



GACE® Paraprofessional Assessment *Test at a Glance*

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

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

About this Assessment

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 $+$, $<$, $>$, \leq , \geq
- D. Understand the definitions of basic terms such as sum, difference, product, quotient, numerator, and denominator

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- 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. Identify 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 = quarter 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. Identify 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