



SECTION 2

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

This section of the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators® (GACE™) Preparation Guide provides sample selected-response questions with an annotated answer key for you to review as part of your preparation for the test. The sample selected-response questions are designed to illustrate the nature of the test questions. Work through the questions carefully before referring to the annotated answer key, which follows the sample selected-response questions. The answer key provides the correct response to each question, describes why each correct response is the best answer, and lists the objective within the test framework to which each question is linked.

QUESTIONS

1. Read the poem below, "Brahma," by Ralph Waldo Emerson; then answer the question that follows.

If the red slayer think he slays,
Or if the slain think he is slain,
They know not well the subtle ways
I keep, and pass, and turn again.

Far or forgot to me is near;
Shadow and sunlight are the same;
The vanished gods to me appear;
And one to me are shame and fame.

They reckon ill who leave me out;
When me they fly, I am the wings;
I am the doubter and the doubt,
And I the hymn the Brahmin sings.

The strong gods pine for my abode,
And pine in vain the sacred Seven;
But thou, meek lover of the good!
Find me, and turn thy back on heaven.

The poem above illustrates most clearly which of the following characteristics of the American transcendental movement?

- A. a belief in the principles and practice of individualism
- B. an opposition to social inequalities and materialism
- C. an acceptance of apparently contradictory and illogical ideas
- D. a dissatisfaction with formalized religion

2. **Read the excerpt below from *Winesburg, Ohio*, a collection of short stories by Sherwood Anderson; then answer the question that follows.**

George went into a vacant lot, and as he hurried along, fell over a pile of rubbish. A nail protruding from an empty barrel tore his trousers. He sat down on the ground and swore. With a pin he mended the torn place and then arose and went on. "I'll go to Helen White's house, that's what I'll do. I'll walk right in. I'll say that I want to see her. I'll walk right in and sit down, that's what I'll do," he declared, climbing over a fence and beginning to run.

Within the context of this excerpt, George's decision to visit Helen most likely results from:

- A. a childish dependency on Helen's gestures of goodwill.
- B. an overwhelming feeling of love and tenderness for Helen.
- C. a characteristic tendency to act swiftly and responsibly.
- D. a newfound ability to face challenges with focused determination.

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3. Use the recipe below to answer the question that follows.

Simple Fried Potatoes

(serves four)

- 4 medium or 5 small red potatoes, cut into one-inch cubes
- one pinch of dried oregano
- one clove garlic, finely diced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cumin
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Step 1: Heat the vegetable oil over a medium-high flame.

Step 2: When oil is heated through and smoking slightly, add the garlic, cumin, and oregano.

Step 3: Turn the heat down to medium and fry the garlic and spices for about a minute, making sure not to burn them.

Step 4: Add the potatoes and fry for about five minutes.

Step 5: Add a few tablespoons of water to the potatoes, lower the heat a bit more, and cover.

Step 6: Steam the potatoes until they can be pierced easily with a fork, usually about 30 minutes. If the potatoes get too dry, add another tablespoon of water.

A cook following the recipe above decides to substitute the ingredients thyme and marjoram for garlic and cumin. According to the recipe, during which step should the cook substitute these two ingredients?

- A. Step 2
- B. Step 3
- C. Step 4
- D. Step 5

4. Structural analysis would be the best strategy to use for determining the meaning of which of the following words?
- A. circumspect
 - B. eerie
 - C. opossum
 - D. patio
5. Creating an outline of the information included in a text is most likely to improve comprehension by helping a reader:
- A. establish a context for any opinions provided in the text.
 - B. distinguish between the main ideas and supporting details in the text.
 - C. recognize the overall purpose of and audience for the text.
 - D. identify any faulty reasoning that occurs in the text.
6. When providing middle school students with independent reading materials to choose from, it is most important to include materials that:
- A. address universal and timeless themes.
 - B. are contemporary and attractive to young readers.
 - C. contain unusual and challenging ideas.
 - D. are accessible to young readers with limited reading skills.
7. A young reader is comparing Elie Wiesel's *Night*, the memoir of the author's experience as a Holocaust survivor, with John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, a novel about Depression-era migrant farmers. The most significant benefit to the young reader of undertaking such a comparison is that she will be able to:
- A. analyze structural differences between fictional and nonfictional texts.
 - B. examine how conflicts are developed and resolved in two different literary genres.
 - C. evaluate the motives of real and imagined characters in authentic settings.
 - D. relate important messages in literature to their social and historical contexts.

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8. The physics term *inertia* is sometimes used metaphorically in other contexts to mean:
- A. a resistance to change.
 - B. an aversion to cold.
 - C. an opposition to authority.
 - D. a hindrance to growth.
9. **Read the excerpt below; then answer the question that follows.**

All of us should vote for Susannah for class president, because she is superior to every other candidate. She is more experienced, honest, and intelligent than all those running against her. No one else can even compare. Susannah deserves your vote because she is so much better qualified than all the other contenders.

The excerpt above provides an example of which of the following logical fallacies?

- A. hasty generalization
- B. appeal to emotion
- C. circular reasoning
- D. personal attack

10. A cause-and-effect organizational structure would be most appropriate to use for an essay on which of the following topics?
- A. definitions of race in the United States and Brazil
 - B. an insider's tour of the White House
 - C. greenhouse gases and global warming
 - D. the three stages of adolescent development

11. A writer would like to describe a scene in a way that evokes a mood of melancholy. Which of the following descriptions most effectively fulfills that goal?
- A. The birches and maples were adorned with ruby and amber leaves that glittered like bright jewels in the morning sun. In the cornfields, the dry stalks stood like sentries guarding the gates to winter.
 - B. The birches and maples wore autumnal shades of red and yellow that glowed in the morning sun. The stalks of corn had put away their bright green summer dresses. Soon they would don coats of winter white.
 - C. The birches and maples languished in the faint light of the autumn sun. In the cornfields, the stalks were pale and gaunt, like men prematurely aged by heartbreak. They whispered that winter would be along soon.
 - D. The birches and maples looked as if they were on fire, but that was just a silly trick the sun played on the leaves. The cornstalks were shriveled up like dried apples. Soon it would snow and everything would be white.
12. Which of the following techniques would be most helpful to a writer of a persuasive essay who is trying to establish a context for discussing an issue?
- A. offering a colorful, humorous anecdote
 - B. providing relevant background information
 - C. posing a provocative rhetorical question
 - D. introducing a strong personal opinion
13. **Read the excerpt below; then answer the question that follows.**
- If the land-use bill had received just 30 more votes, it would be law today. The tragedy is that the bill was actually supported by the majority of the voting public. Now, the disappointing outcome serves merely as a lesson: every vote counts.
- In which of the following contexts would it be most appropriate to use the excerpt above?
- A. newspaper story
 - B. editorial article
 - C. scholarly journal
 - D. research report

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14. When planning to write an essay, a writer's *first* step should be to:
- A. develop an outline of ideas and examples to be included in the essay.
 - B. decide on the type of organizational structure to be used for the essay.
 - C. conduct online research to explore and gather information about the topic of the essay.
 - D. determine the purpose of and intended audience for the essay.
15. **Read the sentence below; then answer the question that follows.**
- Between you and _____, this old football rivalry is truly welcomed by _____ fans.
- Which of the following pairs of pronouns would correctly complete the sentence above?
- A. me, us
 - B. I, we
 - C. me, we
 - D. I, us
16. The leader of a book club begins a discussion of a novel that the club has just read by asking each club member to describe what he or she believes was the major theme of the novel. In listening to each member's response, which of the following approaches would be most effective for the leader to take to demonstrate that he understands clearly what each member is saying?
- A. nodding enthusiastically while each member speaks
 - B. repeating the last phrase spoken by each member
 - C. pointing at each member after he or she shares an important idea
 - D. paraphrasing the thoughts that each member expresses

17. A small group of medical experts has been selected to participate in a panel discussion about the dangers of teen smoking and drug use. The discussion will take place in a middle school auditorium before an audience of students, teachers, and administrators and will also be taped for later broadcast to all members of the local community on public access television. Given these audiences, which of the following styles of language should the panel use during their discussion?
- A. formal
 - B. colloquial
 - C. technical
 - D. slang
18. Which of the following television broadcast techniques best illustrates how visual imagery can be used to present a biased view?
- A. showing a public official on camera reading an editorial that is clearly labeled an editorial and conveys the official's strong personal views about an issue of public concern
 - B. broadcasting a sporting event from three different camera angles and informing viewers that the footage provides three views of the same scene
 - C. airing video footage of a school's security guards subduing students with pepper spray without showing the students' physically aggressive provocation of the guards
 - D. video recording exit interviews of voters leaving a polling place, then airing the interviews after the polls have closed and election results are being reported

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■ Acknowledgments

Question Number	Copyright Information
2	From WINESBURG, OHIO by Sherwood Anderson, copyright 1919 by B. W. Huebsch; Copyright 1947 by Eleanor Copenhaver Anderson. Used by permission of Viking Penguin, a division of Penguin Group (USA) Inc. Reprinted with permission. For online information about other Penguin Group (USA) books and authors, see the Internet Web site at: http://www.penguin.com .

ANNOTATED ANSWER KEY

For question	The correct response is	Reason	Test Objective
1	C	Those in the American transcendental movement believed in the role and importance of human consciousness and intuition in matters of moral guidance and inspiration, even when knowledge derived from individual intuition seemed to run counter to what might be considered logical or rational. In this poem, an acceptance of apparently contradictory ideas is revealed through lines such as "Far or forgot to me is near," "Shadow and sunlight are the same," and "I am the doubter and the doubt."	0001
2	D	Despite setbacks ("fell over a pile of rubbish," "tore his trousers"), George is able to compose himself, face up to challenges, and rally his strength to move on ("he mended the torn place and... went on"), repeating to himself vigorously what he is determined to do ("I'll go...", "I'll walk right in...", "I'll say...", "I'll do..."). George's newfound resolve is further captured in the final image, as he is described "climbing over a fence and beginning to run."	0002
3	A	Garlic and cumin are first used in Step 2 of the recipe; the substituted ingredients should be used in the same step as the original ingredients.	0003
4	A	In structural analysis, a reader divides a word into smaller units such as roots, prefixes, and suffixes in order to determine its meaning. This technique would be appropriate for determining the meaning of the word "circumspect," which consists of a prefix, <i>circum-</i> , and a root, <i>-spect</i> , both of Latin origin. A reader unfamiliar with Latin might guess at the meaning of this prefix and root through cognates such as "circle" and "spectator."	0004
5	B	An outline is a list of main ideas that are discussed in a text; it often includes lists of details that support each idea.	0005
6	B	A major purpose of encouraging students to read independently is to promote their enjoyment of reading; enjoyment, in turn, is widely held to contribute to improving students' reading skills. Middle school students are most likely to be attracted to and enjoy contemporary materials that deal with people and situations that are familiar to them.	0006
7	D	Although there may be many ways to explore contrasts in technique between a memoir and a novel, the kind of comparison that is most likely to significantly benefit a younger reader is one that allows her to see how the messages in works of literature relate to the social and historical contexts of those works.	0007

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For question	The correct response is	Reason	Test Objective
8	A	In physics, the term <i>inertia</i> means the tendency of a body at rest to remain at rest, or of a body in motion to remain in motion, unless acted on by an outside force. The term is sometimes used metaphorically to mean resistance to change.	0008
9	C	In circular reasoning, a writer gives no specific reasons to support his or her opinion, but rather merely repeats the opinion in somewhat different form. The notion that Susannah is "superior" to the other candidates is supported not with evidence but with other opinions ("She is more experienced, honest, and intelligent... better qualified").	0009
10	C	It would be logical to use a cause-and-effect organizational structure for an essay about greenhouse gases and global warming because it is widely believed that there is a causal relationship between them.	0010
11	C	In order to evoke a particular mood in a piece of descriptive writing, a writer chooses details or words whose connotations correspond to that mood. The words "languished," "faint," "pale," and "gaunt" all suggest a melancholy mood, as does the comparison of cornstalks to "men prematurely aged by heartbreak."	0011
12	B	In order to establish a context for discussing an issue, a writer of a persuasive essay would most likely provide relevant background information so that readers who are not already well informed about the issue can understand the argument.	0012
13	B	The excerpt expresses an opinion—that the defeat of the bill is a "tragedy" and "disappointing"—rather than dispassionately reporting facts. Since an editorial article is, by definition, an expression of opinion, this excerpt is most appropriately included in such an article.	0013
14	D	When planning an essay, a writer usually makes decisions about purpose and intended audience first, because these decisions will affect other decisions relating to the structure and content of the essay.	0014
15	A	Because the pronouns in both blanks in this sentence are the objects of prepositions ("Between" and "by"), they both must be in the objective case ("me" and "us," respectively).	0015
16	D	The most effective way for the leader to demonstrate that he understands what each member has said is to offer a paraphrase. This gives each member a chance to correct the leader if the paraphrase is not accurate; it also helps ensure that everyone else understands what was said.	0016

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For question	The correct response is	Reason	Test Objective
17	A	A panel of experts who are addressing an audience of nonexperts should use a style of language that is formal enough to express their ideas fully and a vocabulary that will be clear to nonexperts.	0017
18	C	A broadcast that shows footage of security guards subduing students, but does not show the students' provocation of the guards, is biased because it misleads viewers about the guards' motives.	0018