

## 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 → social → 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)**

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

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**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."*