GED® Test: Reasoning Through Language Arts
Performance Level Descriptors
What Your Score Means: Level 2 —
Skills at Pass++

Test-takers who score at this level are typically able to comprehend and analyze complex passages similar to that of Toni Morrison’s The Bluest Eye, Thomas Jefferson’s The Declaration of Independence, and Malcolm Gladwell’s The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference and generally demonstrate outstanding proficiency with the skills identified in the previous performance levels, including the following:

Analyzing and Creating Text Features and Technique

- Infer relationships between ideas in a text (e.g., an implicit cause and effect, parallel, or contrasting relationship) at an outstanding level
- Infer an author’s implicit as well as explicit purposes based on details in text at an outstanding level
- Draw specific comparisons between two texts that address similar themes or topics or between information presented in different formats at an outstanding level
- Compare two passages in similar or closely related genres that share ideas or themes, focusing on similarities and/or differences in perspective, tone, style, structure, purpose, or impact at an outstanding level

Using Evidence to Understand, Analyze, and Create Arguments

- Infer implied main ideas in paragraphs or whole texts at an outstanding level
- Analyze how data or quantitative and/or visual information extends, clarifies, or contradicts information in text, or determine how data supports an author’s argument, at an outstanding level
- Identify an underlying premise or assumption in an argument and evaluate the logical support and evidence provided, at an outstanding level
- Compare two argumentative passages on the same topic that present opposing claims (either main or supporting claims) and analyze how each text emphasizes different evidence or advances a different interpretation of facts, at an outstanding level
Applying Knowledge of English Language Conventions and Usage

- Edit to correct errors in subject-verb or pronoun antecedent agreement in more complicated situations (e.g., with compound subjects, interceding phrases, or collective nouns) at an outstanding level
- Edit to eliminate wordiness or awkward sentence construction at an outstanding level