer and harder!

Oh!-73 It costs \$12. 84 per student to administer the FCAT.

Oh!-74 Students must have advance notification of the testing requirement.

Oh!-75 Students must be provided opportunities to learn the skills being tested; therefore, schools must be able to demonstrate that the skills being tested are being taught, using evidence such as lesson plans, texts, and curricular offerings.