When you take the FCAT Reading test in fourth grade, you will have to write your own answer for some questions. These are called Read, Think, and Explain questions. How will you know when to write your own answer? Look for the icons shown below.

**Short-Response Questions**

- ✓ Spend about five minutes on these questions.
- ✓ Write two or three sentences.
- ✓ Your sentences should answer the question. They should include details from the passage that support the answer.

**Extended-Response Questions**

- ✓ Spend ten to fifteen minutes on these questions.
- ✓ Write a paragraph.
- ✓ Your paragraph should answer the question. It should include details from the passage that support the answer.

**FCAT Tip**

Plan your time! These icons tell you how long to spend answering each Read, Think, and Explain question.
FCAT Practice: Selection 1

Day 1

Steps for Answering
Read, Think, and Explain Questions

1. READ THE QUESTION.
   Look for clues that tell the purpose and the topic.

2. THINK: SEARCH AND FIND.
   Look for facts or other details that answer the question.

3. THINK: GET READY TO WRITE.
   Take notes, listing details and facts from the passage that help
   answer the question.

4. EXPLAIN: WRITE YOUR ANSWER.
   ✔ Include the clue words from the question in your answer.
   ✔ Try to use them in the first sentence.
   ✔ Support your answer with details and exact words from
     the passage.
   ✔ Repeat details from the passage correctly.
   ✔ Use connecting words that support your purpose, such as to
     show cause and effect or time order.
   ✔ Write only what you need to answer the question.
   ✔ Check that you have answered all parts of the question.

FCAT Tip
Be positive! If a question seems hard, just follow these steps.
Rubric for Short-Response Questions

2 points  The response indicates that the student has a complete understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based.

1 point The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that includes information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples may be incomplete or omitted.

0 points The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

Rubric for Extended-Response Questions

4 points  The response indicates that the student has a thorough understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based.

3 points The response indicates that the student has an understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate and fulfills all the requirements of the task, but the required support and/or details are not complete or clearly text-based.

2 points The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that includes information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples and requirements of the task may be incomplete or omitted.

1 point The response indicates that the student has a very limited understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The response is incomplete, may exhibit many flaws, and may not address all requirements of the task.

0 points The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.
Into the Storm

A ride in an airplane can get bumpy as the plane flies through clouds or storms. Most pilots try to avoid flying through storms. Some pilots, however, fly into storms on purpose. These pilots and their crews collect information about storms for the United States Air Force Reserve. The members of this unit are sometimes called “Hurricane Hunters.”

Flying into storms started as a dare between two pilots more than fifty years ago. On July 27, 1943, Army Major Joe Duckworth flew a single-engine plane into the eye of a tropical storm. He flew into the storm twice that day. He took a weather forecaster with him on his second trip into the storm’s center. In 1944, the United States formed a special squadron to gather information about the weather.

Today, the Hurricane Hunters fly into hurricanes that form over the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean. Hurricane season lasts from June until November. From November to April, the Hurricane Hunters fly into winter storms. On these flights, they collect a great deal of important information.

The planes flown by the Hurricane Hunters can fly at a speed of three hundred miles an hour for up to fifteen hours. The average Hurricane Hunter flight lasts about eleven hours. During that time, the crew collects and reports weather information every thirty seconds.

Each plane carries a specially trained crew. A pilot and a copilot fly the plane, and another person is in charge of keeping the plane on course. A flight engineer and two people who work the weather instruments usually make up the rest of the crew.

Some of the weather instruments used are attached to the plane. They measure air temperature, air pressure, humidity, and wind speed. Other instruments are dropped from the plane every four hundred miles. These instruments also measure air temperature, air pressure, humidity, and wind speed. This information is collected by the crew on the plane and then sent to the National Hurricane Center. Scientists there use these measurements to make computer models of hurricanes.

A hurricane model helps scientists measure the size and strength of a hurricane. A model also helps predict where a hurricane is going to go. Weather forecasters can then warn people about an approaching hurricane. Knowing a hurricane is coming and how strong it is helps people prepare for it properly. Because of the Hurricane Hunters, people are safer today during severe weather.
Now answer Numbers 1 through 8. Base your answers on the article “Into the Storm.”

1. How are Hurricane Hunter pilots different from most pilots?
   - A. They fly all year.
   - B. They have a crew on board.
   - C. They fly into storms on purpose.
   - D. Their rides get bumpy sometimes.

2. Why did Major Duckworth fly into a tropical storm?
   - E. He flew into it by accident.
   - F. He was dared by another pilot.
   - G. He wanted to go for a bumpy ride.
   - H. He needed to measure wind speed.

3. What do the Hurricane Hunters do during the months when there are no hurricanes?
   - A. They go on vacation.
   - B. They study measurements.
   - C. They fly into winter storms.
   - D. They make models of hurricanes.

4. Why did the author write the article “Into the Storm?”
   - F. to explain how hurricanes form
   - G. to tell what Hurricane Hunters do
   - H. to tell readers about the National Hurricane Center
   - I. to make readers want to become weather forecasters
Why are people safer from hurricanes now than they were in 1944? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

---

Read this sentence from the article “Into the Storm.”

In 1944, the United States formed a special squadron to gather information about the weather.

What does the word *squadron* mean?

- A club
- B group
- C meeting
- D business

What would be another appropriate title for this article?

- “Hurricane Hunters”
- “The Dangers of a Hurricane”
- “Life in the Air Force Reserve”
- “Where Hurricanes Come From”
Describe how the weather instruments are used by the Hurricane Hunters. What do scientists do with the information from these instruments? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.
Akiak

Answer Numbers 1 through 3. Base your answers on Akiak.

1. Read this sentence from the story.
   
   The wind was building and the pilot was in a hurry to leave.
   
   What does the word building mean in this sentence?
   
   A. gusting
   B. blowing
   C. increasing
   D. decreasing

2. Akiak is DIFFERENT from other dogs on the team because
   
   A. she has run the Iditarod before.
   B. she knows she must win this year.
   C. she has not run the Iditarod before.
   D. she knows the trail better than any other dog.

3. Akiak travels through Unalakleet because she is
   
   A. lost and hungry.
   B. following her own trail through the forest.
   C. following the Iditarod trail around the town.
   D. following the Iditarod trail through the town.

FCAT Tip

If you have time, check the answers to the questions that seemed hardest to you.
Akiak

Answer Numbers 1 and 2. Base your answers on *Akiak*.

1. What is the BEST new title for this story?
   - (A) “A Brave Dog”
   - (B) “Winter in Alaska”
   - (C) “Lost in the Snow”
   - (D) “Mick and Ketcham”

2. Why does Akiak ride to the finish line in the sled? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

**FCAT Tip**

Underline clue words or key words in the question. Include them in your answer.
Akiak

Answer Number 1. Base your answer on *Akiak*.

1. Explain how people’s behavior toward Akiak changed as the race went on. Use details and examples from the story to explain your answer.

---

**FCAT Tip**

Remember that a good extended response is a complete paragraph.
Go, Team, Go!

Answer Numbers 1 through 3. Base your answers on “Go, Team, Go!”

1 Read this sentence from the article.

On weekends and holidays they help parents Diane and Richard Smith run dogsled trips for the family business.

What does the word run mean in this sentence?

A to ride or drive fast
B to follow the trail of
C to operate or manage
D to move or pass swiftly

2 Why did the author write the article “Go, Team, Go!”?

F to explain how to go dogsledding
G to tell a story about a dogsled trip
H to persuade readers to take a dogsled trip
I to inform readers about a dogsledding family

3 The Smiths’ dogsled trips are DIFFERENT from the Iditarod because the Smiths

A take passengers.
B pack their sleds with gear.
C travel through wild country.
D see wild animals on their trips.
Go, Team, Go!

Answer Numbers 1 and 2. Base your answers on “Go, Team, Go!”

1. Why do dogsledgers use voice commands?
   - A to make the dogs run faster
   - B to tell the dogs when someone is hurt
   - C to tell the dogs what to do on the trail
   - D to talk to each other when they are on a trip

2. Describe what you might see on a dogsled trip. Base your answer on the article and the pictures on pages 56 and 57.

   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

FCAT Tip

Remember to support your answers with details and examples from the passage.
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Plan your time! These icons tell you how long to spend answering each Read, Think, and Explain question.
1. **READ THE QUESTION.**
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---

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Rubric for Short-Response Questions

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0 points  The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

Rubric for Extended-Response Questions

4 points  The response indicates that the student has a thorough understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based.

3 points  The response indicates that the student has an understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate and fulfills all the requirements of the task, but the required support and/or details are not complete or clearly text-based.

2 points  The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that includes information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples and requirements of the task may be incomplete or omitted.

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0 points  The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.
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A ride in an airplane can get bumpy as the plane flies through clouds or storms. Most pilots try to avoid flying through storms. Some pilots, however, fly into storms on purpose. These pilots and their crews collect information about storms for the United States Air Force Reserve. The members of this unit are sometimes called “Hurricane Hunters.”

Flying into storms started as a dare between two pilots more than fifty years ago. On July 27, 1943, Army Major Joe Duckworth flew a single-engine plane into the eye of a tropical storm. He flew into the storm twice that day. He took a weather forecaster with him on his second trip into the storm’s center. In 1944, the United States formed a special squadron to gather information about the weather.

Today, the Hurricane Hunters fly into hurricanes that form over the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean. Hurricane season lasts from June until November. From November to April, the Hurricane Hunters fly into winter storms. On these flights, they collect a great deal of important information.

The planes flown by the Hurricane Hunters can fly at a speed of three hundred miles an hour for up to fifteen hours. The average Hurricane Hunter flight lasts about eleven hours. During that time, the crew collects and reports weather information every thirty seconds.

Each plane carries a specially trained crew. A pilot and a copilot fly the plane, and another person is in charge of keeping the plane on course. A flight engineer and two people who work the weather instruments usually make up the rest of the crew.

Some of the weather instruments used are attached to the plane. They measure air temperature, air pressure, humidity, and wind speed. Other instruments are dropped from the plane every four hundred miles. These instruments also measure air temperature, air pressure, humidity, and wind speed. This information is collected by the crew on the plane and then sent to the National Hurricane Center. Scientists there use these measurements to make computer models of hurricanes.

A hurricane model helps scientists measure the size and strength of a hurricane. A model also helps predict where a hurricane is going to go. Weather forecasters can then warn people about an approaching hurricane. Knowing a hurricane is coming and how strong it is helps people prepare for it properly. Because of the Hurricane Hunters, people are safer today during severe weather.
Now answer Numbers 1 through 8. Base your answers on the article “Into the Storm.”

1. How are Hurricane Hunter pilots different from most pilots?
   - A. They fly all year.
   - B. They have a crew on board.
   - C. They fly into storms on purpose.
   - D. Their rides get bumpy sometimes.
   (LA.4.1.7.7)

2. Why did Major Duckworth fly into a tropical storm?
   - F. He flew into it by accident.
   - G. He was dared by another pilot.
   - H. He wanted to go for a bumpy ride.
   - I. He needed to measure wind speed.
   (LA.4.1.7.4)

3. What do the Hurricane Hunters do during the months when there are no hurricanes?
   - A. They go on vacation.
   - B. They study measurements.
   - C. They fly into winter storms.
   - D. They make models of hurricanes.
   (LA.4.1.7.3)

4. Why did the author write the article “Into the Storm?”
   - F. to explain how hurricanes form
   - G. to tell what Hurricane Hunters do
   - H. to tell readers about the National Hurricane Center
   - I. to make readers want to become weather forecasters
   (LA.4.1.7.2)
5. Why are people safer from hurricanes now than they were in 1944? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

Sample Score 2 response: People are safer now because the Hurricane Hunters were started in 1944. They fly into a hurricane and get information that helps scientists figure out how strong the hurricane is and where it is going. Forecasters tell people this information, so they can prepare for the hurricane properly. (LA.4.1.7.4)

6. Read this sentence from the article “Into the Storm.”

In 1944, the United States formed a special squadron to gather information about the weather.

What does the word squadron mean?

A. club
B. group
C. meeting
D. business

(LA.4.1.6.3)

7. What would be another appropriate title for this article?

A. “Hurricane Hunters”
B. “The Dangers of a Hurricane”
C. “Life in the Air Force Reserve”
D. “Where Hurricanes Come From”

(LA.4.1.7.3)
Select 1: Into the Storm

Day 2

Describe how the weather instruments are used by the Hurricane Hunters. What do scientists do with the information from these instruments? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

**Sample Score 4 response:** The Hurricane Hunters use weather instruments attached to their plane. They also use weather instruments dropped from the airplane. These instruments measure air temperature, air pressure, humidity, and wind speed. The crew on the plane collects the measurements and then sends them to scientists. The scientists use the information to build computer models of hurricanes. These models help scientists measure the size and strength of a hurricane and track where it is going. (LA.4.1.7.3)

Go back and check your work.

STOP
Akiak

Answer Numbers 1 through 3. Base your answers on Akiak.

1. Read this sentence from the story.

   The wind was building and the pilot was in a hurry to leave.

   What does the word building mean in this sentence?

   A. gusting  
   B. blowing  
   C. increasing  
   D. decreasing

   (LA.4.1.6.8)

2. Akiak is DIFFERENT from other dogs on the team because

   A. she has run the Iditarod before.  
   B. she knows she must win this year.  
   C. she has not run the Iditarod before.  
   D. she knows the trail better than any other dog.

   (LA.4.1.7.5)

3. Akiak travels through Unalakleet because she is

   A. lost and hungry.  
   B. following her own trail through the forest.  
   C. following the Iditarod trail around the town.  
   D. following the Iditarod trail through the town.

   (LA.4.2.2.2)

FCAT Tip

If you have time, check the answers to the questions that seemed hardest to you.
Akiak

Answer Numbers 1 and 2. Base your answers on Akiak.

1 What is the BEST new title for this story?
   A “A Brave Dog”
   B “Winter in Alaska”
   C “Lost in the Snow”
   D “Mick and Ketcham”
   (LA.4.2.2.2)

2 Why does Akiak ride to the finish line in the sled? Use details from the story to explain your answer.
   Sample Score 2 response: When Akiak returns to the team, she is not allowed to be harnessed up again. Mick says that’s because it is against the rules. So instead of running, Akiak rides in the sled to the finish line. (LA.4.1.7.4)
Akiak

Answer Number 1. Base your answer on Akiak.

1. Explain how people's behavior toward Akiak changed as the race went on. Use details and examples from the story to explain your answer.

Sample Score 4 response: Right after Akiak got loose, people tried to stop her, but as the race went on, people changed the way they treated her. By the end of the race, they helped her and cheered her on, in Unalakleet and Shaktoolik, people tried to catch Akiak. One person in Shaktoolik opened a door to help her get away. Then in Koyuk nobody tried to stop her, and in Elim people fed her. In one place, people lined up to watch Akiak run through town. (LA.4.1.7.3)

FCAT Tip
Remember that a good extended response is a complete paragraph.
Go, Team, Go!

Answer Numbers 1 through 3. Base your answers on “Go, Team, Go!”

1. Read this sentence from the article.

   On weekends and holidays they help parents Diane and Richard Smith run dogsled trips for the family business.

   What does the word *run* mean in this sentence?
   - A to ride or drive fast
   - B to follow the trail of
   - C to operate or manage
   - D to move or pass swiftly
   (LA.4.1.6.8)

2. Why did the author write the article “Go, Team, Go!”?

   - F to explain how to go dogsledding
   - G to tell a story about a dogsled trip
   - H to persuade readers to take a dogsled trip
   - I to inform readers about a dogsledding family
   (LA.4.1.7.2)

3. The Smiths’ dogsled trips are DIFFERENT from the Iditarod because the Smiths

   - A take passengers.
   - B pack their sleds with gear.
   - C travel through wild country.
   - D see wild animals on their trips.
   (LA.4.1.7.5)

**FCAT Tip**
Answer the easiest questions first.
Go, Team, Go!

Answer Numbers 1 and 2. Base your answers on “Go, Team, Go!”

1. Why do dogsledders use voice commands?
   A. to make the dogs run faster
   B. to tell the dogs when someone is hurt
   C. to tell the dogs what to do on the trail
   D. to talk to each other when they are on a trip
   
   (LA.4.1.7.4)

2. Describe what you might see on a dogsled trip. Base your answer on the article and the pictures on pages 56 and 57.

   Sample Score 2 response: On a dogsled trip, I would see lots of big, bouncy Siberian huskies. I would watch how the mushers take care of their dogs. There might be high, snow mountains and forests around us. I might see moose and other wild animals. (LA.4.2.2.2)

   
   
   
   
   
   

FCAT Tip

Remember to support your answers with details and examples from the passage.