

HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR THE GED TEST?

1. Call the Illinois GED Hotline 1-800-SAY GET IT (1-800-729-4384), this hotline will give you the telephone numbers and addresses of adult education programs in your area. By calling one of these programs, you will be able to get a list of FREE classes where you can prepare for the GED Test at a time and place that is convenient for you.

2. The Illinois Service Center Network

Northern Region

Adult Learning Resource Center
Sue Barauski, Director
1855 Mt. Prospect Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60018
(847) 803-3535
<http://www.thecenterweb.org>

Central Region

Central Illinois Adult Education Service Center
Bonnie Smith, Executive Director
Raemarie Oatman, Director
Horrabin Hall 4C - Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455
(800) 572-9033
<http://www.cait.org/ciaesc/>

Southern Region

Southern Illinois Professional Development Center
Bevan Gibson, Director
Box 1128 SIU-E
Edwardsville, IL 62026
(618) 650-2254
<http://www.siu.edu/SIPDC>

Statewide

Illinois Professional Development Center
Dr. Will Leinicke, Director
2203 E. Empire, Suite B
Bloomington, IL 61704
(309) 664-5498
<http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/ipdpc>

3. GED Illinois Instruction Online

<http://www.gedillinois.org>

A FREE Internet program available to adults studying for the GED Test. To register contact your local program.

4. The Official GED Practice Test is 1/2 the length of the GED Test and it can give you a true indication of whether or not you will pass the GED test. The GED Practice Test requires about 4 hours to complete and is FREE. Most adult education programs offer the practice test. It helps to identify testing areas where you are prepared and those that need more work. Results are confidential and usually discussed with a counselor to plan your next steps to successfully pass the GED test.

WHO CAN TAKE THE GED TEST?

In the state of Illinois, you can apply to take the GED test if you have lived in Illinois for 30 days or longer, are 18 years of age or older, and your high school class has already graduated. Under certain circumstances, 17 year olds are eligible to take the test. Also, in order to receive your GED in Illinois, you must pass a Constitution Test covering the United States and Illinois Constitutions, Declaration of Independence and U.S. flag code.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

What is the same? What is different? This concise overview of the GED 2002, contains links to more detailed information about what is covered in the specific content areas of the GED Test.

<http://www.acenet.edu/calec/ged/overview-A.html>

For information about the GED and its history:
<http://www.adulted.about.com/education/adulted/library/weekly/aa030501a.htm>

Steck-Vaughn offers a free service to familiarize you with the types of items you will see on the actual GED Test. By answering practice questions and getting feedback, you will develop a feel for the kind of reading, thinking, and problem-solving skills you will need to pass the GED test.
<http://www.gedpractice.com>

GED TEST STUDENT BROCHURE

Are you looking for information about the GED Test? Do you want to know what each test includes, how to prepare for the test, what the questions are going to be like and where to go to get ready to take the test? Read on because you are in the right place!

- ◆ **WHAT IS THE GED 2002?**
- ◆ **WHAT DOES THE GED TEST INCLUDE?**
- ◆ **CHECK YOUR SKILLS**
LANGUAGE ARTS
WRITING
SOCIAL STUDIES
SCIENCE
LANGUAGE ARTS
READING
MATHEMATICS
- ◆ **HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR THE GED TEST?**
- ◆ **WHO CAN TAKE THE GED TEST?**
- ◆ **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

WHAT IS THE GED 2002?

The General Educational Development Test (GED) provides a basis for conferring a high school equivalency diploma on adults who have not graduated from high school. On January 15, 2002 a new GED Test was launched. The GED Test will continue to measure the significant lasting outcomes of a four-year high school course of study and will now incorporate the twenty-first century skills required of current high school graduates. It will also require candidates to apply their knowledge of each subject to real-world situations.

The **Language Arts Writing Test** has two parts. In Part I (50 multiple choice questions, 75 minutes), the candidate's knowledge of standard written English will be tested. This will be accomplished by using business communications such as letters, memos, and "how to" texts. These documents are 12-18 sentences long and, when corrected, are examples of good writing. Part II requires a candidate to write an expository essay on an assigned topic in 45 minutes. The candidate may use personal observations, knowledge and experience. Two evaluators will score the essay based on a 4-point scale according to its overall effectiveness. Parts I & II are scored independently but combined to make one score. However, if you do not pass the essay portion with a minimum score of 2, you will be required to take the entire Language Arts Writing Test again.

The **Social Studies Test** (50 multiple choice questions, 80 minutes) is designed to measure an adult's ability to understand and use knowledge and information about important social studies concepts, principles, and issues in national and global contexts. Questions include U.S. history, world history, civics and government, economics and geography. Candidates will see portions of fundamental historical documents such as The Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, Federalist Papers, and landmark Supreme Court cases in questions. Visuals will play a prominent role in this test appearing in 60% of the questions. The information may be in the form of maps, graphs, charts, tables, diagrams, political cartoons, figures, photographs or other visuals.

The **Science Test** (50 multiple choice questions, 80 minutes) is designed to ensure that an adult has the ability to apply science knowledge to make effective decisions in everyday life. Of the fifty questions, twenty-three will be from Life Science, which includes biology and

environmental and health topics. Earth and Space Science will comprise 11 questions and 16 questions will be in the area of Physical Science, which includes chemistry and physics. Since interpretation of visuals is seen as a natural and integral part of the scientific arena, 50% of the questions are in the form of graphs, charts, tables, figures, diagrams, and other visuals.

The **Language Arts Reading Test** (40 multiple choice questions, 65 minutes) is designed to evaluate the candidate's ability to read a variety of passages reflecting diversity in perspective; i.e. gender, ethnicity, age, and region. The passages will range from 300 to 400 words and will include one poem (8-25 lines), and one excerpt from a drama. The test contains 30 questions from literature and 10 questions from nonfiction sources such as business documents or reviews of the fine arts. Each passage will be followed by a series of multiple choice questions that require the candidate to demonstrate reading skills at several levels of difficulty.

The **Mathematics Test** (50 questions, 90 minutes) measures the candidate's ability to solve mathematical problems typical of those studied in high school mathematics courses. Math problems are presented in a practical, everyday context and address more than one math concept. Again, visuals will play an important role with graphs, charts, diagrams or tables appearing in 50% of the questions. Although this Test is comprised of two separate booklets, only one answer sheet will be used and one score is received for the test. Booklet 1 (25 questions) allows the use of the calculator. A Casio fx 260 solar scientific calculator will be given to each candidate at the testing site to use for this portion of the test. In addition to 18 multiple choice questions, this portion of the test contains 6 questions that have to be filled into a bubble answer grid and one to be filled into a coordinate plane grid. Booklet 2 (25 questions) does not allow the use of the calculator. This portion contains 22 multiple choice questions, two bubble answer grids and one coordinate plane grid.

CHECK YOUR SKILLS

So are you wondering what the questions are like in each subject area? Would you like to test your skills? Try the questions that follow. Remember, one question per test does not indicate whether you are prepared to take the GED Test. It is

only a sampling of the type of questions you might encounter on an official GED test.

Test 1-Language Arts Writing

My work experience and education combined with your need for an experienced auto mechanic supervisor has resulted in a relationship that would profit both parties. What correction should be made to this sentence?

- insert a comma after education
- change combined to combine
- change has resulted to would result
- change profit to prophet
- change parties. To party's.

Answer: c Note that one of the options (d), focuses on homonym confusion. Spelling will only be tested through homonym usage with more emphasis being placed on contractions, possessives, and effective comma use.

Test 2-Social Studies

Five amendments to the U.S. Constitution directly affect voting qualifications.

Amendment XV, ratified in 1870, prohibited states from using race or color as standards for determining the right to vote.

Amendment XIX, ratified in 1920, prohibited the states from using gender as a voting qualification.

Amendment XXIII, ratified in 1961, granted the residents of Washington D.C. a voice in the selection of the President and Vice President.

Amendment XXIV, ratified in 1964, outlawed the state poll tax as a requirement for voting in national elections.

Amendment XXVI, ratified in 1971, prohibited states from denying the vote to anyone 18 years old or over.

Which statement about the five amendments appears to be the best summary?

- They affirm the right of women to vote.
- They limit the right of U.S. citizens to vote according to where they live.
- They prohibit the use of certain requirements as voting qualifications.
- They prohibit some citizens from voting.
- They permit certain qualifications to be used in voting.

Answer: c It is important to recognize that several of the

options present correct and accurate statements, but only c presents the best summary. An effective summary provides the main points of all five of the amendments. Option c does this by referring to the prohibition of certain requirements as voting qualifications.

Test 3-Science

	Egg Cell of the Mother	
Sperm Cell of the Father	S	C
S	SS	SC
C	SC	CC

Legend: S = symbol for straight hair gene
C = symbol for curly hair gene

This Punnett Square can be used to get the odds of each gene combination in most genetic crosses involving only one pair of genes. The Punnett Square shows the genes that the parents contribute and the possible gene combinations that could occur in the children.

If two wavy-haired people mate, what are the odds of their child having wavy hair?

- 10%
- 25%
- 50%
- 75%
- 100%

Answer: c Option c uses analysis to identify which of the subjects in the next generation will have wavy hair. The chart shows that the wavy hair gene appears 50% of the time.

Test 4-Reading

How Shall Employees Conduct Themselves?

Our employees are the most effective advertisement of our values, beliefs, and abilities. Always keep in mind that when you are acting in your capacity as our employee, you are contributing materially to the public image and the ultimate success of this company.

No payment or gift of money, goods, or services should be given or received to influence government or business decisions. Accurate and complete records for all accounts will be strictly monitored for everyone's protection.

If it becomes apparent to you in the course of the performance of your business responsibilities that a payment of some kind is expected by your business associate, please contact your division president.

Based on what you have read in this excerpt, what would be the company's policy about accepting gifts or entertainment from people representing your competitors? Accepting gifts or entertainment from people representing your competitors would be considered

- dangerous
- practical
- reasonable
- unacceptable
- good business

Answer: d The clear statement in this excerpt is that this kind of business dealing is unacceptable to this company.

Test 5-Mathematics

After several interviews, Meg has narrowed her choices to two jobs. She has used the table below to organize the data that will help her make the final decision.

	Starting Salary	Raises	Transportation Costs
Applied Systems	\$26,000/year	4% after 6 months; 6% of current salary after one year	20 gals/month plus \$50/month for parking
Net Works	\$2,200/month	10% after one year	Bus fare of \$2/day plus subway fare of \$4.50/day

If Meg chooses the NetWorks job, what would be her ANNUAL salary after working there for one year.

- \$2,420
- \$22,000
- \$24,200
- \$26,400
- \$29,040

Answer: 5 Starting with the pertinent information, namely the MONTHLY salary of \$2200, add the 10% raise after one year. The answer can be found using the process below.

$$\begin{aligned} \$2200 \times 12 &= \$26,400 \text{ (annual salary)} \\ \$26,400 \times 0.10 &= \$2,640 \text{ (raise after 1 year)} \\ \$26,400 + \$2,640 &= \$29,040 \text{ (new annual salary)} \end{aligned}$$