

# ***Learning Labs:***

## **GUIDE TO GED RESOURCES (Version 2, Revised 2012)**



Multnomah County Library



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Special thanks to *The Adult Literacy Resource Center* at the *Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library* in Washington, DC for information taken from their booklet compiled by Mike Fox. Changes have been made to accommodate GED testing and local resources in the state of Oregon.

Additional thanks to Carole Scholl, Cheyenne Tuller and the Londer Learning Center staff for sharing expertise, to the *Friends of the Library* for their financial support, and Barbara Barwood, Joan Kvitka and Melissa Madenski, Library Program Coordinator for their compilation of this booklet.

# THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE GED TEST

## PROCEDURES FOR THE STATE OF OREGON



### YOU MAY TAKE THE GED TEST IF:

- You are not currently in high school, *and*
- You have not graduated from high school, *and*
- You are at least age 16 years old

### REQUIREMENTS FOR TAKING GED TESTS IF YOUR AGE IS 16 OR 17

- You must be enrolled in an Oregon Option Program for In School Youth **OR** officially withdrawn from the school district where you live.
- If you are at least 16 years of age and married **OR** legally emancipated you may also qualify to take the GED tests.

### REQUIREMENTS IF YOU ARE HOME SCHOOLED:

- You must be registered with an Educational Service District (ESD) that is in the Option Program for In-School Youth **OR**
- You must have officially withdrawn from the school district where you live.

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN:

1. Set goals and create a timeline for your GED success.
2. Study the knowledge and skills covered on the GED test.
3. Take multiple practice GED tests on-line, in workbooks or in a GED class.
4. Sign up at an official GED testing center. A list of local sites is included in this guide.

For more information on GED in Oregon, contact the *Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, GED office*, at:(503) 947-2446 or on the web at: <http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/GED/index.shtml>

### WHAT YOU NEED TO TAKE THE TEST:

- At the testing center, complete an application process including payment of state and local fees. In Oregon, fees are approximately \$75 - \$100; scholarships may be available at some sites.
- Provide two pieces of identification, one of which must be a photo ID.

## IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE GED TEST



### TO RECEIVE A GED CERTIFICATE, YOU MUST PASS A GED TEST.

- GED stands for **General Educational Development** and is a registered trademark of the American Council on Education.
- GED graduates earn a GED credential. The state of Oregon will issue a certificate or transcript.
- The GED tests are designed to measure the skills and knowledge **equivalent to a high school course of study**. Those passing the GED test have demonstrated a level of knowledge equal to or greater than 60% of graduating high school seniors.
- **The GED is a timed test.** This means you will have a certain amount of time to complete each section of the test. The entire test takes 7 hours and 5 minutes. You can find the exact time and a description for each test later in this guide.

If you are 18 or over, you **do not have to attend a GED program in order to take the test**. You can study on your own to prepare for the test, or you may already have the skills and knowledge to take the test. However, it is strongly recommended to first take some practice tests to find out if you are ready to take the "real" thing. A list of resources to study and/or take a practice test is in the back of this guide.

- The GED test is made up of five test areas. These areas are:
  - Language Arts, Reading
  - Social Studies
  - Language Arts, Writing (Part I and Part II -written essay)
  - Science
  - Mathematics (Part I {with calculator provided} and Part II)

Test Area	Number of Questions	Time Limit (Minutes)
Language Arts, Reading	40	65
Social Studies	50	70
Language Arts, Writing, Part I	50	75
Language Arts, Writing, Part II	Essay	45
Science	50	80
Mathematics, Part 1 - Calculator	25	45
Part II - No calculator	25	45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240 + Essay</b>	<b>425 = 7 hrs 5 mins</b>

- In Oregon, you can take the GED Tests in **English or Spanish**.
- If you have a specific physical, psychological, or learning disability, it is also possible to apply for a **special testing accommodation**. These accommodations include Braille, large print or by audiocassette, or other needs such

as extended time, private testing, or frequent breaks. If you have any of these needs, you should discuss them with the GED testing center.

### THREE IMPORTANT THINGS!

- The GED Tests are currently offered **only** in a paper-pencil format at Official GED Testing Centers – they **cannot be taken online**. **Beware of websites that make this offer!**
- In **2013** you will have to **take the test on a computer** at an official testing center.
- In **2014 the test will be revised**. If you have started but not yet earned your GED credential by 2014, you will be required to retest and pass all five of the revised tests.

### PREPARATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE TESTS

You have to be able to compute, interpret information and express yourself in writing. You also need to know that reading is a very important part of all five GED tests. On most tests, your main purpose for reading is to answer questions about what you've read. All the tests require that you be an efficient reader who reads for comprehension and analysis. That means that you can at least:

- Read fast enough to finish each of the tests on time
- Read GED-level materials and understand words in context
- Use or apply what you've read to answer the test questions
- Read different kinds of materials, such as poems, lines from a play, math formulas, cartoons, and graphs

This also means understanding and using critical reading skills. Most of the readings and questions on the Science, Social Studies, and Literature Tests will require that you understand and use the skills listed below.

- Determining **fact** and **opinion**
- Being able to **compare** and **contrast** things or ideas
- Being able to **draw conclusions**
- Understanding **time-order** (sequence of events)
- Determining **cause and effect**
- Understanding author's use of **figurative language**

### HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU ARE READY?

- You will only get 3 chances to pass each test area in a calendar year, so it is **important that you be as ready as you can be** when you register to take the test.

- **Take multiple practice tests** on-line or in GED resource books (many are available at the library), so you are familiar with the type of questions that will be asked.
- **Time yourself on a practice test** in each area of testing, either from one of the GED workbooks, at a community college class, or a school that works with GED students.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSING THE TEST:

- Receive a **minimum standard score** of **410** in each of the five test areas, an **average passing score** in all five test areas of **450** or more, and a **total standard score** to be reached in all five test areas of **2,250** or greater.
- You **do not have to take all parts of the test at the same time**. At most centers, it's OK to take one test at a time. In others, you must take all the tests in one or two sessions.

### WHEN YOU PASS THE TEST:

- All testing records are forwarded to the State GED Program office. When requirements for issuance of a certificate have been met, **an official GED certificate** will be issued by the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.
- Your official GED certificate will be mailed to you from the testing site.
- If you need additional copies of your official GED certificate or a transcript of the results, you can order these (currently \$5 each) from the state GED office. Call (503) 947-2446. Online the url is <http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/GED/index.shtml>
- A GED certificate can help you get into college or meet requirements for a job. **98% of college and universities** that require a high school diploma accept a GED certificate. **96% of companies** accept applicants with a GED certificate for jobs requiring a high school diploma.
- GED graduates are eligible for financial aid for college just as traditional high school graduates are who meet the eligibility criteria.

### IF YOU DON'T PASS THE TEST:

- GED Testing Service in Oregon permits GED candidates to **test up to three times per test area, per calendar year**. For instance, if you do not pass an individual test area the first time, you can retest two more times between January and December. There may be minimal retest fees between \$10-15.
- Test scores are valid for three years from the date of the first test taken. If you have **not completed all 5 tests within the 3 year limit, you will be required to pass all five tests again**.
- If you're having difficulty passing the test you may take GED preparation classes at all Oregon community colleges, find a tutor, check out the books or other resources at the local library, or watch GED Connections on Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) <http://www.opb.org> or Southern Oregon Public Broadcasting (SOPTV) <http://www.soptv.org>.

## TESTING SITES



### **Clackamas Community College**

19600 S Molalla Ave  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
Contact: Judith Mills, 503-657-6958

### **Mt. Hood Community College**

26000 S.E. Stark  
Gresham, OR 97030  
Contact: Mika Roberts, 503-491-7591

### **Portland Community College - Cascade Campus**

SSB 204  
705 N Killingsworth  
Portland, OR 97217  
Contact: 503-978-5680

### **Londer Learning Center**

421 SW 5<sup>th</sup>, Portland, OR 97204  
Contact: Carole Scholl, Manager  
503 988-6828

## SCHOLARSHIP HELP FOR TESTING FEES

Limited scholarship help is available at testing centers and through several local non-profits. Scholarships are limited, and each site reserves the right to determine the feasibility of the award and the criteria by which students are selected.

To qualify for a scholarship at the centers listed above, you **MUST** be:

- Currently living within Multnomah, Washington, or Clackamas counties;
- At least 18 years old
- Preparing to take the first exam within 3 months of receiving notification of the award
- Not currently enrolled in a traditional high school program

Contact Portland Literacy Council ([ged@portlandliteracy.org](mailto:ged@portlandliteracy.org)) to determine if you qualify for one of their scholarships to cover cost of the tests.



# THE FIVE GED TESTS

## LANGUAGE ARTS, READING



**Number of Questions:** 40

**Time Length:** 65 minutes

**Question Format:** Multiple choice

There are **seven reading passages on the test** and each passage will be followed by several questions. Each passage is preceded by a purpose question. This is not a *title*, but rather it helps you focus on reading the piece. You will be tested on your ability to think through ideas and concepts more than finding a statement or quotation in a given passage.

The questions will include the following **types of reading**:

- Passages from **fiction, poetry, and drama**. At least one of the passages will be a poem, and at least one will be a piece from lines of a play. **(5 passages)**
- Passages from **nonfiction** reading material, such as from a biography, a book review, or a newspaper article. At least one of the passages will be about the workplace or business, such as a passage from an employee handbook or a training manual. **(2 passages)**

The **type** of questions you will be asked are as follows:

- **Comprehension Questions** You will be expected to understand what the writer is saying. It will be important to know if what the writer is saying is *literal* (words that mean what they say) or *inferential* (words that say one thing but really imply a deeper meaning). **(About 8 questions)**
- **Application Questions** You will be expected to understand a writer's ideas, beliefs or thoughts, and use that information to answer the test questions. **(About 6 questions)**
- **Analysis Questions** You will be expected to see some of the writing techniques the writer is using to get a point or idea across, and to understand how those techniques are used to make the reading more exciting, scary, complicated, romantic, or symbolic. **(About 12 – 14 questions)**
- **Synthesis Questions** You will be expected to pull information together from more than one place in order to answer a question. The information might come from two different places in the reading passage, or from the reading passage and the question itself. **(About 12 – 14 questions)**



## SOCIAL STUDIES



**Number of Questions:** 50

**Time Length:** 70 minutes

**Question Format:** Multiple choice

The Social Studies Test is made up of reading passages and graphics, such as maps, cartoons, and graphs. The reading passage or graphic is followed by several questions. About 20 questions will be based on a reading passage only, about 20 will be based on a graphic only, and about 10 will be based on a combination.

The GED Social Studies test requires you to **know some of the basic social studies concepts**, and you will have to draw upon **your prior knowledge** of important social studies concepts, principles, events, and skills. The test includes clusters of historical time periods and critical historical points.

Most of the readings include topics that you would study in high school, and about issues that you might see discussed in a newspaper or magazine. You can also expect to read and answer questions regarding at least one U.S. historical document, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or a Supreme Court ruling.

The social studies **topics** covered on the test will come from the following five **subject areas**:

- **History** – social and cultural story of humanity in both areas of:
  - U.S. History **(about 12 questions)**
  - World History **(about 8 questions)**
- **Civics and Government**
  - how governments work or should work **(about 12 questions)**
- **Economics** – how goods and services are produced, exchanged, and used **(about 10 questions)**
- **Geography** – land formations, climate patterns, and human adaptations **(about 8 questions)**
- 

These are the **types** of questions you will be asked:

- **Comprehension** – understanding what you have read
- **Application** – using what you have read to solve a problem or make a decision
- **Evaluation** – making a value judgment about what you have read
- **Analysis** – comparing or contrasting the ideas, information, or data presented in the reading



## LANGUAGE ARTS, WRITING



The Language Arts, Writing test **consists of two parts** – Part I: the multiple-choice section and Part II: the essay section. The scores from these two sections are combined to give the Writing test score. The sections are not reported separately; however a passing grade must be earned on each part.

### Part I

**Number of Questions:** 50

**Time Length:** 75 minutes

**Question Format:** Multiple choice

In Part I, you will be expected to correct errors in written materials provided on the test. For example, you could be given a business letter or memo, a set of instructions on how to do something, or a document that just gives information about a topic of some sort. The test will show you which sentences need to be corrected and give you five choices for making the correction.

The **type** of questions you will be asked are as follows:

- **Sentence Structure** – putting the parts of a sentence together correctly, and using correct usage and mechanics **(15 questions)**
- **Usage** – using verbs and pronouns correctly **(15 questions)**
- **Mechanics** – using correct capitalization, punctuation and spelling **(12 questions)**
- **Organization** – making sure that sentences and paragraphs are in the best order. For example, you may be asked to look at a business letter and decide if one or more of the sentences or paragraphs should be moved to a different place in a letter in order to improve the meaning of the letter. **( 8 questions)**

The most **common errors** found in the test will be in the following areas:

- **Capitalization** – using capital letters where needed
- **Punctuation** – using commas correctly
- **Spelling** – using apostrophes (') and homonyms (words that sound the same, but have different meanings and spellings, like *right* and *write*) correctly

There are also three different ways that the questions will be asked.

- **Sentence Correction**

You will be given a sentence to read, and then asked, "What correction should be made to this sentence?" You will choose the answer that makes

the sentence correct. However, several of the sentences you are given to correct will not really have an error in them and you will select “no correction is necessary.”

➤ **Sentence Revision**

You will be given a sentence to read, and part of the sentence will be underlined. You will have to choose the answer that makes the underlined part of the sentence correct. Out of the five answers you will have to choose from, the first one will always be written the same way the underlined part of the sentence is written. In other words, choosing this answer means that there is no need to make a correction to the sentence.

➤ **Construction Shift**

You will be given a sentence to read, and asked to “rewrite” the sentence in your mind. In other words, the test question will direct you to rewrite the sentence by beginning it in a different way, or by combining it with another sentence. You will be asked to choose the best answer provided in the test.

Below is a list of some writing terms and skills with which you should be familiar. If you want to learn more about them, or study and practice them, you can find them listed in any good GED or adult education writing skills book. You can also find help on the internet.

- Capitalization
- Punctuation
- Apostrophes
- Contractions
- Possessives
- Homonyms
- Verbs
- Pronouns
- Subject and Verb Agreement
- Sentence Fragments
- Run-on Sentences
- Combining Sentences

### **Scoring Part I**

Your score on Part 1 is judged in the same way as other multiple choice questions are judged. That score will be added to your Part II (Essay) score.

### **Part II**

**Number of Questions:** 1 Essay

**Time:** 45 minutes (If you finish your essay before your time is up, you will be able to go back to Part I, in case you haven’t finished it or just want to check over your answers.)

**Question Format:** You will be expected to write a well-developed essay of about 200 words. This is about one full page of writing. You will be given the topic to write about, and you will be asked to **give an opinion**, or **state a point of view**, or **explain something**. The topic will be about an issue, a problem, or a situation that affect people in their everyday lives.

## Scoring Part II

Your score on your essay will depend mostly on how well you:

- **understand** the topic;
- **stick to the topic** throughout your essay;
- **use supporting details** and **good examples** to back up what you think;
- **present** your thoughts **in an organized** and **clear** way.

**Note:** In general, you will not lose points because of spelling or grammar mistakes, unless you have so many mistakes that the two people reading your essay have difficulty understanding what you are trying to say.

## What Test Readers are Looking For

There are five major areas or descriptors that are used in evaluating an essay:

- Response to the prompt
- Organization
- Development and details
- Conventions of Edited American English (EAE)
- Word choice

Two people will be reading and scoring Part II (your essay). Each person will give you a score on a 1 - 4 point scale. Then the two readers' scores are averaged to produce a final score for the essay. If the two readers have a wide discrepancy between their scores, a third reader can be used to settle the disagreement. **A score of 2 or above** is necessary to pass based on the following determinations:

- 4 – Effective** – The writer presents a clearly focused main idea that addresses the prompt (topic) while controlling language and sentence structure. He/she establishes a clear and logical organization using relevant details and examples. Word choice is Edited American English (EAE).
- 3 – Adequate** – The writer uses the prompt to establish the main idea and generally controls language and sentence structure. Errors do not interfere with the readers' comprehension.
- 2 – Marginal** – The writer addresses the prompt but may lose focus or provide few specific details, with a limited range of word choice. The reader has some difficulty understanding or following the expression of ideas.
- 1 – Inadequate** – The writer has little or no success in establishing and developing a focus, though there may be an attempt to address the prompt. There is little development and lack of detail. The reader has difficulty identifying or following the writer's ideas.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Combining the Scores on Part I and Part II

When you have completed Part I and Part II of the writing test, the scores are then combined to give you one score for the Language Arts Writing Test. **You must have a score of at least 410 on Part I and 2.0 on Part II in order to pass the Language Arts Writing Test.**



## MATHEMATICS



The GED Math Test is a **two-part test** that consists of questions based on the kinds of mathematical problems people encounter in every day life. All of the questions will be based on information presented in words, diagrams, charts, graphs, or pictures. The math problems will test not only your ability to do arithmetic, algebra, and geometry operations, but your ability to apply problem-solving skills.

A formula page with a list of common formulas is provided with all GED test forms. You should become familiar with the formulas beforehand and learn how to select the appropriate formula for a problem. In addition, you will be given scratch paper to use.

On the Mathematics Test, you will be expected to do more than just calculate whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and percents. You will be expected to use these math skills to solve **word problems**. In other words, before you can do the calculations, you will have to understand what a word problem is asking for, and know the steps to solving the problem.

In addition to these math skills, you will be expected to use some other math skills, such as **ratio** and **proportion**, and solve some **basic algebra and geometry** problems. Also, a "**graphic**" or "**visual aid**" (such as a graph or chart) will be used in about 25 of the 50 math problems.

The GED Mathematics Test can be broken down into the contest areas it covers and the skills it tests. The Test covers the following content areas:

- **Number Operations and Number Sense** –  
 Compute whole numbers, integers, fractions, decimals, percents, ratio, scientific notation, proportions, and square roots  
**(10 – 15 questions)**
- **Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability** –  
 Find mean, mode, and median; evaluate and make inferences from information presented, apply measures of central tendency, interpret a frequency distribution, and make statistical analyses  
**(10 – 15 questions)**
- **Algebra, Functions and Patterns** –  
 Calculate algebraic expressions, equations, exponents, and use algebra to solve word problems  
**(10 – 15 questions)**
- **Geometry and Measurement** –  
 Use formulas to figure out the measurement of angles, triangles, squares, rectangles, cubes, cylinders, and other geometric shapes; construct/interpret a graph on the coordinate plane; solve slopes and intercepts; read scales, meters, and gauges to answer questions  
**(10 – 15 questions)**

## Other Things You Should Know

In **word problems**, many different words can be used to refer to the same math operation. It is important to know what the different *key words* are for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. For example, any of these words – **sum, plus, increase, more, combine, altogether** – could be used in an addition word problem.

In some word problems, you may not be given *enough* information or numbers to solve the problem. The skill is to know that you *cannot* solve the problem, and to choose the answer on the test that says, “Not enough information is given.” But you won’t see more than two or three of these types of questions on the test, if that many.

The question format may be multiple-choice items or alternate-format items. In **alternate-format items** no possible responses are provided. The answer may include either entering a number (whole, decimal, or fraction) on a standard grid or entering an ordered pair representing a point on the coordinate plane grid.

Several of the math questions will be what are called **set-up problems**. In these problems you are not asked to come up with an answer. Instead, you will be asked to show a method of solution, rather than an actual answer. This is an important skill to know, and you should look for a GED math book that explains what “set-up” problems are.

Last, but not least, one important skill (especially on a timed test) is to be able to **estimate**, or make an educated guess, about what the answer is to a problem. Another is to be able to spot whether or not the answers you choose **make sense**.

### Part I (You may use a calculator)

**Number of Questions:** 25

**Time Length:** 45 minutes

**Question Format:** Multiple-choice and alternate format

On part I, a specific brand of calculator, a **Casio FX-260 SOLAR**, will be provided by the testing center. Do not bring your own calculator because you will not be able to use it. The testing center will give you instruction on how to use their calculator; *however*, it is important that you become familiar with the calculator and practice using it before the test. You should be able to get one from any office supply store. You don’t have to use the calculator if you would rather do the problem with paper and pencil, but using the calculator may save you some time.

### Part II (You may not use a calculator)

**Number of Questions:** 25

**Time Length:** 45 minutes

**Question Format:** Multiple choice and alternate format

Both Part I and Part II of the Math test consist of multiple choice questions intended to measure general math skills and problem solving ability. The questions are based on short readings that often include a graph, chart or figure. Work carefully, but do not spend too much time on any one question. (Suggestion: Spend no more than 1.5 minutes per question.)

## Scoring Parts I and II

The entire Mathematics Test consists of **40 multiple-choice** questions and **10 gridded-answer or alternate format** questions for a total of 50 questions. Multiple-choice questions give you several answers to choose from and gridded-response questions ask you to come up with your own answer. Each multiple choice question has five answer choices, numbered **1-5**. Gridded-response questions provide a standard numeric grid or a coordinate plane grid to fill in your answer.

Section I and II are timed separately but weighted equally. This means that you must complete both sections in one testing session of 90 minutes to receive a passing grade. If only one section is completed, the entire test must be retaken.



## SCIENCE



**Number of Questions:** 50

**Time Length:** 80 minutes

**Question Format:** Multiple choice

The Science Test is very much like the Social Studies Test, including the types of questions you will be asked. You will not have to recall specific facts or formulas, but you will have to know some of the basic science concepts, and to draw upon your prior science knowledge. You can expect reading and questions about issues that you read and hear about every day, such as pollution, recycling, preventing disease, and the effects of climate change. About 25 of the questions will be based on graphics (maps, graphs, charts, diagrams) alone, or reading passages combined with a graphic.

The test includes studies of relationships between science and technology, research, communications, and society. It acknowledges local and global problems, issues, and events, and frequently requires problem-solving skills. The test is organized around the interdisciplinary nature of science.

The science **topics** you will be reading about on the test will come from the following three **subject areas**:

- **Life Sciences** ((Biology) – the scientific study of all life forms. Biologists are interested in how things grow, how they change over time, and how they interact with one another and with their environment. The starting point for the study of biology is an examination of the basic unit of life, the cell.  
**(about 22 questions)**
- **Physical Sciences** (Chemistry and Physics) –
  - *Chemistry* is the branch of science that deals with the composition, structure, and properties of matter as well as the changes it undergoes. The starting point for the study of chemistry generally begins with an examination of the basic unit of matter, the atom.
  - *Physics* is the branch of science that concerns the behavior of matter in our world – the forces that cause matter to behave as it does. Many of the properties and behaviors of matter can be explained by force and energy. Physics covers such areas as the force of gravity, the law of conservation of energy, properties of waves, magnetism and electrical charges.  
**(about 18 questions)**
- **Earth and Space Sciences** – the scientific study of planet earth – its origin and the forces at work that are constantly changing the surface and atmosphere of the planet and solar system. Earth and space science covers subjects such as astronomy, geology, meteorology, paleontology, and oceanography.  
**(about 10 questions)**



# SOME TEST-TAKING TIPS



- ✓ Read the instructions carefully before starting each test.
- ✓ Don't get hung up on reading something over and over again if you don't understand it. You're better off moving on to the next reading or questions and getting right what you do understand. Remember, some of the easier questions may come toward the end of the test!
- ✓ Don't spend too much time on one answer! The time averages out to **less than two minutes for each question**. And that *includes* the time it takes you to get through the reading that comes before the questions!
- ✓ It's okay to skip questions, but make sure you skip them on the answer sheet also. And try to finish the test ahead of time so that you can go back and try to answer, or at least guess at, the questions you skipped. Whatever you do, **do not leave any answers blank**.
- ✓ On a lot of multiple-choice tests, where you have five answers to choose from, there are usually two, if not three, answers that make no sense in terms of what you've just read. If you can spot these and eliminate them, you only have to choose between two answers. It's a **test-taking skill called the "process of elimination."** If you don't understand the idea, try to read more about it in some of your resources.
- ✓ **Take quick notes** or draw a simple picture or diagram to help you figure out something that seems complicated. You will be given scratch paper to do this at the test site.
- ✓ Remember the common sense lesson you probably learned as a young child: **If you don't ask the right question, you'll never come up with the right answer.** In other words, make sure you know what the question is asking *before* you choose an answer.
- ✓ Read carefully the information the GED testing office sends to you so that you'll know what to bring with you the day of the test – ***especially your picture I.D.!***

And then on the day of the test:

- ✓ Get a **good night's sleep** and have a good breakfast.
- ✓ **Bring your lunch** with you, just in case you don't get enough time during the lunch break to shop around for someplace to eat.
- ✓ **Bring a watch** – just in case there's no clock in the room, or so that you won't have to spend time looking up at the wall if there is a clock in the room.

**Success Begins with Preparation!**



# RESOURCES FOR PREPARING FOR THE TEST

## INTERNET



### Remember

- **You cannot take the official GED Tests online. You must go to an official testing center.**
- **In 2013 you will have to take the test on a computer at an official testing center.**
- **In 2014 the test will be revised.** If you have started but not yet earned your GED credential by 2014, you will be required to retest and pass all five of the revised tests.

Some websites offer free GED practice tests and some charge a fee. Below are listings of both free and fee-based websites.

### ***Free Internet Sources***

#### **Multnomah County Library Website**

[www.multcolib.org](http://www.multcolib.org) click on "services" in the brown bar, scroll to Lifeskills & Literacy, then "Lifelong Learners" Last click on GED.

#### **GED Testing Service**

This link will take you to a GED testing site where you can get official information about the testing process, tips about studying for the test, as well as practice tests.

#### **Literacy Link**

A good link for strengthening your skills for Pre-GED and GED in each of the 5 levels of the test as well as opportunities to practice test. Need user name and password to access site.

#### **Learning Express**

Another link for skill development, including lessons and practice tests with extensive links to other websites. Need library card number and pin to access site.

#### **Learner Web**

The Learner Web has a series of learning plans for Pre-GED and GED preparation. The site is still being developed, so new plans will become available in time. Need user name and password to access site. You can

return to the site from where you left off. The program saves your work and tracks your progress.

### **Services/Life Skills & Literacy/Lifelong Learning/Life Skills or Job Skills**

Click on Jobs Skills which takes you to the Goodwill Community Foundation site. Then click on Home. From there you can go to sites for math practice and supplemental math study. From Job Skills you can also click on "The Learning Edge," an interactive online newspaper to help you practice reading, writing and vocabulary building. Also on Job Skills, go to Typing Tutors to help you learn the keyboard.

Also, from the Life Skills page click on Money, and the BBC site "Skillswise" comes up. Go to their home page and you'll find study materials that match the GED topics. This site will give you a more concentrated area of study in math and language Arts.

### **Steck-Vaughn Online GED Practice**

<http://www.gedpractice.com>

*Gedpractice.com* is a free service provided by Steck-Vaughn to familiarize you with the types of items you will see on the actual GED test.

### **GED Prep at FREE-ED.NET**

<http://free-ed.net/free-ed/GED/>

Click on directory of courses, then type GED in the search box in the middle of the page. Next, click on the "Free-Ed.net" circle below the search box. Then click "google search." This site offers free GED preparation through the internet. The program is a 74-unit study plan that covers every topic required for passing the GED exams. New classes begin on the first Sunday of each month. Enrollment for new classes opens one month prior to the starting date.

### **GED For Free**

<http://www.gedforfree.com/>

*(Note that this website asks for both your home and email addresses.)*

Free GED online preparation course, as well as practice tests.

### **SPANISH GED**

<http://www.pcc.edu/resources/spanish-ged/english.html>

PCC offers classes in Washington County, northeast Portland, and Southeast Portland. Class instruction is in Spanish to prepare for the GED test in Spanish.

### **Contemporary/McGraw Hill Online Learning Center**

As a publisher of adult education books, this company has web pages which may be used independently, or with their textbooks. They have online GED instruction, chapter outlines, chapter reviews, GED questions and practice tests. No password or email address is needed. Go to *Student Center* for:

Language Arts/Writing Test [www.gedwriting.com](http://www.gedwriting.com);

Social Studies Test [www.gedsocialstudies.com](http://www.gedsocialstudies.com);

Science Test [www.gedscience.com](http://www.gedscience.com);

Reading Test [www.gedreading.com](http://www.gedreading.com);

Math Test [www.gedmath.com](http://www.gedmath.com)

Go to *Instructor Center* for helpful information on writing essays and how they are scored.

### **2010 GED Dollar Literacy Foundation**

<http://www.yourged.org>

Watch a motivational video featuring real people who have planned for GED success and learn six steps to getting your GED.

### **Northwest Lincs**

<http://www.nwlincs.org/NWLINCSEWEB/gedclass.htm>

Online Resources for GED preparation.

### **4 Tests**

<http://www.4tests.com/>

This site will allow you to do some practice questions on each section of the GED test.

### **Birmingham Public Library**

<http://www.bplonline.org/virtual/subjects/>

On the home page, do a search for Literacy and Outreach. From this page, you can do some skill development in various areas of the tests.

### **Westchester Library**

<http://www.westchesterlibraries.org>

Information and practice activities on each of the GED test areas.

### **Purdue University**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

Good lessons on how to prep for the essay test.

### **Google Search Bar**

Conduct your own search using key words *GED resources*.

### ***Fee-based Internet Sources***

#### **OnLine Training Incorporated**

[http://www.oltraining.com/catalog/be\\_ged/ged-prep.html](http://www.oltraining.com/catalog/be_ged/ged-prep.html)

The OnLine Training course of GED preparation is designed to prepare people with at least an eighth grade level of education to pass the GED test (high school equivalency examination). Fee of \$75 per subject.

#### **GEDonline**

<http://www.gedonline.org/>

GEDonline is the first continuing adult education website dedicated to helping you prepare online for the GED High School Equivalency Diploma Test. Fee of \$65.00 for 4 months, \$10 per month after that.

## **BOOKS AND WORKBOOKS**



Check Multnomah County Library website for a complete listing at your local library.

### **GED Skill Sp SS, US Hist, World Geo (Student)**

Steck, Vaughn  
Supplemental, 2008

### **GED Language Arts, Reading.**

New York : Learning Express, c2008, 186 p  
373.1262 G112rL, 2008

### **GED Math.**

New York : Learning Express, c2008, 173 p  
373.1262 G112mL, 2008

### **Barron's Pass Key to the GED : High School Equivalency Examination**

Hauppauge, N. Y. : Barron's Educational Series Inc., c2007, 466 p. ill.  
373.1262 B277, 2007

### **GED Exam Prep**

Indianapolis : Pearson Education, 2007, 878 p. ill., maps  
373.1262 G295e, 2007

### **The Best Study Series for GED Mathematics**

Lanstrum, Michael W.  
Piscataway, NJ, Research & Education Association, c2006, 275 p, ill., charts, graphs  
+ 1 CD-ROM  
373.1262 L295b, 2006

### **McGraw-Hill's GED Mathematics : The Most Comprehensive and Reliable Study Program for the GED Math Test**

Howett, Jerry.  
Chicago : McGraw-Hill, c2006, 449 p., ill, + 1 CD-ROM  
373.1262 H859m, 2006

### **Acing the GED Exams**

New York : Learning Express, c2005, 462 p., ill.  
373.1262 A181, 2005

### **GED**

New York, NY : Simon & Schuster, 1997-<2004>, ill.  
373.1262 G111

**Steck-Vaughn GED : Mathematics.**

Austin, Tex. : Steck-Vaughn Co., c2002, 474 p. : ill.  
373.1262 S811m, 2002

**Cracking the GED**

New York : Villard Books, c1993-v. ill,  
373.1262 C883

**Master the GED.**

Lawrenceville, NJ : Thompson/Arco, ill.,+ 1 CD-ROM  
373.1262 M423mr

**Barron's How to Prepare for the GED High School Equivalency Exam.**

Hauppauge, N.Y. : Barron's Educational Series.v. : ill. ; 28 cm.  
373.1262 H8472

**Language Arts, Writing**

Spiegel, Lynda Rich.  
Piscataway, NJ : Research & Education Association, 2006.192 p.  
373.1262 S755Lw, 2006

**Social Studies**

Marlowe, Lynn Elizabeth.  
Piscataway, NJ : Research & Education Association, c2006, 147 p., ill., maps  
373.1262 M349s, 2006

**Language Arts, Writing [with CD-ROM]**

Spiegel, Lynda Rich.  
Piscataway, NJ : Research & Education Association, 2006, 195 p., ill, + 1 CD  
373.1262 S755Lwr, 2006

**Science**

Wagner, Arthur R  
Piscataway, NJ : Research & Education Association, c2006, 182 p., ill.  
373.1262 W132s, 2006

## LOCAL CLASSES OR TUTORING RESOURCES



### **Free Sources**

#### **Portland Youth Builders**

4816 SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
 Contact: Natalie Whitlock  
 503 286-9350 x259

A nonprofit organization that provides educational, vocational, and leadership development programs for low-income men and women aged 17 -24. Applicants must be at a 9<sup>th</sup> grade level to enroll. Students are enrolled in the program fulltime for up to 12 months, 8:00am – 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. A minimum of one year of follow-up is available for all PYB graduates. While enrolled fulltime during the first year, students earn a modest stipend.

Services offered are: High School diploma-granting, Job Readiness, Mentorship, Community Leadership, Personal Development, or Transition Services in their Constructions or Computer Technology Programs.

#### **Worksource Portland Metro**

<https://www2.worksourceportlandmetro.org/NewLocations.aspx>

This organization has six locations throughout the Portland metro area. They offer classes to upgrade skills and practice testing for the GED. Check their website for locations and contact information for each site.

#### **Portland Literacy Council**

Contact: Cari Martz, GED Scholarship and Programs  
[cari@portlandliteracy.org](mailto:cari@portlandliteracy.org)

A non-profit organization that can make referrals for tutoring and classes in your area. They also can give information on scholarship availability for GED testing. Website is [www.portlandliteracy.org/GED](http://www.portlandliteracy.org/GED).

#### **Portland Community College – Tutor Program (Sylvania Campus)**

12000 SW 49<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, 97280  
 Contact: Kay Talbot  
 503 977-4903 [ktalbot@pcc.edu](mailto:ktalbot@pcc.edu)

#### **Portland Community College – Tutor Program (Cascade Campus)**

705 N Killingsworth, Portland, 97217  
 Contact: Sherri Prodani  
 503 978-5373

#### **Portland Community College – Tutor Program (SouthEast Campus)**

2850 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Portland, 97266  
 Contact: Kathleen Holloway  
 503 788-6280 [khollowa@pcc.edu](mailto:khollowa@pcc.edu)

**Mt Hood Community College at Maywood Park**

10100 NE Prescott, Portland  
503 491-7333

**Mt Hood Community College Lifelong Learning Center**

Tutoring Program: 503 988-5270

**Mt Hood Community College, Main Campus (Gresham)**

2600 SE Stark St.  
503 491-7333

**Clackamas Community College**

19600 Molalla Ave., Oregon City, 97045  
503 657-6958, x2595 or x2590

**IRCO**

10301 NE Glisan, Portland  
503 234-1541

**Goodwill Administration Services Bldg.**

1943 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland  
503 238-6173

***Fee-based Sources*****Portland Community College (Southeast Campus)**

2850 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Portland, 97266  
503 788-6255

Cost: Prices vary from campus to campus, but is between \$25 to \$75 depending on how often a student attends classes. Each session is 10 weeks. To attend two times a week is \$25, three times is \$45 and \$75 is full time.

GED Prep

Offers an Adult Basic Education program as a non-credit course. Must be age 16 or older, and enroll in a two-part Orientation and Placement session at the campus where you plan to take classes. Instructors will help develop individual programs of study for students to guide them toward their personal academic goals. Preparation for the GED tests is one of the courses offered.

Adult High School Diploma

Allows students to use credits earned in high school toward the requirements for a diploma. You must be at least 16 years old, provide an official copy of your high school transcript, and it is recommended to have earned at least 12 credits from an accredited high school.

**Mt Hood Community College at Maywood Park**

10100 NE Prescott, Portland  
503 491-6100

Cost: Charges are \$30 a term (they will waive fees especially for people on assistance, disability, food stamps etc) .

**Mt Hood Community College, Main Campus (Gresham)**

2600 SE Stark St., Portland  
503 491-6433

Offers an Adult Basic Education program as a non-credit course. Must be age 16 or older, and enroll in a two-part Orientation and Placement session at the campus where you plan to take classes.

When you have successfully completed a GED preparation class and completely passed your 5 GED tests, you may qualify for a Sequel 7-Credit scholarship. The scholarship is for one term at Mt. Hood Community College and may be used for tuition and fees only. With some exceptions, this scholarship will be for a study skills class (three credits) and four additional credits.

**Clackamas Community College**

19600 Molalla Ave., Oregon City, 97045  
503 657-6958, x2595 or x2590

Individualized, open entry/open exit Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes are provided in the five general knowledge areas: math, English, reading, science, and social studies. Sessions are available during the day or evening in the Campus Learning Center. Adults may also receive basic skills instruction in reading, math, and grammar to improve employability and prepare for further education.