Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Going Behind the GED® Test

A Workshop by GED Testing Service®
Session Objectives

• Go Behind the GED® test
• Review student performance on the test
• Explore tools for the classroom
• Share resources from the GED.com Website
I really want to know...
Content Alignment

How was the test content determined?

• The GED® test was designed to reflect college and career readiness standards
  • Crosswalks show alignment between GED Assessment Targets and most major CCR standards (e.g., State content standards, Adult ED CCR, etc.)
  • External alignment study from WestEd demonstrates alignment between the test and Adult Ed CCR.
Test Structure

How many questions do my students need to answer correctly in order to pass with a score of 145?

We don’t share that information because it can
  • Differ slightly from form to form and
  • Differ slightly by content area

However, the *minimum* HSE requires ~40% of the total score points
Test Structure

What’s the difference between “raw score points” and “scaled score points”?

• Each test form has between about 40 and 65 raw score points, *roughly* corresponding to the number of items
  • Test forms meet detailed blueprints and difficulty specifications
  • Forms are very similar in raw score difficulty but rarely exact

• Transformation to “scaled scores” allows
  • Comparability of test performance – test score represents same level of performance, no matter what form was taken or when it was taken
  • Ease of test score comparison between content areas
Test Structure

How do I know that all test forms are equivalent, especially when a student tells me that one form seems harder/easier than another?

- Test forms **all** match the same blueprint and specifications
- “Test characteristic curves” demonstrate this match across forms
- But content within each reporting category is “sampled”
  - So one form might have a content sample that is more or less familiar to a particular test-taker
  - This may lead to different learner perceptions of the test, even though the test forms are equivalent
Spanish Language Forms

Are the Spanish test forms equivalent to the English forms?

- Yes, the Spanish forms are direct (not “literal”) translations of the sense and meaning of the English forms
  - The RLA editing passages are the only exception to this (RLA Spanish test is 8 raw score points shorter than the English test)
  - The forms are all equated and the scaled scores have the same meaning regardless of language
Spanish Language Forms

How do candidates who test in Spanish perform vs. those who test in English?

Spanish testers represent only ~5% of total testers

Differences are attributable to

- Overall less instruction in native language
- Fewer Spanish instructional materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Spanish Pass Rate</th>
<th>English Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RLA</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Can a student pass the RLA test and score 0 on the Extended Response item?

Yes, that is *possible*, but most test-takers who pass at HSE do get some score points

- The ER is designed to measure skills at the higher HSE levels and CCR levels
- We made significant improvements to the ER interface as of January 2019
Pilot Study Research Questions

- Do test takers understand what they need to do to complete the task?
- Comfortably interact with the computer?
  - Use the space in the response box?
  - Use the onscreen Answer Guidelines?
  - Navigate the tabs successfully?
- Prepare for the test?
  - Have a MYGED® account?
  - Use the resources on GED.com?
January 2019 release in English and Spanish

Instructions

Read
• On the page 2 tab above, you will read two texts presenting different views on the same topic.
• Both writers argue that their position on the issue is correct.

Plan
• Analyze the two texts to determine which writer presents the stronger case.
• Develop your own argument in which you explain how one position is better supported than the other.
• Include relevant and specific evidence from both sources to support your argument.

Write
• Type your response in the box on the right.
• Your response should be approximately 4 to 7 paragraphs of 3 to 7 sentences each.
• Remember to allow a few minutes to review and edit your response.

You have up to 45 minutes for reading, planning, writing, and editing your response.
Writing skills are one of the **critical** differentiators of long-term success

- Any score point earned counts towards the overall score
- Building skills in this area helps develop thinking skills that impact performance on the entire test

Why should I spend time on teaching writing skills if students don’t need many points on writing to pass the test?
The automated scoring engine catalogs the characteristics of a writing sample; it then

- Compares those characteristics to thousands of real student responses with known scores
- Assigns a score based on similarity to existing exemplars
  - If no similar responses found, ER is human-scored
- About 97% of student responses are scored by the automated engine
Can I drop some of the topics I have been covering now that there are no short answer items on the Science test?

No, The Science test still covers the same content as it has always covered

- The same content is tested today, but knowledge is determined by using the other technology enhanced items
- Understanding scientific investigation/method and experimentation are still evaluated in the test through other methods
Testing in Mathematical Reasoning

Are students allowed to use the calculator on all items on the math test?

No, students are not allowed to use the calculator on the first section of the math test which includes approximately 5 items. The first several questions assess various concepts in number sense and computation, including:

- Ordering fractions/decimals
- Applying number properties involved multiples and factors
- Working with exponents, squares, square roots, cubes, and cube roots
- Identifying absolute value
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational numbers
- Determining when a numerical expression is undefined
Exploring the Data

What does the data tell us?
“To build the educated and employed communities of tomorrow..... one student at a time.”

2014 GED® Program Goal
It is more than a test; it is a program!

To ensure that students have the knowledge and skills necessary to earn a high school equivalency credential

To provide instructors and test-takers with information they can use to enhance performance

To enhance instruction so students are ready for postsecondary education and/or workforce training program
### National Pass Rate—a comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Series</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are passing the 2014 series test at a higher pass rate than the 2002 series test.
# 2018 National Data: What We Know of Student Successes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facts</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test-takers</td>
<td>300,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completers</td>
<td>194,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passers</td>
<td>155,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass rates</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Average Passing & Non-Passing Scores – 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GED® Tests</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>RLA</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Passing Score</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Non-Passing Score</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scoring of the GED® Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Qualify for up to ten college credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
<td>Ready to take college-level courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Earn a high school equivalency diploma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GED College Ready Scores

Improve the Chances for College Success

GED® College Ready + Credit

GED® College Ready

Pass / High School Equivalency
# National Test-taker Data: 2014-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>RLA</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Battery - First Attempt</th>
<th>Battery - Multiple Attempts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Passed</strong></td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(145 or higher)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Ready</strong></td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(165 or higher)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Ready+ Credit</strong></td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(175 or higher)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 20% in at least one content.
- 5% in at least one content.
Our Graduates Are Interested in College

2 out of 3 express interest

Over 35% Enroll in college within a year of earning their GED credential

Over 47% Enroll in college within 4 years of earning their GED credential
Persistence!

- Congrats, all your hard work is paying off!
- This number currently surpasses overall community college persistence rates
Updated NSC Results

• Mean scaled-score of GED graduates going on to college is well above the minimum passing score for high school equivalency:
  • Math: 158
  • RLA: 162
  • Science: 161
  • Social Studies: 161

• Age of GED graduates going on to college has remained stable over time
  • 81% to 86% of matched grads were between the ages of 16 and 24 when they received their credential
GED® score crosswalk to SAT and ACT

SAT
GED® College Ready (165)
  • SAT Math – 620
  • SAT Reading – 633
GED® CR+Credit (175)
  • SAT Math – 657
  • SAT Reading – 671

ACT
GED® College Ready (165)
  • ACT Math – 28
  • ACT Reading – 29
GED® CR+Credit (175)
  • ACT Math – 30
  • ACT Reading – 31
Research Highlights

- Students enrolled in PSE had a mean GED 160 score across content areas.
- 24% enrolled in liberal arts programs.
- 7% enrolled in health-related programs.
- 4% in technology programs.
- 4% in technology programs.
- 7% in business programs.
- 3 out of 4 students enroll in 2-year institutions.
How do we ensure that more students are “likely to pass” the GED® test?

Tools for the Classroom
GED Ready®

The best predictor of readiness!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Realistic practice opportunity</td>
<td>Computer based and same platform as GED® test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standardized and normed</td>
<td>Same norming and standardization study as official test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predictive</td>
<td>Tells students if they are likely to pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half-length</td>
<td>4.25 hours in length</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GED Ready®

- Feedback and links to study suggestions (focused study plans)
- Instructional feedback – extended response (RLA) scored by adult educators
- Online scoring tools (provide writing scores, feedback, and suggestions for improvement)
# Three Score Level Indicators on GED Ready®

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Likely to Pass</th>
<th>Too Close to Call</th>
<th>Likely to Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-133</td>
<td>134-144</td>
<td>145-200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dashboard

Ged Ready®: The Official Practice Test
Score: 138 - Too Close to Call  Date Taken: 04/07/2017
You're only 1.3 questions away from passing. Get your detailed score report by clicking the "See my score report" button.

Take GED Ready® again

See my score report?
My Scores Redesign continued….
My Scores Redesign continued....
My Scores Redesign continued….

FAQ

When will my scores be available?
Scores are typically posted within 24 hours of taking your GED test or GED Ready practice test. However, sometimes it can take up to 2 to 3 business days. You’ll receive an email once your scores have been posted to your account.

What if I get ‘not likely to pass’ on my GED Ready practice test?
Use the score report to understand what areas you need to study to improve your score. If you’re working with a prep center, ask your teacher to review your score report with you and develop a plan to improve your score. After studying, make sure you’re prepared for the test by taking the GED Ready again.

What do my GED test scores mean?
Scoring 145 - 164 means that you passed the subject. Scoring 165 - 174 means that you are ready to take college-level courses in that subject. Scoring 175 - 200 means that you could qualify for college credit for that subject. Learn more »

What if I don’t pass one or more of the GED test subjects?
If you did not pass one of your GED test subjects, you are given two subsequent retests, with no restrictions between retakes. If you fail the third or any subsequent retest, you must wait 60 days for your next attempt. Additional state requirements may apply.
My Scores Redesign continued....

What if I get ‘too close to call’ on my GED Ready practice test?

You’re only a few questions away from ‘likely to pass’, so review your score report to see how you can improve your score and then schedule your test. If you’re working with a prep center, ask your teacher to review your score report with you.

What if I get ‘likely to pass’ on my GED Ready practice test?

Looks like you’re ready to schedule your test. Students who get a GED Ready score similar to yours and schedule their test within two weeks are more likely to pass.

How is the extended response scored on the Reasoning Through Language Arts GED Ready practice test?

The extended response cannot be scored on the RLA GED Ready practice test. Instead, you will receive information in your score report about what a typical written response should look like. You will also receive a copy of the question and your written response so that you can take it to your local prep center for scoring by a trained teacher.

Can I retest for a higher score if I passed?

Yes, you can retest if you are trying to be college ready or qualify for college credit. The discounted retest policy only applies to tests you did not pass.

I think I should have gotten a higher score. Is there a way to challenge my score?

Yes, it is possible for you to challenge your scores. The scoring system we use is very accurate. Very few test scores are ever adjusted after review. However, if you want to request a re-score, contact customer support at 1-877-EXAM-GED. You will be charged a fee of $50 per exam score you want to challenge. If your score changes, you’ll get your $50 back. Otherwise, GED Testing Service will keep the fee.
My Score Report

GED Ready® - Science

My Score: 147

Likely to Pass

Test Date: 01/16/2017

Share my scores/Find a Prep Program

How I Can Score Higher

What My Score Means

My Written Answers

Step 1
Select your study material to create a customized study plan based on your answers:
Kaplan GED 2015 Strategies, Practice, and Review by New Readers Press

Kaplan GED 2015 Strategies, Practice, and Review by New Readers Press
This book provides comprehensive content review, strategies, and two full-length practice tests, one in the book and one online.

Step 2
Use the study material selected above to improve your skills listed below.

(All 3 tabs)
(Step 2 of study plan)
My Scores Redesign continued....
4. Voucher Search Field

![Image of Student Test Activity Report with Voucher Search Field highlighted]

**Student Test Activity Report**

Please enter at least three characters or make a selection on a search field below to start your search.

- **Voucher Search Field**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GED Prep Connect Enrollment Status</th>
<th>Testing Activity</th>
<th>Date Range:</th>
<th>Exam Subject</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
<td>First Name</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>Phone Number</td>
<td>DOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Event Number</td>
<td>Test Medium</td>
<td>Test Missing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Options**
- Print Score Reports (1000 rows max)
- Export (1000 rows max)

**Columns**
- Name
- Email
- Testing Activity
- Date
- Test
- Subject
- Score
- Credential
- Test Missing
- GED® Test Prep Center
- GEDWorks
- Vouchers
Take Advantage of the Redesigned Website

It’s more than just a place to register for the test!
https://ged.com/

Welcome to the home of the official GED® test. Find everything you need to earn your high school equivalency diploma right here.
Resources for all Educators

Free Classroom Materials
We've developed a wealth of free resources to help your students pass the GED® test. Whether you are looking for tutorials, reference sheets, scoring tools, or videos to use in the classroom, you'll find it here.

Learn more

Teaching Resources
Use these resources to guide your GED® instruction. You can get detailed information on the skills students need to demonstrate to pass, what is being assessed in each content area, and more.

Learn more
Important Tools for the Classroom

Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies
From Targets to Indicators to Application

**Assessment Targets** describe the general concepts that are assessed on the GED® test.

**Indicators** are fine-grained descriptions of individual skills contained within an assessment target.

**Application** describes what to look for in student work.
**Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)**

- Most under-used and undervalued resources
- Helpful tool for the classroom
- Details the skills students need to pass the test
- Two formats
  - Official Version
  - Test-taker Version
- Four Performance Levels
  - Below Passing
  - HSE
  - GED® College Ready
  - GED® College Ready + Credit
- What skills are demonstrated at each level
- What skills need development to advance to the next level
How to Use PLDs in the Classroom

Use PLDs to:

Tip 1: Assess student’s current skill level
Tip 2: Determine when students are ready to test
Tip 3: Shape learning activities
Tip 4: Add perspective to lesson plans

https://ged.com/educators_admins/teaching/teaching_resources/plds/
Skill Sets for High Impact Indicators Across Content Areas

Focusing Instruction
What Makes Indicators High Impact?

- Important skills that are used across content areas
- May currently receive light coverage in classroom
- Lend themselves to straightforward instruction
- [https://ged.com/educators_admins/teaching/teaching_resources](https://ged.com/educators_admins/teaching/teaching_resources)
An Example

RLA
Order sequences of events in texts

Social Studies
Identify the chronological structure of a historical narrative and sequence steps in a process

Science
Reason from data or evidence to a conclusion

Mathematics
Search for and recognize entry point for solving a problem and plan a solution pathway
Tuesdays for Teachers – Previous Webinars

Reading to Learn: Strategies to Build Reading Skills
- Watch Now
- Download Presentation
- Download Study Guide
- Download Vocabulary Strategies
- Download High Mileage Word List
- Download Reading Rate Sample
- Download Certificate

Trick or Treat: Mining GED Ready Score Reports
- Watch Now
- Download Presentation
- Download Workbook
- Download Certificate

Changes You've Been Asking For: The RLA Test Screen & Score Reports
- Watch Now
- Download Presentation
- Download Certificate

One Size Fits All – Welcome to GED.com
- Watch Now
- Download Presentation
- Download Workbook
- Download Certificate
Give Students What They Need...

At the time they need it:

1. **Action (visible) guidance**: Instructions and clarity on how *they* can earn their GED

2. **Behavioral (non-visible) guidance**: Help people do what they already want to do
Benefits of GED® Test Prep Centers

**What can a GED® Test Prep Center do for me?**

There may be free or low-cost GED® Test Prep Centers nearby that can help you in your journey towards earning a GED® credential. You can receive:

- Support throughout your GED® journey
- Expert instruction on GED® test subjects
- Practice for the GED® test
- Help with career and college planning
- And more

**“Saint Gabriel’s Hall is the best thing that ever happened to me. I got the time I needed to find out who I really am, and the resources that I never had before, the best support system, and with all that I made a future for myself.”**

— Felix, GED® graduate

**Are you interested in finding a GED® Test Prep Center?**

- Yes, help me find a GED® Test Prep Center
- No, thanks

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GED TESTING SERVICE®
Find GED® Classes

Find your local GED® Test Prep Center to see if they offer discounts on study materials, classes, or the test.

Enter your zip/postal code or address

28712

Find

Blue Ridge Community College
180 West Campus Drive Flat Rock, NC 28731
Phone: 828-692-2441
20.8 Miles
Show on Map | Directions

Southwestern Community College
447 College Drive Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: 828-339-4613
25.8 Miles
Show on Map | Directions

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
340 Victoria Road Asheville, NC 28801
Phone: 828-398-7488 x 7433
27.3 Miles
Show on Map | Directions

Pickens Adult Learning Center
106 Glazner Street Easley, SC 29640
Phone: 884-397-3825
28.5 Miles
Show on Map | Directions

If I see this star above, what does it mean?

Can't find your center? Ask them to visit gedtestingservice.com/prep to be added. In the meantime, you can print your score report and share it with your teacher.

The adult education or prep centers listed are independent third parties and provided for your convenience. GED Testing Service has no partnership or agreement with the centers. You should review the centers on your own to make sure you find the support that is right for you.
2. Guided Path Feature

Welcome to GED!

We're excited you chose to get your high school diploma and all the opportunities that come with it! We're here to help you every step of the way. First, let's set some goals.

GET STARTED ➔

Shown after the Accommodations page during Account Setup
Free Practice Questions

Answer sample questions in each subject to get an idea of the skills you'll be tested on.

Subjects

- **Language Arts**
  - 10 Questions

- **Social Studies**
  - 10 Questions

- **Science**
  - 10 Questions

- **Math**
  - 10 Questions
Which quotation from the passage supports the idea that Supeet is teaching the narrator a skill that requires patience?

I will be too busy to drink.

Each step was exaggerated and painfully slow.

When we were boys we practiced with rhinoceroses when they were asleep.

The tribe taught me to stalk many other animals.

Lessons on the Savanna
by Roland Smith

1. "I'm not so worried about time anymore," I said.

2. He smiled. "Good! You are making progress. Come with me."

3. He led me to a tree not far from the camp.

4. "You must climb as high as you can and find a comfortable branch where you can look out over the savanna." He handed me the water gourd. "You will need this."

5. I took the gourd. "What about you?"

6. "I will be too busy to drink," he said.

7. I didn't know what he meant by this, but I climbed the bone-dry tree anyway and found a large branch near the top that was comfortable.

8. "Can you see the grass of the savanna?" Supeet yelled up to me.


10. "Good! What else do you see?"

11. Here we go again, I thought. I looked carefully. Shimmering waves of heat created mirages in the distance. I saw three kopjes within a half mile of each other. Trees dotted the landscape, and there were several small groups of animals grazing on the dry grass of the savanna. About a hundred and fifty yards away, a herd of zebras took advantage of the shade of an acacia tree. A few hundred feet past the herd were a few more trees and underneath them were two rhinoceroses sleeping. I told Supeet what I saw.
Study Guides

These simple study guides will give you an overview of the topics on each test.

You don't need to know everything in this guide. If you want to see how close you are to passing, take the GED Ready® practice test.

Got It

Language Arts

Intro to the Language Arts Test
6 skills

Reading for Meaning
4 skills

Identifying and Creating Arguments
4 skills

Grammar and Language
4 skills

Social Studies

Intro to the Social Studies Test
5 skills

Reading for Meaning in Social Studies
4 skills

Analyzing Historical Events and Arguments in Social Studies
4 skills

Using Numbers and Graphs in Social Studies
4 skills
Take Advantage of the New Content Tools and Resources

- GED Flash
- RLA Videos
- In Session Newsletter
Practice and Feedback!

- 93% of students indicated they are interested in more practice test items and feedback
- #1 on the list of most-wanted resources
- Accessible anywhere from a mobile phone, tablet or computer
- Available for adult education programs – GED Flash for Organizations
- Available to students studying on their own (monthly access fee)
Practice and Feedback!

- Adult education programs purchase via Aztec Software
- Adult education programs who use this product will have access to administrative reports showing student performance data, time on task, strengths & weaknesses
- More than 6,000 practice test questions across the 4 subject areas
- Instant feedback with answer explanation
New Readers Press: 8-video series on RLA
Where to find the Extended Response Videos

www.newreaderspress.com/writing-for-the-ged-test

https://GED.com/Study
In Session Newsletter

In Session Educator Newsletter

SIGN UP TO GET THE LATEST NEWS AND RESOURCES.

Educator’s Newsletter

If you want to subscribe to our monthly newsletter, please submit the form below.

EMAIL*: 

SIGN UP
It's Your Turn

• Questions?
• Issues?
• Concerns?
Thank you!

communications@GED.com