Georgia Government Examination

Armstrong State University requires the Georgia Government Examination of students who seek to satisfy the degree requirement for U.S. and Georgia government by…

1. Transferring credit from a school outside the University System of Georgia or…
2. Earning an acceptable score on either CLEP-American Government or AP-Government & Politics: US

*Passing the Georgia Government Examination alone is not sufficient to meet the degree requirement.

The Test
The Georgia Government Examination is a 20-item multiple choice test on the Constitution and politics of Georgia. The test cost is $15.00. The minimum passing score is 14 (70% of 20 items).

*Call Testing Services 912.344.2582 to make an appointment. Bring a photo ID on the day of the test.

Score Reporting: Approximately one week after the test, your score will be mailed to you and the Registrar. Your answer sheet will be on file for one year & your score report for five years in the Office of Testing.

Retaking the Test: You may retake the test only once a semester, but there is no limit to the number of times you retake the test.

What to Study
Copies of Georgia State Politics: The Constitutional Foundation. 6th Ed., by Allen and Saeger are on reserve in Lane Library and can be purchased at the Armstrong Bookstore. The study guide of the Department of Criminal Justice, Social & Political Sciences is printed below. To prepare, write the answers to the study questions and take the practice examination in Appendix I of the textbook.

Chapter 1: Georgia’s Politics
1. How many constitutions has Georgia had? Describe the present 1983 Constitution and state the subject of each Article I-XI.
2. Why do the authors describe Georgia’s political culture as largely a blend of traditional and individualistic?
3. How does Georgia’s political culture shape its politics?

Chapter 2: Civil Rights
1. What is the difference between a civil liberty and a civil right? Given an example of each.
2. Under Article I, the Bill of Rights, what does each of the following mean for Georgia’s citizens: due process, freedom of conscience, right to bear arms, assembly, petition, no ex post facto law, jury trial, legal counsel, unreasonable search, writ of habeas corpus, no compelled testimony, no double jeopardy.
3. What does it mean that individuals are guaranteed the equal protection of the laws? When do you become a citizen of the state?
4. What is homestead exemption? May the state tax the air you breathe?
5. What is meant by checks and balances? What is the establishment of religion? What may prohibit you from suing the state of Georgia? When may you sue the state?
6. What rules must the state follow if it is going to take your property? (eminent domain) Who owns the beach front in Georgia?

Chapter 3: Political Participation
1. What do the 15th, 19th, & 26th Amendment’s guarantee about voting? What does the Voting Rights Act (1965) require of Georgia? Why does Georgia have such a low voter participation rate, according to the authors?
2. What percentage of the vote is needed by a candidate in order to win a primary and a general election? How does Georgia compare to other states in voter participation? What type of voter registration does Georgia have? How would you describe Georgia’s party system?
3. Where are republicans generally found in the state? How has legislative redistricting been sued for partisan advantage?
4. How would you describe a “Georgia Democrat?” How are they different from other Democrats?
5. Define: stratarchial parties, precinct, interest groups, lobbying, PAC.
6. Who are some of Georgia’s powerful interest groups? What are the rules for being a lobbyist in the state? Why is access influence?

Chapter 4: The Legislative Branch
1. What are the membership, terms of service, organization, and leadership positions of the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly? When does the General Assembly meet and for how many days?
2. Describe the steps by which a bill becomes a law? What power does the Governor exercise over legislation?
3. What are the rules for appropriations bills to be passed through the Assembly and signed by the Governor?

Chapter 5: Plural Elective
1. What offices constitute the executive powers of state government?
2. What are the qualifications and duties of the Governor?
3. What are the qualifications and duties of the following: Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State School Superintendent, Secretary of State, Board of Regents, State Board of Education?

Chapter 6: Administrative Agencies
1. Article IV creates executive boards and Commissions. What are the organization and duties of the following: Public Service Commission, state Board of Pardons and Paroles, State Personnel Board, State Transportation Board, Veterans Services Board, Board of Natural Resources?
2. What are Special Authorities? Give an example.

Chapter 7: Judiciary
1. What is the difference between courts of limited jurisdiction and unlimited jurisdiction? Give examples of each.
2. What are the proper venues for civil and criminal cases?
3. What is the organization, membership, and jurisdiction of the following courts: Magistrate, Probate, Juvenile, Superior, Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court?
4. How are the judicial vacancies and removals handled in Georgia?

Chapter 8: Budgeting and Finance
1. Where does the bulk of Georgia’s revenue come from? Comparatively, is Georgia a high or low tax state? Why?
2. What is the difference between a revenue and a general obligation bond?
3. Under what conditions can Georgia go into debt?
4. What receives the largest slice of Georgia’s budget pie? Why?

Chapter 9: Education Policy
1. How much of the state budget is devoted to education? What is the work of the State Board of Education and the State Board of Regents?
2. What is the Quality Basic Education Program and what does it fund?
3. What public institutions does the State Board of Regents govern? How is the Board funded? What is the Hope Scholarship Program?
4. What is the work of the Legislative Education Board?

Chapter 10: Local Government
1. How many types of local governments are there in Georgia? How many counties are there? What does a special district do? Give an example. What is home rule?
2. What parts of the Constitution of 1983 seem to reflect majoritarian, interest group, client centered, and entrepreneurial politics?
3. What are two ways that the Constitution may be amended?