

Grade 9

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 Night Hunters”

“The Night Hunters” by Robert W. Criswell, reprinted by permission of the author. All rights reserved.

- 1** The correct answer is B (arouse readers’ interest in a unique group of birds).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.2 The student will analyze the author’s purpose and/or perspective in a variety of text and understand how they affect meaning.

The correct answer is B. The author uses words and phrases such as *amazing*, “*Tiger of the Skies*,” *night hunters par excellence*, and *can catch a mouse on a barn floor in total darkness* to capture readers’ interest in owls.

- 2** The correct answer is I (alliteration, repeating a sound to emphasize the superiority of owls).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.2.1.7 The student will analyze, interpret, and evaluate an author’s use of descriptive language (e.g., tone, irony, mood, imagery, pun, alliteration, onomatopoeia, allusion), figurative language (e.g., symbolism, metaphor, personification, hyperbole), common idioms, and mythological and literary allusions, and explain how they impact meaning in a variety of texts.

The correct answer is I. The author uses alliteration in these sentences. The repetition of the initial consonant sound *p* in the words *Predators*, *peer*, *prowess*, and *predator* emphasizes the superiority of owls.

3 The correct answer is A (frequent head movement).

Type of Text: Informational

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

The correct answer is A. Due to the fact that owls' eyes are extremely large and cannot move, an owl must frequently move its head in order to change its scope of vision.

4 The correct answer is G (colors of a species).

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 G. *Dichromatism* is a phenomenon that occurs among screech owls and involves birds having two distinct color phases (red and gray). According to the article, this trait *is exhibited regardless of sex or age*.

5 The correct answer is A (barn owl).

Type of Text: Informational

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

The correct answer is A. According to the author, barn owls typically seek grasslands and farmlands plentiful with rodents as their habitat. Adult barn owls consume rodents *at the rate of one every four minutes* and dine on a menu consisting almost exclusively of voles, shrews, mice, and rats, all of which are rodents. The other types of owls mentioned either do not eat rodents exclusively, or in the case of the barred owl, no mention of what it eats was given. Therefore, based on information found in the article, a decline in the rodent population would most affect the barn owl.

6 The correct answer is I (They find nesting places rather than construct them).

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 I. According to the article, great horned owls make use of *the nests of raptors, crows, herons, and . . . eagles*. Screech owls use *nests excavated by woodpeckers* and *sometimes take advantage of artificial boxes*. Barred owls are cavity nesters, and barn owls *nest in man-made structures*. Based on this information, all the owls described in the article find nesting places rather than make their own.

7 The correct answer is B (its ability to mimic the calls of other species).

Type of Text: Informational

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

The correct answer is B. In the first section of the article, the author makes reference to the *silent flight* of owls, their keen sense of hearing, and their acute vision in dim light as factors contributing to the owl's effectiveness as a predator. However, the author makes no reference to imitating the calls of other species as contributing to their effectiveness in hunting and capturing prey.

8 The correct answer is F (the screech owl's, because its call rarely approximates a screech).

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 screech owl's name is most misleading. According to the author, *the bird practically never utters a sound that can be described as a "screech."* In addition, ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson's description of the screech owl's call, *"a mournful whinny, or wail,"* provides evidence of this bird's misleading name.

- 9** The correct answer is C (general information followed by facts specific to each species).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.5 The student will analyze a variety of text structures (e.g., comparison/contrast, cause/effect, chronological order, argument/support, lists) and text features (main headings with subheadings) and explain their impact on meaning in text.

The correct answer is C. The author begins the article by providing the reader with general background information pertaining to owls. The author then divides the article into five sections, each devoted to a particular species of owl. In each section, the author gives facts and details unique to a particular species. Information was not presented chronologically or in order of importance. Also, many features of the owls were explained, not just their nesting habits.

- 10** The correct answer is I (screech owl and great horned owl).

Type of Text: Informational

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

The correct answer is I. The article states that *at 7–10 inches, the screech owl is the smallest of Pennsylvania’s resident owls*. The article also states that *at 18–25 inches in height and up to three pounds, it [the great horned owl] is our largest owl*. The size ranges for the screech owl and the great horned owl do not overlap, and the difference between the two ranges is far greater than the differences in size of the other pairs of owls listed in the options. For two of the incorrect options, the size ranges given in the article overlap. The sizes provided for the screech owl and long-eared owl do not overlap, but they are relatively closer in size. The smallest size given is for the screech owl, and the largest size given is for the great horned owl.

Article: “American Odyssey”

“American Odyssey” by Dayton R. Duncan, reprinted by permission of the author. All rights reserved. Photograph: “EXPLORERS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN GUIDE” Copyright © North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy. Map: Reprinted courtesy of the NOAA. All rights reserved.

- 11** The correct answer is D (reflect on the experiences he had while retracing Lewis and Clark’s route).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.2 The student will analyze the author’s purpose and/or perspective in a variety of text and understand how they affect meaning.

The correct answer is D. In the article, the author’s purpose in describing his own trip was most likely to reflect on the experiences he had while retracing the journey taken by Lewis and Clark 200 years earlier. The author does describe how travel has changed since the time of Lewis and Clark; however, this is only a supporting detail, and his purpose for describing his trip was not to illustrate a transformation. The author does not indicate that Lewis and Clark’s legacy is in question; therefore, it is unlikely that his purpose was to verify Lewis and Clark’s legacy. Similarly, the author does not indicate that his intention was to support the information documented in Lewis and Clark’s journals. The author only references the journals in order to shed light on his own discoveries while retracing Lewis and Clark’s route.

- 12** The correct answer is I (progressing an average of twelve miles per day).

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, *they understood—as no other Americans at the time could—just how big, how rugged, how mind-bogglingly varied this country really is. They understood because they had crossed it at a pace of 12 miles a day.*

- 13** The correct answer is C (Only land travel offers genuine understanding of scale).

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. Based on the sentence provided, the author presents his view that the only means of comprehending the vastness of the country is to travel by land *in all those seemingly endless, open, empty spaces*. Option C clearly restates or reinforces this idea.

14 The correct answer is I (sighting the Pacific Ocean from Cape Disappointment).

Type of Text: Informational

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

The correct answer is I. The author states, *as I stood mesmerized by the rolling breakers below, I felt a kinship with the explorers*. In addition, he says, *Standing at the coast, I could share in their sense of satisfaction*. Furthermore, the author shares with the reader similar feelings of joy and satisfaction taken from Lewis and Clark’s journal—“*Great joy in camp*” and “*We are in View of the Ocian, this great Pacific Octean which we [have] been So long anxious to See.*” Through these comments, the reader can clearly understand that the emotions the author experienced were very similar to those Lewis and Clark felt.

15 The correct answer is A (traveled by land).

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 A. The author states that he was *traveling in the spirit of the Corps of Discovery, full of curiosity and wonder, eager to learn the lessons that only the road can teach*. As a result, he learned many lessons from traveling by land—*enduring lessons in bravery, perseverance, and the success that comes from working together*.

- 16** The correct answer is I (personification, giving human characteristics to the waves).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.2.1.7 The student will analyze, interpret, and evaluate an author's use of descriptive language (e.g., tone, irony, mood, imagery, pun, alliteration, onomatopoeia, allusion), figurative language (e.g., symbolism, metaphor, personification, hyperbole), common idioms, and mythological and literary allusions, and explain how they impact meaning in a variety of texts.

The correct answer is I. In the sentence, the author describes waves in the ocean as having the human ability to march when he writes *the rolling swells of the Pacific Ocean marched toward me*.

- 17** The correct answer is D (similarities between his impressions and those of the explorers).

Type of Text: Informational

Benchmark: LA.910.1.7.2 The student will analyze the author’s purpose and/or perspective in a variety of text and understand how they affect meaning.

The correct answer is D. The author’s use of quotations from Lewis and Clark’s journals help the reader to see the strong similarity between his feelings, reactions, and experiences and those of the two captains as they crossed the continent to reach the Pacific. At the beginning of the article, the author recalls the time he first reaches Cape Disappointment and shouts, “*Ocean in view! O! the joy!*” from William Clark’s journal as an expression of the joy and amazement he experienced upon seeing the Pacific himself. In addition, the author states, *Standing at the coast, I could share in their sense of satisfaction, a feeling similar to that of Clark’s as expressed in his journal entry “Great joy in camp.”*

- 18** The correct answer is I (its destination).

Type of Text: Informational

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

The correct answer is I. The author’s journey differed from that of Lewis and Clark in many ways. For example, the author used his sister’s old Volkswagen camper to cover the same distance in 60 days that took Lewis and Clark a year and a half to do on foot, on horseback, and by canoe. Also, the author did not experience such hardships as illness, grizzlies, and near-starvation. The author states, *Compared with their experience crossing the continent, mine was a summer vacation; however, the author’s destination was the same as that of the explorers, to cross the continent and reach the Pacific by land.*



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