

Cognitive Task Classification Guidelines for FCAT

The *Science Sunshine State Standards* define the content standards for which Science FCAT test items and performance tasks are developed. The *Science Sunshine State Standards* contain benchmarks that identify the content knowledge and skills that students are expected to acquire and that include an expectation that students become creative and critical thinkers. The importance of thinking skills and problem solving is identified in *Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability* Standard 4 of Goal 3: "Florida students use creative thinking skills to generate new ideas, make the best decision, recognize and solve problems through reasoning, interpret symbolic data, and develop efficient techniques for lifelong learning." Science FCAT test items and performance tasks are developed with the intent of enhancing the thinking and problem-solving abilities envisioned by this standard.

The Science FCAT will include two levels of cognitive tasks derived from Bloom's taxonomy. The Bloom taxonomy consists of the following levels of cognitive tasks: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. In the department's guidelines, Level I includes knowledge, comprehension, and application, when the application referred to is similar to the learning situation. Level II includes application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation, when the application referred to is in new or unique situations.

