



## GACE® Middle Grades Social Science Assessment *Test at a Glance*

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See the GACE® Middle Grades Social Science Assessment Study Companion for practice questions and preparation resources.

Assessment Name	Middle Grades Social Science
Grade Level	4–8
Test Code	015
Testing Time	2 hours
Test Duration	2.5 hours
Test Format	Computer delivered
Number of Selected-response Questions	65
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 <b><i>Guide to Taking a GACE Computer-delivered Test.</i></b>
Number of Constructed-response Questions	0

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## About this Assessment

The GACE Middle Grades Social Science assessment is designed to measure the professional knowledge of prospective teachers of middle school social science in the state of Georgia.

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

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 this assessment on the following pages.

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## Test Subareas

Subarea	Approx. Percentage of Test
I. The United States and Georgia: Historical, Geographic, Economic, and Civic Understanding	50%
II. Government and Economics	20%
III. World Regions	30%

## Test Objectives

### Subarea I: The United States and Georgia: Historical, Geographic, Economic, and Civic Understanding

*Objective 1: Understands fundamental historical, geographic, economic, and civic concepts in U.S. history to 1860*

The beginning Middle Grades Social Science teacher:

- A. Locates prominent places in the United States, including physical features and major cities relevant to the development of North America
- B. Demonstrates knowledge of the geography of North America and the development of early Native American cultures
- C. Describes the economic, political, cultural, and environmental causes and effects of European exploration and colonization of North America
- D. Explains the causes, events, and results of the American Revolution
- E. Analyzes the challenges faced by the new nation
- F. Explains the economic, political, cultural, and environmental causes and effects of the westward expansion of the United States between 1801 and 1860

*Objective 2: Understands fundamental historical, geographic, economic, and civic concepts in U.S. history since 1860*

The beginning Middle Grades Social Science teacher:

- A. Explains the causes, events, and consequences of the American Civil War and Reconstruction
- B. Describes major political, economic, social, and cultural developments in the United States, from the Progressive Era to the New Deal
- C. Describes the causes and consequences of United States involvement in the First and Second World Wars
- D. Describes the origins and consequences of the Cold War

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- E. Describes political, economic, social, and cultural developments in the United States between 1940 and 1975
  - F. Describes political, economic, social, and cultural developments in the United States since 1975

*Objective 3: Understands fundamental historical, geographic, economic, and civic concepts in Georgia history*

The beginning Middle Grades Social Science teacher:

- A. Describes basic Georgia geography, the development of Native American cultures, and the impact of European exploration and settlement
- B. Describes key economic, political, environmental, and cultural features of colonial Georgia
- C. Explains the role of Georgia in the American Revolution and the new republic
- D. Explains the political, economic, social, and cultural factors that affected the development of Georgia between 1789 and 1840
- E. Describes the political, economic, social, and cultural impact of the American Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia
- F. Describes key political, economic, social, and cultural changes that occurred in Georgia between 1877 and 1970
- G. Describes the role of Georgia in the modern Civil Rights movement
- H. Explains the importance of significant social, economic, and political developments in Georgia since 1970
- I. Describes the basic structure and functions of Georgia government
- J. Describes the role of local governments in Georgia, including the structure and functions

## **Subarea II: Government and Economics**

*Objective 1: Understands the fundamental concepts of government*

The beginning Middle Grades Social Science teacher:

- A. Describes who holds the power and how citizens participate in various political systems including, autocracy, oligarchy, and democracy (presidential and parliamentary)
- B. Describes how power is distributed in different governmental systems, including unitary, federal, and confederation

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*Objective 2: Understands the fundamental concepts of economics*

The beginning Middle Grades Social Science teacher:

- A. Describes the four basic economic systems, including traditional, market, command, and mixed
- B. Understands basic economic concepts such as wants, needs, supply, demand, trade and trade barriers, gross domestic product (GDP), scarcity, and the four factors of production

**Subarea III: World Regions**

*Objective 1: Understands historical, geographic, economic, and civic concepts in Latin America, Canada, Europe, and Australia*

The beginning Middle Grades Social Science teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical and human geography of Latin America and Canada, including location, physical, and artificial features, political boundaries, climate, distribution of natural resources, environmental issues, distribution of population, and cultural characteristics
- B. Describes the impact of European exploration and colonization on Latin America and Canada, including the effects of diseases and weapons
- C. Describes the development of Latin America from European colonies to independent nations
- D. Explains contemporary issues in Latin America and Canada
- E. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical and human geography of Europe, including location, physical and artificial features, political boundaries, climate, distribution of natural resources, environmental issues, distribution of population, and cultural characteristics
- F. Describes the causes and effects of European exploration and colonization
- G. Describes continuity and change in Europe through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including the causes and effects of the First World War, Second World War, and Cold War
- H. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical and human geography of Australia, including location, physical and artificial features, political boundaries, climate, distribution of natural resources, environmental issues, distribution of population, and cultural characteristics
- I. Describes the culture and development of Australia prior to contact with Europeans, including the origins and culture of the Australian Aborigine people
- J. Explains the impact of European exploration and colonization on Australia, including the use of prisoners as colonists and the effects of diseases and weapons

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*Objective 2: Understands historical, geographic, economic, and civic concepts in Africa and Asia*

The beginning Middle Grades Social Science teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical and human geography of Africa, including location, physical and artificial features, political boundaries, climate, distribution of natural resources, environmental issues, distribution of population, and cultural characteristics
- B. Explains the impact European exploration and colonization had on Africa, including how the European partitioning across Africa contributed to conflict, civil war, and artificial political boundaries
- C. Describes continuity and change in Africa, including independence movements (Pan-African movement and nationalism) and contemporary issues (e.g., HIV/AIDS)
- D. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical and human geography of southwest Asia (the Middle East), including location, physical and artificial features, political boundaries, climate, distribution of natural resources, environmental issues, distribution of population, and cultural characteristics
- E. Explains the impact of European contact on southwest Asia (the Middle East), including how European partitioning in the Middle East after the breakup of the Ottoman Empire led to regional conflict and how Zionism and the Balfour Declaration led to the establishment of Israel
- F. Describes continuity and change in southwest Asia (the Middle East), including conflicts (Arab-Israeli, United States involvement in the Middle East) and contemporary issues
- G. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical and human geography of southern and eastern Asia, including location, physical and artificial features, political boundaries, climate, distribution of natural resources, environmental issues, distribution of population, and cultural characteristics
- H. Analyzes continuity and change in southern and eastern Asia leading to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including independence movements in India, the impact of communism, and foreign intervention (e.g., the Korean War and the Vietnam War)