

# Hints for Taking the Grade 5 Science FCAT

*Here are some hints to help you do your best when you take the FCAT science test. Keep these hints in mind when you answer the sample questions.*

- ✓ Learn how to answer each kind of question. The FCAT Science Test will have three types of questions:
  - Multiple-choice,
  - Short-response, and
  - Extended-response.
- ✓ Read each question carefully.
- ✓ Check each answer to make sure it is the best answer for the question asked.
- ✓ Answer the questions you are sure about first. If a question seems too difficult, skip it and go back to it later.
- ✓ Be sure to fill in the answer bubbles correctly. Do not make any stray marks around answer spaces.
- ✓ Think positively. Some questions may seem hard to you, but you may be able to figure out what to do if you reread the question carefully.
- ✓ When you have finished each question, reread it to make sure your answer is reasonable.
- ✓ Relax. Some people get nervous about tests. It's natural. Just do your best.

# What Every Teacher Should Know about the Science FCAT

- Use questions that require students to explain their answers. Make sure when responding that the answer is concise and scientifically sound.
- Use open-ended question formats that are similar to the Science FCAT format. Most classroom-developed questions should be Cognitive Level II.
- Rate and grade students' work using the Science FCAT rubrics. If you actually use the FCAT rubrics to score papers, reports, test questions, projects, etc., then students will develop a clear understanding of the levels of performance expected of them on FCAT.
- Use and develop questions for class discussions and tests that are of the same cognitive rigor as those on FCAT.
- Require students to collect, analyze and interpret data frequently and incorporate the Nature of Science in all activities.
- Whenever possible, include graphics on classroom-developed assessments, such as illustrations, flow charts, data tables, and graphs.

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