



## TEST DESIGN AND FRAMEWORK

### TEST DESIGN

#### Political Science

The **Political Science** assessment consists of **two tests**. Each test contains a section with selected-response questions and a section with constructed-response assignments. Each section counts for a percentage of your total test score. The areas of content assessed by each test, the approximate number of selected-response questions and constructed-response assignments in each content area, and the percentage of your total test score derived from each test section are shown in the tables below. Further information regarding the content included in each subarea can be found in the test framework.

#### ■ Test I (Test Code 032)

Subareas:	Objectives	Approximate Number of Selected-Response Questions	Constructed-Response Assignments
➤ Political Science Concepts and Skills	0001–0002	17	
➤ Foundations of U.S. Government	0003–0004	17	1
➤ The U.S. Federal Government	0005–0007	26	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Percentage of Test Score</b>		<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>

#### ■ Test II (Test Code 033)

Subareas:	Objectives	Approximate Number of Selected-Response Questions	Constructed-Response Assignments
➤ State and Local Government	0008–0009	20	
➤ Citizenship and Democracy	0010–0011	20	1
➤ Comparative Government and International Relations	0012–0013	20	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Percentage of Test Score</b>		<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>



Georgia Assessments for the  
Certification of Educators®

## TEST DESIGN AND FRAMEWORK

### TEST FRAMEWORK

#### Political Science

##### POLITICAL SCIENCE CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

###### **0001 Understand important political science concepts, terms, and perspectives.**

For example:

- recognizing basic concepts and theories of political science (e.g., power and authority, natural rights, interest group theory)
- demonstrating knowledge of basic legal, political, and governmental terms (e.g., conflict of interest, sovereignty, injunction, writ of habeas corpus, gerrymandering, filibuster)
- demonstrating knowledge of the origins and purposes of government
- comparing and contrasting unitary, confederal, and federal governments
- applying knowledge of ideas, theories, and modes of inquiry from political science to identify and analyze issues, problems, and alternative solutions in civics and government
- analyzing historical and contemporary events and practices that illustrate the place of law in U.S. society

**0002 Understand social science skills used to locate, analyze, and synthesize information related to political science topics.**

For example:

- recognizing the characteristics and uses of various sources of political science information (e.g., encyclopedias, almanacs, bibliographies, polling data, census data)
- distinguishing between primary and secondary sources and demonstrating knowledge of the advantages and limitations of each
- demonstrating knowledge of research skills and procedures used in the social sciences (e.g., identifying issues, formulating appropriate research questions or hypotheses, collecting information, organizing and reporting results)
- evaluating political science information (e.g., identifying main ideas; organizing information chronologically; analyzing the sequence of events; recognizing cause-and-effect relationships; comparing similarities and differences; distinguishing between fact and opinion; determining the adequacy, relevance, and consistency of information; drawing conclusions; making generalizations)
- interpreting graphic presentations of political science materials (e.g., charts, tables, graphs, diagrams, time lines, political cartoons)
- evaluating the appropriateness of alternative graphic formats for conveying political science information

**FOUNDATIONS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT**

**0003 Understand the political philosophies that shaped the development of U.S. constitutional government.**

For example:

- recognizing major concepts of classical republicanism and explaining how these ideas are reflected in the U.S. Constitution
- analyzing key ideas of limited government and the rule of law as contained in the Magna Carta, the Petition of Right, and the English Bill of Rights
- analyzing major writings that influenced the development of U.S. constitutional government (e.g., Hobbes's *Leviathan*, Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*, Montesquieu's *Spirit of the Laws*, The Federalist Papers)
- recognizing ways in which the colonial experience shaped the development of U.S. constitutional government (e.g., Mayflower Compact, role of colonial assemblies)
- demonstrating knowledge of the intellectual sources of the Declaration of Independence, comparing and contrasting the Declaration of Independence with the Social Contract Theory, and evaluating the Declaration of Independence as a persuasive argument

**0004 Understand the system of government created by the U.S. Constitution.**

For example:

- recognizing weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation and analyzing how those deficiencies led to calls for a stronger national government
- analyzing major compromises at the Constitutional Convention and examining arguments between Federalists and anti-Federalists during the debate over ratification of the Constitution
- demonstrating knowledge of the fundamental principles upon which the U.S. Constitution is based (e.g., rule of law, popular sovereignty, checks and balances, constitutional supremacy, federalism)
- recognizing the difference between enumerated and implied powers
- demonstrating knowledge of the articles and significant amendments to the Constitution

**THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

**0005 Understand the organization, powers, and operation of the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government.**

For example:

- demonstrating knowledge of the structure and powers of the legislative branch of the federal government
- analyzing the role of the legislative branch within the system of checks and balances and separation of powers established by the U.S. Constitution (e.g., approval of judicial nominees, impeachment proceedings)
- demonstrating knowledge of the differences between the House of Representatives and the Senate (e.g., Constitutionally mandated qualifications, terms of office, powers, organization, leadership, representation)
- identifying the steps in the legislative process
- recognizing rules and laws that govern the activities of lobbyists and examining the role of lobbyists, executive agencies, special interest groups, and the media in the legislative process

**0006 Understand the organization, powers, and operation of the executive branch of the U.S. federal government.**

For example:

- demonstrating knowledge of the structure and powers of the executive branch of the federal government
- analyzing the role of the executive branch within the system of checks and balances and separation of powers established by the U.S. Constitution (e.g., veto powers, executive and judicial nominations)
- demonstrating knowledge of the various roles played by the President of the United States (e.g., Commander-in-Chief, Chief Executive, Chief of State, foreign policy leader, party leader)
- recognizing the Constitutionally mandated qualifications for President of the United States and identifying other common characteristics that many past presidents have possessed
- demonstrating understanding of the impeachment process as defined in the U.S. Constitution and describing the impeachment proceedings of Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton
- identifying the functions of the Cabinet and the roles of the White House staff
- recognizing and comparing the organization and responsibilities of independent regulatory agencies, government corporations, and executive agencies

**0007 Understand the organization, powers, and operation of the judicial branch of the U.S. federal government.**

For example:

- demonstrating knowledge of the structure and powers of the judicial branch of the federal government
- analyzing the role of the judicial branch within the system of checks and balances and separation of powers established by the U.S. Constitution
- recognizing the jurisdiction of federal and state courts
- examining the role of John Marshall in establishing the Supreme Court as an independent, coequal branch of government (e.g., through decisions in *Marbury v. Madison* and *McCulloch v. Maryland*)
- demonstrating knowledge of how the Supreme Court selects and decides cases
- analyzing the significance of landmark Supreme Court cases and decisions (e.g., *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, *Miranda v. Arizona*, *U.S. v. Nixon*, *Roe v. Wade*)
- comparing the philosophies of judicial activism and judicial restraint

## STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### **0008 Understand major features of the Georgia state constitution and state and local government in Georgia.**

For example:

- recognizing the basic structure and key principles of the Georgia state constitution
- demonstrating knowledge of the organization of the Georgia Assembly and recognizing the qualifications, terms, and duties of Assembly members
- demonstrating knowledge of the organization of the executive branch of Georgia state government and recognizing the qualifications, terms, and duties of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- demonstrating knowledge of the structure of the court system in Georgia and recognizing how judges are selected
- identifying the origins, functions, and differences among county and city governments in Georgia and analyzing the relationship between state and local governments
- recognizing features of the electoral process in Georgia and analyzing differences between state and federal electoral systems
- demonstrating knowledge of the operation of the initiative, referendum, and recall processes in Georgia

### **0009 Understand the roles of state and local governments in a federal system of government.**

For example:

- recognizing the relationship of state and local governments to the national government
- analyzing contemporary conceptions of Federalism in the United States (e.g., revenue sharing) and the ongoing debate about the balance of power between state governments and the federal government (e.g., powers denied to state and national governments, the supremacy clause, the role of the U.S. Constitution as the supreme law of the land)
- identifying powers most commonly associated with state governments, including reserved powers and concurrent powers
- demonstrating familiarity with major sources of revenue received by the state government and local governments in Georgia and identifying the services provided by each level of government

## CITIZENSHIP AND DEMOCRACY

### **0010 Understand the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship and the operation of the criminal justice process.**

For example:

- demonstrating knowledge of major provisions and principles of the Bill of Rights, with emphasis on First Amendment freedoms
- identifying major provisions of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and recognizing every citizen's right to be treated equally under the law
- analyzing how government seeks to maintain a balance between individual liberties and the public interest
- identifying major responsibilities of U.S. citizenship (e.g., obeying the law, paying taxes, serving on a jury, registering for military duty)
- categorizing different types of crimes; examining the nature, causes, and effects of crimes; and demonstrating knowledge of the different types of defenses used by criminal defendants
- recognizing steps in the criminal justice process, demonstrating knowledge of an individual's due process rights, and demonstrating familiarity with the different types of sentences a convicted person can receive

### **0011 Understand the organization and role of political parties and the election process in the United States.**

For example:

- demonstrating knowledge of the origins and development of the party system and of the role of third parties in U.S. politics
- identifying the organization, roles, and constituencies of political parties
- demonstrating knowledge of major features of the nomination and election process (e.g., electoral districts, primary elections, nominating caucuses and conventions, election campaigns, the Electoral College)
- analyzing how the election process is influenced by campaign spending, debates, media coverage, campaign advertising, and public opinion polls
- recognizing how amendments to the U.S. Constitution have extended the right to vote

## COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 0012 Understand historical and contemporary forms of government.

For example:

- recognizing and comparing major features of different political systems (e.g., autocracies, oligarchies, dictatorships, democracies)
- defining and analyzing the characteristics of totalitarian governments (e.g., the Soviet Union under Stalin, the People's Republic of China under Mao, Cuba under Castro)
- demonstrating knowledge of the basic structure of contemporary national governments (e.g., type of government, form of leadership, ideology, type of legislature, role of the citizen)
- demonstrating knowledge of the parliamentary system of Great Britain and comparing it with the presidential system of the United States and the dual system of France
- comparing the purposes and structures of multistate political unions (e.g., the European Union, the African Union, the Organization of American States)

### 0013 Understand international relations and the formation and execution of U.S. foreign policy.

For example:

- recognizing the powers that the U.S. Constitution gives to the President, Congress, and the federal judiciary in foreign affairs
- analyzing the process by which U.S. foreign policy is made and demonstrating knowledge of the tools used to carry out policy (e.g., diplomacy, aid, treaties, sanctions, military intervention)
- identifying the major foreign policy positions that have characterized U.S. relations with the world (e.g., isolated nation, imperial power, world leader) and analyzing the significance of major policies and events in U.S. relations with the world (e.g., Monroe Doctrine, World War II, Marshall Plan, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Korean and Vietnam Wars, end of the Cold War)
- analyzing the influence of, and tensions among, U.S. values, principles, and interests (e.g., self-determination, human rights, the requirements of national security) in the making of U.S. foreign policy
- demonstrating knowledge of the structure, functions, and goals of the United Nations and other international organizations and analyzing how such organizations influence and respond to U.S. foreign policy initiatives