GED® Test: Science
Performance Level Descriptors
What Your Score Means: Level 1 — Below Passing

Test-takers who score at this level typically have a limited but developing proficiency demonstrating the skills in the following categories: examining scientific text, understanding and applying scientific methods and concepts, and interpreting scientific data using numeric reasoning.

Test-takers at the Below Passing level typically demonstrate the following skills:

Analyze Scientific and Technical Arguments, Evidence, and Text-Based Information

- Cite specific textual evidence to support a finding or conclusion at a limited and/or inconsistent level

Applying Scientific Processes and Procedural Concepts

- Identify and refine hypotheses for scientific investigations at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Reason from data or evidence to a conclusion at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Identify the strength and weaknesses of one or more scientific investigations (i.e. experimental or observational) designs at a limited and/or inconsistent level

Reasoning Quantitatively and Interpreting Data in Scientific Contexts

- Describe a data set statistically at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Understand and explain non-textual scientific presentations at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Express scientific information or findings numerically or symbolically at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Express scientific information or findings visually at a limited and/or inconsistent level

In order to progress to the Pass/High School Equivalency level, test-takers need to:

1) continue to strengthen the skills listed in the Below Passing Level, including:

- Cite specific textual evidence to support a finding or conclusion
Express scientific information or findings verbally
Identify and refine hypotheses for scientific investigations
Understand and explain non-textual scientific presentations

2) develop the following additional skills:

Understand and explain textual scientific presentations
Identify possible sources of error and alter the design of an investigation to ameliorate that error
Identify and interpret independent and dependent variables in scientific investigations
Understand and apply scientific models, theories, and processes
Apply formulas from scientific theories