



GACE® Political Science Assessment

Test at a Glance

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

Assessment Name	Political Science
Grade Level	6–12
Test Code	Test I: 032 Test II: 033 Combined Test I and Test II: 532
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 Political Science assessment is designed to measure the professional knowledge of prospective teachers of Political Science in secondary schools in the state of Georgia.

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. Institutions (national, state, and local)	60%
II. Citizenship and Politics	40%

Test I Objectives

Subarea I: Institutions (national, state, and local)

Objective 1: Understands the structure and functions of United States institutions

The beginning Political Science teacher:

- A. Knows the structure and functions of the legislative branch, including the differences between the House of Representatives and the Senate, with emphasis on terms of office, powers, organization, leadership, and representation of each house
- B. Describes the legislative process, including the roles played by committees and leadership
- C. Understands the structure and functions of the executive branch, including the constitutional powers of the president, the various roles of the president, and the organization of the executive office of the president
- D. Understands the structure and functions of the judicial branch
- E. Knows the structure and functions of the federal bureaucracy
- F. Explains the impeachment process and how it is used

Objective 2: Understands the structure and functions of Georgia institutions

The beginning Political Science teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of the organization of government described in the Georgia Constitution
- B. Demonstrates knowledge of the structures and functions of Georgia's state and local governments

Subarea II: Citizenship and Politics

Objective 1: Understands fundamental concepts of citizenship, elections, and socialization

The beginning Political Science teacher:

- A. Describes the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, including participation in civic life
- B. Demonstrates knowledge of local, state, and national elections
- C. Demonstrates knowledge of political socialization

Objective 2: Understands fundamental concepts of parties, interest groups, and the media

The beginning Political Science teacher:

- A. Describes the organization, role, and constituencies of political parties
- B. Knows the characteristics and functions of interest groups
- C. Knows the role and influence of the media on United States politics

Test II Subareas

Subarea	Approx. Percentage of Test
I. United States Constitution	50%
II. Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and Criminal Justice	30%
III. Comparative Politics and International Relations	20%

Test II Objectives

Subarea I: United States Constitution

Objective 1: Demonstrates knowledge of the Constitution and foundations of United States government

The beginning Political Science teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of the political philosophies that shaped the development of United States constitutional government

Subarea II: Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and Criminal Justice

Objective 1: Understands fundamental concepts of civil liberties and civil rights

The beginning Political Science teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of civil liberties
- B. Demonstrates knowledge of civil rights

Objective 2: Demonstrates an understanding of the fundamental concepts of criminal justice

The beginning Political Science teacher:

- A. Describes the causes and effects of criminal activity

Subarea III: Comparative Politics and International Relations

Objective 1: Understands fundamental concepts of comparative politics

The beginning Political Science teacher:

- A. Understands the characteristics of different forms of government, including: unitary, confederal, and federal; autocratic, oligarchic, and democratic; and presidential and parliamentary

Objective 2: Understands fundamental concepts of international relations

The beginning Political Science teacher:

- A. Understands the tools used to carry out foreign policy (diplomacy; economic, military, and humanitarian aid; international organizations and treaties; sanctions and military intervention)