

GED

Tests of General Educational Development



WASHTENAW
LITERACY





Washtenaw Literacy's Mission:

Believing that literacy is the foundation for a sustainable community, Washtenaw Literacy provides literacy support, free of charge, to adults through a network of trained tutors.

It is our **Vision** to eliminate illiteracy in Washtenaw County.



PASSION



DIVERSITY
EQUITY
INCLUSION



INTEGRITY

www.washtenawliteracy.org

734-337-3338

Training Guidelines



This is a self-paced training module.

You may take as much or as little time as you'd like on it, but treat this time as though you were in a class.

- Limit distractions (turn off devices, email notifications, don't engage in side conversations).
- **Be a fully engaged, active learner!**
- Trust the process and plunge into activities.

TUTOR OBJECTIVE

To partner with an adult in pursuing their personal goals by improving their ability to understand, speak, read, and write basic English and do math through customized, research-based tutoring.

Training Objectives



1. Develop skills needed for tutoring adults

- Establish tutoring strategies that support adult learners with GED preparation
- Develop four approaches to choosing which test is best to take first

2. Build knowledge needed to engage with agency

- List the GED test sections, costs, scoring, and scheduling requirements
- Identify three low-cost ways to take the GED locally

3. Align your perspective and expectations with the needs of adult learners

- Recognize the difficulty and complexity of GED test questions
- Connect real life and real world activities to GED preparation

The GED



The Tests

- Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA)
- Mathematical Reasoning
- Science
- Social Studies

Cost

- \$37.50 per test, or \$150 for the complete exam

Scoring

- The passing score for each test is 145.
- Scores of 165+ indicate college readiness.

Retakes

- Up to 2 retakes are allowed if a learner fails a test.
- After 2 retakes, the learner must wait 60 days before taking that test again.

The GED



Scheduling

- Tests can be taken in any order.
- Tests can be taken one at a time.



Test Score Expiration

- The complete exam does not need to be completed within a specific time period.
- Under the current version, there is no expiration date for individual test scores.
 - Test scores on earlier versions of the GED expired December 31, 2013.
 - Scores from the older version of the GED can not be combined with the current version.

Computer skills are essential!

- Using a mouse
- Navigating software/webpages
- Typing skills

How / Where to Take the GED



Ann Arbor Public Schools - Pathways to Success Academic Campus

- Classes may be in-person or online, depending on the semester.
 - Check their [website](#) to confirm.
- Costs
 - Classes and tests are free.
 - Students must purchase the Kaplan GED workbook (\$20).

Washtenaw Community College - Adult Transitions

- Classes may be in-person or online, depending on the semester.
 - Includes GED and Pre-GED levels (the Prep100 program with Washtenaw Literacy).
 - Check their [website](#) to confirm.
- Costs
 - Tests, practice tests, and the Kaplan GED workbook are free.
 - Students must pay a class registration fee (\$30).

Private locations

- An internet search will bring up many fee-based programs.

The GED Testing Service

- Online. Check their [website](#) here.

Taking the GED Online



Cost

- \$43.50 per test

GED Ready Official Practice Tests

- Individuals must take the practice test within 60 days prior of scheduling the actual online test.
- A “green” score on the practice test is required in order to be eligible to take online test.
- The cost is \$6 per practice test.

Retakes

- 1 retake is allowed, then the individual must wait 60 days before taking the test again.
- The cost is \$43.50 per retake.

Requirements

- Computer with reliable internet access and webcam
- Government ID
- Quiet space

Tests and GED Ready practice tests are taken at [The GED Testing Service](#).

Which test should my learner take first?



It's important to make the choice *with your learner* based on their interests, strengths, and comfort level.

There are different approaches to take:

1. Take the easiest test first, and the hardest test last.
2. Take the hardest test first, and the easiest test last.
3. Consider specific learner strengths:
 - Reading, speaking, listening strengths → Take the RLA and Social Studies tests first.
 - Kinesthetic learners → Take the Science and Mathematical Reasoning tests first.
4. Consider which skills learned for one test may be useful on others:
 - There are also math questions on the Science and Social Studies tests.
 - There are also Science and Social Studies topics on RLA test.

Let's Look at the GED: Question Types



Multiple choice

Fill in the blank

Drag and drop

Select an area

Drop down

Hot spot

Short answer and extended response

- **Constructed Response:** A constructed response is a type of open-ended essay question that demonstrates cognitive knowledge and reasoning. The answer must be provided using information that can be found in a particular text or other prompt (map, picture, graphic organizer, etc.) and is not meant to demonstrate opinion, but to show how you are able to extract information and use this as the basis for forming a complete answer.

Let's Look at the GED: RLA



Reading Through Language Arts (RLA) – Content Areas

- **Nonfiction 75%**
 - Informational texts
 - Workplace-based
 - Community-based
 - General nonfiction
 - Nonfiction related to science and social studies topics
- **Fiction 25%**

Format

- Part 1: Reading and thinking skills + language skills
- Part 2: Writing skills (written extended response)
- Part 3: Reading and thinking skills + language skills

Time

- 150 minutes total
- 45 minutes specifically for the written extended response
 - In this time, individuals must read passages/graphics, plan, and write their response.
- 10-minute break between Parts 2 and 3


Sample RLA Question

RLA - Candidate Name Question 10 of 12

Answer Explanation Flag for Review

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Article 1: A Summary of Harry S. Truman's 1947 Speech on Civil Rights



Eleanor Roosevelt speaks with President Harry S. Truman in May of 1951. She is reporting on her work as a delegate of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Drag and drop the sentences into the correct location on the chart.

President Truman's Speech	Eleanor Roosevelt's Speech

America should remain united in spite of social obstacles.

All nations should adhere to the principles of protecting human freedoms.

Racial tensions should be used as a catalyst for promoting positive change.

The International Bill

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Sample RLA Written Extended Response Prompt



Passage A: *Why Physical Education Should No Longer Be a Requirement for Graduation (this is the text of Councilwoman Juanita Sanchez’s speech at last week’s school board meeting)*

Passage B: *Physical Education is an Important Requirement for Students (letter from concerned parent published in the City Journal newspaper)*

Write an Extended Response to Both Passages

While Councilwoman Sanchez makes her case for the benefits of eliminating physical education from the required curriculum, the editorial response identifies the drawbacks of this proposal.

In your response, analyze both the speech and the editorial. Explain which position you believe is best supported by its advocate. Use relevant and specific evidence from both sources to support your response.

Preparing for the RLA Test



Choose one of the texts (book, speech, poetry, play) featured in the study materials.

- Read it together.
- Learner can listen to the audio while reading to practice on their own.
- Act out scenes together.
- Write your own scenes, memos, brochures, letters, email, etc., related to the story.
- Practice timed writings.

Grammar and spelling are important!

Let's Look at the GED: Math



Mathematical Reasoning – Content Areas

- **Quantitative Reasoning 45%:** positive and negative numbers, fractions, decimals, ratios and proportions, percents, data and statistics, measurement, geometry
- **Algebraic Reasoning 55%:** equations, polynomials, inequalities, linear equations, quadratic equations, graphing, functions

Format

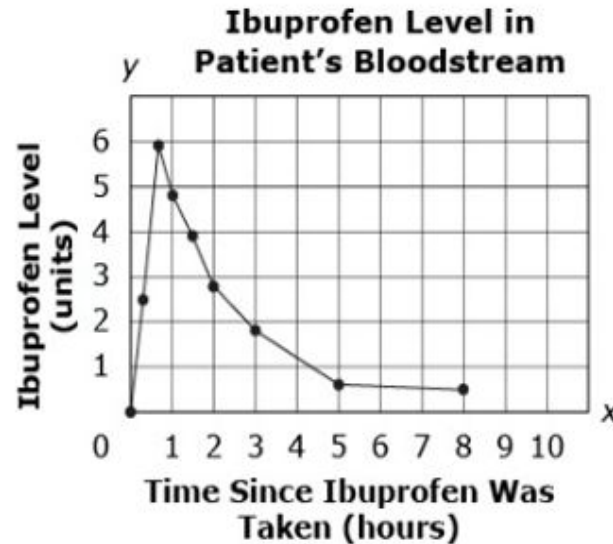
- Part 1: Calculator use not allowed (first 5 questions)
- Part 2: Calculator use allowed
- Calculator reference sheet provided
- Formula sheet provided

Time

- 115 minutes total
- 3-minute break between Parts 1 and 2

Sample Math Question

The graph shows the level of ibuprofen, y units, in a patient's bloodstream x hours after the ibuprofen was taken.



The level of ibuprofen in the patient's bloodstream increased from hours to hours.

- Select...
- 0
- 2/3
- 2 1/2
- 5
- 8

Preparing for the Math Test



Learner's stated comfort level may be higher than their skill level (i.e., they state that they need to practice algebra, but they haven't mastered division).

Do a lot of practice questions together.

- Practice using math vocabulary and recognizing key words in word problems.
- Do some everyday, real life math during each session.
 - Figuring out a tip
 - Measuring a worktable
 - Estimating how long it will take to complete an activity
- Focus on real life situations.

Practice calculator skills!

Let's Look at the GED: Science



Science – Content Areas

- **Life Science 40%:** cell structures and processes, human body systems, health and nutrition, heredity and reproduction, genetics and DNA, evolution and natural selection, and the organization of ecosystems
- **Earth and Space Science 20%:** the structure of Earth, plate tectonics, geological cycles and processes, renewable and nonrenewable natural resources, weather and climate, the solar system, and the universe
- **Physical Science 40%:** atoms and molecules, properties and states of matter, chemical reactions, energy and work, motion and forces, waves, electricity, and magnetism
- **Skills:**
 - Reading for meaning in science
 - Designing & interpreting science experiments
 - Using numbers & graphics (diagrams, tables, graphs, and maps) in science

Format

- Calculator use allowed
- Calculator reference sheet provided

Time

- 90 minutes total

Sample Science Question

Science - Candidate Name

Question 7 of 16

Answer Explanation

 Flag for Review

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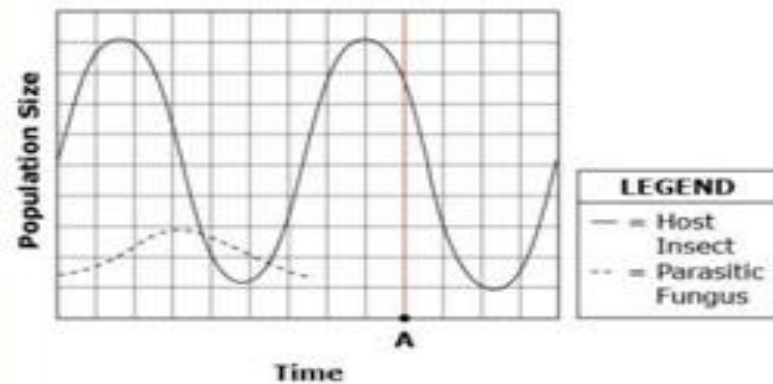
Tropical rain forests contain diverse communities of organisms with many interesting relationships. One such relationship connects parasitic fungi and their insect hosts. A type of parasitic fungus, called *Ophiocordyceps unilateralis*, disperses spores onto the forest floor, but cannot successfully grow on the ground. The fungus requires specific conditions and must grow inside of a specific ant species, called the host, to reproduce. The ants, various species of carpenter ant, make nests in the trees.

O. unilateralis feeds on and grows inside the insect host, and within a few days the fungus affects the insect's brain. The insect exhibits unusual behaviors such as wandering away from the colony to where light and humidity favor fungal growth. Just before dying, the insect bites into and firmly attaches itself to a plant. Then, the fungus slowly grows outward from the dead insect's head, producing a pod of spores that eventually bursts open. The spores fall to the ground, restarting the life cycle of the fungus.

The graph shows the relationship between the population size of a parasitic fungus and its host insect population over time.

Continue the growth trend of the parasitic fungus population by selecting the area on the graph that represents the parasitic fungus population size at time A.

To remove a point, place the arrow over the point and click the left mouse button.



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Sample Science Short Answer Writing Prompt



The learner is given a 2-page description of the life cycle of *O. unilateralis*, a parasitic fungus that lives in tropical rainforests.

Deforestation, or clearing away trees, is occurring in tropical rainforests.

Explain how deforestation could disrupt the life cycle of *Ophiocordyceps unilateralis* in tropical rainforests. Include multiple pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.

Type your response in the box. This task may require approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Preparing for the Science Test



Practice reading graphs, diagrams, tables, and maps.

Build the learner's background knowledge.

- Discuss current events.
- Do experiments and practice using the scientific method.
- Watch videos on science topics.
 - Documentaries
 - Science shows
- Plan field trips.
 - Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
 - U of M Museum of Natural History
 - Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum
 - Kelsey Museum of Archaeology

Practice writing answers to short answer prompts!

Let's Look at the GED: Social Studies



Social Studies – Content Areas

- **Civics and Government 50%:** modern and historical governments, constitutional government, levels and branches of the U.S. government, the electoral system, and the role of the citizen
- **U.S. History 20%:** from colonialism and the American Revolution through the Civil War and Reconstruction into the modern era of industrialization, immigration, two world wars, the Cold War, and the movements for equal rights
- **Economics 15%:** basic economics concepts and systems, the government and the economy, and labor and consumer economics issues
- **Geography and the World 15%:** major stages in world history as well as the relationship among resources, the environment, and societies
- **Skills:**
 - Reading for meaning in social studies
 - Analyzing historical events and arguments
 - Using numbers & graphics (diagrams, tables, graphs, and maps) in social studies

Format

- Calculator use allowed
- Calculator reference sheet provided

Time

- 70 minutes total

Sample Social Studies Question

Social Studies - Candidate Name

Question 8 of 16

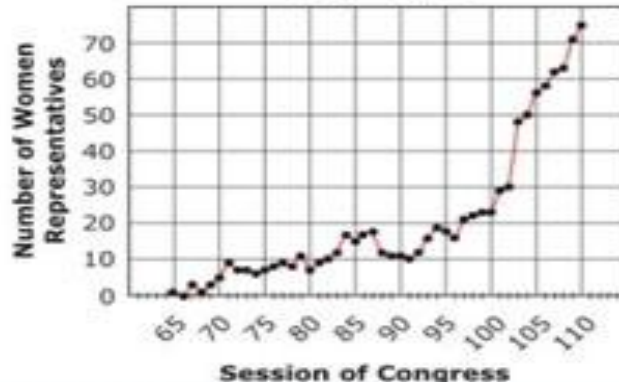
Answer Explanation

 Flag for Review

Women's Voting Rights

Since the 19th century, many people have worked for equal rights for women. Much of this effort focused on suffrage, which is the right to vote. One of the greatest victories for advocates of women's rights was ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. The 19th Amendment stated that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." However, the struggle for equality in other areas of society continued even after the 19th Amendment granted woman suffrage.

Number of Women in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1917-2011



This data is taken from the public domain.

What do the passage and graph indicate about the United States in the 20th and 21st centuries?

- A. Social movements halted inequalities within society.
- B. The changes in voting rights impacted representation in the U.S. government.
- C. Democratic principles are more powerful than cultural traditions.
- D. The Civil War Amendments created greater democratic opportunities for women.

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Preparing for the Social Studies Test



Practice reading charts, graphs, diagrams, tables, maps, and political cartoons.

Build the learner's background knowledge.

- Discuss current events.
- Watch videos on important people and events.
 - Documentaries
 - Biographies
- Read and discuss important documents.
- Learn the history and geography of your learner's country, region, and continent.

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RESOURCES & DEEPER LEARNING

- Explore [The GED Testing Service](#) website
 - Official test information, study guides, practice tests, and more
- Preview Pre-GED and GED Workbooks
 - Check the [Ann Arbor District Library Catalog](#)
 - Check the [Ypsilanti District Library Catalog](#)
 - Contact Washtenaw Literacy staff
- Discover News Articles & Subject Content Online
 - [NewsELA](#)
 - [Voice of America](#)
 - [Breaking News English](#)
 - [ReadWorks](#)

HOMework

(on the website: choose one or more)

- Read our Test-Taking Guide
- Quiz
- Share a resource
- Share an idea

Thank you!



Washtenaw Literacy Tutor Training GED Module

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Thank you to Michelle Anderson for the content of these slides!

Questions?

Contact Alison at austin@washtenawliteracy.org.