








SECTION 5

TEST II 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 specific geographic features of different world regions have an important influence on the social, economic, and political development of those regions.

Identify an important landform within Latin America and explain one way in which this landform has influenced the social, economic, or political development of the region in which it is located.

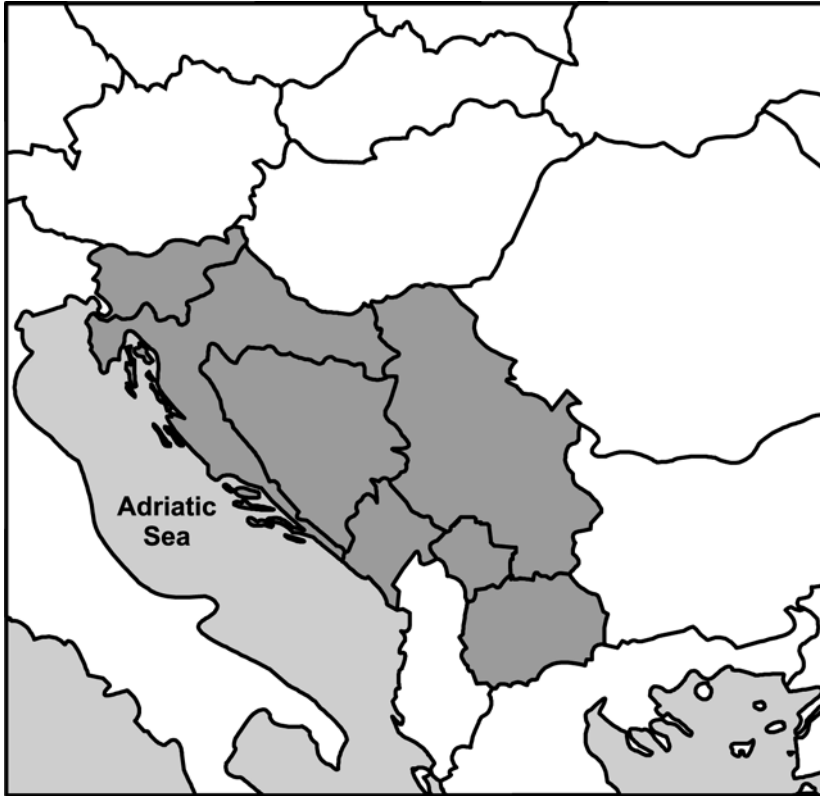
■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment One

The Pampas of Argentina is a well-watered region of prairie grasslands. Its rich soil and mild climate have made the Pampas one of the most important agricultural and livestock producing regions of the world. The sheep, cattle, wheat and other goods produced by ranchers and farmers of the region are a major source of export income for Argentina. The wealth generated by these activities also contributed to the growth of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina and one of South America's largest cities, which is located on the eastern edge of the Pampas. Relations between the city and the agricultural region have remained close, as ranchers and farmers from the Pampas supply Buenos Aires with most of the grains, milk, and meat consumed by its people.

CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT TWO

■ Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

Use the map below to complete the assignment that follows.



- Identify one human or physical characteristic that could be used to define the region indicated by the shaded area of the map above; and
- explain how this characteristic has influenced the political, economic, or cultural development of that region.

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■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

The countries in the shaded area of the map were all once part of the country of Yugoslavia and share a recent history of political unity and ethnic division. Created after World War I, Yugoslavia was made up of various ethnic groups that had once been ruled by the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Although these groups all had nationalist ambitions, they managed to live together peacefully for some time within the Yugoslavian state. Unity was particularly strong under the effective political leadership of Josef Tito during the period following World War II. In addition to being a popular war hero, Tito divided the country into internal republics based on major ethnic groups, which made it easier to govern. These divisions provided the basis for the independent republics formed during the early 1990s following the breakup of the Yugoslavian state that accompanied the collapse of communism. Afterward, a resurgence of ethnic conflict devastated large parts of the region, as Serbs, Croats, Bosnians and other peoples battled each other in an effort to realize their differing political and cultural aims.

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**.