

FTCE General Knowledge Test (GKT) Essay Mock Prompts

Format:

• 1 Essay Prompt (Argumentative or Expository)

• 50-Minute Time Limit

• Scored 0–6 by Two Raters (Total: 12 Points)

Mock Essay Prompt (Argumentative)

Topic:

"Should public schools require students to wear uniforms? Take a position and support your argument with specific reasons and examples."

Instructions:

1. Plan (5–10 minutes):

- Choose a side (Yes/No).
- Brainstorm 2–3 key points (e.g., cost, discipline, equality).
- Prepare a counterargument (e.g., "Some argue uniforms limit self-expression, but...").

2. Write (30-35 minutes):

- **Introduction:** Hook + clear thesis (e.g., "Schools should require uniforms because they reduce distractions, promote equality, and save families money.").
- **Body Paragraphs:** One idea per paragraph with evidence (e.g., statistics, expert quotes, real-world examples).
- **Conclusion:** Restate thesis + call to action (e.g., "Uniforms create a focused learning environment and should be adopted widely.").

3. Revise (5 minutes):

- Fix grammar/spelling errors.
- Ensure transitions (e.g., "Furthermore," "In contrast").

Mock Essay Prompt (Expository)

Topic:

"Explain the benefits of outdoor recess for elementary school students."

Instructions:

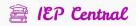
1. Plan (5–10 minutes):

- List benefits (e.g., physical health, social skills, focus in class).
- Organize logically (e.g., health \rightarrow social \rightarrow academic).

2. Write (30–35 minutes):

- Introduction: Overview (e.g., "Outdoor recess boosts children's development in three key ways.").
- **Body Paragraphs:** Explain each benefit with examples (e.g., "Studies show recess reduces obesity rates by 12%.").
- **Conclusion:** Summarize + final thought (e.g., "Schools must prioritize recess to nurture well-rounded students.").

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Grading Rubric (Score 0–6 per Rater)

Criteria	High-Score Traits (5–6)
Focus & Organization	Clear thesis, logical flow, strong transitions.
Support & Development	Detailed examples, facts, or reasoning.
Grammar & Mechanics	Few errors; varied sentence structure.

Sample Thesis Statements

- Argumentative:
 - "Uniforms should be mandatory because they reduce bullying, simplify mornings, and prepare students for professional environments."
 - "Uniforms stifle creativity and fail to address the root causes of schoolyard inequality."
- Expository:
 - "Outdoor recess enhances physical health, teamwork, and classroom engagement."