

## Questions about the GED Exam in New York State

As of January 2022, the GED® exam has replaced the TASC in New York State. The [PD team at the CUNY Adult Literacy Program](#) is collecting questions about the change in high school equivalency (HSE) exams. We will update this document with questions and answers as we learn more about the exam. We can't promise answers, but we will do our best to collect useful information. If you have additional information related to the GED exam, please let us know.

To submit a question or resource for this document, please complete [this survey](#).

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### New York State GED Policy

[NYSED HSE Announcements](#): Check for recent updates.

[GED's New York policy page](#): Frequently asked questions about testing policies (e.g. How long do students have to wait to retest?)

Contact for questions about the GED:

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New York State Education Department (NYSED)

HSE Call center: (518)474-5906 (Tues – Thurs, 10-12)

General questions: [hse@nysed.gov](mailto:hse@nysed.gov)

Webinars and other information from NYSED about the GED:

- [Mar. 1st, 2022: GED Accommodations for Testing webinar](#)
- [Mar. 1st, 2022 webinar - GED Testing and RAEN: Stronger Together – New York City](#) (Password: GED2022)
- [Feb. 18th, 2022 memo - Updated Information Regarding the GED Ready Practice Test](#)
- [Feb. 15th, 2022 - Required Training for NYSED Approved HSE Test Centers \(Chat Q&A\)](#)
- [Feb. 7th, 2022 memo - Transition to GED Ready Test](#)
- Jan. 25, 2022 Q&A for NYS GED Implementation: [Recording](#), [PPT](#)
- [Expanded High School Equivalency Testing Options to Be Available in 2022 and Beyond](#): Press release from NYSED about expanding computer-based HSE testing.

Other useful webinars:

- [Mar. 28th, 2022 Rocking the GED](#), from [Advocates for Children](#): Educational rights of youth, educational services for young people, applying for accommodations

## Logistics and Scoring

### Why is New York switching to the GED?

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) discontinued the TASC exam. New York State put out a request for proposals in the spring of 2021, looking for a new HSE exam. The GED Testing Service (GEDTS) put in a proposal and was chosen by the state.

### When will TASC testing end and GED testing begin? Is it safe to say that GED testing will begin shortly after January or should we wait until another NYSED announcement?

According to the [GED's New York Resources page](#), students can start taking the GED in New York beginning January 10, 2022. However, testing centers first received detailed information about the transition on January 19, so it will take time for testing centers to be ready. They will have to apply to become authorized Pearson VUE Test Centers, a process explained in [Becoming a Computer Based Test Center](#).

Existing Pearson Vue Testing Centers are being used to deliver testing in the short term. There are about 6 centers in NYC currently offering GED testing.

### How long has the GED been around?

The current GED exam was released in 2014, based on the College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education. It is referred to as the 2014 GED test, to distinguish it from earlier versions.

### What is the timing of the GED subtests?

GED® Subject Test	Break out by Subpart	Total Time
Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA)*  <small>*The RLA replaces the TASC Reading and Writing Subtests. If only the reading or the writing was passed, the RLA must be taken.</small>	Section 1: 35 minutes Section 2: 45 minutes – Writing component Break: 10 minutes (computer automatically restarts test after 10 minutes) Section 3: 60 minutes	150 minutes
Mathematical Reasoning	Part 1: Calculator prohibited Part 2: Calculator allowed	120 minutes
Science	One continuous section	90 minutes
Social Studies	One continuous section	70 minutes
Total GED® Test	All four content areas. Please note that a score of 145 or greater is the passing subtest score.	430 minutes (approx. 7 hours and 10 minutes)

How much do students have to pay for the test, the practice exam, or readiness materials?

Students shouldn't pay for anything related to the GED. The cost of the test is paid by New York State. Study materials can be supplied by our educational programs. Please help your students understand that they should not pay for the readiness test or study materials.

Is the score still 410 to pass each subject?

No. "Students must score at least 145 in all 4 test subjects to earn their GED credential."  
([GED Educator Handbook](#))

Will all previously passed TASC tests and Regents tests be accepted? Would the TASC test result be transferred to the new GED test?

Passed subtests/subjects are grandfathered in. Students do not need to retake passed tests. If you have questions about which tests you passed, contact [HSE@nysed.gov](mailto:HSE@nysed.gov). The state of New York will combine all your scores, past and new to award your diploma. ([GED's New York policy page](#))

If a student has passed Regents exams corresponding to all subtests of the GED do they need to take all 4 sections at least once or can they pick a section (or 2) to take?

The Regents/HSE Pathway allows for candidates to utilize previously earned Regents credits as subject credits on the HSE Exam. More information can be found here: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/regents-hse-exam>. A candidate earning all subject credits via the Regents/HSE Pathway will still need to take and pass at least one subject area on the current HSE exam. It is advised that all first time examinees sit for all subject areas, but this is left to the discretion of the examinee. [Correspondence with NYSED]

If a student was awarded a waived Regents credit during the COVID-19 crisis will that count as a "pass" on the GED? and they do not have to take the corresponding subtest?

All Regents credits as indicated and supported by the candidate's High School of record are valid for the Regents/HSE Pathway. This includes all Covid-19 Waiver that were awarded from June 2020 to January 2022. These credits should be indicated on the candidate's official transcript OR on the NYSSIS ID for the candidate. [Correspondence with NYSED]

A student recently told me that before when you took the GED, if you only passed some subjects, you would have to take the whole test again including the subjects you passed. Is that still the case?

This isn't true. If a student passes a subtest with at least 145, they won't have to retake that subtest.

How will students know which tests they still need to take, if they don't recall which subject tests they have already passed?

Students should contact [hse@nysed.gov](mailto:hse@nysed.gov) to request this information. Please be sure they include their full name, at the time of testing, address at the time of testing (if possible), and their date of birth, to assist staff in locating their testing record. Students may also request an official transcript of prior testing. The process, and Application H, to request a transcript can be found on the [HSE homepage](#).

What information is available on the student pass rate on the GED?

According to GED.com, [the national pass rate in 2018 was 80%](#), but this doesn't account for the fact that people in many states have to pass a readiness test to take the exam. If most of the people who can take the actual exam already passed the readiness test, you would expect high pass rates. It doesn't tell us anything about how our students will do. In New York State a passing readiness score hasn't been required to take the HSE exam, which partially accounts for the fact that we have some of the lowest HSE pass rates in the country.

Will New York set its own cut score for passing GED exams?

We don't know yet.

The scoring for the GED includes ranges that indicate college readiness. Will NYS allow those scores to be accepted by CUNY or other colleges?

As far as we know, this is a decision that college systems will make without need for input from NYSED. We don't know yet whether GED College Ready (scores of 165 and above) will be considered by CUNY and other New York State colleges.

How will the CUNY Proficiency Index (PI) score include test scores on the GED? How will CUNY admissions look at the college readiness scoring performance level?

We don't know yet, but CUNY is aware of the change to the GED. We are waiting to hear more information.

When a student takes the GED and has passed TASC sections, if those TASC sections only show up as "passed" on the diploma, CUNY will not have adequate information to make a placement decision, short of requiring students to submit a transcript of past test scores from the state. How will CUNY have the TASC test scores that is needed for the proficiency index?

We don't know yet.

Will students be allowed to retake the exam to get a college ready score, if they already have a passing score?

This is allowed by GEDTS, but we don't know if NYSED will allow it. We understand that this was allowed in the past on a case-by-case basis, with approval by NYSED. That may still be the case.

Will paper-based exams be generally available to the public?

Potentially. However, approval for test centers to offer paper based testing is subject to approval on an individual basis by the NYSED HSE Office. NYSED is expecting most testing to be computer based. (See [Becoming a Paper Based Test Center & Expanded High School Equivalency Testing Options to Be Available in 2022 and Beyond](#))

I did some of the practice questions and noticed the drag and drop and other computer facilitated questions that would not translate easily to paper. Will these questions be eliminated on paper? How will paper and computer versions of the GED be the same and different? How will reliability be maintained? Are bubble sheets going to be on the paper version of the GED exam?

We don't know yet.

Will students be required to take GED Ready practice tests from the GED web site? How will students access readiness exams for the GED? I notice there are practice tests on the GED website that students can pay for (\$6.99 each). Who will pay the cost of students taking readiness exams? What will the criteria be for a program recommending someone to take the GED? Are readiness tests required for taking the actual GED? If so, is there a particular score that is required? Will programs need to record the readiness test on the T-TAF Form?

"After careful consideration of the work being done in our HSE preparation programs, the decision has been made to permit the GED Ready Practice Test to be an optional choice based on the preparation program's assessment of each student's needs. Programs may choose to use the GED Ready Practice Test as an assessment for readiness for their students however, the test is not a prerequisite to a referral to the GED HSE test for an AEPP funded program, effective immediately. The purchase of the GED Ready Tests, should a program choose to use this assessment, may be included in AEPP funded budgets for review and approval." [[Feb. 18th memo - Updated Information Regarding the GED Ready Practice Test](#)]

Will paper-based readiness tests be available to our programs?

Yes. GEDTS is developing a paper-based GED Ready but we don't know when it will be available. [Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 webinar – GED Testing and RAEN: Stronger Together – New York City]

Is there more than one version of the online GED practice test?

According to the GED Testing Service: “The test launched with two forms initially, but additional forms continue to be added as appropriate.” It is unclear how many forms there are currently.

GED offers their test online. Will NYSED allow online testing for NYS residents?

Eventually, but it's unclear when. NYSED is looking into this possibility, but at this time the “Online Proctored GED test” is not available in NY.

Since the GED is given in at least 38 states, are we now allowed to accept scores from other states toward NY's GED? Will students who took the GED in another state be able to transfer their scores to NY? What about college acceptance if they have a GED from another state?

[GED's New York policy page](#): If students had passing GED subject/subtest scores from other states prior to moving to NYS, they may be able to use those passing subject/subtest scores in NYS.

Does the GED have a “guessing penalty” scoring structure?

No, the GED score is produced based on the number of correct answers. There is no penalty for guessing.

Is there a Spanish version of the GED and if so, will it be offered simultaneously with the English version?

[GED's New York policy page](#): Yes, in New York State you can test in English or Spanish. You can combine subjects/subtests from different languages to earn your diploma. However, the diploma will be awarded in the language you test on for the Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA) subject/subtest. The RLA includes both writing and reading in one subject/subtest.

Will there be a 2022 Regents HSE waiver similar to the 2021 COVID-19 High School Equivalency (HSE) Waiver Diploma (see [NYSED Dec. 21, 2021 memo](#))?

It seems unlikely at this point, but we don't know.

Is there a new policy for what students need during the days they take the test?

Test takers must present at least one valid government-issued identification with a signature, such as a driver's license or passport.

Is there an online account that students can create so they can see their scores?

Yes. For information about how to register and set up a GED account, go to [GED.com](https://ged.com). Here is a [how-to for students registering for GED.com](https://ged.com/how-to-for-students-registering-for-ged.com).

According to NYSED's [Registration and Scheduling of Test Takers, Including Applying for Accommodations webinar](#):

- Students will schedule their own exam dates, depending on availability in an online calendar. (Test centers will add their available testing days/hours to the web site.)
- When registering, examinees will be asked a series of demographic questions including full name, date of birth, address, educational background, prep program information, and testing history. This information must be completed accurately.
- HSE preparation programs are encouraged to assist students with registration prior to the end of a prep class. It is very important that examinees understand the process and enter their own information into their account, to avoid unnecessary data entry errors.
- The address provided on the GED® account will be used to mail all official NYSED documents (transcripts and diplomas).
- The HSE Office will no longer be verifying this information against student signature cards, as was done with the TASC.

How do students find our preparation programs on GED.com?

After logging in to GED.com, students can visit this page to find local classes: [MyGED® : Find Classes](#). If your program is not listed or the information is incorrect/incomplete, you can submit this form to update the information: [Prep Center Request Form - GED](#)

How will programs see students' test results? Are all adult education programs eligible to use GED Prep Connect? If students take the GED readiness exam through GED.com, how will programs get access to student GED readiness results?

Programs will be able to use GEDPrep Connect to list their program on GED.com so that potential and current students can connect to the program. Students can share their scores (GED Ready and actual exam) with their program if they choose. If your program isn't listed, the program can be added upon request. GEDTS will give education programs access to GED Manager based on NYSED approval. If your program isn't listed on GEDPrep Connect you can request via this link: [https://ged.com/educators\\_admins/test\\_admin/ged\\_manager/](https://ged.com/educators_admins/test_admin/ged_manager/). Follow up with [hsetc@nysed.gov](mailto:hsetc@nysed.gov) with questions.

[March 1, 2002 webinar - GED Testing and RAEN: Stronger Together – New York City] More information about GED Manager access for prep programs: [link](#), [link](#).

How will HSE prep programs get credit for passing HSE scores?

According to NYSED's [Registration and Scheduling of Test Takers, Including Applying for Accommodations webinar](#):

- Previously, a T-TAF form (name of prep program form) was submitted to the test center when a person wanted to take the exam. The 5-digit T-TAF code was included in the application to test.
- The process for associating a student with a prep program is different with GEDTS. Paper T-TAFS will no longer be collected by the HSE Office.
- When an examiner completes the registration to obtain a GED account, they will be asked if they are interested or currently working with a preparation program. They will then be able to select a preparation program (name and 5-digit code) based on their geographic location.
- Preparation program administrators will be given access to GED Manager, an online system for viewing registrations and other testing information.
- Once a student indicates interest in a preparation program, the program administrator will then be able to confirm student enrollment. Preparation program administrators will do this by changing any registrants who have indicated "interest" in their program to an "enrolled" status.
- It is up to an HSE preparation program to assist their students in the registration process and maintain their own enrolled student caseload. HSE testing records will be tied to a 5-digit prep program code only if an examinee and the program selects this examinee as "enrolled" in their GED Manager account.



## Accommodations

### Can I get an accommodation on the GED?

The GED offers accommodations so that everyone can get the support they need to take the test. Some accommodations are available to everyone, while others are only available for people with documented disabilities. [[Advocates for Children' Rocking the GED guide](#)]

### What do teachers and case managers need to know about applying for accommodations?

See the GED page on [Accommodations](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions about accommodations](#). [Advocates for Children' Rocking the GED guide](#) has helpful information on accommodations and rights of younger students, especially.

### What accommodations are available for everyone (no application needed)?

These accommodations are available to all examinees upon request: test in Spanish or English, large print or Braille, special lighting, earplugs, seat cushion, scratch paper, directions using American Sign Language, tinted plastic overlays for the paper test, changes in text color on the computer-based test, and the math formula reference sheet. If a student would like any of these accommodations, no supporting documents are needed. However, students do need to request the accommodation through their GED.com account. [[Advocates for Children' Rocking the GED guide](#)]

### What accommodations are available only to people with disabilities?

These accommodations have to be applied for and approved in advance of the test, depending on recommended accommodations from an assessment: assistive technology (e.g. tablet or computer) to help with writing, test read aloud, text-to-speech software, breaks, extra time, scribe, special seating or furniture, small group setting, and a private testing room. [[Advocates for Children' Rocking the GED guide](#)]

### Where can students receive an evaluation for a disability?

[Several testing clinics](#) in New York provide free or low-cost evaluations. Students may also be able to get an evaluation paid for by health insurance or Medicaid. [[Advocates for Children' Rocking the GED guide](#)]

### Will students who had test accommodations with TASC have their accommodations grandfathered in or will they have to re-apply with GED?

Students will have to reapply. "GED.com will take students through the process to request a testing accommodation including uploading necessary paperwork. Students will be notified

of a decision within 30 days of them submitting their application/documentation. Our Accommodations Information page: <https://ged.com/about test/accommodations>.” (Jan 1, 2022 NYSED webinar)

More information: [Recorded presentation on GED Accommodations for Testing](#) (March 1, 2022)

## Content

Does GED Testing Services provide an outline of High Emphasis topics covered on each subject area?

The [GED High Impact Indicators](#) highlights skills that are fundamental, found in multiple contexts, and are a good fit for classroom instruction. You might also look at the [GED Assessment Guide for Educators](#) to review assessment targets and performance level descriptors for each of the four tests on the GED exam.

I have been on the site GED.com and it is the official site of the GED. Is it safe to say that site is a good reference for NYS?

Yes. The [GED’s New York policy page](#) is a good place to start.

The CUNY Adult Literacy Program PD Team is working to answer the following questions about the GED, as compared with the TASC exam.

Questions about the content of the exams:

- What do teachers and staff need to know about the GED test?
- Can we continue to use the same curricula that we have been using?
- What materials can we use to prepare students for the GED?
- We have spent years learning about the TASC and developing materials. Can we still use what we’ve been using?
- What do students need to know about the test?
- Are there significant differences in high frequency question areas and question type/format?
- Are there significant differences in learning standards, particularly in science and math?
- Will the structure of the questions change?
- How is the GED exam similar to the TASC exam?
- How is the GED exam different from the TASC exam? Do we know the differences content wise between both tests?
- Is there anything reassuring about the new test?

- Will we be provided any type of training from CUNY Adult Literacy Program to better serve the purposes of our classes from now on?

## Mathematical Reasoning

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For an overview of the mathematics on the GED and advice for teachers, please see [What Every Teacher Should Know About GED Math](#) on [CollectEdNY.org](#).

How long is the Mathematical Reasoning test?

115 minutes in 2 sections: No calculator allowed on the first section. Students may use a TI-30XS calculator or the built-in virtual calculator in the second section.

Is there a good detailed content breakdown for the focus of the GED Math? (ie, a relatively exhaustive list of topics students might see and each topic's relative % of the material).

The Passing Score version of the GED® Test: Mathematical Reasoning Performance Level Descriptors gives a list of the mathematical skills needed to pass the GED. Detailed skills are given in the following categories: **Quantitative Problem Solving with Rational Numbers**, **Quantitative Problem Solving in Measurement**, **Algebraic Problem Solving with Expressions and Equations**, and **Algebraic Problem Solving with Graphs and Functions**. For example, this is one of the skills listed: “Order fractions and decimals, including on a number line.” ([Microsoft Word - PLD GED Test Math Official Final 2\\_11\\_16.doc](#))

The Mathematical Reasoning Section is divided into two sections. Each of those is divided into two subsections. Are there sub-percentages available for those subsections?

- Quantitative Problem Solving (45%)
  - Quantitative Problem Solving with Rational Numbers \_\_%
  - Quantitative Problem Solving with Measurement \_\_%
- Algebraic Problem Solving (55%)
  - Algebraic Problem Solving with Expressions & Equations \_\_%
  - Algebraic Problem Solving with Graphs & Functions \_\_%

Is trigonometry (Sine, Cosine, Tangent) on the GED exam?

No.

What is the ratio of free response vs. multiple choice in Math on the GED?

The GED® Mathematical Reasoning test includes these item types:

- Multiple choice items
- Fill-in-the-blank items (Technology-enhanced)
- Drop-down items (Technology-enhanced)

- Hot Spot items (Technology-enhanced)
- Drag-and-drop items (Technology-enhanced)

See the [GED Assessment Guide for Educators](#) for examples of each item. We haven't seen information about the number of each type of item.

## Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA)

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How long is the Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA)?

150 minutes (including a 10-minute break). Includes one 45-minute extended response (essay).

It seems the reading and writing is combined in one test [in the GED exam]?

Correct. The Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA) test includes reading comprehension questions and writing. It includes one 45-minute extended response (essay). Reading stimulus passages are 75% informational, 25% literary.

I heard reading and writing is combined, so it's 4 subtests vs 5. Is that true?

Correct. There are 4 test subjects: Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA), Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies.

Since the writing and reading are combined, what happens if a student passed the writing on the TASC but not the reading? Or vice-versa? Do they get credit for the section they passed?

If a student has passed TASC Writing or Reading, but not both, they will need to take the GED Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA) subject test.

Is it possible to pass the exam without passing the essay? I think this was asked because in the TASC, if you didn't pass the essay, you wouldn't get a passing score for the writing section.

The essay is about 20% of raw score points on the RLA test. There is no passing score on the essay; the points from the essay are part of the total score on the RLA exam. It seems that it is possible to pass the RLA test without doing well on the essay, but probably not likely, and not a good strategy to skip the essay. Most passing test-takers score some points on the essay. [[What Students Need to Know: GED RLA's Extended Response](#)]

Will students have a choice of essays to write?

No. As we can tell, students will be given a specific essay to complete. They will be given two texts to read and an essay prompt that asks them to analyze the two texts. For example: "Some cities are beginning to address the environmental concerns associated with paper and plastic bag use, but not everyone agrees about what should be done. In your

response, analyze both the editorial and the letter to the editor to determine which position is best supported. Use relevant and specific evidence from both sources to support your response.” [[The GED Ready® Practice Test – Reasoning Through Language Arts \(RLA\) Extended Response Prompts and Source Texts](#)]

Is poetry and drama on the reading test?

It’s possible, however most texts will be informational: “Seventy-five percent of the texts in the exam are informational texts (including nonfiction drawn from science and social studies as well as a range of texts from workplace contexts); 25 percent are literary texts.” ([GED Assessment Guide for Educators](#))

## Social Studies

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How long is the Social Studies test?

70 minutes

Why is the calculator available for the social studies (and science) section?

The GED includes mathematical reasoning assessment in social studies and science sections of the test. Mathematical reasoning in Social Studies is 33% of the Social Studies test and Mathematical reasoning in Science is 30% of the Science test. Students will need to interpret data presented in charts, graphs, and tables. In Science, they will need to make calculations using scientific formulas.

## Science

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How long is the Science test?

90 minutes

## Questions about GED materials

GED.com also advertises GED Flash and GED Live for various fees. Will students have access to these for free in NYS? Will students feel compelled to access these to see what’s “really on the test?” How do we set ourselves apart from these offerings? (I know we are way better... but how to explain the difference to students?)

We don’t know if students will have access to anything GED-related beyond the exam itself. Students will need to register with GED.com to schedule the exam and they will receive a lot of marketing about prep materials and services. We encourage teachers and other staff to

continually reinforce the idea that students should not pay for anything related to the GED. The cost of the test is paid by New York State. Study materials can be supplied by our educational programs. Please help your students understand that they should not pay for the readiness test or study materials.

## GED Resources

[GED's New York Resources page](#): Information about the test, webinar recordings, how to become a testing center, frequently asked questions

[GED Assessment Guide for Educators](#): Includes details about what topics and types of questions (similar to learning standards) are on each subtest and the types of items (e.g. multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, drag-and-drop, etc.)

[GED Educator Handbook](#): Includes sections of the exam, timing, question types, etc.

[GED.com Sample Tests \(free\)](#): As a caveat, we don't know whether these sample items have been updated since the new GED was first released. They may be out of date and not reflect items on the current exam.

[GED Study Guides](#): Materials to help students understand what to study. Includes sample questions and basic information about each exam. Available in English and Spanish. Note: These do not seem to be comprehensive explanations of all the material potentially on the exams.

Extended Response (Essay):

- [The GED Ready® Practice Test – Reasoning Through Language Arts \(RLA\) Extended Response Prompts and Source Texts](#)
- [Extended Response Scoring Tools](#): Tools for understanding how the Extended Response is scored, including an electronic scoring tool you can use to give feedback to students on their essays
- [What Students Need to Know: GED RLA's Extended Response](#)
- [Extended Response Resource Guide](#): Information about how Extended Response (ER) questions are scored

[GED High Impact Indicators](#): The skills in this document are considered High Impact Indicators because they represent particular foundational skills and have usefulness that can be applied in multiple contexts.

[GED Test Performance Level Predictors](#): This document describes different performance levels (below passing, passing for HSE credit, college ready) in the four subjects.

[GED Test - Assessment Target Comparison Table](#): This table is provided by GED Testing Service to help you understand the information test-takers will see in their GED test score reports.

[Technical Manual - 2014 GED Test](#): This document explains the technical design and statistical reliability of the GED exam.

[Tuesdays for Teachers Webinar Series](#) (recordings): Tuesdays for Teachers is a free professional development webinar series designed for educators. This bi-monthly webinar series will take a deeper dive into classroom strategies and techniques for the GED test.

[Computer Based Test Tutorial](#): This free resource allows students and teachers to practice using the computer based test portal.

Materials suggested by teachers:

- [GED: The Language of the Test](#): A site that gives lists of words and brief definitions of terms students will encounter on test questions, e.g. compare, contrast, summarize, explain, etc.
- Spanish materials:
  - McGraw-Hill Education Preparación para el Examen de GED, Tercera edicion (Spanish Edition) 3rd Edition
  - [GED study guides](#) (available in Spanish)

## TASC / GED Comparison

TASC	GED
<b>Test Structure</b>	
5 subject tests	4 subject tests (reading and writing are one test)
Paper and computer versions with a paper readiness test	There is supposed to be a paper version available, but we don't know what form that will take, or if there will be a paper-based readiness test
<b>Language Arts</b>	
	Basic info: 150 minutes with 10-minute break 45 minutes for the essay (See the <a href="#">GED Educator Handbook</a> for at-a-glance information)
WRITING: Writing test consisted of multiple-choice grammar test and essay. Essay could be argumentative or informational.	READING AND WRITING ARE TESTED TOGETHER. Grammar is not tested through multiple choice questions, but with drop-down menus embedded in text. In the drop-down menus, students must select the correct choice. Essay is argumentative only, and always has the following prompt: <i>The article presents arguments from both supporters and critics of topic X. In your response, analyze both positions to determine which is better supported. Use relevant and specific evidence from the article to support your response.</i>
WRITING: A student could pass the TASC essay with a one-paragraph response.	<a href="#">The GED Educator's Handbook</a> recommends that students write 4-7 paragraphs in response. There is an extensive guide to scoring student essays on the website. Essays are scored for three traits, and can receive a 0, 1, or 2 for each trait. There are examples of anchor papers and sample topics with texts. ( <a href="#">The 2014 GED Reasoning Through Language Arts Test Extended Response Resource Guide for Adult Educators</a> )
READING: 25% literary texts; 75% informational texts.	25% literary; 75% informational. Three main categories: science, social studies, and workplace documents. Passages are 400 to 900 words long.
	A few informal observations based on the readiness test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There seems to be more emphasis on claims, evidence, and reasoning (ex: One MC question is: <i>Why is the reasoning in this sentence flawed?</i>)</li> <li>• Texts are shorter and there is more emphasis on close reading</li> <li>• Demanding vocabulary</li> </ul>



Social Studies	
	<p>Basic info: 70 minutes; no break Students may use TI-30XS calculator or built in virtual calculator</p>
<p>It appears that there was greater breadth in the content that was tested on the TASC Social Studies: US History 25%; World History 25%; Civics 20%; Geography 10%; Economics 20%</p>	<p>For the GED, the content areas are broken down as: 50% Civics and Government; 20% US History; 15% Economics; 15% Geography.</p> <p>It tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and writing in social studies (33%)</li> <li>• Social studies concepts (33%)</li> <li>• Mathematical reasoning in Social Studies (33%)</li> </ul>
	<p>A few informal observations based on the readiness test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 questions</li> <li>• 2 questions involved graphs; 1 question included a series of maps</li> <li>• 8 civics questions</li> <li>• 2 questions in which students had to identify bias</li> <li>• 3 questions in which students had to identify assumptions / opinions</li> <li>• 2 questions in which students had to discern cause/effect</li> </ul> <p>In general, it seems to be more a test of reading and reasoning than the TASC was, but background knowledge is definitely key for some questions. There is a strong emphasis on civics and the formation and principles of the US government. Demanding vocabulary.</p>
Science	
	<p>Basic info: 90 minutes, no break Students may use TI-30XS calculator or built in virtual calculator There is one 10-minute short answer question in which students are expected to write a paragraph (Ex: <i>Design an experiment to test the hypothesis. Include descriptions of your data collection process and data analysis.</i>)</p>
<p>50% life science; 25% physical science; 25% earth and space. Wide range of topics covered.</p>	<p>40% Life Science; 40% physical science; 20% earth and space.</p> <p>Skills tested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and writing in science (30%)</li> <li>• Science concepts (40%)</li> <li>• Mathematical reasoning in science (30%)</li> </ul>
	<p>A few informal observations from the readiness test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 questions</li> <li>• 7 questions involve graphs; one with an additional map</li> <li>• 4 involve math (mean; weighted average; algebra; apply formula)</li> <li>• 4 require understanding of scientific method/experimental design</li> <li>• 3 questions were entirely text-based.</li> <li>• Background knowledge is definitely key to some questions, but graph-reading, math skills, knowledge of experimental design, reading and reasoning are also very important.</li> </ul>

Mathematics	
<p>2 sections</p> <p>Section 1: Students may use a TI-30XS calculator or the built-in virtual calculator.</p> <p>Section 2: No calculator allowed.</p> <p><a href="#">TASC Reference Sheet</a></p>	<p>115 minutes divided into 2 sections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 1: No calculator allowed.</li> <li>Section 2: Students may use a TI-30XS calculator or the built-in virtual calculator (it is a virtual TI-30XS for the GED practice test).</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">GED Mathematics Formula Explanation Sheet</a>  <i>(This displays formulas relating to geometric measurement and certain algebra concepts and is available on the GED® test – Mathematical Reasoning.)</i></p>
<p>Math Content:</p> <p>Functions (26%)</p> <p>Algebra (26%)</p> <p>Geometry (23%)</p> <p>Number &amp; Quantity (13%)</p> <p>Statistics &amp; Probability (12%)</p>	<p>Math Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebraic Problem Solving (55%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>with Expressions &amp; Equations</li> <li>with Graphs &amp; Functions</li> </ul> </li> <li>Quantitative Problem Solving (45%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>with Rational Numbers</li> <li>with Measurement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p>From the GED®</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Students need to be familiar with math concepts, measurements, equations, and applying math concepts to solve real-life problems.*</i></li> <li><i>You don't have to memorize formulas and will be given a formula sheet in the test center as well as on the screen in the test.*</i></li> </ul>
	<p>A few informal take-aways based on the math practice test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 questions</li> <li>3 questions were connected where students were given a chart with data and a scientific context. The first question asks students to plot points, the second to create a function equation using drag-and-drop, and the third is a surface area problem again using the data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes the case for deeper explorations of fewer problems, looking at different mathematical concepts dealing with the same situation, and studying various math concepts together.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Only 1 out of the 10 involved algebraic manipulation - all the rest were word problems rooted in context.</li> <li>4 of the 10 required students to draw the correct data from a graph or chart</li> </ul>