

FCAT Science is Here!

Are You Ready to Tame the Tiger?



What we know about FCAT Science:

1. FCAT Science will be in March for grades 5, 8, and 10.
2. Follows same style as the FCAT Reading and Mathematics.
3. Focuses on science concepts, processes, and broad knowledge rather than on facts in isolation.
4. Items will be challenging and based on applied science.
5. Grade 5 cognitive level breakdown: 50% level 1 questions; 50% level II (Bloom's Taxonomy- Application, Analysis, Synthesis, Evaluation).
6. "Classroom **labs and activities** that support instruction in SSS **are necessary** for students to develop and apply the skills assessed on FCAT Science."
7. Contains graphics, data, and short science passages on which items are based.
8. Includes multiple choice, Short Response, and Extended Response items (gridded response gr. 8 & 10 only). Approximately 50 items, including 3-5 Performance Tasks (SR & ER).
9. Student results are reported as: a scale score (100-500), subscore for each of the 4 Clusters: Physical & Chemical, Earth & Space, Life & Environmental, and Scientific Thinking, and comparison to statewide results (top, middle, or lowest third).
10. Each reporting Cluster represents 25% of the total points.
11. Results are reported as a Mean Scale Score for each school, district and the state.
12. D.O.E. has identified which benchmarks will be Annually Assessed and which ones will be Content Sampling (assessed at least once every 3 years).
13. D.O.E. has identified whether the benchmarks will be assessed as MC, SR, and/or ER.
14. Approximately 60-70% of the test will be based on the annually assessed benchmarks.
15. Sample test materials and Item Specifications are available at www.myfloridaeducation.com

What we can do to ensure students are prepared for FCAT Science:

- ❖ Use the SSS, Benchmarks, and GLEs to guide curriculum at every grade level
- ❖ Use Best Practices in Science to guide instruction at every grade level
- ❖ Include hands-on experiences, process skills, critical thinking, and discussion
- ❖ Emphasize the real-life relevance of science and integrate it with other subjects
- ❖ Use science projects to teach Scientific Thinking (Strand H) as well as content
- ❖ Use FCAT strategies and format in daily instruction and assessment
- ❖ Use open-ended questions that require students to explain their answers orally and in writing
- ❖ Take part in staff development and training in science
- ❖ Use parents, business and industry partnerships to support instruction by providing materials, speakers and field trips that support the standards
- ❖ Ensure that students recognize and understand "scientific" vocabulary that will be used on FCAT. (See Glossary in Item Specifications document.)
- ❖ Use *Assessing the Standards, Forms A-C* as inventories to determine gaps in each cluster (Gr. 4-6)
- ❖ Visit the FCAT Home Page to see sample items and links to other resources
<http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat.htm>
- ❖ Visit My Florida Department of Education website at <http://www.fldoe.org/> for additional information on Sunshine State Standards, FCAT and Resources for Educators.

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery."

-Katy Fisher

