



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 excerpt below from a seventeenth-century political debate to complete the assignment that follows.

For really I think that the poorest he that is in England has a life to live as the greatest he; and therefore truly, sir, I think it's clear that every man that is to live under a government ought first by his own consent to put himself under that government; and I do think that the poorest man in England is not at all bound in a strict sense to that government that he has not had a voice to put himself under.

- Identify the central political concept addressed in the passage; and
- explain one way in which that political concept has influenced the development of government in the United States.

■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment One

The central political concept addressed in the passage is the idea of popular sovereignty. This is the principle that the people hold the supreme power to govern. Government obtains its authority from them and can act only with their approval.

The influence of the concept of popular sovereignty on the development of government in the United States can be seen in the Declaration of Independence, where it is stated that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed. Further evidence of its influence is the principle of majority rule found in the U.S. Constitution. As the highest source of authority in U.S. government, the people choose public officials in regularly-scheduled elections and have the right to replace officeholders who enact laws or pursue policies that go against their wishes.

CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT TWO

■ Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

Use the information below to complete the assignment that follows.

One important role of the U.S. federal government is the formulation and implementation of the nation's foreign policy.

- Describe two important responsibilities of the executive branch in the formulation and implementation of the nation's foreign policy; and
- explain two ways in which the formulation and implementation of the nation's foreign policy by the executive branch are affected by the checks and balances and separation of powers established by the U.S. Constitution.

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■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

The executive branch has a number of functions related to the formulation and implementation of the nation's foreign policy. Two of the more important are the president's responsibility for negotiating treaties with other countries and appointing ambassadors and senior foreign policy officials such as the Secretary of State.

The president cannot act entirely alone, however. The system of checks and balances established by the U.S. Constitution gives Congress various ways of blocking foreign policy initiatives with which it does not agree. One way is by refusing to supply the funds required to carry out a given policy. In the U.S. system of government, Congress not only raises money through taxes but decides how that money will be spent. Another way is by rejecting treaties negotiated by the executive branch. According to the Constitution, all such agreements must be approved by the Senate.

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**.