

# All about the GED



From the Official GED Test Site:

[http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=GED\\_TS&CFID=38471265&CFTOKEN=11864039&jsessionid=1630cdbc6800E2\\$3F\\$C](http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=GED_TS&CFID=38471265&CFTOKEN=11864039&jsessionid=1630cdbc6800E2$3F$C)

## What is the GED?

The GED (General Equivalency Development, or General Educational Development) is actually a collection of five separate tests that measure the academic skills and understanding that anyone would have acquired by completing a typical high school education in the United States.

The tests provide adults who did not complete a formal high school program the opportunity to obtain a high school credential so that they can enter a college program, skills training program or get a higher level job. The tests are normed on graduating high school students, and **only 60 percent** of graduating high school seniors would pass the GED Tests on their first attempt.

Five separate tests make up the GED Tests –one each in Mathematics; Social Studies; Science; Language Arts-Reading; and Language Arts -Writing. The writing test includes writing a timed essay.

The GED credential-whether called a diploma, certificate, or degree-is the most widely accepted and respected high school equivalency credential.

## Who takes the GED?

You may take the GED Tests if:

- You are not enrolled in high school, and
- You have not graduated from high school, and
- You are at least age 16, and
- You meet state, provincial, or territorial requirements regarding age, residency, and the length of time since leaving school.

The tests provide adults who did not complete a formal high school program the opportunity to demonstrate they have high school-level academic knowledge and skills and provides them with a needed credential.

Where can I take it?

- At a test center. There are 3,400 worldwide. Click here to find one near you.  
[http://www.acenet.edu/resources/GED/center\\_locator.cfm](http://www.acenet.edu/resources/GED/center_locator.cfm)
- It cannot be taken online (You may see sites that say: Take the GED online. These are not official sites and you will not receive a true credential if you take these tests.)

## How long does it take?

The battery of five GED Tests takes 7 hours and 5 minutes to complete. In some areas, you must take the entire battery of tests in one or two sittings. Other places permit you to take a single test each time you come to the testing center and may offer testing in the evenings. It may take up to several weeks for your scores to be reported back to you. Check with your [state, province, or territory's contact person](#) for GED testing to find out about testing procedures in your area.

## Do I have to take it in English?

You can take the GED test in:

- English
- Spanish
- French

## What do I need to know to pass the GED?

Test Area	Number of Questions	Time Limit
<a href="#">Language Arts, Writing, Part I</a>	50	75 minutes
<a href="#">Language Arts, Writing, Part II</a>	1 essay	45 minutes
<a href="#">Social Studies</a>	50	70 minutes
<a href="#">Science</a>	50	80 minutes
<a href="#">Language Arts, Reading</a>	40	65 minutes
<a href="#">Mathematics</a>	50	90 minutes

In addition, every GED candidate must also satisfactorily complete a timed essay on an assigned topic in order to pass the GED Tests.

Click on the links for additional information about each test. There are also practice resources listed below.

## How can I prepare for the GED?

Check out the **Tutor.com Skills Center** and **connect with a Tutor.com tutor**. You can also get help from these resources:

GED Testing Service endorses GED test preparatory materials from these organizations:

- [GED Connection](#)
- [KET](#)
- [Steck-Vaughn](#)

Other helpful resources/books:

- [Barron's Books](#)
- [Kaplan](#)
- [Plato Learning](#)
- [Princeton Review](#)
- [Contemporary/McGraw-Hill](#)

### How will I know my test results?

To find out your test results, you need to call the center where you took the test. When you take the test, the center will provide you with information on when and how to obtain your test results.

### What is a passing grade?

In order to pass the GED Tests, an examinee must have a combined passing score of **2250**; in addition, **each individual subject area test score must be 410 or greater**. Those passing the GED Tests have demonstrated a level of knowledge equal to or greater than 40% of graduating high school seniors.

### What if I pass one test but not another? Can I take the tests again?

If you did not earn the minimum passing score on one or more of the GED content area tests, don't worry. You can re-test on the content area test(s) two additional times (total of three times per year). Scores from the content area test(s) on which you did earn the minimum score(s) will be combined with scores you receive when you re-test.

Test-takers must complete and earn the minimum passing scores on all five content area tests and a passing combined total score in the 2002 Test Series before December 31, 2011. On January 1, 2012, the new Series GED Tests will be released and all scores from the 2002 series will be thrown out. **Scores from the 2002 Series GED Tests and 2012 Series GED Tests cannot be combined to earn a credential.** If you earned the minimum passing score on all five content area tests and the passing combined total score in the 2002 series (or earlier), your scores remain valid beyond the expiration of the test series.

### How accepted is the GED credential?

Over 98<sup>1</sup> percent of colleges and universities accept the GED transcript for admission<sup>2</sup> and 96 percent of employers accept it for hiring and promotion eligibility

<sup>1</sup>The College Board, (2007), Annual Survey of Colleges.

<sup>2</sup>Society for Human Resource Management (2002). *Does your company accept applicants with a GED credential for jobs requiring a high school degree?* [Online poll]. Retrieved January 25, 2008, from <http://www.shrm.org/poll/results.asp?question=67>