

GACE® Study Companion

Paraprofessional Assessment

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About the Assessment

Assessment Name	Paraprofessional
Grade Level	P–12
Test Code	177
Testing Time	2.5 hours
Test Duration	3 hours
Test Format	Computer delivered
Number of Selected-response Questions	90
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	0

The GACE Paraprofessional assessment is designed to measure the skills and knowledge of prospective and practicing paraprofessionals in the state of Georgia in reading, mathematics, and writing, as well as the ability to apply those skills and knowledge to assist in classroom instruction.

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**. See a breakdown of the subareas for this assessment on the following pages.

Test Subareas

	Subarea	Approx. Percentage of Test
I.	Reading	34%
II.	Mathematics	33%
III.	Writing	33%

Subarea I: Reading

Reading Skills and Knowledge questions measure the examinee's ability to understand, interpret, and analyze a wide range of text. Questions are based on reading passages — as well as graphs, charts, and tables — drawn from a variety of subject areas and real-life situations.

The questions assess the examinee's ability to:

- A. Identify the main idea or primary purpose
- B. Identify supporting ideas
- C. Identify how a reading selection is organized
- D. Determine the meanings of words or phrases in context
- E. Draw inferences or implications from directly stated content
- F. Determine whether information is presented as fact or opinion
- G. Interpret information from tables, diagrams, charts, and graphs

Reading Application questions are typically based on classroom scenarios in which students are involved in reading-related tasks, such as reading assigned passages, or working on vocabulary development. Some questions concern *foundations of reading*: the knowledge and skills students need when they are learning the basic features of words and written text.

These questions assess the examinee's ability to help students:

- A. Sound out words; e.g., recognize long and short vowels, consonant sounds, rhymes
- B. Break down words into parts; e.g., recognize syllables, root words, prefixes, suffixes
- C. Decode words or phrases using context clues
- D. Distinguish between synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms
- E. Alphabetize words

Other questions are concerned with tools of the reading process: common strategies used in classrooms before, during, and after reading to aid students' reading skills.

These questions assess the examinee's ability to:

- A. Help students use prereading strategies, such as skimming or making predictions
- B. Ask questions about a reading selection to help students understand the selection
- C. Make accurate observations about students' ability to understand and interpret text
- D. Help students use a dictionary
- E. Interpret written directions

Subarea II: Mathematics

The Mathematics Skills and Knowledge questions assess the examinee's knowledge of mathematical concepts and ability to apply them to abstract and real-life situations. The test questions do not require knowledge of advanced-level mathematics vocabulary. Examinees may not use calculators.

Three categories of math skills are tested:

1. Number Sense and Basic Algebra

- A. Perform basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- B. Recognize multiplication as repeated addition and division as repeated subtraction
- C. Recognize and interpret mathematical symbols such as +, < , >, ≤, ≥
- D. Understand the definitions of basic terms such as sum, difference, product, quotient, numerator, and denominator
- E. Recognize the position of numbers in relation to each other; e.g., $\frac{1}{3}$ is between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$
- F. Recognize equivalent forms of a number; e.g., $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$; $\frac{1}{10} = 0.1 = 10\%$
- G. Demonstrate knowledge of place value for whole numbers and decimal numbers
- H. Compute percentages
- I. Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts of exponents; e.g., $2^2 = 4$, $2^4 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 16$
- J. Demonstrate knowledge of "order of operations" (parentheses, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, subtraction)
- K. Use mental math to solve problems by estimation
- L. Solve word problems

- M. Solve one-step single-variable linear equations; e.g., find x if x + 4 = 2
- N. Indentify what comes next in a sequence of numbers

2. Geometry and Measurement

- A. Represents time and money in more than one way; e.g., 30 minutes = $\frac{1}{2}$ hour; 10:15 = guarter after 10; \$0.50 = 50 cents = half dollar
- B. Convert between units or measures in the same system; e.g., inches to feet, centimeters to meters
- C. Identify basic geometrical shapes; e.g., isosceles triangle, right triangle, polygon
- D. Perform computations related to area, volume, and perimeter for basic shapes
- E. Graph data on an *xy*-coordinate plane

3. Data Analysis

- A. Interpret information from tables, charts, and graphs
- B. Given a table, chart, or graph with time-related data, interpret trends over time
- C. Create basic tables, charts, and graphs
- D. Compute the mean, median, and mode

The Math Application questions assess the examinee's ability to apply the three categories of math skills listed in Subarea III (Math Skills and Knowledge) in a classroom setting or in support of classroom instruction. The questions focus on testing mathematical competencies needed to assist the teacher with instruction. The test questions do not require knowledge of advanced-level mathematics vocabulary. Examinees may not use calculators.

Subarea III: Writing

Writing Skills and Knowledge questions assess the examinee's ability to identify:

- A. Basic grammatical errors in standard written English
- B. Errors in word usage; e.g., their/they're/there, then/than
- C. Errors in punctuation
- D. Parts of a sentence; e.g., subject and verb/predicate
- E. Parts of speech; e.g., nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions
- F. Errors in spelling

Writing Application questions are typically based on classroom scenarios in which students are planning, composing, revising, or editing documents written for a variety of purposes. Some questions are concerned with aspects of the *writing process*, the full range of activities used when composing written documents.

These questions assess the examinee's ability to help students:

- A. Use prewriting to generate and organize ideas (including freewriting and using outlines)
- B. Indentify and use appropriate reference materials
- C. Draft and revise (including composing or refining a thesis statement, writing focused and organized paragraphs, and writing a conclusion)
- D. Edit written documents for clarity, grammar, sentence integrity (run-ons and sentence fragments), word usage, punctuation, and spelling

Some questions are concerned with *writing applications*, the application of writing for different purposes.

These questions assess the examinee's ability to help students:

- A. Write for different purposes and audiences (including using appropriate language and taking a position for or against something)
- B. Recognize and write in different modes and forms; e.g., descriptive essays, persuasive essays, narratives, letters

Practice Questions

The practice questions in this study companion are designed to familiarize you with the types of questions you may see on the assessment. While they illustrate some of the formats and types of questions you will see on the test, your performance on these sample questions should not be viewed as a predictor of your performance on the actual test. Fundamentally, the most important component in ensuring your success is familiarity with the content that is covered on the assessment.

To respond to a practice question, choose one of the answer options listed. Be sure to read the directions carefully to ensure that you know what is required for each question. You may find it helpful to time yourself to simulate actual testing conditions. A correct answer and a rationale for each sample test question are in the section following the practice questions.

Keep in mind that the test you take at an actual administration will have different questions, although the proportion of questions in each subarea will be approximately the same. You should not expect the percentage of questions you answer correctly in these practice questions to be exactly the same as when you take the test at an actual administration, since numerous factors affect a person's performance in any given testing situation.

Reading

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

Questions 1-2 are based on the following passage:

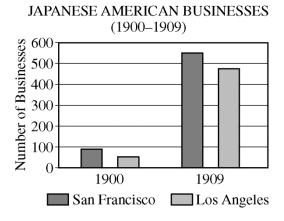
Early scientists believed that all dinosaurs, like most reptiles, laid and then immediately abandoned their eggs. The newly hatched young were left to take care of themselves. However, the recent discovery of a group of nests has challenged this belief. The nests, which contained fossilized baby dinosaurs that were not newborn, provided evidence that dinosaur parents actually cared for their young. For some time after birth, the babies would stay at the nest while the parents brought back plant matter for food. The young stayed at home until they were large enough to roam safely on their own.

- 1. The passage is primarily concerned with
 - A. contrasting dinosaurs with modern reptiles.
 - B. explaining why dinosaurs became extinct.
 - C. discussing recent findings about dinosaurs' behavior.
 - D. providing new information about what dinosaurs ate.

Answer and Rationale

- 2. The discovery of a group of dinosaur nests challenged the idea that dinosaurs
 - A. fed their young with plant matter.
 - B. hatched few eggs.
 - C. migrated in search of food.
 - D. deserted their young.

Answer and Rationale



- 3. What conclusion can be drawn from the data presented in the graph above?
 - A. Japanese American businesses were more successful in California than in other states in 1909.
 - B. The number of Japanese American businesses in Los Angeles and San Francisco increased greatly from 1900 to 1909.
 - C. In 1909 there were more Japanese American businesses in Los Angeles than there were in San Francisco.
 - D. In 1909 most Japanese American businesses in Los Angeles and San Francisco were large companies.

Answer and Rationale

4. American science-fiction writers produce a large number of novels for young people these days, yet few take advantage of the latitude allowed by the genre. Since the 1970s, young-adult science fiction has had little to do with the wonders of science, intergalactic travel, or new worlds in space. Most of the novels are cautionary tales about regimented, conformist societies or about the social order collapsed into barbarism. This change has resulted in science fiction that is, to me as a reader, much less interesting than science fiction used to be.

Which sentence from the passage is most clearly an expression of opinion rather than a statement of fact?

- A. "American science-fiction . . . the genre."
- B. "Since the . . . in space."
- C. "Most of . . . into barbarism."
- D. "This change . . . to be."

Answer and Rationale

Questions 5-6 are based on the following passage, which students are reading in small groups.

The environment in which people live often determines the kind of technology they use. For instance, ancient Mesopotamia had few plants suitable for making paper. But the area had lots of high-quality clay. People used the clay to store information.

Modern people store information on paper, computer disks, and CDs. Mesopotamians stored their data on clay tablets — pieces of smooth clay small enough to fit into the palm of an adult's hand. When a clay tablet was damp, people could scratch pictures and letters into its surface using a sharpened reed. When dried in the hot sun, the clay hardened, preserving the writing and the information.

- 5. The teacher wants students to understand why the Mesopotamians wrote on clay. What question could a paraprofessional ask a group of students about the passage that would best help the students understand why the Mesopotamians wrote on clay?
 - A. Why did the Mesopotamians make clay tablets small enough to fit in the hand?
 - B. What kinds of pictures and letters did the Mesopotamians scratch on clay?
 - C. Why didn't the Mesopotamians write on paper the way we do today?
 - D. How did the Mesopotamians learn to read and write?

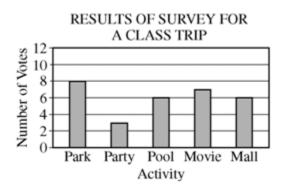
Answer and Rationale

- 6. The paraprofessional asks a group of students to describe the main purpose of the second paragraph. Which of the following four responses from the students is most accurate?
 - A To explain how the Mesopotamians used clay to store information
 - B. To describe the different ways we store information today
 - C. To explain why the environment affects the kind of technology people use
 - D. To show that Mesopotamians made small clay tablets so they could carry them easily

Answer and Rationale

Mathematics

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.



- 7. In the graph above, how many more votes were received for the park than the mall as an activity for a class trip?
 - A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 6
 - D. 14

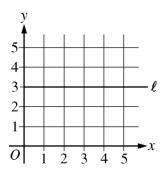
Answer and Rationale

- 8. What digit is in the hundredths place of the number 5,123.6487?
 - A. 1
 - B. 4
 - C. 6
 - D. 8

Answer and Rationale

- 9. 445.76×9.634 is approximately equal to
 - A. 46
 - B. 446
 - C. 4,460
 - D. 44,600

Answer and Rationale



- 10. Which of the following is NOT a point on line ℓ shown on the graph above?
 - A. (0, 3)
 - B. (1, 3)
 - C. (3, 0)
 - D. (3, 3)

Answer and Rationale

$$5 + 3 \times 8 + 9 = ?$$

11. A student wrote the incorrect number sentence above to solve the following problem:

"Multiply the sum of 5 and 3 and the sum of 8 and 9."

To correct the error, the student's number sentence should be changed to

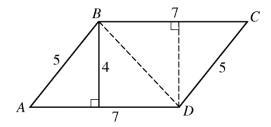
A.
$$(5+3) \times 8 + 9 = ?$$

B.
$$5+3\times(8+9)=?$$

C.
$$(5+3\times8)+9=?$$

D.
$$(5+3) \times (8+9) = ?$$

Answer and Rationale



12. A paraprofessional is helping a student find the equation for the area of parallelogram *ABCD* shown above by pointing out to the student that the parallelogram can be divided into two congruent triangles. The area of the parallelogram is then the sum of the areas of the two triangles. Which of the following is the correct expression to use to find the area of parallelogram *ABCD*?

A.
$$\frac{1}{2}(7 \times 4) + \frac{1}{2}(7 \times 4)$$

B.
$$\frac{1}{2}(7 \times 5) + \frac{1}{2}(7 \times 5)$$

C.
$$(7 \times 5) + (7 \times 4)$$

D.
$$(7 \times 4) \times 5$$

Answer and Rationale

Writing

Directions for Questions 13 and 14

In each of the sentences below, four portions are underlined. One of these contains a grammatical construction, a word use, or an instance of punctuation that would be inappropriate in carefully written English. Select the corresponding answer option for the portion that is inappropriate. No sentence has more than one error.

- 13. The role of technology in the <u>nation's</u> public schools <u>have</u> been increasing <u>steadily</u> for more than 20 years.
 - A. nation's
 - B. have
 - C. steadily
 - D. than

Answer and Rationale

- 14. Jupiter, the <u>largest</u> planet in the solar system, spins very <u>rapidly</u> on <u>it's</u> axis, with the result that a day on Jupiter <u>lasts</u> only 9 hours and 55 minutes.
 - A. largest
 - B. rapidly
 - C. it's
 - D. lasts

Answer and Rationale

15. Because there were no refrigerators on the United States space shuttles, all of the food eaten by the astronauts had to be in a <u>nonperishable</u> form.

In the sentence above, the underlined word is being used as

- A. a noun.
- B. a verb.
- C. an adjective.
- D. an adverb.

Answer and Rationale

- 16. Which word is not spelled correctly?
 - A. Compair
 - B. Hardware
 - C. Repair
 - D. Scare

Answer and Rationale

Questions 17–18 are based on the following rough draft written by a student.

How to Teach Your Dog to Sit by Kiara

- (1) First hold a dog biscuit so the dog pays attention. (2) Say "Sit!" (3) When you say it, use a loud and firm voice. (4) Move the hand holding the biscuit over the dog's nose, don't let him grab it. (5) You may have to give a light backwards tug on the dog's leash. (6) When the dog sits down, give him the treat and lots of praise. (7) Repeat this a few times, and he'll probably understand the command.
- 17. Kiara is writing an introductory sentence that summarizes the main points of the paragraph. What sentence would be the strongest introductory sentence for the paragraph?
 - A. Dogs are naturally very intelligent and obedient.
 - B. Your dog probably likes some dog biscuits better than others.
 - C. It is easy to teach your dog the command "Sit!"
 - D. Nobody likes a dog that can't play catch.

Answer and Rationale

- 18. Kiara is learning how to use transition words (words that clarify the relationships between ideas). What transition word or words should Kiara use before the word "don't" in sentence 4 in order to clarify the meaning of the sentence?
 - A. but
 - B. because
 - C. for example
 - D. so

Answer and Rationale

Answer Key and Rationales

Question Number	Correct Answer	Rationale
1	С	Option C is correct. The passage notes the "recent discovery of a group of nests" and then elaborates on what the discovery reveals about the behavior of dinosaurs toward their young. Back to Question
2	D	Option D is correct. The belief challenged by the discovery of the group of nests is that dinosaurs "abandoned their eggs" and left their young to provide for themselves. Back to Question
3	В	Option B is correct. Options A and D are incorrect because the graph does not offer information about Japanese American businesses in cities outside of California, nor does it offer information about the size of Japanese American businesses in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Option C is incorrect because the graph indicates that in 1909 there were fewer Japanese American businesses in Los Angeles than in San Francisco. Back to Question

Question Number	Correct Answer	Rationale
4	D	Option D is correct. The sentences referred to in options A, B, and C present facts about the number and subject matter of science fiction novels published today. In the last sentence, however, the author shifts to offering a personal opinion about science fiction today; i.e., it's not as interesting as it used to be. Back to Question
5	С	Option C is correct. The question would encourage students to think about why the Mesopotamians did not have paper (they did not have many of the proper plants) and help the students better understand how the resources available to the Mesopotamians helped determine the materials they used for writing. Back to Question
6	А	Option A is correct. The second paragraph is primarily concerned with describing the processes used by the Mesopotamians to write on clay tablets. Back to Question

Question Number	Correct Answer	Rationale
7	В	According to the graph, 8 votes were received for the park as an activity for a class trip and 6 votes were received for the mall. To determine how many more votes were received for the park than the mall, subtract the number of votes for the mall from the number of votes for the park.
		8 - 6 = 2
		Thus, 2 more votes were received for the park than the mall. The correct answer is option B.
		Back to Question
8	В	The hundredths place of 5,123.6487 is 2 digits to the right of the decimal point as shown:
		decimal point
		\downarrow
		5,123.6487
		↑
		hundredths place
		The digit in the hundredths place of the number is 4. The correct answer is option B .
		Back to Question

Question Number	Correct Answer	Rationale
9	С	To determine the approximate value of 445.76 × 9.634, round 445.76 to 446 and round 9.634 to 10. Then multiply 446 and 10. 446 × 10 = 4,460 The approximate value is 4,460. The correct answer is option C. Back to Question
10	С	To determine which point is not on the line ℓ , plot the points in options A through D on the graph. $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

Question Number	Correct Answer	Rationale
11	D	The student's number sentence $5 + 3 \times 8 + 9 = ?$
		is incorrect because according to the order of operations, multiplication precedes addition; thus 3 and 8 would be multiplied first, then 5 and then 9 would be added to the product. In order for the sum of 5 and 3 and the sum of 8 and 9 to be calculated before multiplying, parentheses must be placed around 5 + 3 and 8 + 9. Thus the correct number sentence is:
		$(5+3) \times (8+9) = ?$
		The correct answer is option D.
		Back to Question
12	А	The figure shown is a parallelogram. Parallelogram <i>ABCD</i> can be divided into two congruent triangles, <i>ABD</i> and <i>BCD</i> , as shown by
		the dotted line. Each triangle has an area of $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>bh</i> , where <i>b</i> is the
		length of the base, and <i>h</i> is the height of the triangle. The height of a triangle is the line segment that is perpendicular to the base.
		In the figure, the base <i>b</i> of each triangle has length 7 and the height <i>h</i> of each triangle is 4, and the area of each triangle is thus,
		$A = \frac{1}{2} \ (7 \times 4).$
		The area of parallelogram is the sum of the areas of the two triangles, thus the area of parallelogram ABCD is
		$\frac{1}{2}$ (7 × 4) + $\frac{1}{2}$ (7 × 4).
		The correct answer is option A.
		Back to Question

Question Number	Correct Answer	Rationale
13	В	The error in the sentence occurs at option B. The subject of the verb "have been increasing" is the "role of technology"; because "role" is a singular noun, the verb should also be singular; i.e., "has been increasing." Back to Question
14	С	The error in the sentence occurs at option C. As presented in option C, the word "it's" is an error in usage. When used in the possessive form (the axis belongs to Jupiter), there is no apostrophe in the word "its." There is an apostrophe in "it's" only when the word is being used as a contraction of "it is." Back to Question
15	С	The correct answer is option C. An adjective is a word that modifies a noun or pronoun, usually by describing, identifying, or quantifying. Here, "nonperishable" modifies "form" by describing the form of food eaten by the astronauts. Back to Question

Question Number	Correct Answer	Rationale
16	А	Option A is correct. The correct spelling is "compare."
		Back to Question
17	С	The correct answer is option C. Kiara's paragraph is concerned with discussing what steps to take when teaching a dog to sit. Option A is too general; option B concerns a minor element of the paragraph, not its primary focus; and option D concerns playing catch, which is not discussed in the paragraph at all. Back to Question
18	А	The correct answer is option A. The word "but" is used to emphasize the contrast expressed in the sentence: "Move the hand holding the biscuit over the dog's nose, but don't let him grab it." Back to Question

Preparation Resources

The resources listed below may help you prepare for the GACE assessment in this field. These preparation resources have been identified by content experts in the field to provide up-to-date information that relates to the field in general. You may wish to use current issues or editions of these materials to obtain information on specific topics for study and review.

Guide to Taking a GACE Computer-delivered Assessment

This guide explains how to navigate through a GACE assessment and how to answer different types of test questions. This free download is available in the Test Preparation Resources section of the GACE website at **www.gace.ets.org/prepare**.

Reducing Test Anxiety

This guide provides practical help for people who suffer from test anxiety. Designed specifically for GACE test takers, but useful to anyone who has to take tests, this guide reviews the major causes of test anxiety and offers practical advice for how to counter each one. Download this guide for free from the Test Preparation Resources section of the GACE website at www.gace.ets.org/prepare.

Study Tips: Preparing for a GACE Assessment

This document contains useful information on preparing for selected-response and constructed-response tests. The instruction, tips, and suggestions can help you become a better-prepared test taker. See the Test Preparation Resources section of the GACE website at **www.gace.ets.org/prepare** for this free download.

Journals

English Journal, National Council of Teachers of English

Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy, International Reading Association

Mathematics Teacher, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Middle School Journal, National Middle School Association

Research in the Teaching of English, National Council of Teachers of English

The Reading Teacher, International Reading Association

Other Resources

Allington, R. L. (1998). *Teaching Struggling Readers: Articles from the Reading Teacher*. Newark, Del.: International Reading Association.

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Online Resources

Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) — www.eric.ed.gov

Georgia Department of Education – www.doe.k12.ga.us

GovSpot, StartSpot Mediaworks, Inc. — www.govspot.com

International Reading Association — www.reading.org

Kids.gov, U.S. General Services Administration — www.kids.gov

National Council of Teachers of English — www.ncte.org

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics — www.nctm.org

Readwritethink — www.readwritethink.org