

**CHECKLIST OF TERMS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES GED TEST**  
(from GED Practice Tests)

**General:** ability to read charts, graphs, maps, political cartoons

**GEOGRAPHY**

1. Physical areas of the US (Midwest, Great Plains, etc.)
2. Hemispheres, Continents and Major Ocean Locations
3. Directions (for maps)
4. latitude, longitude, equator, prime meridian
5. Climate vs. weather
6. Biomes (tundra, grassland, tropics, deciduous/ coniferous forest, desert etc.)
7. Global warming, greenhouse gases (causes/effects)

**GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SCIENCE**

1. Types of government (monarchy, oligarchy, democracy, dictatorship)
2. Major US Documents (Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Preamble to Constitution--formal, legal wording)
3. Constitution vs. Articles of Confederation
4. Constitution:
  - Federalism
  - Structure of Government -- the three branches and their powers
  - Checks and balances
  - Separation of Powers vs. Shared Power
  - Bill of Rights—basic freedoms (speech, press, trial by jury, assembly)
  - Amendment
  - Initiative, referendum
  - Supreme Court; case appearance (Brown vs. Board of Education)
5. Primary vs. General Election, electorate
6. Affirmative Action
7. Censorship
8. Republican Party, Democratic Party, Third Party
9. Term limits idea
10. Representative vs. Direct democracy
11. "Uncle Sam" symbol for U.S.

**U.S.HISTORY**

1. Events leading up to the Revolutionary War (principle parties, causes)
2. Civil War
  - abolition, secession, Confederacy, Union, Yankee, Rebel, North and South, slavery, emancipation