

**SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS FOR**  
**PRACTICE TEST, READING, GRADE 7**  
(Test items developed for skills measured in FCAT)

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**Skills**

- 1.0 Vocabulary
    - 1.1 Meaning of Words
  - 2.0 Comprehension
    - 2.1 Compare/Contrast
    - 2.2 Main Idea/Supporting Details/  
Chronological Order
    - 2.3 Author's Purpose/Point of View
    - 2.4 Uses Reference Sources
    - 2.5 Accuracy of Information/Fact/Opinion
    - 2.6 Cause and Effect
    - 2.7 Character/Plot, Point of View, Tone
- 

Number of questions: 50  
Number of pages: 17

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## FCAT PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 7

Read each passage. Then read the questions that follow each passage and decide on the best answer.

### NICK MAKES A SPEECH

Nick was dressed in his best Sunday clothes - a new tie, charcoal grey suit, and the brand-new leather shoes that his mother had bought for him last week. Usually Nick hated to dress up, but today was worth it. Mr. Webster, Nick's debate coach, had explained to him that he would have a better chance with both the students and adults at tonight's meeting if he were dressed as if he meant business. "Dress like you are very serious about the meeting, and people will treat you seriously," said Mr. Webster. So Nick had even polished his shoes.

The meeting was to decide who would be the next mayor of the Youth City Council. Nick had decided to run because he wanted to start a newspaper recycling program in his community. He had thought that it might even be fun to be the mayor of the Youth City Council. He could go to meetings every month and make important decisions. He would be in charge of the Youth City Council dance, and he would get to decide which charities and volunteer organizations the Youth City Council should donate their time to help. Last year Nick had been a council member on the Youth City Council, and so he had a lot of experience. And when the council had asked for nominations for candidates to run for mayor, Nick's best friend Joey had nominated Nick without telling him. But Nick was glad that Joey had nominated him. He had decided that it would be fun to be mayor of the Youth City Council.

But he did not know that he would have to spend so much time campaigning. Tonight he had to make a speech in front of his family and all his friends, and worse in front of the real mayor or Rivendell and the real Rivendell City Council. Nick's family was especially excited about tonight's speech. Even his grandparents were coming to show support. Nick's stomach was twisting so hard that he thought maybe he would not be able to talk when it was his turn.

"Are you okay?" asked Joey, who was waiting with Nick near the front of the Council Room at the Rivendell City Hall. Joey had agreed to be Nick's campaign manager. As manager, it was Joey's job to help think of ways for Nick to get votes. Joey helped Nick put up signs and posters at school, and he even helped Nick write the speech that he was about to make.

"I'll be okay," said Nick. "I want to practice my speech one more time. I'm afraid that I'll forget what I want to say when I get up in front of the Council."

"If you are going to practice your speech one more time," said Joey "you had better hurry. I think they are going to start the speeches in just a few minutes, and you might be first."

Nick knew Joey was right. There wasn't time to go out into the hallway to practice his speech out loud. All he could do was try to forget the noise and people around him and concentrate on the paper in front of him while he read over his speech one last time. He had thought that he would memorize his speech so that he wouldn't have to read it off of a piece of paper. Mr. Webster, his debate coach, had suggested that memorizing his speech would make him seem more professional. But now, with his stomach in knots and only moments to go until he had to stand in front of the crowd, Nick didn't know any more if he would be able to remember his speech. He was beginning to feel a little panicked.

"They are getting ready to start," said Joey, nudging Nick with his elbow to get his attention. "I hope you are ready."

"I hope so too," thought Nick to himself.

Mayor Johnson was speaking now. "Welcome to tonight's meeting. I know all of us are looking forward with pleasure to hearing the speeches of the candidates for the mayor of the Rivendell Youth City Council. I would personally like to wish all the speakers good luck. We will start by hearing from Nick Geleto."

Nick stood up. It was now or never.



1. Read this sentence from the passage.

Nick was dressed in his best Sunday clothes - a new tie, charcoal grey suit, and the brand-new leather shoes that his mother had bought for him last week.

In this passage, the word *suit* means

- A. a matching set of clothes
  - B. a court action seeking a legal remedy
  - C. a group of pieces of matching furniture
  - D. a man's courting of a woman in hopes of marriage
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2. Which of the following statements best summarizes the story?

- A. Nick explains why recycling is so important.
  - B. Nick, with the help of his best friend Joey, prepares for his speech.
  - C. Joey and Nick work well together as a team.
  - D. Nick would be the best mayor of the Youth City Council.
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3. Who nominated Nick to run for mayor of the Youth City Council?

- A. the real mayor of Rivendell City
  - B. Nick's father
  - C. Joey
  - D. the Rivendell City Council
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4. Nick seems to feel

- A. uninterested in giving a speech
  - B. confident about his speech
  - C. excited about his speech
  - D. nervous about his speech
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5. Which sentence is an opinion?

- A. Nick was dressed in his Sunday clothes.
- B. Dressing properly always makes a candidate win.
- C. The meeting was to decide who would be the next mayor of the Youth City Council.
- D. Nick had a year of experience as a council member.