

The GED Test Fact Sheet

What is the GED Test?

The GED Test offers adults who left school an opportunity to earn a high school credential. GED examinees must demonstrate major skills (twelfth grade competencies that would have been acquired in a four year high school education) in a battery of tests covering five major subject areas.

Language Arts: Writing

The Writing Skills Test consists of two major parts. The score for this test is a combination of both scores.

Part I (Time Limit – 75 minutes)

This is a multiple-choice test of the ability to edit and correct problems in sentence structure, usage, mechanics, and organization.

Part II The Essay (Time Limit – 45 minutes)

Examinees must respond to an essay question in writing. The essay question presents an issue or situation with which examinees are familiar. Two trained readers according to a method called holistic scoring score the essay section of the Writing Skills Test independently.

Social Studies (Time Limit – 70 minutes)

The Social Studies Test measures the ability to comprehend and use information in the content areas of history, economics, civics, government, geography, and world history. The focus of this test is assessing the examinees' ability to use concepts and information to solve problems or answer problems.

Science (Time Limit – 70 minutes)

The Science Test measures the ability to comprehend and use information in the content areas of life sciences, the physical sciences, also earth and space science.

Language Arts: Reading (Time Limit – 65 minutes)

This test measures examinees' ability to comprehend and answer questions about literary selections from popular literature and nonfiction prose, such as business documents.

Mathematics (Time Limit – 90 minutes)

Part I

Permits use of calculator provided by testing site, the Casio fx – 260 Solar calculator

Part II

No calculator permitted. Focuses on mental math.

The Mathematics test measures problem-solving skills in arithmetic, algebra, geometry, data, statistics, and probability. The focus is on the ability to solve problems in realistic contexts. Item sets on the test may involve analyzing multiple pieces of information – charts, graphs, and tables.