

Tips for Taking the FSA ELA Reading and Mathematics Assessments

For Grades 3 & 4 Paper-Based Tests

**It's almost time to take the FSA
ELA Reading and Mathematics tests!**

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

FSA ELA Reading & Mathematics

- Students in Grades 3 & 4 will take the **Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) English Language Arts (ELA) Reading and Mathematics tests.**
- There are **two sessions** for each test – Reading and Mathematics – given over two days.
- You will have **80 minutes** to complete each session of the FSA Reading and FSA Mathematics tests.

Test Invalidation

Let's talk about the term
test invalidation.

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

Test Invalidation

If your test is invalidated, it means that your test **will not be scored**, 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 or during a break within a session, **your test will not be scored.**

Electronic Devices

Some examples of electronic devices are:

- Cell phones or smartphones
- Tablets
- Handheld video games
- MP3 players
- Cameras
- Calculators

Electronic Devices

- 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, allowing another student to look at your answers, or using any kind of unauthorized aid during the test, **your test will not be scored.**

To make sure your test is scored...

Don't be disruptive.

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

To make sure your test is scored...

Don't leave school during a session.

If you leave the school's campus for lunch or an appointment before you complete a test session, you will not be allowed to finish taking the test when you return.

Testing Rules

During the test, you must not:

- Talk to other students or make any disturbance
- Look at another student's test and answer book
- Allow another student to look at your test and answer book
- Ask for help answering any test questions
- Give help to another student in answering test questions
- Have notes or scratch paper
- Have any electronic or recording devices in your possession at any time, including breaks, even if you do not use them
- Fail to follow any other instructions given

Testing Rules

Before the test, your test administrator will read the testing rules aloud and ask you to read the **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**. You will be asked to sign your name below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment to show that you understand the rules.

Testing Rules Acknowledgment

I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.

Signature _____

Item Types

Now let's talk about
the types of **items** (questions)
you'll see on your
FSA Reading and Mathematics tests.

Directions for Responding to Test Items

- Your test administrator will give you a handout called *Directions for Completing Grades 3 & 4 FSA ELA Reading Items* or *Directions for Completing Grades 3 & 4 Mathematics Items*, depending on which test you're taking.
- This handout will help you know how to respond to different types of question you may see on your test.
- You can look at the Directions handout at **any time** while you are taking the test.
- Now let's talk about the types of items you might see...

These are types of items you may see on your **FSA ELA Reading** test...

Multiple Choice Items

- For these items, choose the **best** answer from the answer choices, and fill in one bubble for the correct answer.
- **Example:** What is the relationship between paragraphs 2 and 3 in the passage?
 - Ⓐ comparison
 - Ⓑ introduction
 - cause and effect
 - Ⓓ question and answer

These are types of items you may see on your FSA ELA Reading test...

Multiselect Items

- For these items, choose **more than one** correct answer from the answer choices, and fill in the bubbles for **more than one** correct answer. Be sure to read the item carefully to know how many correct answers to choose.

- Example: Select the **two** correct meanings of the phrase good to go as it is used in the sentence.

"Students who live far apart, students who can't leave home, students who want to take a class they can't take nearby—all they need is a computer and an Internet connection and they're good to go!"
(paragraph 6)

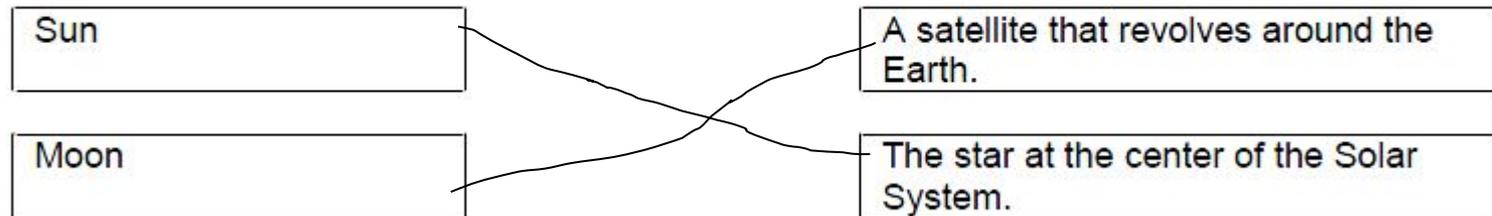
- (A) okay to leave
- (B) able to learn quickly
- (C) able to begin
- (D) prepared to travel
- (E) ready to start to learn

These are types of items you may see on your FSA ELA Reading test...

Graphic Response Items

- For these items, enter your response by **drawing lines** between matching words or phrases. Drawing lines is the correct way to enter your answer ONLY for the items that ask you to do this.
- Example:

Draw lines to match the words with the correct definitions based on information in the passage.



These are types of items you may see on your FSA ELA Reading test...

Editing Tasks

- For editing items, choose the correct word or phrase to fill in each blank in a passage.
- For each blank, fill in the bubble **before** the correct word or phrase.

Choose the correct word or phrase to fill in each blank in the passage. For each blank, fill in the circle **before** the word or phrase that is correct.

Koalas are animals that live in Australia. They _____ [look
ⓑ will look Ⓒ looks Ⓓ looked] a little bit like small bears, _____
[Ⓐ or Ⓑ nor Ⓒ because but] they are not bears. They are brown or gray, with round, fluffy ears, and they have no tails. You have probably seen pictures of koalas. They are very popular because they are so cute.

- If you write your answer in the blank but do not fill in the bubble, **your answer will not be scored.**

These are types of items you may see on your FSA ELA Reading test...

Two-Part Items

- For these items, such as the one you'll see on the next slide, enter your responses to two related questions.
- The two parts of the item may be either **multiple-choice** (one correct answer) or **multiselect** (more than one correct answer), so be sure to read the item carefully to know how many correct answers to choose.

These are types of items you may see on your **FSA ELA Reading** test...

Part A

Fill in the circle **before** the sentence that shows how the author supports the idea that students who live far from each other can learn together.

- Ⓐ She tells about why students should learn online.
- Ⓑ She shares details about the way students learn online.
- Ⓒ She gives examples of how online learning helps students.
- Ⓓ She explains that the online classroom is only for a short time.

Two-Part Item Example

Part B

Fill in the circle **before** the two sentences that support the answer in part A.

Ⓐ It is also possible for students to live in different places and be a part of an online class together. Ⓑ Each person goes to a website for the class he or she is taking. Ⓒ Thousands of people can watch and listen to this class at the same time. Ⓓ When they want to speak, they can use a microphone to ask and answer questions. Ⓔ When the lesson is completed and all good-byes have been said, the students and teacher in the online class log out. Ⓕ The connection over the Internet is broken, and the online classroom disappears.

These are types of items you may see on your **FSA Mathematics** test...

Multiple Choice Items

- For these items, you'll choose the **best** answer from the answer choices, and fill in **one** bubble for the correct answer.

- Example: What is 78 rounded to the nearest ten?

(A) 70

(B) 75

(C) 80

(D) 100

These are types of items you may see on your **FSA Mathematics** test...

Multiselect Items

- For these items, choose **more than one** correct answer from the answer choices, and fill in the bubbles for **more than one** correct answer. Be sure to read the item carefully to know how many correct answers to choose.

- **Example:** Select **all** the expressions that have the same value as $30 \div 10$.

- A 1×3
- B $10 \div 30$
- C 30×10
- D $30 \div 10 \div 1$
- E $30 \div (2 \div 5)$
- F $(30 \div 2) \div 5$

These are types of items you may see on your **FSA Mathematics** test...

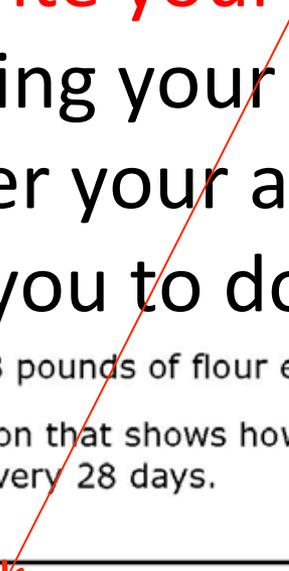
Equation Items

- For these items, **write your response** in the box provided. Writing your response is the correct way to enter your answer **ONLY** for the items that tell you to do this.

- **Example:**

A bakery uses 48 pounds of flour each day. It orders flour every 28 days.

Create an equation that shows how many pounds of flour the bakery needs to order every 28 days.



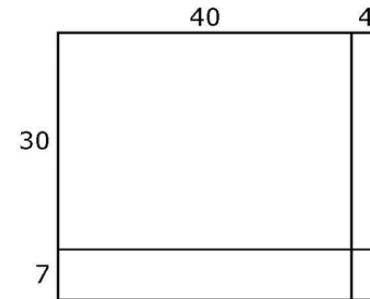
$48 \times 28 = 1344$

These are types of items you may see on your **FSA Mathematics** test...

Two Part Equation Items

- Some equation items have **two parts**. For a **two-part equation item**, such as the one to the right, be sure to enter your answer for **each part** of the item.

An area model is shown.



- Create a multiplication expression that you could use to find the area of this model.

$$(40+4)(30+7)$$

- What is the total area, in square units, of the model?

$$1628$$

Marking Your Answers

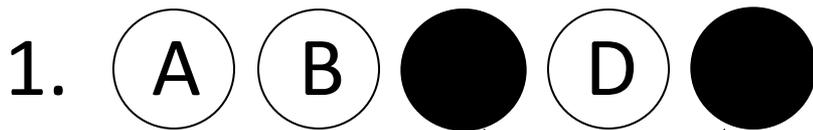
Now it's time to review
some important tips
for marking your answer correctly.

Marking Your Answers

- The most important thing is to **read instructions for each question carefully!**
- For **multiple choice** and **multiselect** questions, read carefully to know if you should mark **one** answer or **multiple** answers for each question.

Marking Your Answers

For questions that ask you to fill in a bubble or bubbles, be sure to fill in the bubble for your answer choice or choices **completely** with your number 2 pencil.



Correct

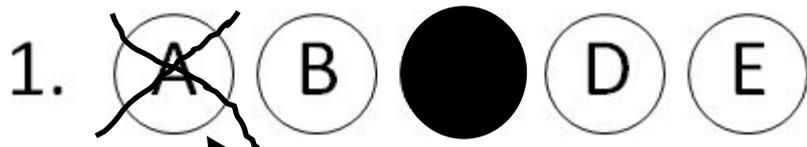
Marking Your Answers

For answers that require you to fill in a bubble or bubbles, *do not* **circle** your answer.



Marking Your Answers

For answers that require you to fill in a bubble or bubbles, *do not* cross out answers you think are wrong or make marks in any other bubbles.



Incorrect

Marking Your Answers

- For **editing task** items in the FSA Reading tests, remember that you are supposed to **fill in the bubble** *before* the correct answer.
- If you write your answer in the blank but do not fill in the bubble, **your answer will not be scored.**

Incorrect



Koalas are animals that live in Australia. They look [A look B will look C looks D looked] a little bit like small bears, _____ [A or B nor C because D but] they are not bears. They are brown or gray, with round, fluffy ears, and they have no tails. You have probably seen pictures of koalas. They are very popular because they are so cute.

Koalas are herbivores, which means they eat plants. They live in trees and love to climb. Koalas are _____ [A knowen B known C none D knowne] to sleep up to 20 _____ [A owers B howers C hours D ours] a day.

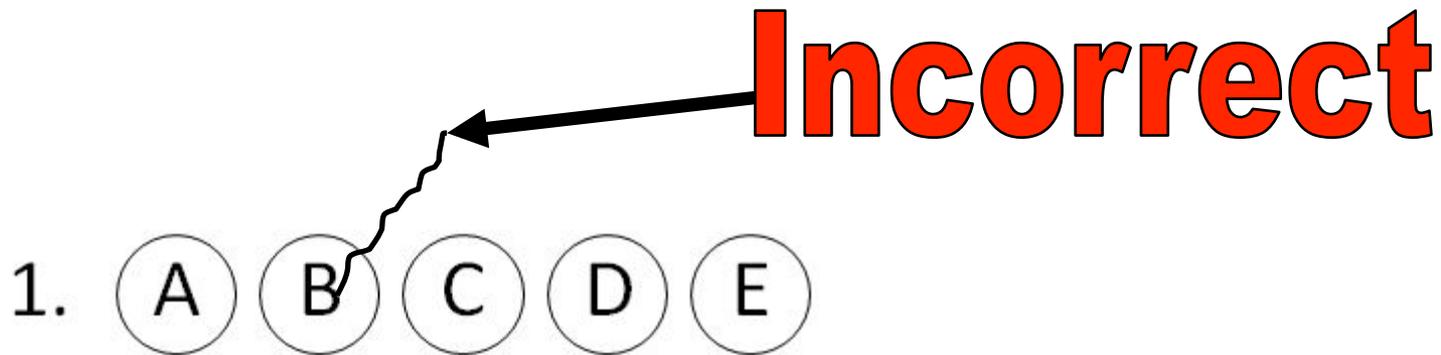
Many people around the world visit zoos to see koalas. They can live 13 to 18 years in the wild, but the _____ [A old B most old C oldest D older] zoo koala on record lived to be 23 years old.

Marking Your Answers

You *are* allowed to circle or underline words in the reading passages, make notes, or work mathematics problems in the blank space in your test and answer book or on the Directions handout.

Marking Your Answers

Make sure that any marks you make taking notes or working problems **do not** go 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.

Remember....

If you come to a page in your test and answer book that says **Go On** in the bottom corner, turn the page and continue working.



Remember...

When you come to the stop sign at the end of a session, **stop working. Do not go on to the next session.**



DO NOT GO ON.

Remember...

When you have finished a session, check through your answers for that session to make sure you have answered each question in the way you were supposed to (check your Directions handout to be sure) and that you have answered **every** question.

Remember...

During the test you may not:

- Work ahead in another session in your test and answer book (working ahead in Session 2 during Session 1 of the test; going back and working in Session 1 during Session 2 of the test)
- Change any answers from a previous session
- Look at another student's answers
- Allow another student to look at your answers
- Have notes, scratch paper, or electronic devices

Remember...

- **You may not ask for help in answering any test questions.**
 - Your teacher or test administrator is not allowed to discuss the test or 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 specific test questions** with friends, classmates, teachers, or other students.

Most importantly:

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