

FCAT 2.0 OVERVIEW AND SCHOOL GRADE

The Florida Department of Education has transitioned from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test® (FCAT) to the FCAT 2.0, to align with new student academic content standards. The FCAT 2.0 will measure student achievement of the *Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS)* in reading, mathematics, and science, in place of the *Sunshine State Standards*.

The State has projected a decrease in all school grades due to the facts that this year:

- The new FCAT 2.0 is more challenging, requiring higher level thinking skills
- The cut scores have been raised making it more difficult for a student to achieve a higher level of proficiency (in plain English, for example, if an "A" was 90 - 100 before, it would be something like 96 - 100 now; so all of the previous scores of 90 - 95 would be "B"s this year)
- The 6th graders for the first time will take the FCAT Reading online and studies indicate whenever a different method of testing is introduced, scores trend downward
- As the simultaneous usage demand for technology increases throughout the State, problems with systems crashing and/or freezing will add to the stress and chaos of test-taking which does not enhance the probability of success for each student.

All students, regardless of language proficiency, will take the FCAT 2.0 in English. At our school, where almost one out of four (actually 24.3%) students return home to non-English speaking households and 12.3% of students are classified with a learning disability, reaching proficiency in all of the categories being assessed is even more challenging.

Below are sample questions from the middle school FCAT 2.0. They are provided so that you can have a sense of the degree of difficulty or the level of academic challenge that the FCAT 2.0 includes.

As you peruse these questions, enjoy and be informed. Our school welcomes this new challenge.

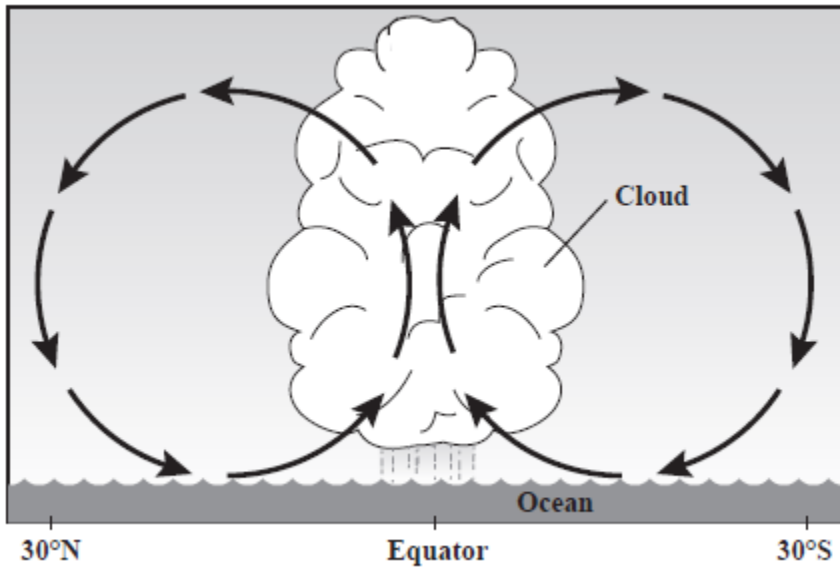
8TH GRADE SAMPLE

SCIENCE

1. The interaction between the cryosphere and hydrosphere can have an impact on Earth's oceans. Which of the following is an example of an interaction between the cryosphere and hydrosphere?

- A. evaporation of water from oceans at the equator
- B. release of fresh water into ocean water as icebergs melt
- C. decomposition of organic matter at the bottom of oceans
- D. release of large amounts of salt from icebergs into the ocean

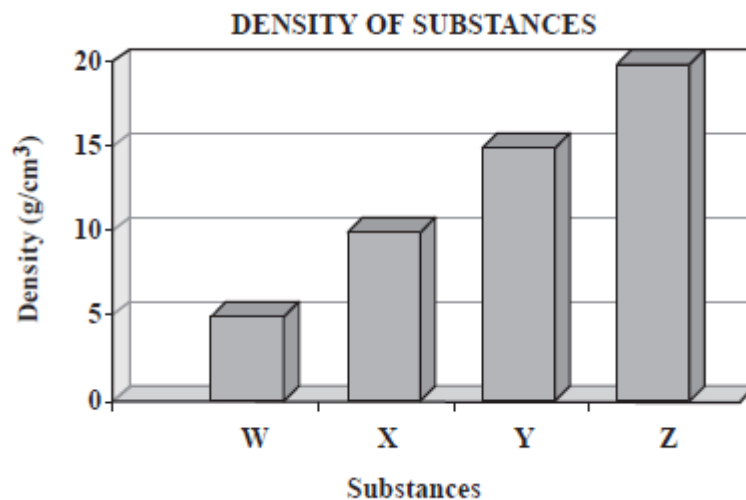
2. Several factors can cause weather patterns in the atmosphere. The diagram below shows how air movement near the equator can form thunderstorms.



Which process is the main source of this movement?

- A. movement of ocean currents
- B. decrease in relative humidity
- C. heating by energy from the Sun
- D. warming in the upper atmosphere

3. The graph below compares the density, in grams per cubic centimeter of four different substances (g/cm³),

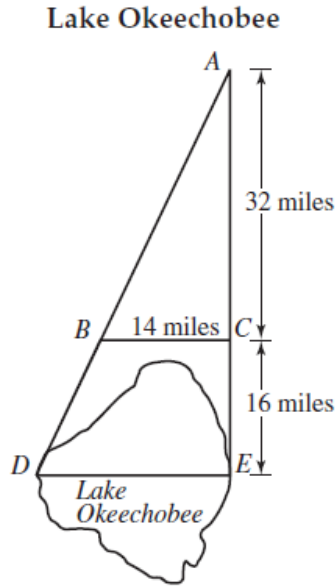


Based on information from the graph, which of the following **best** compares the physical properties of two of the substances?

- F. Substance X has less mass than substance Y has.
- G. Substance W has less volume than substance X has.
- H. Substance Y would have less mass than substance Z would have if they had the same volume.
- I. Substance Z would have less mass than substance W would have if they had the same volume.

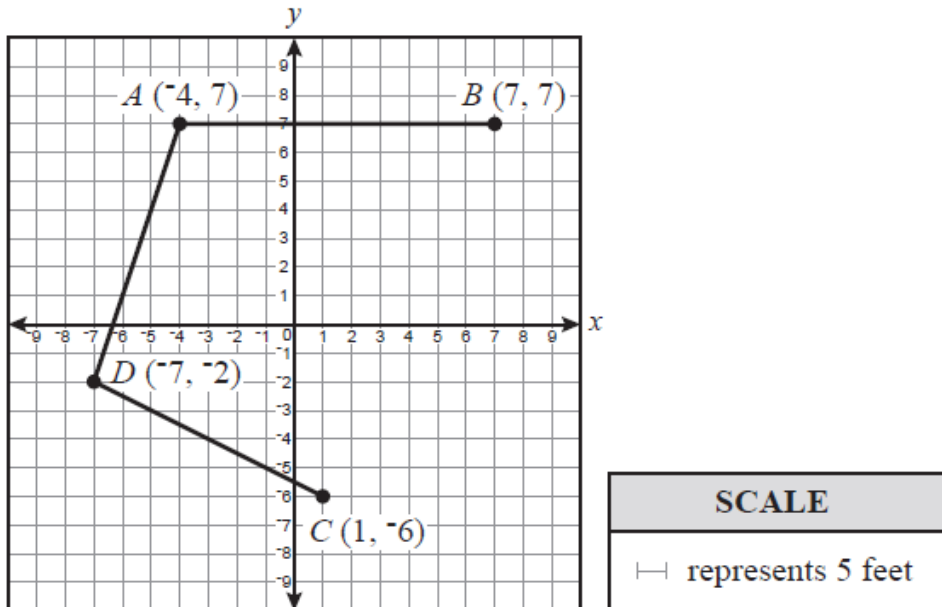
MATH

4. A geographer is trying to determine the distance across Lake Okeechobee from point D to point E , as shown in the diagram below. Point C is on AE and point B is on AD . She has drawn triangles using known distances so that $\angle ACB$ is congruent to $\angle AED$.



What is the distance, in miles, across Lake Okeechobee along DE ?

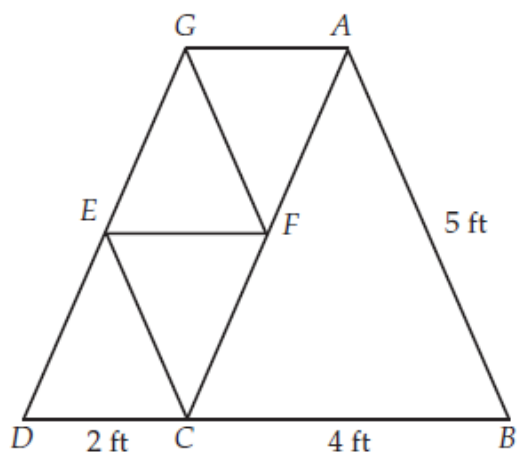
5. Marcella is designing an outdoor stage. When complete, the stage will be represented by polygon $ABCD$ on the coordinate plane below.



What is the actual distance, to the nearest foot, from B to C ?

6.

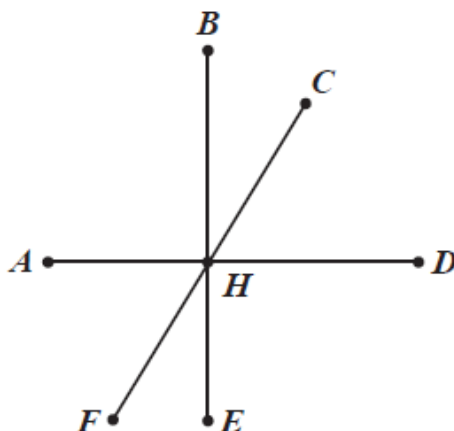
An architect is using isosceles triangles in the design of a bridge. In the diagram below, all line segments represent the steel beams needed to build this section of the bridge. Triangle DEC is similar to $\triangle CAB$ and congruent to $\triangle AFG$.



What is the length, in feet (ft), of segment EC ?

7.

The illustration below is made up of \overline{AD} , \overline{BE} , and \overline{CF} . All three segments intersect at point H .



\overline{AD} is perpendicular to \overline{BE} . If the measure of $\angle FHA$ is 65° , then what is the measure of $\angle BHC$?

- A. 45°
- B. 35°
- C. 25°
- D. 15°

8.

Mrs. Rafferty put four expressions on the board and asked her students to simplify them.

Expression 1	$4.6507 - 5.196$
Expression 2	$\sqrt{45 - 9}$
Expression 3	$ -2 - 1 $
Expression 4	$(-3)^3$

Which simplified expression has the least value?

- F. Expression 1
- G. Expression 2
- H. Expression 3
- I. Expression 4

READING

9. Read this excerpt from the brochure.

Wherever you start your expedition into the Big Bend experience, you'll be on the road to adventure. The border-to-border Chihuahuan Desert; the Chisos Mountains; and the steep canyons of Boquillas, Mariscal, and Santa Elena beckon you to Big Bend National Park.

The author most likely uses the word *beckon* to make Big Bend seem

- A. inviting.
- B. peaceful.
- C. vast.
- D. wild.

10. Read these lines from the poem.

This odd bird with wings always outstretched spends most of the time sleeping in my garage.

Based on the poem, what does the speaker mean by these lines?

- A. The kite is rarely used.
- B. The kite has no appeal.
- C. The kite serves no purpose.
- D. The kite is awkwardly constructed.

11. Read this line from the poem.

that this springtime dance needs stretching out,

What does the speaker mean in this line?

- A. The kite needs a new string.
- B. The seasons need to change.
- C. The kite needs a stronger wind.
- D. The imagination needs endless freedom.

12. Read this sentence from the article.

From the thundering majesty of Niagara Falls to the crashing, turbulent Colorado River, we are drawn to the power and excitement of running water.

As used in this sentence, the word *turbulent* means

- A. enormous.
- B. raging.
- C. scenic.
- D. swift.

13. Read these sentences from the article.

Predators without peer, owls are splendidly adapted to life in the darkness.

Its prowess as a predator has made this bird one of the most maligned and despised in our state's history.

Which literary technique does the author use in these sentences?

- F. imagery, portraying owls as skillful predators
- G. personification, assigning to owls the human trait of adapting
- H. hyperbole, exaggerating the status of owls among their predators
- I. alliteration, repeating a sound to emphasize the superiority of owls

14. Read this sentence from the article.

As far as my eyes could see, out to the farthest western horizon, the rolling swells of the Pacific Ocean marched toward me, whitecaps flashing in the sun, only to crash into sparkling foam on the rocks far below my perch.

Which type of figurative language does the author use in this sentence?

- F. hyperbole, exaggerating the intensity of the waves
- G. symbolism, using the distant waves to represent an army
- H. metaphor, comparing the waves to reflections of sunlight
- I. personification, giving human characteristics to the waves