



SECTION 4

TEST II 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.

QUESTIONS

1. A classroom teacher uses a variety of informal and formal methods to assess students' understanding and progress throughout each instructional unit. The primary benefit of this approach to assessment is that it is likely to:
 - A. help students develop an accurate perception of their own learning abilities and potential.
 - B. allow the teacher to monitor instructional effectiveness and make adjustments as needed.
 - C. minimize students' anxiety levels with regard to the overall assessment process.
 - D. ensure the teacher access to ample assessment data for assigning students an appropriate grade.

2. A team of middle school teachers wants to use an interdisciplinary approach to instruction for an upcoming unit. Which of the following is the most important *first* step for the team to take in planning this type of instructional unit?
 - A. Develop global questions to define the scope of the unit.
 - B. Identify activities to support students' understanding of unit content.
 - C. Create rubrics to evaluate students' learning progress during the unit.
 - D. Define a single set of unit objectives that can be applied across the curriculum.

3. Because of their excitement about an upcoming school holiday, the students in a fourth-grade class are having trouble focusing on the writing activities the teacher had planned for the day's language arts lesson. In this situation, the teacher's most effective approach would be to:
 - A. incorporate several choices of holiday-related topics into the planned writing activities.
 - B. remind students of the importance of paying attention to the lesson in spite of the holiday and continue with the planned writing activities.
 - C. allow students time to discuss the holiday and assign the planned writing activities as homework.
 - D. postpone the planned writing lesson until after the holiday and provide students with various enrichment activities instead.

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4. A tenth-grade teacher receives a phone call from the parents of one of his students. The parents are upset about an incident in the teacher's classroom in which they believe their child was disciplined unfairly. The teacher arranges to meet with the parents to address their concerns. The teacher wishes to take steps to ensure effective communication with the parents and a productive meeting overall. The teacher can best help achieve these goals if he *begins* the meeting by:
- A. asking the parents to explain what they think would have been a more appropriate teacher response to the incident.
 - B. allowing the parents to express their views and emotions and to describe their understanding of what occurred.
 - C. reviewing with the parents the school and classroom rules that were violated during the incident in question.
 - D. describing in detail for the parents his perspectives regarding the incident and the reasons for his response.
5. A first-year teacher sometimes asks more experienced colleagues to observe in her classroom and offer constructive feedback. The most important benefit of this practice is that it will likely:
- A. contribute to the teacher's familiarity and sense of comfort with the evaluation process.
 - B. help the teacher learn to apply instructional principles effectively in real classroom contexts.
 - C. provide the teacher with access to and insight about diverse views and philosophies of teaching.
 - D. communicate to colleagues the teacher's desire to be an effective team member.
6. Two high school students are facing suspension for alleged violations of school rules. According to due process, the students have a right to which of the following?
- A. an informal hearing with school administrators
 - B. makeup assignments to replace any missed classroom assignments
 - C. legal representation provided by the school district
 - D. placement in an alternative educational setting

ANNOTATED ANSWER KEY

For question	The correct response is	Reason	Test Objective
1	B	A primary purpose of classroom assessment is to help the teacher determine whether students have mastered the concepts and skills that have been taught. Using various types of assessment throughout an instructional unit allows the teacher to monitor instructional effectiveness by providing ongoing feedback about exactly what students have learned and where misunderstandings still exist. Such ongoing assessment enables the teacher to reteach content students are finding challenging and thus helps promote students' achievement of instructional goals.	0007
2	A	Interdisciplinary units integrate subject areas to enable students to apply content and skills from various disciplines of knowledge to their work. To begin creating an interdisciplinary unit, teachers from multiple disciplines typically identify a set of goals for student learning and select a unifying theme (e.g., justice, change, culture, conflict) that will serve as a vehicle for pursuing achievement of the goals. The next step is to develop a set of global questions or statements related to the theme that will in turn guide the selection of information and activities from the various disciplines included in the unit.	0008
3	A	Instruction is likely to be particularly effective when learning activities relate to students' own lives and interests. In the situation described, the students are excited about an upcoming school holiday and are having trouble settling down for a planned writing lesson. If the goal of the original lesson was to enhance students' writing skills, the teacher's best response would be to redirect the writing lesson in ways that take advantage of the students' enthusiasm. The students may well benefit more from a holiday-related writing lesson than from the original lesson because their energy and motivation would be higher.	0009
4	B	In the situation described, the parents have identified a concern about a specific classroom incident involving their child. When meeting with the parents, the teacher should strive to promote effective communication and respond to the parents' concerns in a positive, professional manner that leads to mutual understanding. The teacher cannot communicate or respond effectively until he or she has a full and clear understanding of the parents' thoughts and perceptions regarding the incident. Therefore, the teacher can best begin the meeting by giving the parents an opportunity to describe their understanding of what occurred and express their views about it.	0010

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For question	The correct response is	Reason	Test Objective
5	B	New teachers typically find it difficult to accurately evaluate their own efforts to apply instructional principles in their own teaching. Having experienced colleagues observe in the new teacher's classroom can provide the new teacher with objective evaluation by knowledgeable individuals and useful advice about strategies for adjusting instruction to meet the demands of the classroom and address student needs.	0011
6	A	The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that "[No] State [shall] deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." In <i>Goss v. Lopez</i> , the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that since public education is a property interest of all school-age children, public school students must be accorded basic procedural due process before being deprived of that interest. In the situation described, procedural due process refers to the procedures that must be followed before school personnel can deprive the students of their right to a public education. These procedures include, among others, holding an informal hearing before an impartial person who will listen to the arguments of both sides and make a decision about the case.	0012