

The GED and You

General Educational Development (GED) Test Fact Sheet

What is the GED Test?

The GED Test offers adults who left school an opportunity to earn a high school credential. GED examinees must demonstrate major skills (twelfth grade competencies that would have been acquired in a four year high school education) in a battery of tests covering five major subject areas.

Language Arts: Writing

The Writing Skills Test consists of two parts. The score for this test is a combination of both scores.

Part I (Time Limit - 75 minutes)

This is a multiple-choice test of the ability to edit and correct problems in sentence structure, usage, mechanics, and organization.

Part II The Essay (Time Limit- 45 minutes)

Examinees must respond to an essay question in writing. The essay question presents an issue or situation with which examinees are familiar. Two trained readers independently score the essay section of the Writing Skills Test according to a method called holistic scoring.

Social Studies

(Time Limit- 70 minutes)

The Social Studies Test measures the ability to comprehend and use information in the content areas of history, economics, civics, government, geography, and world history. The focus of this test is assessing the examinees' ability to use concepts and information to solve problems or answer problems.

Science

(Time Limit- 80 minutes)

The Science Test measures the ability to comprehend and use information in the content areas of life sciences, the physical sciences, also earth and space science.

Language Arts: Reading

(Time Limit- 65 minutes)

This test measures examinees' ability to comprehend and answer questions about literary selections from popular literature and nonfiction prose, such as business documents.

Mathematics

(Time Limit- 90 minutes)

Part 1- Permits use of the Casio fx- 260 solar calculator provided by the testing site.

Part 2- Focuses on mental math. No calculator permitted.

The Mathematics Test measures problem-solving skills in arithmetic, algebra, geometry, data, statistics and probability. The focus is on the ability to solve problems in realistic contexts. Item sets on the test may involve analyzing multiple pieces of information--charts, graphs, and tables.

Am I eligible to take the GED Test?

You may take the test if you meet all of the following qualifications:

- T You are at least 17 years of age. (Only 17 year-olds **must** provide this documentation)
 - Indiana exit interview showing withdrawal from school
 - Passing GED practice test scores
- T You have lived in Indiana a minimum of 30 days immediately preceding the testing.
- T You have **NOT** earned a high school diploma from an accredited United States high school.

How may I prepare to take the test?

You may wish to enroll in an adult basic education program, which provides free, individualized instruction year round for adults who have not earned a high school diploma. For information, check with your local high school or call 317-232-0522. You may also use the Directory of Adult Education at www.doe.state.in.us/adulted/pdf/directory.pdf

You may wish to prepare on your own. Many self-study books for the GED are available in bookstores and libraries. They are usually titled something like, How to Prepare for the High School Equivalency Exam. Also be sure that the books give explanations of the correct answers to sample test questions.

What is GED on TV?

GED on TV is a learn at home project. PBS broadcasts test preparation lessons. For more information call toll free, 1-877-GEDONTV or 1-877-433-6688

How much does it cost to take the test?

In Indiana, it will cost up to \$60 to take the GED Test, depending on the testing site. The cost covers all five sub-tests. The cost to take one or more individual sub-tests will vary from \$6-\$10. You should register and pay ahead to take the test. Bring photo I.D. and at least two other pieces of identification.

No study aids (such as dictionaries or notes) are allowed. If you are 17 years of age, bring the required documentation when you registered

Where can I take the test?

There are over 70 testing centers in Indiana. They can be found in high schools, vocational school facilities, or career centers. Be sure to call for the testing schedule at a site near you. Each testing center sets its own schedule for testing. It is best to register and pay ahead to test. For a list of testing sites, call 317-232-0522 or visit our website:

<http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/adulted/ged.htm>

How long do I have to complete the test?

More than seven hours are needed to complete the five tests. It is recommended that the tests be taken over a two-day period or longer. You may take as long as five weeks to finish the five sub-tests. All tests must be completed within 35 days after you take the first one.

What scores do I need to pass?

You must score at least 410 points on each individual sub-test out of 800 possible and have at least 2250 total points to average 450 for the whole test.

What if I fail the GED Test?

You may retest as many times as needed to pass. After a waiting period, you may retake the sub-tests with scores below the minimum. A score of 2150-2240 requires a 30-day waiting period. Scores of 2140 and below require a 90-day waiting period. There is a six-month wait to test after two failures to give you more time to study.

Do I get a high school diploma if I pass the GED Test?

No, if you pass, you will be eligible to receive a GED High School Equivalency Diploma issued by the state of Indiana.

Content and Time Limits: English Edition of the GED Tests

Test Name, Content, and Percentage of Total Test	Number of Questions and Time Limits
LANGUAGE ARTS: WRITING -Part 1-multiple choice	50 items, 75 minutes
Sentence Structure.....	30%
Organization	15%
Usage.....	30%
Mechanics (capitalization and punctuation)	25%
LANGUAGE ARTS: WRITING -Part 2-essay	1 essay, 45 minutes
SOCIAL STUDIES	50 items, 70 minutes
U.S. History.....	25%
Civics and Government.....	25%
Economics.....	20%
World History.....	15%
Geography.....	15%
SCIENCE	50 items, 80 minutes
Life Science (Biology).....	45%
Earth and Space Science.....	20%
Physical Science- Chemistry, and Physics.....	35%
LANGUAGE ARTS: READING	40 items, 65 minutes
Literary Text.....	75%
Nonfiction Prose.....	25%
MATHEMATICS - Part 1-calculator Part 2-no calculator permitted	50 items, 90 minutes
Numbers, Number sense and Operations.....	25%
Measurement and Geometry.....	25%
Data, Statistics, and Probability.....	25%
Algebra, Functions, and Patterns.....	25%

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