



Tips for
taking the

F **C** **A** **T**



It's almost time to take the FCAT!

Here are some important
explanations and reminders
to help you do your very best.



Test Invalidation

You have probably heard the term

test invalidation,

and it's important for you to understand what it means so it won't happen to you!



Test Invalidation

If a test is invalidated, it means that it **will not be scored**. If your test is invalidated, you will not receive an FCAT score, and you will not be able to retake the same test.



To make sure your test is scored. . .

- **Remove all electronic devices.**

If you have an electronic device at your desk, in your pocket, or **ANYWHERE** you can reach it during testing, **your test will not be scored.**



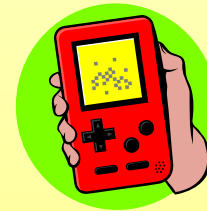
Electronic Devices

Some examples of electronic devices are:

- Cell phones



- Handheld video games



- MP3 players



- Calculators (unless you are allowed to have an FCAT calculator)





- All electronic devices must be turned off before the test. Your teacher may collect them or instruct you to put them away (in a locker or backpack away from your desk).
- If you aren't sure if something is an electronic device, please ask your teacher before the test.



To make sure your test is scored. . .

- **Do your own work.** If you are caught looking at another student's answers, talking about the test with other students during breaks, or using any kind of unauthorized aid (cheat sheet, calculator, etc.) during the test, **your test will not be scored.**



To make sure your test is scored. . .

- **Respect others.** If you are disruptive during a test, you may be dismissed from the room and your test will not be scored. It is very important for you to remain quiet, respect other students, and pay attention to the instructions.



To make sure your test is scored...

- **Make sure you don't take the same test twice.** You may only take a subject once during each FCAT administration.



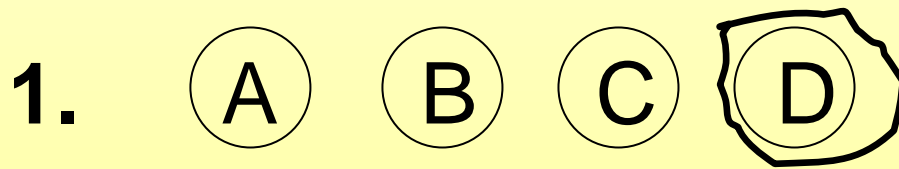
Marking Your Answers

- If you are filling in bubbles, mark only **ONE** answer for each question; be sure to fill in the bubble for your answer choice completely with your number 2 pencil.



Marking Your Answers

- Do not **circle** your answer.



Incorrect



Marking Your Answers

- Do not fill in **more than one** bubble.

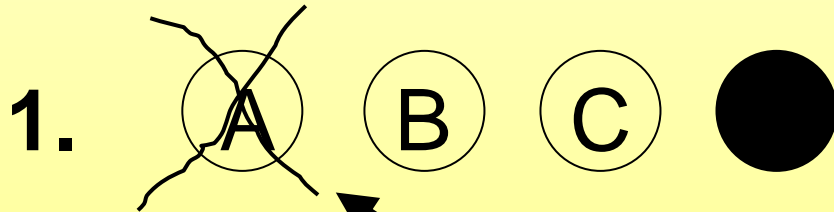
1. (A) ● (C) ●

Incorrect



Marking Your Answers

- Do not cross out wrong answers or make marks in any other bubbles.



Incorrect



Marking Your Answers

For short or longer written response items, write clearly on the lines provided.

⑤



Marking Your Answers

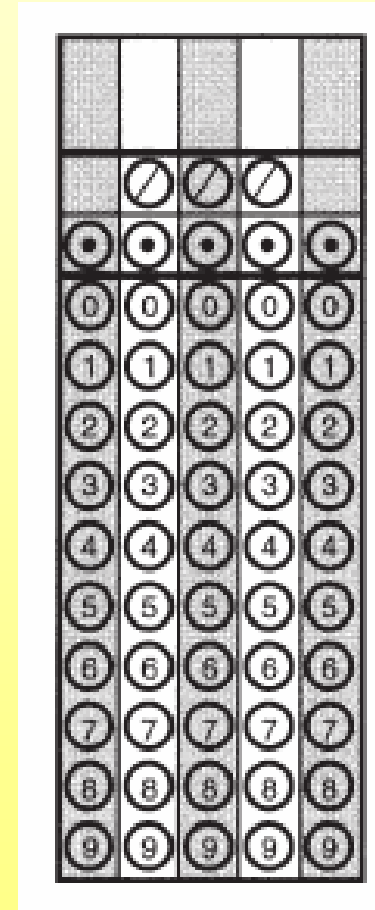
Do not write outside the box. If you write outside the box, you may not receive full credit for your answer.

⑤



Marking Your Answers

Some items for **Grades 5, 8, and 10 MATH** and **Grades 8 and 11 SCIENCE** will ask students to answer in a response grid.





Marking Your Answers

Fill in the answer boxes
At the top of the grid.

Do not leave a blank space between
answer boxes.

		5	.	2
	/	/	/	
•	•	•	•	•
0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9



Marking Your Answers

Then grid the bubbles that match the answer boxes.

Do not grid a bubble underneath a blank answer box.

		5	.	2
	/	/	/	
	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9

The grid shows the answer 5.2. The bubbles for 5, ., and 2 are filled in. The bubble for 5 in the second column is also filled in. Red arrows point from the text to these bubbles.



Marking Your Answers

If a decimal point or fraction bar is part of your answer, write it in the answer box and grid the bubble underneath it.

		5	.	2
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9



Marking Your Answers

For Grade 4 READING:

- You may come to a test number in your test and answer book that says, “*There is no item Number ____ in this Test Book.*”
- These questions will have no answer choices or bubbles. If you come to a question like this, move on to the next question. This will not affect your score.



Marking Your Answers

For Grades 8 and 10 READING:

- You may come across a test item with these instructions:

There is no Number ___ in this test. Do not use the answer box for Number ___ in your answer folder. Leaving the answer box for Number ___ blank will not affect your score.



Marking Your Answers

- If you come across these instructions in your test book, make sure to skip over that test item or answer box and go on to the next question.



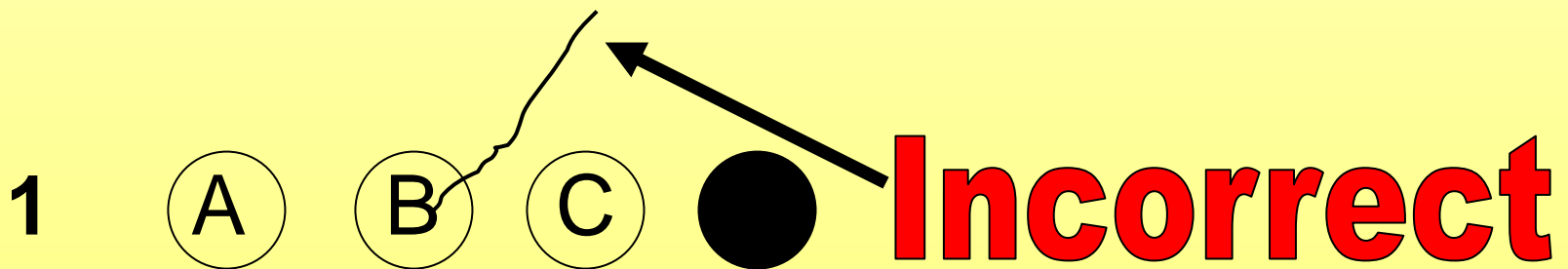
Marking Your Answers

- If you have a combination **TEST AND ANSWER BOOK** you are allowed to circle or underline words in the reading passages or make other notes to help you answer questions. However...



Marking Your Answers

- If you make marks in your book, make sure no mark goes into a bubble that is not your answer.





Marking Your Answers

- If you change an answer, be sure to erase completely.
- If you use your eraser, do so gently to avoid ripping or tearing your test.



Marking Your Answers

- Different subjects have different ways of answering (filling in bubbles, writing out answers, response grids, etc.) so it is very important for you to **LISTEN** to your test administrator when he or she reads the instructions before the test.



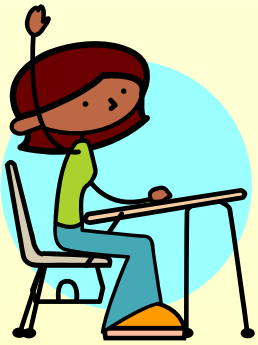
Remember...

- **During the test you may not:**
 - Work ahead in another session in your test book
 - Change any answers from previous test sessions
 - Look at another student's answers
 - Have notes or scratch paper



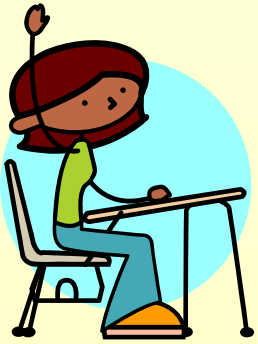
Remember...

- **You may not ask for help in answering any test questions.**
 - Your teacher or test administrator is not allowed to help you read, understand, or answer test questions.
- Try to answer every question.



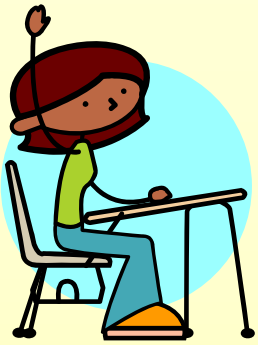
Remember...

- Once you finish a test and turn it in, **you may not ask for it back.** Be sure to check your answers and try to answer every question before turning in your test.



Remember...

- During breaks and after testing, it's important that you **don't talk about the test questions** with friends, classmates, or other students.



Remember...

- This may not be your first time taking the FCAT, but test books, answer forms, and instructions can change at each grade level, so be sure to

PAY ATTENTION!



Most importantly:

- Get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast before the test.
- Relax and do your best!