GED® Test: Social Studies
Performance Level Descriptors
What Your Score Means: Level 4 —
GED® College Ready + Credit

Some institutions may confer three (3) semester hours lower division credits in economic thinking, society and social arrangements or humanities on students who score at the GED® College Ready + Credit level. Test-takers who score at this level typically have an outstanding proficiency in demonstrating skills in the following categories: analyzing and creating text features in a social studies context, applying social studies concepts to the analysis and construction of arguments, and reasoning quantitatively and interpreting data in social studies contexts.

Test-takers are generally able to demonstrate outstanding knowledge of and ability with the skills identified in the previous levels including:

Analyzing and Creating Text Features in a Social Studies Context

- Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source document, corroborating or challenging conclusions with evidence at an outstanding level
- Compare treatments of the same social studies topic in various primary and secondary sources, noting discrepancies between and among the sources at an outstanding level

Applying Social Studies Concepts to the Analysis and Construction of Arguments

- At an outstanding level, analyze cause-and-effect relationships and multiple causation, including the importance of natural and societal processes, the individual, and the influence of ideas
- At an outstanding level, compare differing sets of ideas related to political, historical, economic, geographic, or societal contexts; evaluate the assumptions and implications inherent in differing positions
- Analyze how a historical context shapes an author’s point of view at an outstanding level

Reasoning Quantitatively and Interpreting Data in Social Studies Contexts

- Integrate quantitative or technical analysis (e.g., charts, research data) with qualitative analysis in print or digital text at an outstanding level
• Translate quantitative information expressed in words in a text into visual form (e.g., table or chart); translate information expressed visually or mathematically into words at an outstanding level