

## General Knowledge Test Essay Study Guide

### 2 Types of Essay Required

#### Argumentative Essay Prompt

*"Should schools eliminate standardized testing as a primary measure of student achievement? Take a position on this issue and support your argument with specific reasons and examples."*

##### Instructions:

- Write a clear thesis statement in your introduction.
- Develop 2–3 body paragraphs with logical reasoning and evidence.
- Address counterarguments if possible (strengthens your essay).
- Use formal language and proper grammar.
- Aim for 4–5 paragraphs (300–600 words).

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#### Expository Essay Prompt (Alternative)

*"Explain the potential benefits of incorporating technology into classroom instruction. Provide specific examples to support your explanation."*

##### Instructions:

- Focus on informing rather than persuading.
- Use facts, examples, and clear organization.
- Avoid personal opinions; stick to objective analysis.

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#### Grading Criteria (Scored 0–6 by Two Raters; Total 12 Points)

Your essay will be evaluated on:

1. **Focus & Organization**
  - Clear thesis/topic sentence.
  - Logical flow (introduction, body, conclusion).
2. **Support & Development**
  - Relevant examples, facts, or reasoning.
3. **Grammar & Mechanics**
  - Proper sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling.

#### Tips for Success

1. **Plan First (5 Minutes):**
  - Outline your thesis and key points.
  - For argumentative essays, jot down counterarguments.
2. **Write Clearly (20–25 Minutes):**
  - Introduction: Hook + thesis.
  - Body: One idea per paragraph (e.g., "Standardized testing creates stress" → evidence).
  - Conclusion: Restate thesis + final thought.
3. **Revise (5 Minutes):**
  - Fix grammar errors or awkward phrasing.

#### Example Thesis Statements

- **Argumentative:** *"Standardized testing should not be eliminated because it provides objective data, ensures accountability, and identifies achievement gaps."*
- **Expository:** *"Technology in classrooms enhances engagement, personalizes learning, and prepares students for a digital workforce."*