



GACE® Behavioral Science Assessment

Test at a Glance

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See the GACE® Behavioral Science Assessment Study Companion for practice questions and preparation resources.

Assessment Name	Behavioral Science
Grade Level	6–12
Test Code	Test I: 050 Test II: 051 Combined Test I and Test II: 550
Testing Time	Test I: 2 hours Test II: 2 hours Combined Test I and Test II: 4 hours
Test Duration	Test I: 2.5 hours Test II: 2.5 hours Combined Test I and Test II: 5 hours
Test Format	Computer delivered
Number of Selected-response Questions	Test I: 60 Test II: 60 Combined Test I and Test II: 120
Question Format	The test consists of a variety of short-answer questions such as selected-response questions, where you select one answer choice or multiple answer choices (depending on what the question asks for), questions where you enter your answer in a text box, and other types of questions. You can review the possible question types in the <i>Guide to Taking a GACE Computer-delivered Test.</i>
Number of Constructed-response Questions	Test I: 0 Test II: 0 Combined Test I and Test II: 0

About this Assessment

The GACE Behavioral Science assessment is designed to measure the professional knowledge of prospective teachers in the state of Georgia seeking to become certified to teach courses in psychology, sociology, and anthropology.

This assessment includes two tests. You may take either test individually or the full assessment in a single session. The testing time is the amount of time you will have to answer the questions on the test. Test duration includes time for tutorials and directional screens that may be included in the test. The questions in this assessment assess both basic knowledge across content areas and the ability to apply principles.

The total number of questions that are scored is typically smaller than the total number of questions on the test. Most tests that contain selected-response questions also include embedded pretest questions, which are not used in calculating your score. By including pretest questions in the assessment, ETS is able to analyze actual test-taker performance on proposed new questions and determine whether they should be included in future versions of the test.

Content Specifications

Each test in this assessment is organized into content **subareas**. Each subarea is further defined by a set of **objectives** and their **knowledge statements**.

- The objectives broadly define what an entry-level educator in this field in Georgia public schools should know and be able to do.
- The knowledge statements describe in greater detail the knowledge and skills eligible for testing.
- Some tests also include content material at the evidence level. This content serves as descriptors of what each knowledge statement encompasses.

See a breakdown of the subareas and objectives for the tests in this assessment on the following pages.

Test I Subareas

Subarea	Approx. Percentage of Test
I. Psychology	80%
II. Anthropology	20%

Test I Objectives

Subarea I: Psychology

Objective 1: Demonstrates an understanding of psychological foundations, approaches, and research

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Defines psychology
- B. Knows key contributors to the development of psychology
- C. Demonstrates an understanding of behavioral science and major approaches (psychodynamic, cognitive, behavioral, sociocultural, biological, humanistic, and evolutionary)
- D. Describes basic psychological research methods and their uses

Objective 2: Demonstrates an understanding of biological foundations and their influence on behavior

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Demonstrates an understanding of major areas of the brain and nervous system and their function and processes; e.g., the four lobes, hemispheres, spinal cord
- B. Knows about biological influences (e.g., nervous system, endocrine system, genetics) on behavior
- C. Describes the basic processes of sensation and perception; e.g., basic concepts in vision, hearing, taste, smell, and touch

Objective 3: Demonstrates an understanding of theories of behavior change and cognition

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Knows aspects of the psychology of learning; e.g., classical and operant conditioning, observational learning
- B. Knows about cognition; e.g., information processing, short-term and long-term memory, reconstructive memory, interference, attention, problem solving, decision making)
- C. Describes basic concepts associated with intelligence, achievement, and their assessment; e.g., individual and cultural differences, multiple intelligences

Objective 4: Demonstrates an understanding of human development, including physical and cognitive development

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge about physical growth and maturation throughout the lifespan
- B. Understands that both nature and nurture influence development
- C. Understands theory and processes of language and cognitive development

Objective 5: Demonstrates an understanding of theories of personality, social behavior, and motivation

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Describes social behavior; e.g., bystander effect, social loafing, persuasion
- B. Defines and applies concepts associated with personality theory, personality assessment, and self-esteem
- C. Compares and contrasts basic theories of motivation and emotion

Objective 6: Demonstrates an understanding of abnormal psychology

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Demonstrates familiarity with intervention and prevention in dealing with adjustment problems, learning differences, and exceptional behavior
- B. Demonstrates familiarity with common atypical behaviors (mood disorders, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, personality disorders, drug addiction)

Subarea II: Anthropology

Objective 1: Knows basic concepts, history, methods, and theory in the field of anthropology

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Defines anthropology
- B. Demonstrates a basic knowledge of the history of anthropology
- C. Understands the interconnection among the four major subfields of anthropology (i.e., cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology)
- D. Demonstrates knowledge of anthropological theory; e.g., structuralism, functionalism, symbolic and interpretive anthropology, evolution
- E. Demonstrates an understanding of research methods in anthropology; e.g., excavation and ethnography

Objective 2: Demonstrates an understanding of the organization of human communities

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Identifies anthropological perspectives on the organization of society
- B. Compares concepts of marriage and the family across cultures; e.g., kinship, lineage, descent groups, residence patterns
- C. Understands social stratification from an anthropological perspective; e.g., race, class, gender, common interest, age
- D. Analyzes political organizations
- E. Explains the functioning of economic systems; e.g., resources, distribution and exchange, patterns of subsistence

Test II Subareas

Subarea	Approx. Percentage of Test
I. Anthropology	20%
II. Sociology	80%

Test II Objectives

Subarea I: Anthropology

Objective 1: Knows the characteristics of human culture

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Knows the definition of human culture
- B. Understands characteristics of culture; e.g., shared, learned, integrated, symbol-based
- C. Knows about the evolution and functions of language
- D. Is familiar with various belief systems and the supernatural; e.g., practices, rituals and ceremonies, function

Objective 2: Demonstrates an understanding of the origins and mechanisms of cultural change

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Understands the origins of cultural change; e.g., animal and plant domestication
- B. Knows the origins and evolution of human culture; e.g., human ancestors, tool use
- C. Explains the mechanisms of change; e.g., invention, innovation, cultural diffusion, adaptation, acculturation, assimilation, and extinction
- D. Understands the effects of globalization

Subarea II: Sociology

Objective 1: Knows basic concepts, history, methods, and theory in the field of sociology

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Defines sociology and the sociological imagination
- B. Demonstrates a basic knowledge of the history of sociology
- C. Demonstrates an understanding of research methods in sociology

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- D. Knows sociological theory; e.g., functionalism, conflict theory, the interactionist perspective

Objective 2: Demonstrates an understanding of culture, social processes, and socialization

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Knows concepts associated with culture and cultural change
- B. Knows the process of socialization and its consequences; e.g., concept of role, ethnocentrism, knowledge of folkways, mores, laws, beliefs, and values
- C. Is familiar with social structure, social change, and interaction within society

Objective 3: Understands conformity and deviance, and shows familiarity with contemporary social problems

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Understands conformity and deviance
- B. Is familiar with contemporary social problems (e.g., globalization, technology), including causes, consequences, and proposed solutions

Objective 4: Understands functions and roles of and interactions among institutions and organizations

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Understand groups and organizations; e.g., primary and secondary groups, group norms
- B. Know the roles of institutions and how they act as agents of social control; e.g., family, educational, political, religious, economic, and medical
- C. Understand interactions among institutions

Objective 5: Demonstrates an understanding of social stratification in multiple contexts

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Knows the definition of social stratification
- B. Understands social class
- C. Understands the variation in race, ethnicity, and religion; e.g., pluralism, discrimination, and prejudice
- D. Knows the concepts associated with sex, gender roles, aging, power, and social inequality

Objective 6: Demonstrates an understanding of demography

The beginning Behavioral Science teacher:

- A. Knows about demography, rural/urban patterns, community, and human ecology; e.g., migration and immigration, changes in growth