# Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Going Behind the GED® Test

A Workshop by GED Testing Service®







#### Session Objectives



- Go Behind the GED® test
- Review student performance on the test
- Explore tools for the classroom
- Share resources from the GED.com Website



## I really want to know...





#### **Content Alignment**

#### How was the test content determined?

- The GED® test was designed to reflect college and career readiness standards
  - Crosswalks show alignment between GED Assessment Targets and most major CCR standards (e.g., State content standards, Adult ED CCR, etc.)
  - External alignment study from WestEd demonstrates alignment between the test and Adult Ed CCR.



#### **Test Structure**

How many questions do my students need to answer correctly in order to pass with a score of 145?

We don't share that information because it can

- Differ slightly from form to form and
- Differ slightly by content area

However, the minimum HSE requires ~40% of the total score points



#### **Test Structure**

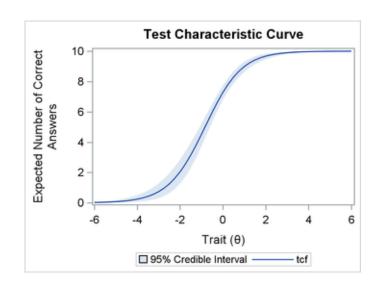
What's the difference between "raw score points" and "scaled score points"?

- Each test form has between about 40 and 65 raw score points, roughly corresponding to the number of items
  - Test forms meet detailed blueprints and difficulty specifications
  - Forms are very similar in raw score difficulty but rarely exact
- Transformation to "scaled scores" allows
  - Comparability of test performance test score represents same level of performance, no matter what form was taken or when it was taken
  - Ease of test score comparison between content areas

#### **Test Structure**

How do I know that all test forms are equivalent, especially when a student tells me that one form seems harder/easier than another?

- Test forms <u>all</u> match the same blueprint and specifications
- "Test characteristic curves" demonstrate this match across forms
- But content within each reporting category is "sampled"
  - So one form might have a content sample that is more or less familiar to a particular test-taker
  - This may lead to different learner perceptions of the test, even though the test forms are equivalent





#### Spanish Language Forms

Are the Spanish test forms equivalent to the English forms?

- Yes, the Spanish forms are direct (not "literal") translations of the sense and meaning of the English forms
  - The RLA editing passages are the only exception to this (RLA Spanish test is 8 raw score points shorter than the English test)
  - The forms are all equated and the scaled scores have the same meaning regardless of language



#### Spanish Language Forms

How do candidates who test in Spanish perform vs. those who test in English?

Spanish testers represent only ~5% of total testers

Differences are attributable to

- Overall less instruction in native language
- Fewer Spanish instructional materials

Test	Spanish Pass Rate	English Pass Rate
RLA	78%	89%
Social Studies	71%	88%
Science	73%	90%
Math	64%	81%
Battery	65%	81%



#### Extended Response items and scoring

Can a student pass the RLA test and score 0 on the Extended Response item?

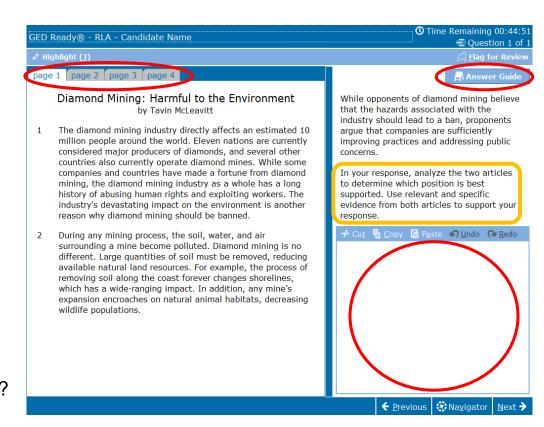
Yes, that is *possible*, but most test-takers who pass at HSE do get some score points

- The ER is designed to measure skills at the higher HSE levels and CCR levels
- We made significant improvements to the ER interface as of January 2019



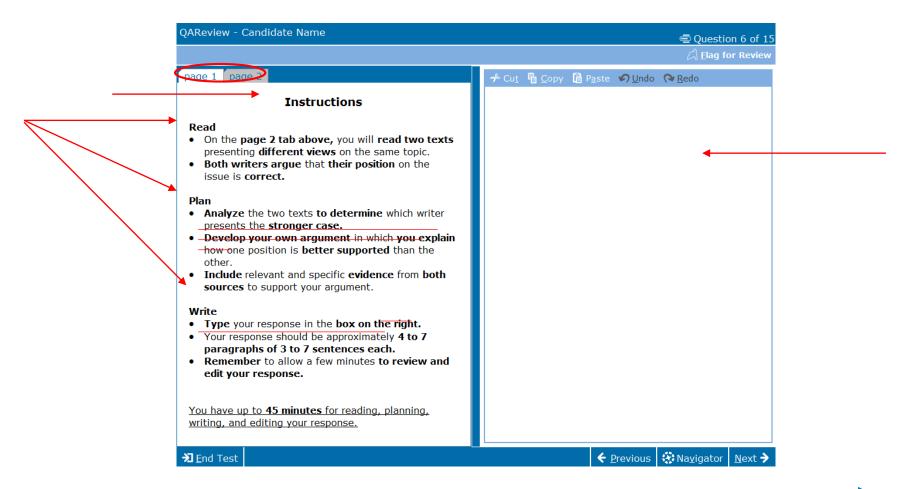
#### Pilot Study Research Questions

- Do test takers
  - Understand what they need to do to complete the task?
  - Comfortably interact with the computer?
    - Use the space in the response box?
    - Use the onscreen Answer Guidelines?
    - Navigate the tabs successfully?
  - Prepare for the test?
    - Have a MYGED® account?
    - Use the resources on GED.com?





#### January 2019 release in English and Spanish





#### Constructed Response Items and Scoring

Why should I spend time on teaching writing skills if students don't need many points on writing to pass the test?

Writing skills are one of the <u>critical</u> differentiators of long-term success

- Any score point earned counts towards the overall score
- Building skills in this area helps develop thinking skills that impact performance on the entire test



#### Constructed Response Items and Scoring

How does the computer score the Extended Response item? What is it looking for?

The automated scoring engine catalogs the characteristics of a writing sample; it then

- Compares those characteristics to thousands of real student responses with known scores
- Assigns a score based on similarity to existing exemplars
  - If no similar responses found, ER is human-scored
- About 97% of student responses are scored by the automated engine



#### Testing in Science

Can I drop some of the topics I have been covering now that there are no short answer items on the Science test?

No, The Science test still covers the same content as it has always covered

- The same content is tested today, but knowledge is determined by using the other technology enhanced items
- Understanding scientific investigation/method and experimentation are still evaluated in the test through other methods



#### Testing in Mathematical Reasoning

Are students allowed to use the calculator on all items on the math test?

No, students are not allowed to use the calculator on the first section of the math test which includes approximately 5 items.

The first several questions assess various concepts in number sense and computation, including

- Ordering fractions/decimals
- Applying number properties involved multiples and factors
- Working with exponents, squares, square roots, cubes, and cube roots
- Identifying absolute value
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational numbers
- Determining when a numerical expression is undefined



## Exploring the Data

What does the data tell us?







66

"To build the educated and employed communities of tomorrow.....
.....one student at a time."

99

2014 GED® Program Goal



#### It is more than a test; it is a program!



To enhance instruction so students are ready for postsecondary education and/or workforce training program



To ensure that students have the knowledge and skills necessary to earn a high school equivalency credential

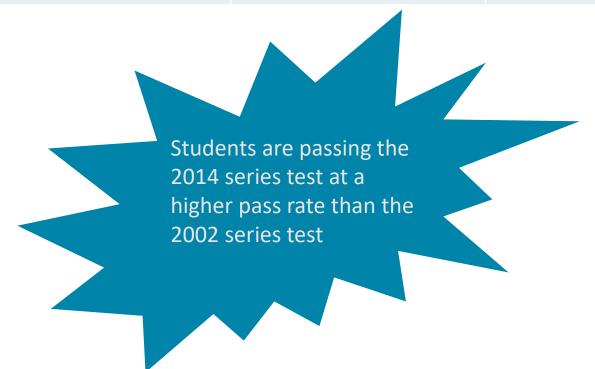


To provide instructors and test-takers with information they can use to enhance performance



#### National Pass Rate—a comparison

Test Series	Year	Pass Rate
2002	2013	76%
2014	2018	80%





#### 2018 National Data: What We Know of Student Successes

Facts	Numbers
Test-takers	300,726
Completers	194,415
Passers	155,571
Pass rates	80%



### Average Passing & Non-Passing Scores – 2018

GED® Tests	Math	RLA	Science	Social Studies
Average Passing Score	152	155	155	155
Average Non- Passing Score	140	140	141	140



#### Scoring of the GED® Test

GED College Ready Scores Improve the Chances for **College Success** GED® College Ready + Credit Qualify for up to ten college credit hours 175 GED® College Ready Ready to take college-level courses 165 Pass / High School Equivalency Earn a high school equivalency diploma 145



#### National Test-taker Data: 2014-2019

	Math	RLA	Science	Social Studies	Battery - First Attempt	Battery - Multiple Attempts
Passed	85%	89%	93%	90%	61%	86%
(145 or higher)	03%	0970	93%	90%	0176	00%
College Ready	7%	12%	11%	14%	20	% one content.
(165 or higher)					iii at icast c	nie content.
College Ready+ Credit	2%	2%	2%	3%		% one content.
(175 or higher)						



#### **Our Graduates Are** Interested in College







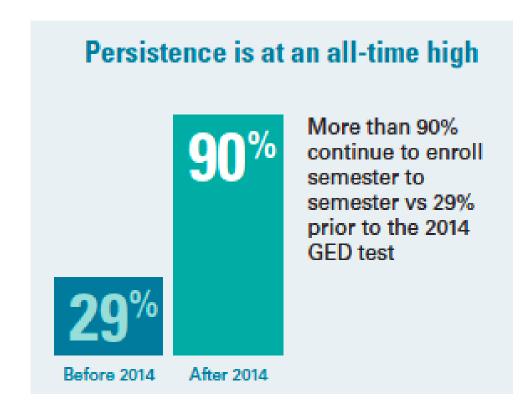
Enroll in college within a year of earning their GED credential



Enroll in college within 4 years of earning their GED credential



#### Persistence!



- Congrats, all your hard work is paying off!
- This number currently surpasses overall community college persistence rates



#### **Updated NSC Results**

 Mean scaled-score of GED graduates going on to college is well above the minimum passing score for high school equivalency:

• Math: 158

• RLA: 162

Science: 161

Social Studies: 161

- Age of GED graduates going on to college has remained stable over time
  - 81% to 86% of matched grads were between the ages of 16 and 24 when they received their credential



#### GED® score crosswalk to SAT and ACT

#### **SAT**

GED® College Ready (165)

- SAT Math 620
- SAT Reading 633

GED® CR+Credit (175)

- SAT Math 657
- SAT Reading 671

#### <u>ACT</u>

GED® College Ready (165)

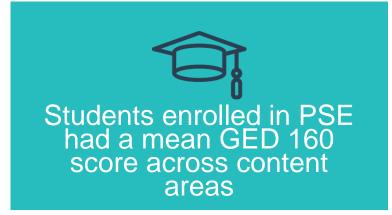
- ACT Math 28
- ACT Reading 29

GED® CR+Credit (175)

- ACT Math 30
- ACT Reading 31



#### Research Highlights





3 out of 4 students enroll in 2-year institutions



24% enrolled in liberal arts programs



4% in technology programs





How do we ensure that more students are "likely to pass" the GED® test?

Tools for the Classroom





#### **GED** Ready®

The best predictor of readiness!





#### $\textbf{GED Ready}^{\, \mathbb{R}}$

Realistic practice opportunity	Computer based and same platform as GED® test
Standardized and normed	Same norming and standardization study as official test
Predictive	Tells students if they are likely to pass
Half-length	4.25 hours in length



#### GED Ready®

- Feedback and links to study suggestions (focused study plans)
- Instructional feedback extended response (RLA) scored by adult educators
- Online scoring tools (provide writing scores, feedback, and suggestions for improvement)

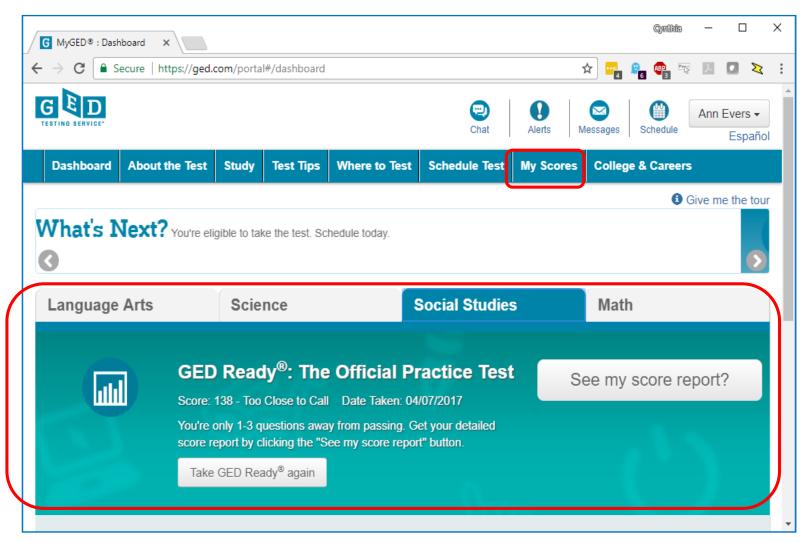


### Three Score Level Indicators on GED Ready®

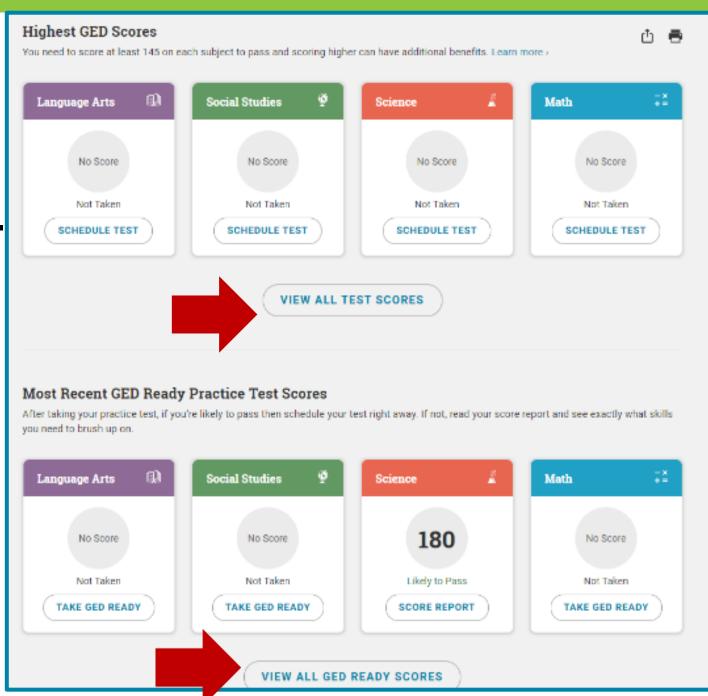
Not Likely to Pass	Too Close to Call	Likely to Pass
100-133	134-144	145-200



#### Dashboard

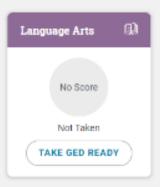


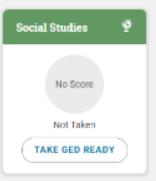


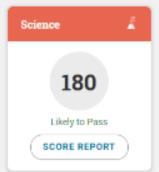


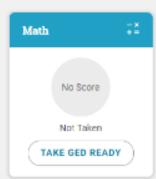


After taking your practice test, if you're likely to pass then schedule your test right away. If not, read your score report and see exactly what skills you need to brush up on.











### When will my scores be available?

Scores are typically posted within 24 hours of taking your GED test or GED Ready practice test. However, sometimes it can take up to 2 to 3 business days. You'll receive an email once your scores have been posted to your account.

### What if I get 'not likely to pass' on my GED Ready practice test?

Use the score report to understand what areas you need to study to improve your score. If you're working with a prep center, ask your teacher to review your score report with

### What do my GED test scores mean?

Scoring 145 - 164 means that you passed the subject. Scoring 165 - 174 means that you are ready to take college-level courses in that subject. Scoring 175 - 200 means that you could qualify for college credit for that subject. Learn more >

### What if I don't pass one or more of the GED test subjects?

If you did not pass one of your GED test subjects, you are given two subsequent retests, with no restrictions between

VIEW ALL GED READY SCORES

### FAQ

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Scores are typically posted within 24 hours of taking your GED test or GED Ready practice test. However, sometimes it can take up to 2 to 3 business days. You'll receive an email once your scores have been posted to your account.

# What if I get 'not likely to pass' on my GED Ready practice test?

Use the score report to understand what areas you need to study to improve your score. If you're working with a prep center, ask your teacher to review your score report with you and develop a plan to improve your score. After studying, make sure you're prepared for the test by taking the GED Ready again.

### What do my GED test scores mean?

Scoring 145 - 164 means that you passed the subject. Scoring 165 - 174 means that you are ready to take college-level courses in that subject. Scoring 175 - 200 means that you could qualify for college credit for that subject. Learn more >

# What if I don't pass one or more of the GED test subjects?

If you did not pass one of your GED test subjects, you are given two subsequent retests, with no restrictions between retakes. If you fail the third or any subsequent retest, you must wait 60 days for your next attempt.

Additional state requirements may apply.



# What if I get 'too close to call' on my GED Ready practice test?

You're only a few questions away from 'likely to pass', so review your score report to see how you can improve your score and then schedule your test. If you're working with a prep center, ask your teacher to review your score report with you.

# What if I get 'likely to pass' on my GED Ready practice test?

Looks like you're ready to schedule your test. Students who get a GED Ready score similar to yours and schedule their test within two weeks are more likely to pass.

### How is the extended response scored on the Reasoning Through Language Arts GED Ready practice test?

The extended response cannot be scored on the RLA GED Ready practice test. Instead, you will receive information in your score report about what a typical written response should look like. You will also receive a copy of the question and your written response so that you can take it to your local prep center for scoring by a trained teacher.

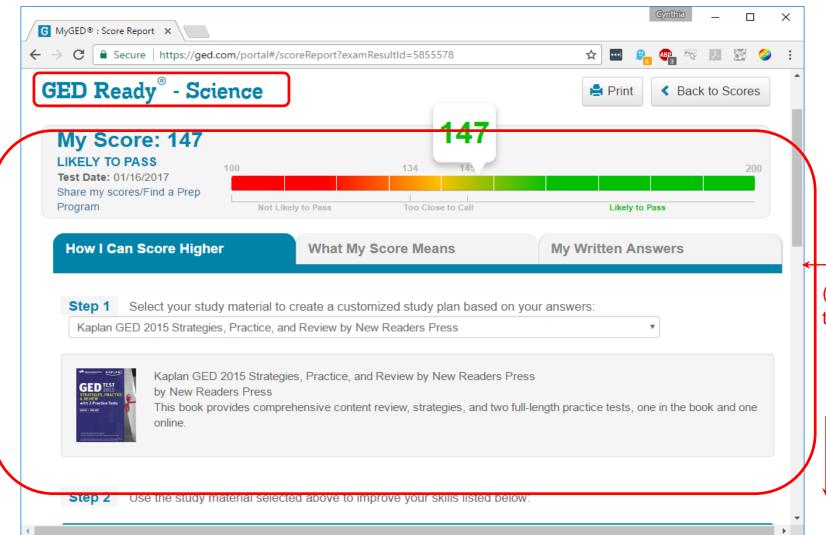
### Can I retest for a higher score if I passed?

Yes, you can retest if you are trying to be college ready or qualify for college credit. The discounted retest policy only applies to tests you did not pass.

# I think I should have gotten a higher score. Is there a way to challenge my score?

Yes, it is possible for you to challenge your scores. The scoring system we use is very accurate. Very few test scores are ever adjusted after review. However, if you want to request a re-score, contact customer support at 1-877-EXAM-GED. You will be charged a fee of \$50 per exam score you want to challenge. If your score changes, you'll get your \$50 back. Otherwise, GED Testing Service will keep the fee.

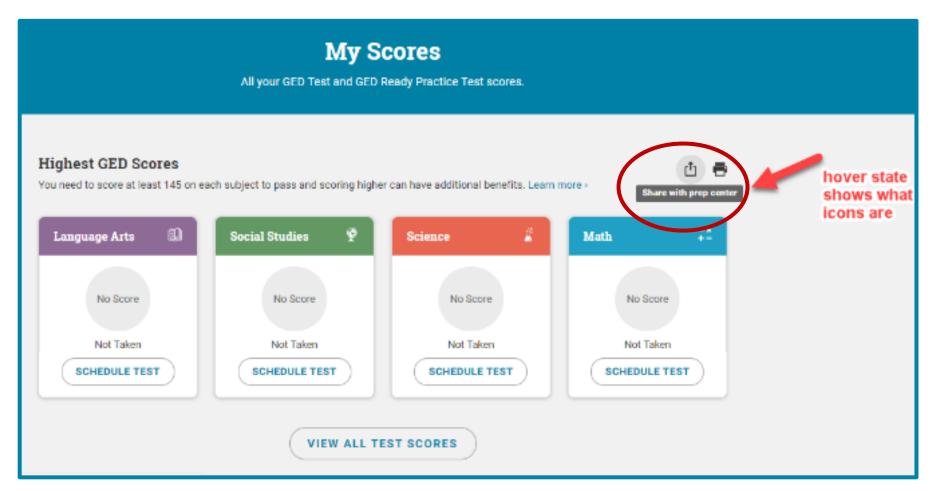
# My Score Report



(All 3 tabs)

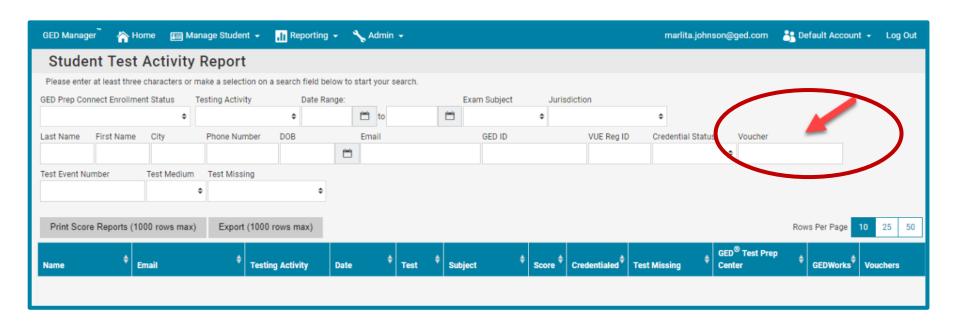
(Step 2 of study plan)







# 4. Voucher Search Field





# Take Advantage of the Redesigned Website

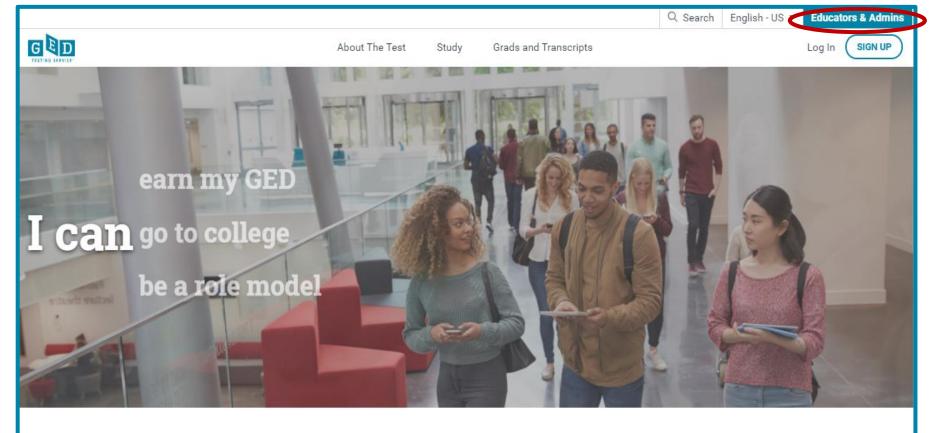
It's more than just a place to register for the test!





# https://ged.com/

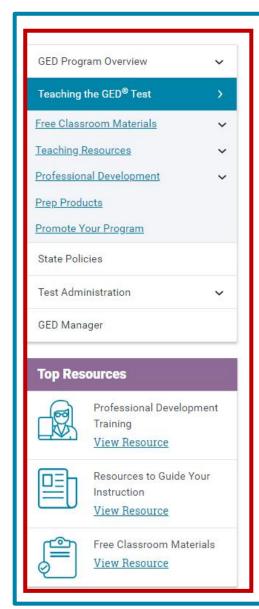




Welcome to the home of the official GED<sup>®</sup> test. Find everything you need to earn your high school equivalency diploma right here.



# Resources for all Educators





### Free Classroom Materials

We've developed a wealth of free resources to help your students pass the GED<sup>®</sup> test. Whether you are looking for tutorials, reference sheets, scoring tools, or videos to use in the classroom, you'll find it here.

Learn more





### **Teaching Resources**

Use these resources to guide your GED<sup>®</sup> instruction. You can get detailed information on the skills students need to demonstrate to pass, what is being assessed in each content area, and more.

Learn more



# Important Tools for the Classroom

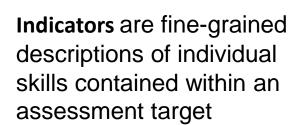
Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies





# From Targets to Indicators to Application

Assessment Targets describe the general concepts that are assessed on the GED® test



**Application** describes what to look for in student work



# Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

- Most under-used and undervalued resources
- Helpful tool for the classroom
- Details the skills students need to pass the test
- Two formats
  - Official Version
  - Test-taker Version
- Four Performance Levels
  - Below Passing
  - HSE
  - GED® College Ready
  - GED<sup>®</sup> College Ready + Credit
- What skills are demonstrated at each level
- What skills need development to advance to the next level



Examen GED<sup>®</sup>: Descripciones del nivel de desempeño para Razonamiento a través de las artes del lenguaje:

Qué significa su puntuación: Nivel 2 — Aprobatorio/Equivalente a escuela secundaria

Las personas que toman el examen y obtienen una puntuación en este nivel típicamente

Sfaction de las destrezas que se describen en el nivel de como comprender y analizar pasajes desaflantes como vels With Charley: In Search of America de John Steinbeck y ponald Mackay. Las personas que toman el examen y obtien desempeño tipicamente pueden demostrar las siguientes



# GED® Test: Reasoning Through Language Arts Performance Level Descriptors What Your Score Means: Level 2 — Pass/High School Equivalency

Test-takers who score at this level are typically able to demonstrate satisfactory proficiency with the skills identified in the Below Passing level as well as to comprehend and analyze challenging passages similar to Sandra Cisneros "Eleven," John Steinbeck's Travels With Charley. In Search of America, and Donald Mackay's The Building of Manhattan. Test-takers who score in this performance level are typically able to demonstrate the following skills:

### Analyzing and Creating Text Features and Technique

- · Order sequences of events in texts at a satisfactory level
- Make inferences about plot/sequence of events, characters/people, settings, or ideas in texts at a satisfactory level
- Analyze relationships within texts, including how events are important in relation to plot or conflict; how people, ideas, or events are connected, developed, or distinguished; how events contribute to theme or relate to key idea; or how a setting or context shapes structure and
- Analyze the roles that details play in complex literary or informational texts at a satisfactory level
   Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining
- connotative and figurative meanings from context

  Analyze how meaning or tone is affected when one word is replaced with another, at a
- satisfactory level

  Analyze the impact of specific words, phrases, or figurative language in text, with a focus on an
- author's intent to convey information or construct an argument

  Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of ideas
- Analyze the structural relationship between adjacent sections of text at a satisfactory level
   Analyze transitional language or signal words and determine how they refine meaning,
- emphasize certain ideas, or reinforce an author's purpose, at a satisfactory level

  Analyze how the structure of a paragraph, section, or passage shapes meaning, emphasizes kev ideas, or supports an author's purpose

### s y técnicas de un texto

ntos en textos en un nivel satisfactor

al argumento/secuencia de eventos, personajes/personas, escenario al satisfactorio

e textos, incluyendo qué importancia tienen los eventos en relación s; cómo las personas, ideas o eventos se relacionan, desarrollan o in al tema los eventos o cómo se relacionan con las ideas clave; o to moldea la estructura y el significado

torio la función que tienen los detalles en textos literarios o

palabras y frases como se usan en un texto, incluyendo determinar

torio qué efecto tiene en el significado o el tono el remplazo de una

de palabras, frases o lenguaje figurado específicos enfocándose a transmitir información o desarrollar un argumento

párrafo, capítulo o sección particular corresponde a la estructura uye al desarrollo de las ideas torio la relación estructural entre secciones adyacentes del texto

orio la relacion estructural entre secciones adyacentes dei texto orio las expresiones de transición o las señales verbales y ignificado, enfatizan ciertas ideas o refuerzan el propósito del autor

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# How to Use PLDs in the Classroom

# **Use PLDs to:**

- Tip 1: Assess student's current skill level
- Tip 2: Determine when students are ready to test
- Tip 3: Shape learning activities
- Tip 4: Add perspective to lesson plans

<a href="https://ged.com/educators\_admins/teaching/teaching\_resources/plds/">https://ged.com/educators\_admins/teaching/teaching\_resources/plds/</a>



# Skill Sets for High Impact Indicators Across Content Areas

Focusing Instruction





# What Makes Indicators High Impact?

- Important skills that are used across content areas
- May currently receive light coverage in classroom
- Lend themselves to straightforward instruction
- https://ged.com/educ ators\_admins/teachin g/teaching\_resources



### Relationships Between the High Impact Indicators and Other Indicators

The High Impact Indicators are a list of key skills assessed on the GED® test that, if emphasized in instruction, can help instructors make a significant impact on student skills and performance. This document shows the relationship between the High Impact Indicators and other indicators assessed on the GED® test. Adult educators can use this resource to create instructional plans that address the maximum number of skills in the limited time they have available with students. Providing instruction in a single High Impact Indicator area can help students broaden and deepen their skills, enabling them to apply those skills in multiple ways and in a variety of contexts across all of the content areas covered by the GED® test.

Note: High Impact Indicators appear in BOLD type.

Reasoning Through Language Arts - High Impact Indicators

<b>High Impact Indicator</b>	Related Indicators from Other Content Areas		
RLA	Social Studies	Science	Mathematical Reasoning
R.3.1: Order sequences of events in toxts. Primarily measured with literary texts.	SSP.3 a. Identify the chronological structure of a historical narrative and sequence steps in a process. SSP.3 b. Analyze in detail how events, processes, and ideas develop and interact in a written document; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.  SSP.3.c: Analyze cause-and-effect relationships and multiple causation, including action by individuals, natural and societal processes, and the influence of ideas.  SSP.3.d. Compare differing sets of ideas related to political, historical, economic, geographic, or societal contexts; evaluate the assumptions and implications inherent in differing positions.	SP.3.b Reason from data or evidence to a conclusion SP.3.c Make a prediction based upon data or evidence	MP.1 a. Search for and recognize entry points for solving a problem.  MP.1 b. Plan a solution pathway or outline a line of reasoning.  MP.1 d. Recognize and identify missing information that is required to solve a problem.  MP.1 e. Select the appropriate mathematical technique(s) to use in solving a problem or a line of reasoning.  MP.2 c. Recognize the important and salient attributes of a problem.  MP.3 a. Build steps of a line of reasoning or solution pathway, based on previous step or givens.  MP.3 b. Complete the lines of reasoning of others.  MP.3 c. Improve or correct a flawed line of reasoning.

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# An Example

Social Studies

Identify the chronological

RLA
Order sequences of events
in texts

Science

structure of a historical narrative and sequence steps in a process

Reason from data or evidence to a conclusion

**Mathematics** 

Search for and recognize entry point for solving a problem and plan a solution pathway

# **Tuesdays for Teachers – Previous Webinars**

Reading to Learn: Strategies to Build Reading Skills



Watch Now

Download Presentation

Download Study Guide

Download Vocabulary Strategies

Download High Mileage Word List

Download Reading Rate Sample

Download Certificate

Trick or Treat: Mining GED Ready Score Reports



Watch Now

Download Presentation

Download Workbook

Download Certificate

Changes You've Been Asking For: The RLA Test Screen & Score Reports



Watch Now

Download Presentation

Download Certificate

One Size Fits All -Welcome to GED.com



Watch Now

Download Presentation

Download Workbook

Download Certificate



# Give Students What They Need...

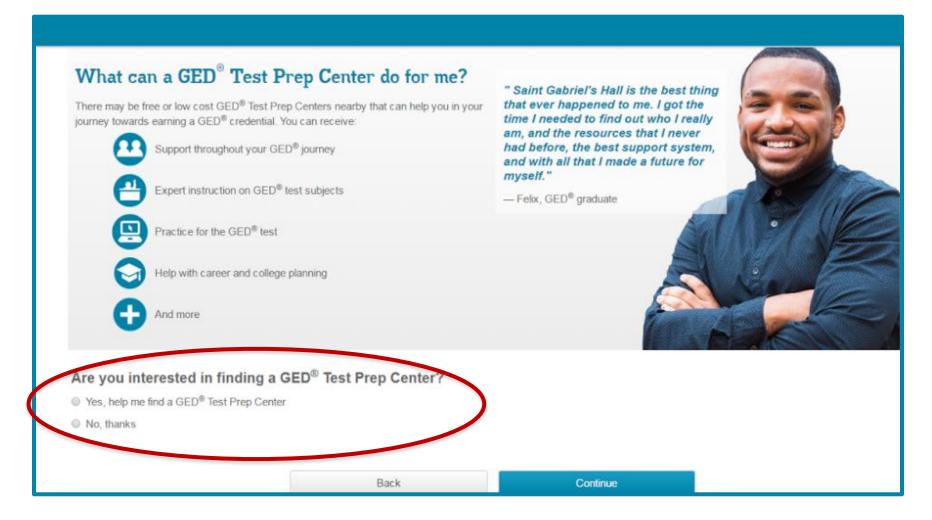
At the time they need it:

- 1 Action (visible) guidance: Instructions and clarity on how they can earn their GED
- 2. Behavioral (non-visible) guidance: Help people do what they already want to do





# Benefits of GED® Test Prep Centers







Home

About the Test

Study

Test Tips

Where to Test

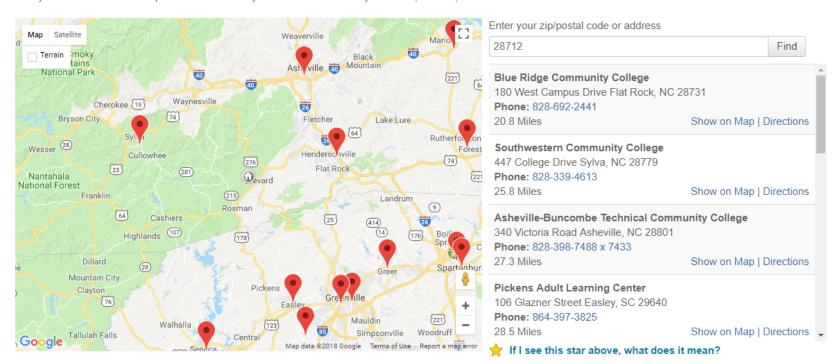
My Scores

College & Careers



### Find GED® Classes

Find your local GED® Test Prep Center to see if they offer discounts on study materials, classes, or the test.



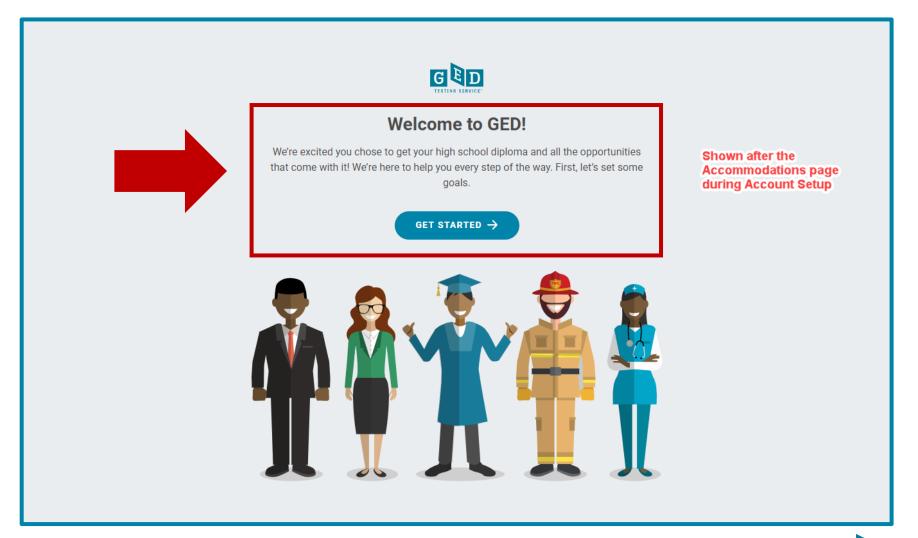
Can't find your center? Ask them to visit gedtestingservice.com/prep to be added. In the meantime, you can print your score report and share it with your teacher.

The adult education or prep centers listed are independent third parties and provided for your convenience. GED Testing Service has no partnership or agreement with the centers. You should review the centers on your own to make sure you find the support that is right for you.

> **FAQs** Español Accessibility Privacy and Cookies Contact Us Terms

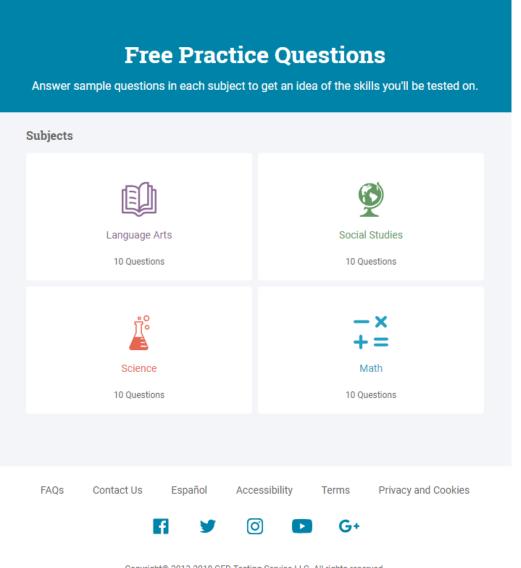


# 2. Guided Path Feature



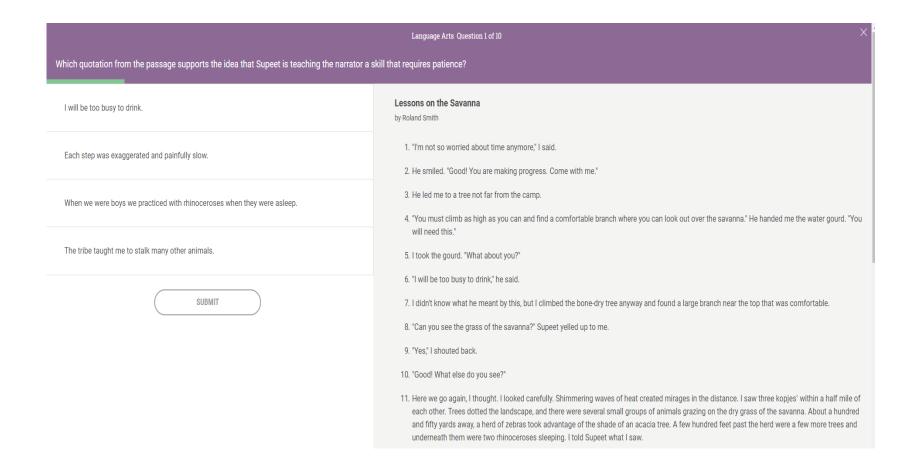


# Free Practice Questions





# Language Arts Sample Question





### **Study Guides**

These simple study guides will give you an overview of the topics on each test.

You don't need to know everything in this guide. If you want to see how close you are to passing, take the GED Ready\* practice test.

### Got It

### Language Arts



Reading for Meaning

6 skills

Identifying and Creating Arguments

4 skills

Grammar and Language

4 skills

### Social Studies



Reading for Meaning in Social Studies

5 skills

Analyzing Historical Events and Arguments in Social Studies

4 skills

Using Numbers and Graphs in Social Studies

4 skills

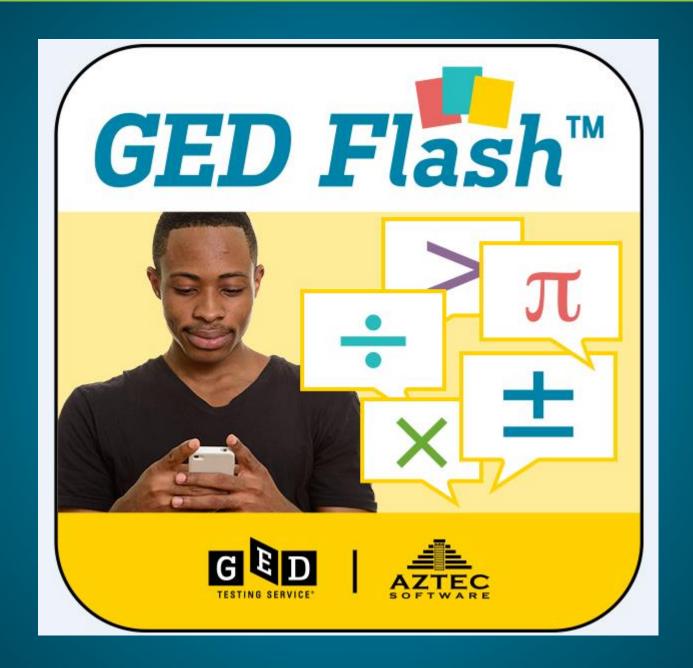


# Take Advantage of the New Content Tools and Resources

- GED Flash
- RLA Videos
- In Session Newsletter









# Practice and Feedback!

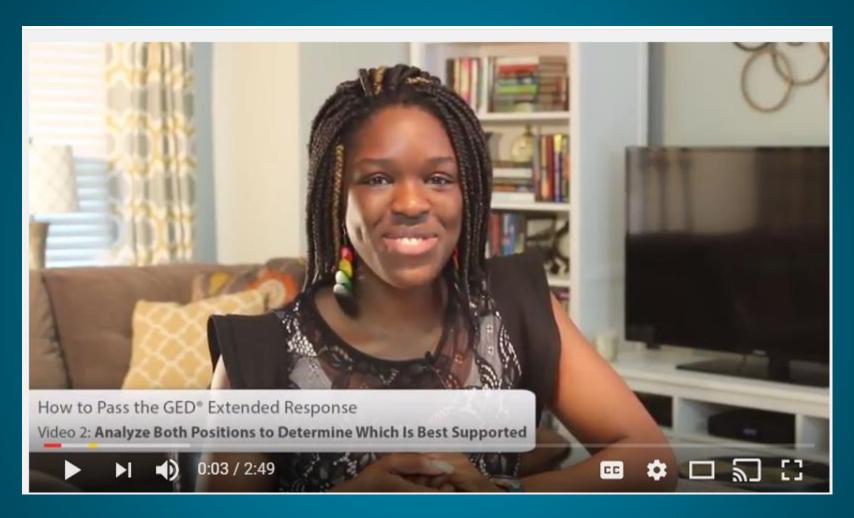
- 93% of students indicated they are interested in more practice test items and feedback
- #1 on the list of most-wanted resources
- Accessible anywhere from a mobile phone, tablet or computer
- Available for adult education programs GED Flash for Organizations
- Available to students studying on their own (monthly access fee)



# Practice and Feedback!

- Adult education programs purchase via Aztec Software
- Adult education programs who use this product will have access to administrative reports showing student performance data, time on task, strengths & weaknesses
- More than 6,000 practice test questions across the 4 subject areas
- Instant feedback with answer explanation





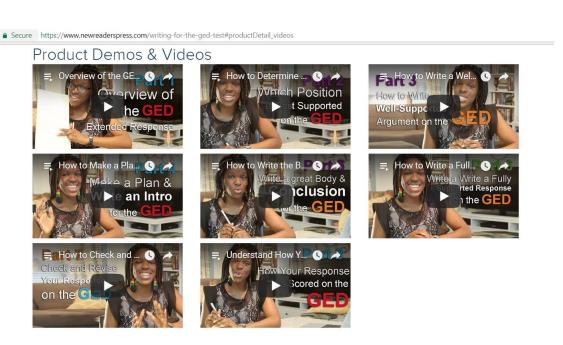
# New Readers Press: 8-video series on RLA



# Where to find the Extended Response Videos

www.newreaderspress.com/writing-for-the-ged-test

https://GED.com/Study

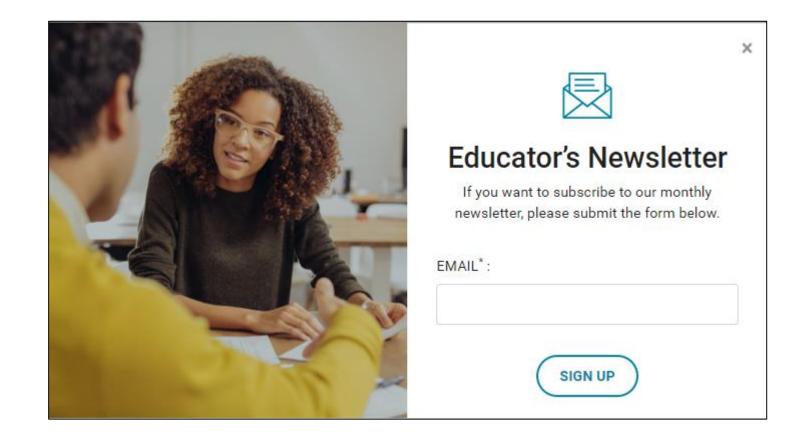




# In Session Newsletter

### In Session Educator Newsletter

SIGN UP TO GET THE LATEST NEWS AND RESOURCES.



# It's Your Turn

- Questions?
- Issues?
- Concerns?





# Thank you!

communications@GED.com

