GED® Test Question Preview

Thinking about taking the GED® test? Take a look at five sample GED® test questions to get a better idea of the types of questions on the test. The questions you see here are the types of questions that you'll need to answer correctly to earn the 145 passing score on the GED® test.

1. Reasoning Through Language Arts

Read the excerpt, and answer the question that follows.

Excerpt from *Anne of Green Gables*

by L. M. Montgomery



1 Marilla came briskly forward as Matthew opened the door. But when her eyes fell on the odd little figure in the stiff, ugly dress, with the long braids of red hair and the eager, luminous eyes, she stopped short in amazement.

2 "Matthew Cuthbert, who's that?" she exclaimed. "Where is the boy?"

3 "There wasn't any boy," said Matthew wretchedly. "There was only *her*."

4 He nodded at the child, remembering that he had never even asked her name.

5 "No boy! But there *must* have been a boy," insisted Marilla. "We sent word to Mrs. Spencer to bring a boy."

6 "Well, she didn't. She brought *her*. I asked the stationmaster. And I had to bring her home. She couldn't be left there, no matter where the mistake had come in."

7 "Well, this is a pretty piece of business!" exclaimed Marilla.

8 During this dialogue the child had remained silent, her eyes roving from one to the other, all the animation fading out of her face. Suddenly she seemed to grasp the full meaning of what had been said. Dropping her precious carpetbag she sprang forward a step and clasped her hands.

9 "You don't want me!" she cried. "I might have expected it. Nobody ever did want me. I might have known it was all too beautiful to last. I might have known nobody really did want me. Oh, what shall I do? I'm going to burst into tears!"

10 Burst into tears she did. Sitting down on a chair by the table, flinging her arms out upon it, and burying her face in them, she proceeded to cry stormily. Marilla and Matthew looked at each other helplessly across the stove. Neither of them knew what to say or do. Finally Marilla stepped lamely into the breach.

11 "Well, well, there's no need to cry so about it."

12 "Yes, there *is* need!" The child raised her head quickly, revealing a tear-stained face and trembling lips. "*You* would cry, too, if you were an orphan and had come to a place you thought was going to be home and found that they didn't want you. Oh, this is the most *tragical* thing that ever happened to me!"

13 Something like a reluctant smile, rather rusty from long disuse, mellowed Marilla's grim expression.

14 "Well, don't cry any more. We're not going to turn you out of doors tonight. You'll have to stay here until we investigate this affair. What's your name?"

15 The child hesitated for a moment.

16 "Will you please call me Cordelia?" she said eagerly.

17 "*Call* you Cordelia! Is that your name?"

18 "No-o-o, it's not exactly my name, but I would love to be called Cordelia. It's such a perfectly elegant name."

19 "I don't know what on earth you mean. If Cordelia isn't your name, what is?"

20 "Anne Shirley," reluctantly faltered forth the owner of that name, "but oh, please do call me Cordelia. It can't matter much to you what you call me if I'm only going to be here a little while, can it? And Anne is such an unromantic name."

21 "Unromantic fiddlesticks!" said the unsympathetic Marilla. "Anne is a real good plain sensible name. You've no need to be ashamed of it."

22 "Oh, I'm not ashamed of it," explained Anne, "only I like Cordelia better. I've always imagined that my name was Cordelia—at least, I always have of late years. When I was young I used to imagine it was Geraldine, but I like Cordelia better now. But if you call me Anne please call me Anne spelled with an *e*."

23 "What difference does it make how it's spelled?" asked Marilla with another rusty smile as she picked up the teapot.

24 "Oh, it makes *such* a difference. It *looks* so much nicer."

In this excerpt, Anne asks Marilla to call her "Cordelia." What does this request reveal about Anne?

- A. She tries to make her life more interesting.
- B. She wishes she could fit in better with her peers.
- C. She feels confused about her own past.
- D. She hesitates to share personal details.

2. Social Studies

Read the excerpt, and answer the question that follows.

This information is from a 2004 U.S. General Accounting Office report.

U.S. Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny

After the establishment of the U.S. government in 1789, the United States steadily acquired land. The new government promoted settlement and expansion south to Florida and west to California.

In 1845, editor John L. O'Sullivan coined the phrase "manifest destiny." This phrase described what had become a national movement to promote expansion and "civilize" persons encountered along the way. According to
O'Sullivan, the claim to new territory was a right given to Americans by God. He believed that "it is a right such as that of the tree to the space of air and earth suitable for the . . . destiny of growth." In the years since, some people have contended that this Manifest Destiny ideology was a form of racism.

O'Sullivan called on Americans to resist any foreign power that tried to interfere with "the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence. . . ." O'Sullivan further argued that
such God-given favor gave white Americans the right to bring the benefits of democracy to what he considered more backward peoples, meaning Mexicans and [American] Indians, by force if necessary.

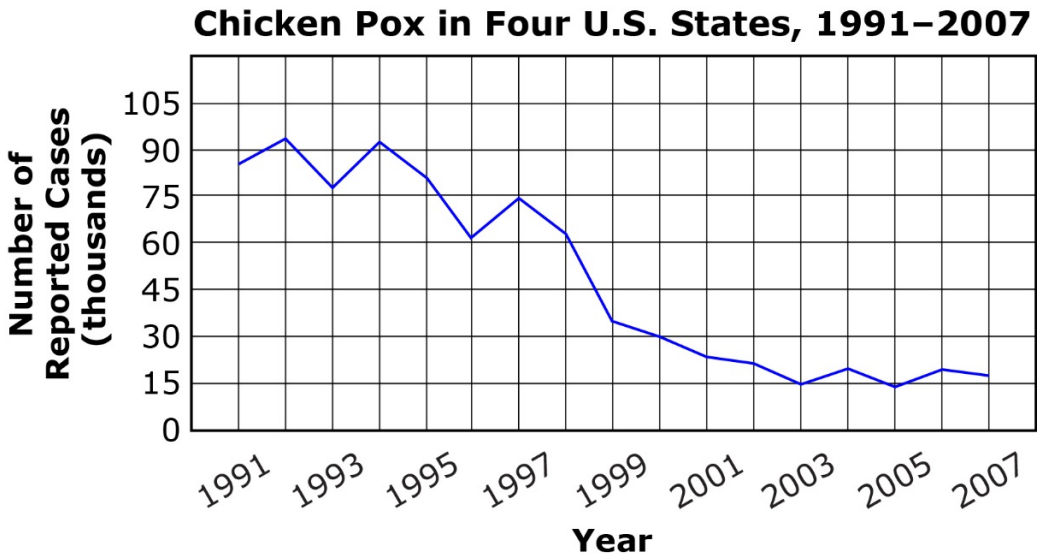
Which statement provides evidence that Manifest Destiny was used to justify the mistreatment of individuals?

- ○ A. "The new government promoted settlement and expansion south to Florida and west to California."
- ○ B. "He believed that 'it is a right such as that of the tree to the space of air and earth suitable for the . . . destiny of growth.' "
- ○ C. "In the years since, some people have contended that this . . . ideology was a form of racism."
- ○ D. "O'Sullivan further argued that such God-given favor gave white Americans the right to bring the benefits of democracy to what he considered more backward peoples, meaning Mexicans and [American] Indians, by force if necessary."

3. Science

Varicella is a virus that causes the disease chicken pox. Medications are used to treat the symptoms of fever and discomfort associated with chicken pox. In 1995, a varicella vaccine was made available to people in the United States.

The graph shows the number of chicken pox cases reported in four U.S. states from 1991 to 2007.



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Which conclusion is supported by the data in the graph?

○ A. The varicella vaccine relieves chicken pox symptoms.

○ B. The varicella vaccine is effective in treating chicken pox.

○ C. The varicella vaccine is effective in preventing chicken pox.

○ D. The varicella vaccine has eliminated chicken box from the United States.

4. Science

The table below shows Joe's body temperature throughout the day.

Time of Day	Body Temperature (in °F)
6:00 AM	98.2
10:00 AM	98.2
2:00 PM	98.5
6:00 PM	99.1
10:00 PM	99.0

What is the mean of Joe's data?

You may use the calculator.

- A. 98.2°F
- B. 98.5°F
- C. 98.6°F
- D. 98.8°F

5. Mathematical Reasoning

A list of numbers is shown.

$\frac{1}{2}$ 0.6 $\frac{4}{5}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ 0.07

Which list shows the numbers arranged from smallest to largest?

- A. 0.07, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 0.6, $\frac{4}{5}$
- B. $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{4}{5}$, 0.6, 0.07, $\frac{1}{8}$
- C. $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 0.6, 0.07, $\frac{4}{5}$
- D. 0.07, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{4}{5}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 0.6

Answer Explanations

1. Reasoning Through Language Arts Question Overview

This question requires you to comprehend Anne's request and to make an inference about her character based on this understanding. You must use what is directly stated (dialogue) to determine what the author is suggesting about Anne. The question requires you to engage in thought processes to look beyond what is directly stated in the excerpt.

Answer Explanation



Option A is correct. If you correctly selected this answer option, you likely read closely enough to understand that Anne asks to be called "Cordelia" because It is "such a perfectly elegant name," and she believes "Anne is such an unromantic name." These details imply that Anne wishes to take this more "elegant" name in an effort to make her life more interesting.



Option B is incorrect. If you chose this response, you likely recognize that Anne is upset by Marilla's initial reaction to her arrival. However, she is not interacting with her peers in this excerpt, and there is no indication that she wishes to "fit in" better with her peers. Marilla is an adult and not Anne's peer; Anne asks Marilla to call her another name because she thinks the name is more interesting and her own name is too plain.



Option C is incorrect. If you opted for this response, you likely understand that Anne has not been able to find a permanent home. But she is not confused about her past (paragraph 9); Anne knows she is an orphan and has been sent to a new home to live with people she has never met. Anne is confused about her present situation, and the new home she has been sent to, crying when she thinks she is being rejected (paragraph 12).



Option D is incorrect. If you picked this answer option, you might have expected someone in Anne's position to be hesitant to share personal details. Anne, however. is very forthcoming when asked why she wishes to be called by another name, and she shares personal details about why she likes the new name (paragraph 22). She does not hesitate to respond to Marilla's questions and is very outspoken and forthright.

2. Social Studies Question Overview

This question is based on information from a government report about U.S. westward expansion and Manifest Destiny. The question presents you with an inference (something that the reader can understand the author to mean even though it is not stated directly). The inference you are given is that Manifest Destiny was used to justify the mistreatment of individuals as the U.S. expanded westward. You are asked to decide which statement from the report provides evidence to support that inference.

Answer Explanation



Option A is incorrect. This statement explains that the government promoted U.S. territorial expansion. However, the statement does not say anything about how individuals were treated during expansion.



Option B is incorrect. This statement expresses John O'Sullivan's belief that white Americans' right to new territory was God-given and as natural as "that of a tree to the space of air and earth…" However, the statement itself does not provide any evidence that mistreatment occurred as a result of expansion or that it was justified.



Option C is incorrect. This statement expresses the view of some later observers that Manifest Destiny was a source of racism. However, the statement itself does not mention mistreatment that resulted from racism or provide any justification for it.



Option D is correct. This statement identifies John O'Sullivan's view that "God-given favor" gave white Americans the right to use force if necessary as the way mistreatment of Native Americans and Mexicans was justified.

3. Science Question Overview

Question Overview: This question asks you to reason from data to a conclusion. The question simply requires you to use the data presented in the graph to support a given conclusion about the varicella vaccine and its relationship to chicken pox.

Answer Explanation:



Option A is incorrect. If you chose this option you likely made an incorrect conclusion which is not based on the graph data. The data in the graph shows that the varicella vaccine leads to a reduction in the number of cases, but it does not show that it acts as a symptom reliever in infected people. Chicken pox symptoms is not a variable represented by the values on either axes of the graph.



Option B is incorrect. If you selected this option you likely made an incorrect conclusion which is not based on the graph data. The data in the graph shows that the varicella vaccine leads to a reduction in the number of cases, but it does not show that it can be used to treat people presenting chicken pox. The treatment of chicken pox is not a variable represented by the values on either axes of the graph.



Option C is correct. If you picked this answer option you likely noticed that the data in the graph suggests that the vaccine has contributed to a significant reduction in reported chicken pox cases in four U.S. states between the years of 1995-2007. Therefore, it can be concluded that the varicella vaccine is effective in preventing chicken pox.



Option D is incorrect. If you chose this option you likely made an incorrect conclusion which is not based on the graph data. The data in the graph shows that the varicella vaccine leads to a reduction in the number of cases, but it does not show that it has completely eliminated chicken pox. The last data point in 2007 shows that there were still approximately 17 thousand reported cases of chicken pox in the four U.S. States represented on the graph.

4. Science Question Overview

This question requires you to find the mean of a set of data. (NOTE: On the GED® Science Reasoning test, a calculator would be available to you on this question.)

Answer Explanation



Option A is incorrect. If you selected this response, you incorrectly chose the mode of the set of data, the number that occurs most frequently in the set of Joe's data.



Option B is incorrect. If you selected this response, you incorrectly chose the median of Joe's set of data. While the median is the number that is the middle value of the set, it does not represent the mean, the average of the data set.



Option C is correct. This response is the result of correctly selecting the mean, the average of the data set. To find the mean of the data set, you added all the values together and divided by the number of values in the set.



Option D is incorrect. If you selected this response, you incorrectly calculated the mean of Joe's set of data. You calculated average of two numbers in the data set instead of adding all the values together and dividing by the number of values in the set.

5. Mathematical Reasoning Question Overview

This question requires you to order a set of fractions and decimals from smallest to largest. First, the numbers must all be converted to the same format—either all fractions or all decimals—then the resulting numbers are placed in order. (NOTE: On the GED® Mathematical Reasoning test, a calculator would not be available to you on this question.)

Answer Explanation



Option A is correct. This response is the result of either converting the decimals to fractions, or the fractions to decimals, then comparing the results, and placing the original numbers in the correct order.



Option B is incorrect. If you selected this response, you incorrectly compared the non-zero numbers in the decimals with the denominators in the fractions, before attempting to place them in numerical order.



Option C is incorrect. If you selected this response, you made a mistake with 0.07, incorrectly reading it as 0.7, and placing it between 0.6 and 4/5.



Option D is incorrect. If you selected this response, you made a calculation error in converting, obtaining an answer of 0.4 and placing it between 1/8 and 1/2.

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