



## SECTION 2

### TEST I 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.

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## QUESTIONS

1. A political scientist who is attempting to describe a *federal* system of government would likely find which of the following terms most helpful?
  - A. division of powers
  - B. popular sovereignty
  - C. checks and balances
  - D. direct democracy
  
2. A political scientist would be most likely to use polling data for which of the following purposes?
  - A. to predict the outcome of legislation pending before Congress
  - B. to assess alternative policy options available to lawmakers
  - C. to evaluate major debates among political scientists
  - D. to identify changes in voter attitudes over time
  
3. Which of the following features of the government established by the U.S. Constitution most clearly reflects the influence of Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan*?
  - A. the principle that the power of government is limited to certain stated functions
  - B. the principle that the people are the highest source of governmental power
  - C. the principle that power should be divided among the different branches of government
  - D. the principle that government is based on a social contract between rulers and ruled

4. Use the list below of Congressional powers to answer the question that follows.

- the power to maintain a navy
- the power to punish felonies committed on the high seas
- the power to collect taxes
- the power to organize and arm the militia

The powers listed above can most accurately be described as:

- A. concurrent powers.
- B. implied powers.
- C. enumerated powers.
- D. reserved powers.

5. Which of the following best describes a major difference between the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives?

- A. Senate standing committees have the power to set bills aside.
- B. In the Senate, subcommittees play an important role in the lawmaking process.
- C. The president of the Senate is a member of the executive branch.
- D. The Senate majority leader is more powerful than the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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6. Which of the following best explains why the Cabinet seldom functions as a decision-making body within the executive branch of government?
- A. As appointees of the president, departmental secretaries lack the independence required for meaningful participation in the decision-making process.
  - B. There are constitutional limits on the political powers of departmental secretaries.
  - C. The Cabinet is too large for serious discussion of a given issue that is likely to be outside the sphere of activity of most departmental secretaries.
  - D. Departmental secretaries are rarely individuals who have much prestige outside the executive branch of government.
7. In which of the following cases does the U.S. Supreme Court have original jurisdiction?
- A. a controversy between the United States and an individual state
  - B. a controversy involving a former president
  - C. a controversy between a state government and a local government
  - D. a controversy in which a corporation is the defendant

## ANNOTATED ANSWER KEY

For question	The correct response is	Reason	Test Objective
1	A	A federal system of government is one in which some powers are exercised by the central government and some powers are exercised by state or regional governments. Thus, division of powers best captures the meaning of a federal system of government.	0001
2	D	The primary function of polling is to examine public opinion on a diverse range of questions. Polling data thus provides a particularly effective way of identifying changes in voter attitudes over time.	0002
3	D	In <i>Leviathan</i> (1651), Thomas Hobbes introduced the idea of a government based on a social contract between rulers and ruled. The concept of a social contract provides the basis for fundamental constitutional principles such as popular sovereignty and the rule of law.	0003
4	C	Enumerated powers is a term used to describe powers explicitly defined in the U.S. Constitution. Article I of the Constitution gives Congress the power to maintain a navy, punish felonies committed on the high seas, collect taxes, and organize and arm the militia.	0004
5	C	The president of the U.S. Senate is the vice president of the United States, who is an elected official of the executive branch of the federal government. The president of the Senate's counterpart in the House of Representatives, the Speaker of the House, is an elected member of that legislative branch.	0005
6	C	Although the influence of the Cabinet varies from president to president, the fact that each department specializes in a given area of government activity limits the Cabinet's usefulness as a decision-making body on many questions. Specific departments influence decisions in their areas of expertise, but rarely does the entire Cabinet jointly decide an issue confronting the executive branch.	0006
7	A	Original jurisdiction refers to where a case is first heard and decided. According to Article III of the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in "controversies to which the United States shall be a party," which would include cases involving the U.S. government and an individual state.	0007