

WHAT IS ON THE GED TEST?

Science: 1 hour, 20 minutes

The *Science Test* consists of 50 multiple-choice questions in the following content areas:

Physical Science (physics and chemistry) (35%)

Life Science (45%)

- Earth and Space Science (20%)

Test questions require you to understand, interpret, or apply information that is provided on the test or that is learned through life experience. The information may be a paragraph, chart, table, graph, map, or figure.

Social Studies: 1 hour, ten minutes

The *Social Studies Test* contains 50 multiple-choice questions from the following content areas:

- History (United States or Canada, 25%; World, 15%)
- Geography (15%)
- Civics and Government (25%)
- Economics (20%)

Most of the test questions are based on written and visual texts drawn from a variety of sources, including academic and workplace texts, as well as primary and secondary sources. The information provided may be one or more paragraphs, a chart, table, graph, map, photograph, cartoon, or figure. In every case, to answer the questions in the *Social Studies Test*, you must understand, apply, analyze, or evaluate the information provided.

Language Arts: Reading: 1 hour, five minutes

The *Language Arts, Reading Test* contains 40 multiple-choice questions that measure your ability to comprehend and interpret workplace and academic reading selections and to apply those interpretations to new contexts. The questions ask you to understand, apply, analyze, and synthesize information that you are given in the reading selections.

Literary texts constitute 75% of each test and include at least one selection from each of the following areas:

- Poetry
- Drama
- Prose fiction before 1920
- Prose fiction between 1920 and 1960
- Prose fiction after 1960

Nonfiction texts constitute 25% of each test and include two selections of nonfiction prose from any two of the following areas:

- Nonfiction prose
- Critical review of visual and performing arts
- Workplace and community documents, such as mission and goal statements, rules for employee behavior, legal documents, and communications (for example, letters and excerpts from manuals)

The reading selections in the *Language Arts, Reading Test* range from 200 to 400 words, with poetry running from 8 to 25 lines. A purpose question appears in bold before each selection; the question is designed solely to help you focus and provide a purpose for reading the text. You are not asked to answer the purpose question. Each selection is followed by four to eight questions.

Language Arts, Writing: 2 hours

Part I There are 50 multiple-choice questions on the *Language Arts, Writing Test, Part I*. These questions require you to revise and edit workplace, how to, and informational documents. Scores are combined with those of Part II and reported as a single score. They are divided among the following three question types: correction, revision, and construction shift. These questions address the following content areas:

Organization (15%): Restructure paragraphs or ideas within paragraphs, identify topic sentences, create unity and coherence in the document.

Sentence Structure (30%): Correct sentence fragments, run-on sentences, comma splices, improper coordination and subordination, misplaced modifiers, and lack of parallel structure.

Usage (30%): Correct errors in subject-verb agreement, verb tense, and pronoun reference.

Mechanics (25%): Correct errors in capitalization, punctuation, spelling (restricted to errors related to possessives, contractions, and homonyms).

Part II In the second part of the *Language Arts, Writing Test*, you will write an essay about an issue or subject of general interest. This section assess your ability to write an essay about a familiar topic. The essay topic will require you to present your opinion or explain your views about the assigned topic.

You will have 45 minutes in which to plan, write, and revise your essay. You will be given scratch paper on which you may jot notes, outline, and first draft. The answer booklet has two pages of lined paper on which you will write your final essay.

SAMPLE ESSAY TOPIC

What is one important goal you would like to achieve in the next few years?

In your essay, identify that one goal and explain how you plan to achieve it. Use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge to support your essay.

Scoring: Two trained readers will score your essay on the basis of the following features:

- well-focused main points
- clear organization
- specific development of your ideas
- control of sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, word choice, and spelling

Each reader will score your essay on a 4-point scale, and the scores will be averaged to find your final score. If you earn a final score of less than 2 on the essay, you must retake both Parts I and II of the *Language Arts, Writing Test*. Also, you must write only on the assigned topic; if you don't, your essay will not receive a score, and you will have to retake both parts of the test.

All writers make mistakes when they write quickly. Good writers take the time to go over what is written and correct mistakes. Your writing will show your best skills if you take the time to plan what you want to say and review it to make any needed corrections.

Mathematics: 1 hour, 30 minutes

The *Mathematics Test* is divided into two equally weighted parts, each containing 25 questions. On Part I of the test, you may use the *Casio fx-260* calculator to compute answers. A calculator will be provided for your use at the official GED Testing Center. Because estimation and mental math are critical skills, you are not permitted to use the calculator on Part II of the test. A math formulas page is provided for your reference during the test.

The *Mathematics Test* assesses your understanding of mathematical concepts and the application of those concepts to various real-world situations. The following four major areas are tested on the *Mathematics Test*:

- Number operations and number sense (20%–30%)
- Measurement and geometry (20%–30%)
- Data analysis, statistics, and probability (20%–30%)
- Algebra, functions, and patterns (20%–30%)

Alternate-Format Questions

Although 80% of the mathematics questions are multiple choice, 20% of the questions require you to construct your own answer. Rather than select from five choices, you must record answers on either standard or coordinate plane grids. Both Parts I and II of the *Mathematics Test* have multiple-choice, standard grid, and coordinate plane grid questions. Please review the directions for standard grid and coordinate plane grid.