



SECTION 3

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.

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 was an important event in U.S. history.

- Describe the historical context in which the Louisiana Purchase took place; and
- explain one significant way in which the Louisiana Purchase influenced the future course of U.S. history.

Section 3: Sample Constructed-Response Assignments

■ Assignment Response Sheet for Sample Constructed-Response Assignment One

A large rectangular box containing 25 horizontal lines for writing a response.

END OF ASSIGNMENT

■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment One

The historical context in which the Louisiana Purchase took place contains the events that marked the failure of Napoleon's plan to create a North American empire. Toussaint L'Ouverture had led the forces that would eventually liberate Haiti from French control. Soon after, when France was unable to establish a secure naval base in the Caribbean, Napoleon abandoned his American plans. For example, he offered to sell the Louisiana region. Thomas Jefferson knew this acquisition would double the size of the United States and open the door for new settlements west of the Mississippi River. Because he did not want some other country to obtain this territory, Jefferson quickly negotiated the purchase with the French leader.

An important consequence of the Louisiana Purchase was the influence it had on the series of events that resulted in the Civil War. Disagreement over whether slavery should be permitted in the western territories was a major focus of conflict between the North and the South in the decades before the war. From the Missouri Compromise of 1820 to the Kansas-Nebraska Act of the 1850s, most of these disputes centered on areas obtained through the Louisiana Purchase.

CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT TWO

■ Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

Use the information below to complete the assignment that follows.

The physical features and human systems of different world regions have often had an important influence on the development of those regions. The pampas and the outback, for example, have played significant roles in the development of South America and Australia.

Describe one way in which the pampas and one way in which the outback have each shaped the political, economic, or cultural development of the world region in which it is located.

Section 3: Sample Constructed-Response Assignments

■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

The huge cattle ranches and grain-producing farms established on the rich grasslands of the pampas played a major role in the economic development of Argentina. In addition to being a world leader in the export of beef, Argentina obtains considerable income from the foreign sale of wheat and other grains. The prosperity resulting from these economic activities also contributed to the rise of Buenos Aires as one of South America's most important urban centers.

With its arid climate and sparse vegetation, the Australian outback is a much less prosperous region than the pampas. Although the outback has not had a major effect on Australian economic growth, it has influenced cultural development. For Australians, the harsh landscape of outback forms a frontier region where hardy settlers battled against the elements to create homes. These struggles and the land where they occurred have long had an important place in Australian art and literature.

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**.