



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 Martinezes are in the process of purchasing their first home. They have found a three-bedroom home that they are interested in buying. They have saved money for the cost of the down payment and closing costs. They are planning to finance the remaining amount and are investigating various home mortgage options.

- Describe two features of home mortgages that the Martinezes should evaluate when considering mortgage options; and
- explain how this information can help the Martinezes make a wise consumer decision.

■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment One

Two considerations for the Martinezes are the term of the mortgage and whether the mortgage has a fixed or adjustable interest rate.

Typically, mortgage terms are 15 or 30 years. If the Martinezes get a 15-year mortgage, they will pay considerably less in interest than they would for a 30-year mortgage. However, their monthly payments will be higher on a 15-year mortgage than their monthly payments will be on a 30-year mortgage.

The Martinezes must also consider whether to get a fixed-rate or adjustable-rate mortgage. Fixed-rate mortgages are commonly viewed as being safer because the interest rate remains the same for the life of the mortgage. Adjustable-rate mortgages, however, usually offer a lower initial interest rate than fixed-rate mortgages. The interest rate on adjustable-rate mortgages also has the potential to decrease further if the market interest rate decreases. However, the interest rate may also rise if the market rate increases.

To make a wise consumer decision regarding their mortgage options, the Martinezes should consider their income, goals, and the level of risk they are willing to take. They can then approach examining both fixed- and adjustable-rate mortgages with different terms and choose the mortgage that offers the best combination for them.

CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT TWO

■ Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

Use the information below to complete the assignment that follows.

The Dawsons have recently moved into a new home. The rooms are modest in size and the ceilings are low. They would like to give the illusion of greater height in the living room. The room is square and has two standard-sized windows on the wall opposite the entrance to the room. The walls are currently painted a medium olive green and the ceiling is painted white. The floor is covered in wall-to-wall medium-gray carpeting.

- Identify two interior design concepts that can help the Dawsons create the illusion of greater height within this space; and
- describe one specific way the Dawsons could apply each of the concepts you have identified to achieve their goal.

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■ Strong Response to Sample Constructed-Response Assignment Two

Two interior design concepts that can help the Dawsons create the illusion of greater height within their living room are color schemes and verticality.

Dark colors tend to condense a space. By painting the walls a lighter color, such as spring green or sky blue, the wall color can be used to visually expand the space overall. The wall color will also help draw attention away from the division between the walls and the ceiling, because a lighter color on the walls will reduce the amount of color contrast between the walls and the white ceiling. This will further help create the illusion of greater height within the space.

Verticality can be used in various ways within the living room to create the illusion of greater height. For example, installing long window curtains with valances above the frames of the windows can create the illusion of having larger, lengthier windows. Another way verticality could be added to the space is to place tall floor lamps in one or two corners of the living room.

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**.