

# Frank McClarin High School

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Parents,

The Georgia High School Graduation Test is based on the following content areas math, English/Language Arts, science, and social studies. Strand and domain descriptions also appear on an individual Student Content Area. **If you have any questions concerning the information below please call 404-669-8080 and ask for the assistant principal, administrative assistant, counselors, and or graduation coach for assistance.**

There are three domains in the **English/Language Arts** area of the test.

- Reading Comprehension (47-49%)
- Literary Analysis (37-39%)
- Convention and Writing (14-16%)

There are four strands in the **mathematics** area of the test.

- Number and Computation (17-19%)
- Data Analysis (19-21%)
- Measurement and Geometry (32-34%)
- Algebra (28-30%)

There are six strands in the **social studies** area of the test.

- World Studies (18-20%)
- U.S. History to 1865 (18-20%)
- U.S. history Since 1865 (18-20%)
- Citizenship/Government (12-14%)
- Map and Globe Skills (15%)
- Information Processing Skills (15%)

There are five domains in **science**

- Cells and Heredity (24- 26%)
- Ecology (16-18%)
- Structure and Properties of Matter (25-27%)
- Energy Transformations (15-17%)
- Forces, Waves and Electricity (15-17%)

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TEST CONTENT

Questions on the high school graduation tests assess various strands in the areas of mathematics and social studies (QCC) and domains in the areas of English Language Arts and science (GPS). Strands and domains are groupings of objectives, all of which are found in Georgia's Quality Core Curriculum and the Georgia Performance Standards.

The approximate percent of items of the total test devoted to each strand or domain is shown in parentheses. More detailed information is available in the publications entitled "Georgia High School Graduation Test Content Descriptions" for English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Strand and domain descriptions also appear on the back of the individual Student Content Area Report.

### English Language Arts (Three Domains)

#### 1. Reading Comprehension (47-49%)

This domain tests a student's ability to read and understand the meaning and main ideas in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Also tested is the ability to identify an author's use of literary elements including language and style, character development, point of view, irony, sound, form, and structure as these are used to convey meaning.

#### 2. Literary Analysis (37-39%)

This domain tests a student's ability to analyze text, focusing on how authors use language and various techniques for particular purposes in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Items in this domain also test the ability to recognize theme and underlying meaning. In addition, this domain includes items that assess understanding of the history of American literature.

#### 3. Convention and Writing (14-16%)

This domain tests a student's knowledge of vocabulary, writing for specific audiences, proper English usage, and the ability to formulate clear research questions. Items in this domain also test the ability to revise writing in order to address different audiences and improve the organization.

### Mathematics (Four Strands)

#### 1. Number and Computation (17-19%)

This strand tests the different uses of numbers; equivalent and approximate forms of numbers; arithmetic properties and operations; and computing with integers, decimals, fractions, percents, and proportions. Real-world applications in computing prices, change, discounts, sales tax, interest, and best buy are tested. Estimation strategies and problem-solving techniques are also included.

#### 2. Data Analysis (19-21%)

This strand tests use of exact and approximate numbers; probability, collecting and organizing data in graphs, charts, and tables; reading and interpreting such graphic representations; and determining answers using statistical measures such as mean, mode, median, and range.

#### 3. Measurement and Geometry (32-34%)

This strand tests estimation and determination of measurements such as length, area, volume, weight, time, and temperature. Similar and congruent figures, use of proportions to find missing sides of figures, and use of scale drawings are included. The coordinate plane and its uses are tested, as well as geometric properties and figures, and application of the Pythagorean theorem.

#### 4. Algebra (28-30%)

This strand tests algebraic principles taught in algebra and other mathematics courses. Simplification of expressions, evaluation of algebraic expressions, solving equations, and applications of ratios and proportions are included.

### Social Studies (Six Strands)

#### 1. World Studies (18-20%)

This strand includes both world history and world geography. It emphasizes topics in world history that relate closely to the history of the United States, such as European exploration; the scientific, commercial, political, industrial, technological, and cultural revolutions; and the world wars. Geography topics tested include cultural and physical features of regions and the relationship between geography and human activity.



2. **U. S. History to 1865 (18-20%)**

This strand's focus is on early inhabitants and exploration of the New World, Colonial America, the Revolutionary Era, the Constitutional Era, the growth of the nation, causes and results of the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

3. **U. S. History Since 1865 (18-20%)**

This strand covers topics such as expansion and development of the nation, the nation becoming a world power, and the modern nation. Included are economic concepts such as characteristics of the American economic system; organized labor; the banking system; traditional, command and market economies; and economic specialization.

4. **Citizenship/Government (12-14%)**

This strand tests knowledge of the structure of the United States government; role of the citizen, citizen and the law, including the judicial/legal systems; and individual rights. Understanding of the amendments to the Constitution is tested.

5. **Map and Globe Skills (15%)**

This strand tests understanding of time zones, grid systems, scale, and the use of map keys and legends to interpret a variety of maps. The ability to relate information on maps to historic and current events and human activities is also tested.

6. **Information Processing Skills (15%)**

This strand tests skills related to the interpretation of texts, such as identifying the main idea, determining cause and effect, distinguishing between fact and opinion, and analyzing interpretations from a variety of sources. Also tested are the skills of interpreting charts, tables, and other graphically presented information.

## **Science (Five Domains)**

1. **Cells and Heredity (24-26%)**

This domain tests knowledge of the structure and function of cell components and the process of inheritance. Items in this domain also test the ability to distinguish between organisms of different kingdoms.

2. **Ecology (16-18%)**

This domain tests the ability to analyze the interdependence of organisms. Items in this domain also test knowledge of the flow of energy and matter in an ecosystem.

3. **Structure and Properties of Matter (25-27%)**

This domain tests knowledge of the structure of atoms. Items in this domain also test knowledge of the properties of solutions.

4. **Energy Transformations (15-17%)**

This domain tests the ability to describe radioactivity and the flow of energy in systems. Items in this domain also test knowledge of the phases of matter and the related atomic and molecular motion.

5. **Forces, Waves and Electricity (15-17%)**

This domain tests knowledge of the relationship between force, mass and motion. Items in this domain also test knowledge of properties of waves and properties of electricity and magnetism.



## GHSGT Content Weights

The chart below shows the approximate weights for domains. The GHSGT Content Descriptions provide more details as to the specific skills and knowledge that a student is required to demonstrate on the tests. These documents can be found at [http://www.gadoe.org/ci\\_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI\\_TESTING\\_GHSGT](http://www.gadoe.org/ci_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI_TESTING_GHSGT)

Quality Core Curriculum		Dually Aligned Georgia Performance Standards/Quality Core Curriculum	
<b>English Language Arts</b>	<b>Approximate Percent of Test</b>	<b>English Language Arts*</b>	<b>Approximate Percent of Test</b>
Reading/Literature	47-49%	Reading Comprehension	47-49%
Critical Thinking	37-39%	Literary Analysis	37-39%
Writing, Usage & Grammar	14-16%	Conventions and Writing	13-15%
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Approximate Percent of Test</b>		
Number Sense and Computation	17-19%		
Data Analysis	19-21%		
Measurement and Geometry	32-34%		
Algebra	28-30%		
<b>Science</b>	<b>Approximate Percent of Test</b>	<b>Science*</b>	<b>Approximate Percent of Test</b>
Process/Research	30-32%	Cells and Heredity	24-26%
Physical Science	33-35%	Ecology	16-18%
Biology	33-35%	Structure and Property of Matter	25-27%
		Energy Transformation	15-17%
		Forces, Waves and Electricity	15-17%
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Approximate Percent of Test</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Approximate Percent of Test</b>
World Studies	18-20%	American Government/Civics	17-19%
U.S. History to 1865	18-20%	United States History to 1865	25-27%
U.S. History since 1865	18-20%	United States History since 1865	24-26%
Citizenship/Government	12-14%	World Geography	12-14%
Map Interpretation Skills	15%	World History	17-19%
Information Processing Skills	15%		

\*Exclusively aligned to GPS in spring 2008. Weights shown apply to GPS version.