

# What to know about the ELA Grades 3-5 FSA

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Dear Manatee County Families,

The new Florida Standards are being tested in the spring of 2015. The Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) is replacing the FCAT 2.0. Here is what to expect with new assessments.

**Q: Which subjects and grades does this affect?**

**A: English Language Arts: Grades 3-11**

**Mathematics: Grades 3-8**

**Q: When will the new standards be tested?**

**A:**

Grades	Subject	Dates
Grades 3-4	ELA and Math	March 23-April 10, 2015
Grades 5-8	ELA and Math	April 13-May 8, 2015

**Q: How are the tests different from last year?**

**A: The new test will include more authentic assessment measures of student high order thinking skills and will be more rigorous with greater item complexity. This includes:**

- Interacting with texts, tasks, and simulations
- Creating and using features like graphs and charts
- Communicating thinking and reasoning
- Writing to respond from sources

**Additional changes include:**

- Computerized administration for fifth grade students
- Increased test duration 20 minutes (two sessions equal to 160 minutes)
- Increased number of test items

## SAMPLE FSA QUESTIONS

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

[HTTP://WWW.FSASSESSMENTS.ORG/](http://www.fsassessments.org/)

With which two sentences would the author agree?

- A Learning is exciting no matter how you do it.
- B All students should go to school on the Internet.
- C Thousands of students in the same class are too many.
- D Online classrooms are a good alternative to regular ones.
- E Students in the same class should live close to each other.

3. Fill in the circle **before** the two sentences that show how online classrooms and regular classrooms are alike.

- 3      A Today, students who live far away from their teacher have classes on the Internet.      B In some online classrooms, a classroom full of kids can use a special computer program at the same time as the teacher.      C The students can live in one country, and the teacher can be located in a different country.      D Still, it's just like a classroom at your school.      E The teacher can teach the kids.      F The kids can ask questions.      G Everyone can see and hear everything that's being said as it happens.

### Part A

How has learning from distant places changed over time?

- A Students can ask questions and get answers faster.
- B Students can hear their teacher during the same class time.
- C Students use the mail to receive and send work.
- D Students live far apart from their classmates.

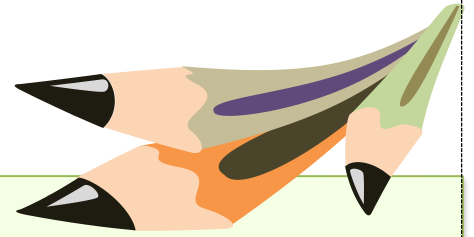
### Part B

Select one sentence that supports the answer in part A.

- A "The students can live in one country, and the teacher can be located in a different country."
- B "All the children could hear their teacher at the same time, but they were hundreds of miles apart."
- C "They got their lessons in the mail, did their homework, and mailed it back to the teacher."
- D "Everyone can see and hear everything that's being said as it happens."
- E "Sometimes, they don't have to have a class where everyone is together all at once."

10. Koalas are animals that live in Australia. They \_\_\_\_\_ [  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.





### Reading Skills Assessed

Grade	Reporting Category	FSA: Percentage of assessment by points
3	Key Ideas and Details	15–25%
	Craft and Structure	25–35%
	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	20–30%
	Language and Editing	15–25%
4	Key Ideas and Details	15–25%
	Craft and Structure	25–35%
	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	20–30%
	Language and Editing	15–25%
5	Key Ideas and Details	15–25%
	Craft and Structure	25–35%
	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	20–30%
	Language and Editing	15–25%

### Item Types That Could Be Found On the FSA

ELA Item Types
<b>Editing Task Choice:</b> selects the correct word or phrase.
<b>Editing Task:</b> replace the highlighted word or phrase with the correct word or phrase.
<b>Hot Text:</b> a) <b>Selectable Hot Text</b> —In a two-part hot text item, Part A might ask the student to make an analysis or an inference, and Part B might require the student to use the text to support the answer in Part A. In other cases, the two parts might function independently. b) <b>Drag-and-Drop Hot Text</b> —copy the correct answer choice into a graphic organizer or other format.
<b>Open Response:</b> These items can usually be answered in a sentence or two.
<b>Multi-select:</b> choose more than one correct answer.
<b>Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR):</b> two-part item, choose correct answers from Part A and Part B. Typically Part A is multiple-choice, whereas Part B may be either multiple-choice or multi-select.
<b>Graphic Response Item Display (GRID):</b> In a GRID item, the student might select words, phrases, or images and use the drag-and-drop feature to place them into a graphic organizer or other format.
<b>Multimedia:</b> Multimedia elements may appear within passages (stimuli) or test items.

## How Can I Help My Child Be Successful on FSA?

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

<http://www.fsassessments.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Florida-Family-Brochure-v6-2.pdf>

- Have fifth grade students go online and take the practice FSA online assessment. <http://www.fsassessments.org/training-tests>
- Read together every day. Spend time talking about the stories, pictures, and words.
- Listen to your child read. Be patient and listen as your child practices. Let your child know you are proud of his or her reading.
- Talk to your child about what he or she is reading.
  - What happened in the story?
  - Who are the characters, where are the places, and what events occurred?
  - What do you think will happen next?
  - Why do you think it happened that way?
  - What new information did you learn?
- Share conversations with your child over mealtimes and other times you are together. Children learn what words mean when they hear them spoken often.
- Be a reader and writer. Children learn habits from people around them.

