



SECTION 5

TEST II SAMPLE CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT

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 assignment on the test. Included in this section are:

- ▶ Constructed-response assignment directions
- ▶ A sample constructed-response assignment
- ▶ An assignment response sheet
- ▶ An example of a strong response to the sample assignment
- ▶ Scoring criteria that will be used in evaluating your response to the assignment

For the 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.

Please note that constants and formulas are provided for this test. Please refer to these materials as needed in responding to the sample test questions and assignments. These materials are located in the Assessment Reference Materials section at the end of this preparation guide.

A scientific calculator may be used for this test as needed in responding to the sample test questions and assignments. Please refer to the current GACE registration bulletin for information about the use of calculators at the test administration.

CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS

A sample of the directions for the constructed-response assignment 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 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

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.

A physicist wants to investigate the relationship between the acceleration of a mass sliding down an inclined plane and the angle that the plane makes with the horizontal.

- Describe an appropriate investigative design that would allow a valid scientific conclusion to be drawn about this topic.

Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment One

An appropriate investigative design would be to use a cart of known mass on an air track along with a motion detector. The track can be set at different angles with the horizontal and will also reduce the force of friction acting on the mass to almost zero. The motion detector can be attached to the bottom of the track and used to measure the acceleration of the cart as it moves down the inclined air track.

First set the air track at an angle of 10° . Release the cart from rest at the top of track and record the acceleration using the motion detector. The motion detector, attached to a computer or graphing calculator, will display a graph of the acceleration of the cart with respect to time. Repeat this for a total of 3 trials. Follow this same procedure at angles of 20° , 30° , 40° and 50° .

To analyze the data, it will be necessary to find the acceleration, a , from the graphs. The acceleration of an object on an inclined plane is constant, and given by $g\sin\theta$, so the graphs should be horizontal lines. The y-intercept of each graph will give the acceleration. Next find the mean acceleration of the three trials for each angle. Graph these values versus $g\sin\theta$ for each value of θ . The resulting graph should, in theory, produce a line with a slope equal to one. This means that $a/g\sin\theta = 1$ which implies that the $a = g\sin\theta$.

Section 5: Test II Sample Constructed-Response Assignment

CRITERIA FOR SCORING YOUR RESPONSE

Your 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

Your 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**.