

Grade 10

FCAT 2.0 Reading

Sample Answers

This booklet contains the answers to the FCAT 2.0 Reading sample questions, as well as explanations for the answers. It also gives the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) benchmark assessed by each item. Although the Florida State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in the summer of 2010, these standards have not yet been implemented. For this reason, the FCAT 2.0 tests and sample questions and answers are based on the 2007 NGSSS. The benchmarks included in this booklet provide teachers with additional information. For more detailed information, follow this link to the Florida NGSSS website: <http://www.floridastandards.org/index.aspx>, or follow this link to the current benchmark language in the *FCAT 2.0 Reading Test Item Specifications*: <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/itemspecs.asp>.

Multiple-choice items in FCAT 2.0 Reading tests are scored by awarding one point for each correct answer.

The intent of these sample test materials is to orient teachers and students to the types of questions on FCAT 2.0 tests. By using these materials, students will become familiar with the types of items and response formats they will see on the actual test. The sample questions and answers are not intended to demonstrate the length of the actual test, nor should student responses be used as an indicator of student performance on the actual test. Additional information about test items can be found in the *FCAT 2.0 Test Item Specifications* at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/itemspecs.asp>.

The sample questions for students and the sample answers for teachers will only be available online, at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/fcatitem.asp>.

Article: “The Enigma of the Echidna”

“The Enigma of the Echidna” by Doug Stewart. Reprinted by permission of the author. Copyright © 1996–2003. Published in the *National Wildlife Federation*, Oct/Nov 2003. All rights reserved. “14 day old baby echidna (Puggle)”: Reprinted by permission of Mike McKelvey, Photographer. All rights reserved. “Echidna”: © Staffan Widstrand/CORBIS.

- 1 The correct answer is C (the unpredictable behavior of echidnas, which makes the animals puzzling subjects to study).**

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.6.8 The student will identify advanced word/phrase relationships and their meanings.

The correct answer is C. According to the author, *Elusive and unpredictable, echidnas continue to perplex the scientific world with their oddities*. Biologist Peggy Rismiller states, *“Every time you think you know what they’re going to do, they do something different.”*

- 2 The correct answer is F (drinking rainwater and using solar energy).**

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.6.2.2 The student will organize, synthesize, analyze, and evaluate the validity and reliability of information from multiple sources (including primary and secondary sources) to draw conclusions using a variety of techniques, and correctly use standardized citations.

The correct answer is F. The Pelican Lagoon Research and Wildlife Centre on South Australia’s remote Kangaroo Island is a nonprofit educational trust (managed by biologists Peggy Rismiller and Mike McKelvey) *that specializes in low-impact field research*. According to the author, *It’s the sort of place where computers are solar-powered and rain provides drinking water*.

3 The correct answer is C (Transmitters are difficult to acquire).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.3 The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

The correct answer is C. Tracking echidnas with radio transmitters is challenging for several reasons. According to biologist Mike McKelvey, echidnas are “built low to the ground” and “they spend a lot of time in burrows and caves, which block the signal.” In addition, biologists find attaching a transmitter to a single spine challenging. Many echidnas shed their transmitters, and some *may have learned to scrape them off between rocks*; however, the article makes no reference to any difficulty with acquiring transmitters for tracking echidnas.

4 The correct answer is F (the production of milk).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.7 The student will compare and contrast elements in multiple texts.

The correct answer is F. According to the article, *Like other mammals, echidnas are hairy and milk-bearing*. The characteristics in the other answer options are not shared by echidnas and other mammals.

5 The correct answer is B (physical appearance).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.7 The student will compare and contrast elements in multiple texts.

The correct answer is B. Echidnas and porcupines are similar with regard to their physical appearance, and echidnas are often referred to by the people of Australia as *porkies*, although their spines are very different from a porcupine's quills. Options A, C, and D indicate differences between the two mammals.

6 The correct answer is I (decreased living space and human intrusion).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.3 The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

The correct answer is I. According to the author, *Outside conservation areas, habitat loss and fast-moving vehicles are perhaps the species' gravest threat.*

- 7** The correct answer is C (the ruggedness of the terrain where echidnas dwell).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.6.2.2 The student will organize, synthesize, analyze, and evaluate the validity and reliability of information from multiple sources (including primary and secondary sources) to draw conclusions using a variety of techniques, and correctly use standardized citations.

The correct answer is C. The author presents information about the difficulties of trapping and radio-tagging echidnas. He also states that echidnas are *among the most widely, if sparsely, distributed of all Australian mammals*. These factors account for the uncertainty biologists have in determining the total echidna population. However, the ruggedness of the terrain where echidnas dwell does not account for this uncertainty, as the species is *wandering and burrowing its way across rain forest, desert, bush, swamp and seashore*.

Functional Text: “Quest-4 Cell Phone—User Manual”

“Quest-4 Cell Phone—User Manual” property of the Florida Department of Education.

- 8** The correct answer is H (She switched the computer’s application from keyboard to voice mode).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.6.9 The student will determine the correct meaning of words with multiple meanings in context.

The correct answer is H. Both the excerpted sentence and the sentence in option H use the meaning of the word *mode* in a context applying to technology, referring to a particular functioning condition of an electronic device.

- 9** The correct answer is C (provides a key for categories of calendar entries).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.7 The student will compare and contrast elements in multiple texts.

The correct answer is C. The *CALENDAR SYMBOLS* chart is the only text feature in the user manual that offers readers information about the calendar feature of the Quest-4 cell phone in the form of a key, using symbols to represent reminders, calls, tasks, and events.

- 10** The correct answer is I (being in a location where a GPS signal is available).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.3 The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

The correct answer is I. According to the user manual, where a Global Positioning System (GPS) signal is available, the Quest-4 cell phone will automatically seek information and report the user's approximate location. For the Enhanced Emergency Service (EES) to be fully functional, the manual makes no reference to requirements that the user pay for the EES option or know how to operate GPS technology. The manual does reference the importance of reporting a location accurately in cases where a GPS signal is not available, but this is not an actual requirement for the EES function.

11 The correct answer is B (labels).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.6.1.1 The student will explain how text features (e.g., charts, maps, diagrams, subheadings, captions, illustrations, graphs) aid the reader's understanding.

The correct answer is B. The symbols function only to label the four categories of entries the user can make in the Quest-4 cell phone. The symbols do not indicate locations of any phone feature, describe effects of any feature of the phone, or operate as switches for any function of the phone.

12 The correct answer is G (The calendar will store an entry for every day of the year).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.6.2.2 The student will organize, synthesize, analyze, and evaluate the validity and reliability of information from multiple sources (including primary and secondary sources) to draw conclusions using a variety of techniques, and correctly use standardized citations.

The correct answer is G. The user manual states: *To erase all entries, choose Options and then choose Erase All; Choose Ring Tone or Preset Melody to remind you of this date; and A list of locations and corresponding emergency numbers displays.* While the calendar will store many entries, the manual states that *Your Quest-4 cell phone will hold up to 300 calendar entries, making it incapable of holding an entry for every day of the year.*

Article: “The Height of Ingenuity”

“The Height of Ingenuity” by Norman Vanamee. Copyright © 2003 Norman Vanamee. From the *New York Times Magazine*. Reprinted by permission. “Sprint Voyager”: Courtesy of Tom Grubb Celestial Art. All rights reserved. “Cactus”: Courtesy of Larson Camouflage, LLC. All rights reserved. “Church in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia”: Copyright © Andre Jenny / ALAMY.

13 The correct answer is B (creatively challenging).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.3 The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

The correct answer is B. The author gives examples of the challenges faced by contemporary creative designers in the wireless industry by presenting information about a “*most creative site concealment*” contest held at the annual Tower Summit and Trade Show convention. The author then presents information regarding the unique design challenges faced by the winner and runners-up in the competition. In addition, the author tells about each of their approaches in fashioning cell phone towers into creative pieces of art. Readers can conclude from this information that the work of designing unwanted structures is a creative challenge.

14 The correct answer is I (learned of a tower planned near his proposed sculpture).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.4 The student will identify cause-and-effect relationships in text.

The correct answer is I. At the same time Grubb had been commissioned to create a sculpture in Fayetteville, North Carolina, to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of flight, a cell phone company had applied to construct a tower along the exact sightline of his sculpture. As a result, Grubb approached the cell phone company with the idea of transforming the tower into a work of art.

15 The correct answer is D (the avoidance of signal interference).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.3 The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details.

The correct answer is D. In the article, Tom Grubb is quoted as stating, *“It was very important that . . . the sculpture did not interfere with transmissions.”*

16 The correct answer is H (the use of aluminum exteriors).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.7 The student will compare and contrast elements in multiple texts.

The correct answer is H. While Mitchell does not state what the church spires are made of, Meyer states that the cactus is made of fiberglass, not aluminum. Only Grubb mentions the use of aluminum in his tower.



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