



SECTION 3

TEST I SAMPLE CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENTS

This section of the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators® (GACE™) Preparation Guide is designed to assist you in responding to the constructed-response assignments on the test. Included in this section are:

- ▶ Constructed-response assignment directions
- ▶ Sample constructed-response assignments
- ▶ Assignment response sheets
- ▶ An example of a strong response to each sample assignment
- ▶ Scoring criteria that will be used in evaluating your response to each assignment

For each sample assignment, you may want to take the following steps to prepare for the test:

- Review the constructed-response assignment directions.
- Print the assignment and the assignment response sheet.
- Use scrap paper to make notes, write an outline, or otherwise prepare your response.
- Use the assignment response sheet to record your response. The assignment response sheet reflects the amount of space available on an actual test.
- After you complete the assignment, review the sample strong response, your response, and the scoring criteria.

CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS

A sample of the directions for the constructed-response assignments is shown in the box below.

CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS

For each constructed-response assignment in this section, you are to prepare a written response of up to one page and record it in the area provided on the appropriate Assignment Response Sheet in your answer document.

Read each assignment carefully before you begin to write. Think about how you will organize what you plan to write. You may use any blank space provided in this test booklet following each assignment to make notes, write an outline, or otherwise prepare your response. *However, each of your final responses must be written on the appropriate Assignment Response Sheet in your answer document.*

Your responses will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Purpose:** The extent to which the response fulfills the purpose of the assignment in relation to relevant GACE framework objectives
- **Application of Content Knowledge and Skills:** The extent to which the response accurately and effectively applies content knowledge and skills in relation to relevant GACE framework objectives
- **Supporting Evidence:** The extent to which the response includes appropriate, specific supporting evidence of content knowledge and skills in relation to relevant GACE framework objectives

Evaluation of each response will be based on the criteria above, not on your writing ability. However, your response must be communicated clearly enough to permit a valid judgment of your knowledge and skills. Your responses should be written for an audience of educators in the field.

Your responses should be your original work, written in your own words, and not copied or paraphrased from some other work. Please write legibly. You may not use any reference materials during the test. Remember to review your work and make any changes you think will improve your responses.

The selected-response section of the answer document containing your name will be removed from your written responses to maintain your anonymity during the scoring process. Do not write your name on any other portion of the answer document, and do not separate any of the sheets from the document.

Please turn the page and begin the constructed-response assignment section of the test.

CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT ONE

■ Sample Constructed-Response Assignment One

Use the information below to complete the assignment that follows.

An important learning standard for first-grade reading is for students to use a variety of strategies to understand and gain meaning from grade-level text.

- Explain why the above standard is important for the literacy development of children; and
- describe one developmentally appropriate instructional strategy that would be effective in promoting students' use of a variety of strategies to understand and gain meaning from grade-level text.

■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment One

Students' use of reading comprehension strategies such as using context, making predictions, summarizing, making connections to personal experiences, and taking part in discussions about their reading is essential to literacy development. The more effectively students learn to use these strategies, the better readers they will become, and the more they will enjoy the experience of reading both for pleasure and for gaining information.

One developmentally appropriate approach that would be effective in promoting students' use of a variety of comprehension strategies would be a Directed Reading and Thinking Activity (DRTA). This is a planned, step-by-step process of presenting a reading lesson. The process includes preparation and motivation, silent reading, vocabulary skills development, re-reading, and follow-up activities. The main elements of a DRTA are prediction and verification. Students set their own purposes for reading by making predictions and, in the reading stage, they verify their predictions. After the reading stage, students have discussions in which they check their verifications. Each stage of the process is monitored, modeled, and guided by the teacher.

CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT TWO

■ Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

Use the information below to complete the assignment that follows.

Certain historical events are significant not only for their effects at the time the events occur, but also for their long-term influence. World War II was one such event in U.S. history.

- Describe why World War II was a significant event in U.S. history; and
- explain one way in which World War II has had a lasting influence on the United States.

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■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

World War II was a significant event in U.S. history, because it finally helped pull the United States out of the Great Depression. Industrialization significantly increased to meet the demands of the war effort. There was a massive influx of women into the workforce to take the place of men who were drafted into the military, and there was a population shift to industrial centers. The war also stimulated scientific research and technological development, which continued even after the war ended.

One way World War II had a lasting influence on the United States was it ended American isolationism and established the United States as a world power. In the wake of WWI and the resulting political fallout with the Soviet Union, the United States began a policy of Communist containment, which would eventually lead to the Korean and Vietnam wars. Even with the end of the Cold War, the United States remains very much involved in world affairs and global concerns.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING YOUR RESPONSE

Each response will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

PURPOSE	The extent to which the response fulfills the purpose of the assignment in relation to relevant GACE framework objectives
APPLICATION OF CONTENT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS	The extent to which the response accurately and effectively applies content knowledge and skills in relation to relevant GACE framework objectives
SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	The extent to which the response includes appropriate, specific supporting evidence of content knowledge and skills in relation to relevant GACE framework objectives

Each response is rated on a three-point scale. The three score points of the score scale correspond to varying degrees of performance that are related to the above criteria.

Score	Description
3	<p>The "3" response reflects thorough understanding of relevant content knowledge and skills as defined in relevant GACE framework objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response fully achieves the purpose of the assignment. • The response demonstrates an accurate and effective application of relevant content knowledge and skills. • The response provides appropriate, specific supporting evidence of relevant content knowledge and skills.
2	<p>The "2" response reflects general understanding of relevant content knowledge and skills as defined in relevant GACE framework objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response largely achieves the purpose of the assignment. • The response demonstrates a generally accurate, generally effective application of relevant content knowledge and skills. • The response provides some appropriate and general supporting evidence of relevant content knowledge and skills.
1	<p>The "1" response reflects limited or no understanding of relevant content knowledge and skills as defined in relevant GACE framework objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response partially achieves or fails to achieve the purpose of the assignment. • The response demonstrates limited, inaccurate, and/or ineffective application of relevant content knowledge and skills. • The response provides limited or no appropriate, specific supporting evidence of relevant content knowledge and skills.

Please note: A response that is unrelated to the assigned topic, illegible, not primarily in the target language, or lacking a sufficient amount of original work to score will be considered **unscorable**. If there is no response to the assignment, then the response will be considered **blank**.