

2014 GED® Overview

Starting in 2014, the GED® Testing Service is offering a computer based testing version for the first time. The 2014 GED® will allow test takers to further their education, training, and pursue better paying jobs. The test scores compare the test-takers performance in the four content areas with the performance of recent high school graduates. Individuals who take the GED® test will be assigned a score between 200 and 800 in each of the four content areas. The 2014 GED® test will have multiple choice items, short answer items, different types of technology-enhanced items, cloze (drop-down menu) items, and one 45 minute extended response item that are not permissible with paper and pencil. Additional features will include hot spot items; fill in the blank, drag and drop, extended response and a split screen capability for essay writing.

Although the minimum requirement varies from state to state, the GED® Testing Service asserts that in order to pass an individual needs to score 450 or higher on each of the four content areas. A student must have a combined score of 2250 or higher. All four content area test scores will be given to the test taker at the end of their last scheduled test with the exception of Reasoning through Language Arts (RLA). The test taker will receive the RLA score through their account created with Pearson VUE. The new scoring system will provide a profile of scores that includes a student's strengths and areas of needed improvement for each of the four content areas. The GED test is developed and administered by the American Council of Education at locations around the country.

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The GED test has four sections: Reasoning through Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies. All four sections will include both academic and workforce contexts.

The Reading through Language Arts (RLA) focus on integrated reading and writing tasks that require test-takers to read complex texts, analyze arguments and use text-based evidence to support reasoning. The RLA test is 75% informational texts and 25% literature. The RLA test consists of US founding documents and the "great conversation", passage text length of 450 to 900 words, and vocabulary with emphasis on words that appear frequently in a wide variety of disciplines.

The Mathematical Reasoning focus on deep mastery of a core set of quantitative reasoning skills relevant to a wide range of career and post-secondary pathways. The Mathematical test is 45% quantitative problem solving and 55% algebraic problem solving. Some items test procedural skills and fluency as well as problem solving. The test will include statistics and data interpretation standards also on the GED Social Studies and Science. An on-screen scientific calculator (TI-30XS) can be used for most items.

The Science and Social Studies practice reasoning skills drawn from nationally recognized science and social studies curricular standards. Essential science and social studies content topics include what is relevant to the lives of adult test-takers and typical of what is taught in a high school course of study.

The Science test consists of 40% life science, 40% physical science and Earth, and 20% space science. Items will test textual analysis and understanding, data representation as well as problem solving with science content. Each item is aligned to both one science practice and one content topic.

The Social Studies test consists of 50% civics and government, 20% US History, 15% economics and 15% geography and the world. Items will test textual analysis and understanding, data representation and inference skills, as well as problem solving with social studies content. Each item aligned to both one social studies practice and one content topic.

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