

Test Taking Strategies
11th Grade Advisement Activity
Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes

Georgia Teachers-As-Advisors Framework:

Goal 11-2.1 - Assess, learn, and master 21st Century skills in order to advance academic achievement, educational attainment, and lifelong-learning and career options.

a. Critical Thinking/Problem Solving

Goal 11-2.2 - Recognize and attain performance levels necessary to reach educational and career goals.

b. Evaluate one's learning styles, study skills, and learning habits that promote advancing personal, educational achievement and identify areas that need attention and/or improvement

Objectives:

- Students will learn strategies for becoming a better standardized test taker in order to prepare for post-secondary opportunities

Materials:

- "Test Taking Strategies" Handout (print front and back to save paper) NOTE: This is a short session. Be prepared to assist individuals if needed with assessment questions or other questions.

Activity:

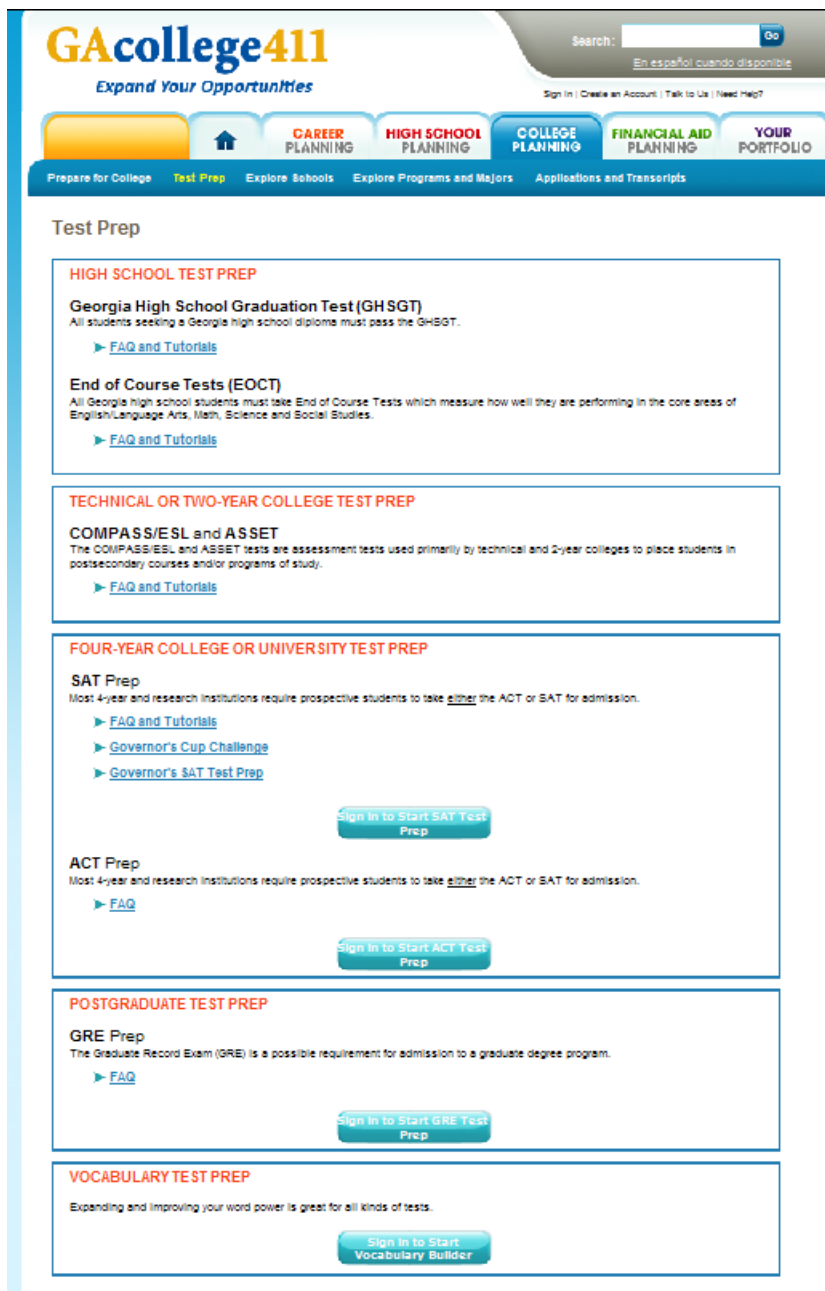
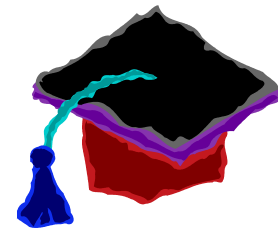
1. *Greet Students:* Welcome to advisement. Many of your postsecondary opportunities will require you to take some sort of admissions exam. There are two very popular tests that colleges include as parts of the admissions process: the SAT and the ACT. Technical colleges will accept SAT, ACT or they will require the Asset or Compass for admissions and placement. Today we are going to learn some helpful test taking strategies that will help you with these and other standardized tests like the Georgia High School Graduation Test or End Of Course Test.
2. *Warm-up activity:* Students will complete the timed test called "Can You Follow Directions." Pass out the test and give the students five minutes to complete it. Instruct each student to complete it independently and turn their paper face down once they have completed the test. Once five minutes have passed ask one student to read item #3 on the test. Then ask another student to read item #20 on the test. Ask for a raise of hands of which students actually read all the statements through #20 before they completed the test. Ask students: Why is it important to read all directions first before taking the test?
3. *Ask:* Do any of you get test anxiety before a big exam? What are some things you can do to help you do better on the exam? Let the students brainstorm what they think they can do. List their thoughts on the board: Possible answers may include...
 - Get plenty of rest the night before the test.
 - Read the instructions.
 - Know if you need a pencil, pen or both.
 - Eat breakfast if you normally eat breakfast
 - Review testing format----no surprises about the procedure (NOTE: Most colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT, however, students should know which admissions test the college prefers. This information is available on GACollege411 under the COLLEGE PLANNING tab
4. *Distribute the handout.* Review the information with students starting with the list in the left-hand box which represents a page under the COLLEGE PLANNING tab on Gacollege411.
5. *Dismiss:* I hope you will take the time to check out the assistance provided on GACollege411 and the GaDOE web site. Have a great day!

NOTE: Students who plan to attend a public technical college and score in the Advanced Proficiency level on the GHSGT in ELA will not have to take the Compass, any other placement test or any support classes for any of their certificate or diploma programs.

CAN YOU FOLLOW DIRECTIONS?

This is a timed test. You will have three (5) minutes.
Do not begin until you have read all questions.

1. You are not to share your answers with anyone.
2. Read all statements before you do anything.
3. Print your name in the upper right hand corner.
4. Circle the word **you** in sentence two.
5. Draw five (5) small squares in the upper left hand corner
6. Put an x in each square.
7. Put a circle around each square.
8. Sign your name under the title of this test.
9. After the title write yes three times.
10. Put a circle completely around sentence number 7
11. Put an x in the lower left hand corner of this page.
12. On the back of the paper multiply 103 by 66.
13. On the reverse side of this paper add 8950 and 9805.
4. Draw a rectangle around the word FIVE in sentence five.
15. If you have followed directions so far, write "yes" in the bottom right corner.
16. Put a circle around your answer in number 13.
17. Silently count from 10 to 1 backwards.
18. Underline all even numbered questions.
19. Call out, "I'm on sentence 19 and have followed directions."
20. Now that you have finished reading everything carefully, answer only questions one, two, and three.



The screenshot shows the GACollege411 website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation tabs for 'CAREER PLANNING', 'HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING', 'COLLEGE PLANNING', 'FINANCIAL AID PLANNING', and 'YOUR PORTFOLIO'. The 'COLLEGE PLANNING' tab is selected. Below the navigation, there is a 'Test Prep' section with several categories:

- HIGH SCHOOL TEST PREP**
 - Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT): All students seeking a Georgia high school diploma must pass the GHS GT. [FAQ and Tutorials](#)
 - End of Course Tests (EOCT): All Georgia high school students must take End of Course Tests which measure how well they are performing in the core areas of English/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. [FAQ and Tutorials](#)
- TECHNICAL OR TWO-YEAR COLLEGE TEST PREP**
 - COMPASS/ESL and ASSET: The COMPASS/ESL and ASSET tests are assessment tests used primarily by technical and 2-year colleges to place students in postsecondary courses and/or programs of study. [FAQ and Tutorials](#)
- FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEST PREP**
 - SAT Prep: Most 4-year and research institutions require prospective students to take either the ACT or SAT for admission. [FAQ and Tutorials](#), [Governor's Cup Challenge](#), [Governor's SAT Test Prep](#). [Sign In to Start SAT Test Prep](#)
 - ACT Prep: Most 4-year and research institutions require prospective students to take either the ACT or SAT for admission. [FAQ](#). [Sign In to Start ACT Test Prep](#)
- POSTGRADUATE TEST PREP**
 - GRE Prep: The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is a possible requirement for admission to a graduate degree program. [FAQ](#). [Sign In to Start GRE Test Prep](#)
- VOCABULARY TEST PREP**
 - Expanding and improving your word power is great for all kinds of tests. [Sign In to Start Vocabulary Builder](#)

The GaDOE offers information for students and parents at http://www.gadoe.org/ci_iap_satap.aspx

Information is available on the following assessments:

- Advanced Placement
- PSAT
- SAT
- ACT
- SAT Online Prep Course available free for all Georgia students

Find AP information at AP Central <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/Controller.jpf>

GACollege411 offers "Test Prep" under the COLLEGE PLANNING tab for specific high school and college admissions test.