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I wish KET would make staff development training available for the new:

- GED 2002 Exam
 GED Connection materials



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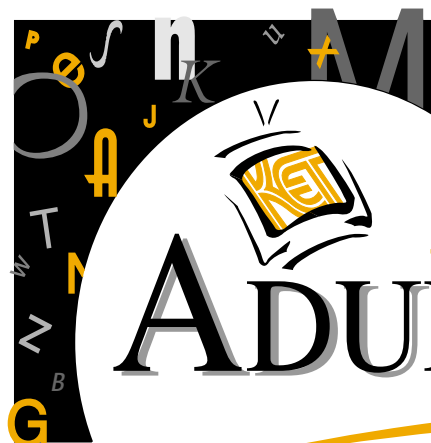
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Articles examine methods and technologies; explore locations and applications; and feature leaders who find successful, innovative ways to reach adult learners using KET materials. Unless otherwise noted, the material in this publication is not copyrighted. Please feel free to use it in the cause of adult education.

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You can see this issue on our web site at: www.ket.org/GED



SPRING
'01

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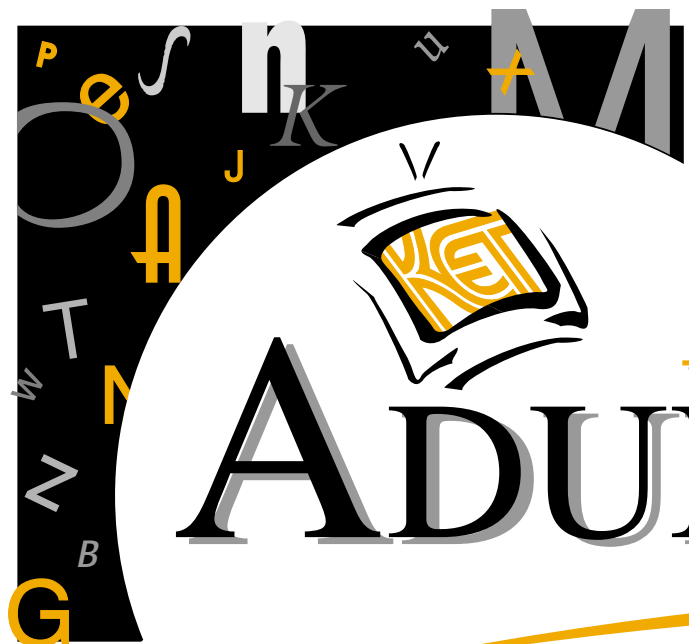
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ADULT LEARNING

QUARTERLY

New GED Connection Series to Air This Fall

What comes after GED ON TV, you ask.

“GED Connection!” answers KET’s Milli Fazey with her signature enthusiasm. “And we’re so excited that it’s finally ready for the world to see!”

Three years in the making, the 39 half-hour programs cover both the content and the format of the new GED 2002 exam.

“Test takers will be surprised by some of the changes on the new exam,” says Fazey, “The bubble-in grid and coordinate plane grid questions, and the calculator may be unfamiliar to some. [See story on page 7.] But Caren Van Slyke, whom KET enlisted to develop the content design for the new series and workbooks, has stayed in close touch with GED Testing Service throughout the test development process, so we’ve made up-to-the-minute adjustments as the new test has been fine tuned.

“We really did our homework in creating the design for *GED Connection*,” Fazey continues. “Before a single frame was shot, we called in GED instructors and students as a focus group, and spent two days listening to what they liked and didn’t like about the current series. For example, they wanted more connection to the GED test in the videos (what relevance does this have to help me pass the test?); and they wanted tighter

“Our goal was to make this new series as learner/teacher centered as possible”

connection between the workbooks and the videos (how does this workbook lesson relate to what I just watched?). Our goal was to make this new series as learner/teacher centered as possible, and we drew on direct input from these two audiences to reach that important goal.

“*GED Connection* is well-named: the documentary style **connects** the learner with the skills by showing them used in real contexts (home, work, community). The videos engage students by providing meaning in the learning!

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GED
Connection

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GED 2002 Test Reflects Changes In National Academic Standards And Impact Of Welfare To Work Initiatives

Relevance is a hallmark of all GED testing.

As times change, the tests — given for more than 50 years — have faced periodic redesign in order to meet changing societal needs and remain relevant to the life situations of potential candidates. For example, the original generation of tests, released in 1942, reflected an era when a high school education (or its equivalent) was a “ticket” to an industrial job and the ability to support a family. The 1978 version moved away from strict recall of facts toward application of conceptual knowledge. The 1988 version reflected a world permeated by technology and included a focus on critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Each time, the revisions went hand in hand with changes in traditional secondary education.

The fourth generation continues to serve adults without a traditional diploma, including the growing number of students who are home-schooled and need documentary evidence of their capabilities. The 2002 Test reflects an “increased emphasis on academic standards in the K-12 community” and the impact of the nationwide Welfare To Work initiative, according to materials published by the American Council on Education (ACE), parent organization to GED Testing Service (GEDTS). That means more business-related and adult-context information in all five subject areas:

Language Arts: Writing;
Language Arts: Reading;
Social Studies; Science;
and Mathematics. The relevance of

pursuing the GED and of test items that include a workplace context has an impact with adults, according to GED Director of Test Development Lyn Schaefer. “How to write a resume is relevant to adults. Being able to compose a letter of complaint is relevant. Being able to decipher recipes is relevant.”


How does the new test compare with the previous version? GEDTS lists some elements that remain the same:

- The GED Tests will continue to cover the five core areas listed above.
- The tests will “measure the major and lasting outcomes of a four-year program of secondary school education in the United States and Canada” according to the “most up-to-date, widely used secondary school curriculum standards and standardized assessment practices available.” Traditional graduating high school seniors take the GED Tests in order to establish the passing standard.
- The tests will continue to “provide a basis for conferring a high school equivalency diploma on adults who have not graduated from traditional high school.” That service can be invaluable not only to those who dropped out before graduating or who are new to this country, but also to the increasing number of persons who have been home-schooled and require documentation of their competence and skills.

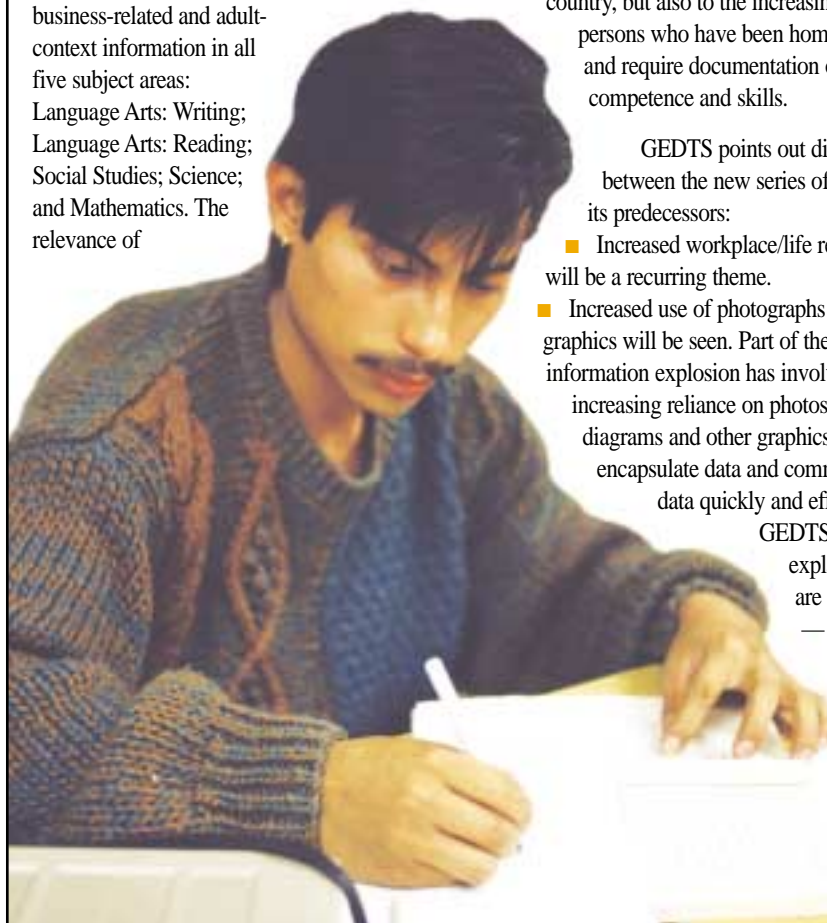
GEDTS points out differences between the new series of tests and its predecessors:

- Increased workplace/life relevance will be a recurring theme.
- Increased use of photographs and graphics will be seen. Part of the 21st Century information explosion has involved an increasing reliance on photos, charts, diagrams and other graphics to encapsulate data and communicate that data quickly and effectively, GEDTS materials explain. Visuals are everywhere — newspapers, TV, the Internet, books, etc. — and this makes visual

processing a skill that should be measured on the new GED Test. To test this skill, charts, graphs, tables, diagrams, maps, photos — and even political cartoons, ads or posters — will appear in various parts of the 2002 Test, sometimes as “stand-alone” resources, sometimes in conjunction with text.

- The Language Arts: Writing Test will feature an increased emphasis on organization and will implement a 4-point rather than 6-point scoring scale for Part II, the timed essay on an assigned topic. The test will include “business” documents like memos, reports and applications, and “how to” documents — write a resume, lease a car, plan a trip, etc.
- The Mathematics Test will have two booklets: Part I permits using a calculator; Part II does not. (See story on page 7.) Candidates must complete both parts. Approximately 20% of the items will be “non-multiple choice”; and “item sets (several items corresponding to one graphic or other stimuli) will play an increasingly important role,” GEDTS materials say. “Multiple pieces of information are effectively communicated through graphics such as pie charts, bar graphs and tables.”
- As part of the Social Studies Test, U.S. candidates will see at least one excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Federalist Papers, or a landmark Supreme Court decision; and at least one “practical” document — a voter’s guide, tax form, etc. Examinees may be asked to interpret a variety of graphic information, including maps; and selected writings.
- On the Language Arts: Reading Test, candidates will continue to read and interpret fiction and nonfiction, prose, poetry and drama from a variety of cultures and time periods. However, nonfiction selections will include business-related documents and at least one selection about visual representation.
- The Science Test will reference National Science Education Standards in asking candidates to select the best way to set up an experiment, interpret others’ results, analyze experimental laws, apply scientific conclusions to their personal lives, and use the work of renowned scientists to explain everyday global scientific issues. Graphic content of test questions will increase from 30 to 50%. 

For more information, check the ACE “Charting the Course to 2002: a Summary of Changes to the GED Tests” or call (202) 939-9390.



PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

New Workbooks Give Learners Plenty of Skill Building Opportunities

Three full-color *GED Connection* workbooks cover all five subject areas of the GED 2002 Exam and provide lots of skill-building and test-taking practice. Each workbook chapter corresponds to one of 39 video programs and a set of Internet lessons and activities students will find at www.pbs.org/literacy.

Look for these workbook sections to guide students through the lesson:

“Before You Watch” sections orient students to the video program.

- Objectives form the focus for each lesson.
- Sneak Preview provides a short chapter pre-test, answers, and feedback.
- Vocabulary defines key content area terms.
- Program Summary explains what students are about to see in the video.

“After You Watch” sections provide direct instruction and skill practice.

- Key Points to Think About and *GED Tips* relate the lesson to the GED exam.
- Skill Practice exercises and instruction expand on concepts presented in the video program.
- Links relate skills to family life, the community and the workplace, as recommended by The National Institute for Literacy-Equipped for the Future (EFF) guidelines.
- Interdisciplinary Connection bridges the lesson to other GED subject areas.
- GED Practice is a chapter post-test with items and formats similar to those on the new GED exam.

Each workbook also contains a *GED Pretest* and a *GED Practice Test*, to help students evaluate their GED readiness in that subject area; an *Answer Key*, complete with explanations; a *Reference Handbook*, with additional resources for GED preparation; a *Glossary*; and an *Index*.



Bookmark
this web address

www.ket.org/GED2002

and discover GED 2002
staff development —
coming this fall from KET
(800) 354-9067



GED Connection

Series to Air This Fall
continued from page 1

“*GED Connection* is multi-dimensional in that it goes beyond direct instruction on the screen and takes the learner into the area of real life application. That’s the key to learner engagement: don’t just tell me about a skill; show me how to use it, and help me understand why this skill is important not just for passing a test but for improving the quality of my life.” It’s all about relevance.

The television/video series is only one part of this innovative multi-media instructional system. Three workbooks, also produced by KET, contain one chapter for each program. The LiteracyLink web site (www.pbs.org/literacy), developed by the National Center on Adult Literacy (NCAL), will expand the students’

opportunities to deepen their proficiency in the subject areas and the skills. Using the Internet, students will also develop valuable computer skills. The workbooks and video programs provide plenty of additional direction to online resources.

GED Connection, produced by KET as part of the PBS LiteracyLink® Project, will be available this coming summer. Many public television stations will begin airing the series in time for the new school year, to help learners get ready for the new GED test in January 2002.

“We have videotapes and workbook chapters ready now to send out for previews,” says Fazey.

“IT’S SHOWTIME!”

A MOST REWARDING CONFERENCE

Teachers and administrators at the recent COABE National Conference in Memphis were among the first to see some of the new *GED Connection* video programs. As they stopped by the KET booth to get an early look and pick up previews, many registered to win videotapes, workbooks, and a teacher’s guide.

Two lucky teachers, Rachel Counce, of Lawrenceburg County Adult Education in Tennessee, and Marjorie Harvey Chambers, of Nebraska Indian Community College in Omaha, will begin the new school year with *GED Connection* materials created specifically to help learners prepare for the new GED 2002 exam.

Our thanks to Mary Rogers, of Krieger Publishing in Melbourne, Florida, who drew the winning names.



In early August, KET will ship a complete set of thirty-nine videos, ten sets of the three workbooks (Language Arts: Reading & Writing, Science & Social Studies, and Math), and a LiteracyLink® Teacher’s Guide, with lesson plans for the videos, workbooks and online materials which make up *GED Connection*.

Congratulations to both winners!

Anyone wishing to receive a free preview of *GED Connection* videos and print materials may call KET at (800) 354-9067.

Everything – Including the Kitchen Sink!

Innovative New GED Connection Series Brings Students A

“We have everything but the kitchen sink in these programs,” says Teresa Day, script consultant for the new *GED Connection* series.

“I take that back — we do have the kitchen sink.”

The new *GED Connection* video series, produced by KET as part of the PBS LiteracyLink® Project, consists of 39 half-hour programs designed to help learners prepare for the new GED 2002 exam. The series covers the five subject areas (reading, writing, social studies, science, and math), and addresses changes to the new test, including demonstration of the Casio® fx-260 scientific calculator and insights into using the bubble-in grid and coordinate plane answer formats.

More than a video series, *GED Connection* is a comprehensive multi-media instructional system, with workbooks, online lessons and activities designed by the National Center on Adult Literacy, and a teacher’s guide complete with lesson plans and suggested activities.

The *GED Connection* videotapes and workbooks were created with the goal of helping students prepare for the new GED exam, but with a broader goal of helping learners understand how the subjects and skills relate to each other and to work, community, and home life.

CREW TRAVELED COAST TO COAST TO TAPE INTERESTING PEOPLE IN INTERESTING PLACES

Tappers and mappers, glass blowers and ocean rowers — the new GED series features experts from some surprising vocations and locations, who share their knowledge and enthusiasm.

A **tap dancer** to explain number sense? Lane Alexander, choreographer and dancer at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, explains how dancers develop a numbers sense that allows them, with practice, to feel a 16-beat or a 32-beat measure, rather than having to count it out.

Meteorologist Ken Priddy maps weather patterns. **Geologist** Gary Patterson and **earth scientist** Michael Ellis, with the Center for Earthquake Research and Information in Colorado, map earthquakes. **Medical researchers** Elaine Mardis and Sandra Clifton, of the Washington University School of Medicine are mapping the human genome.

Glassblower/artist Stephen Powell of Centre College in Danville, Kentucky explains the chemistry of creating works of art from glass. **Professor** Nancy Mautz connects art through world history.

Harold McGee, **author** of *On Food and Cooking*, brings chemistry into daily life as he demonstrates the effect of a common kitchen practice, the adding of cream of tartar (an acid) and baking soda (an alkali) to pancake batter. The chemical reaction gives off gas, creating the bubbles that make these breakfast treats light and fluffy.

Syndicated columnists and **investment counselors** from The Motley Fools® offer advice on money matters.

Frank Orrall, **composer** and **jazz musician** with Poi Dog Pondering (whose music you hear in the pre-GED level Workplace Essential Skills Series and in some of the GED programs), says that, as a musician “you’re not even thinking 1-2-3-4, 1-2-3-4...in your body, you just know that 16 beats just went by.”

American Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky shares his love of poetry and invites everyone to visit his Favorite Poem Project web site: www.favoritepoem.org, where they can watch streaming video and hear individuals reading their favorite poems.

Haitian-born **award-winning author** Edwidge Danticat reads an excerpt from her novel *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, and talks about the characters in her story.

Biology professor Wintfred Smith, at the beautiful Reelfoot Lake Basin, talks about the return of the American eagle population ten years after DDT was taken off the market. David Babb, **aquatic biologist** at the Newport Aquarium explains the ecosystem of a coral reef.

Wendy Cruik and Sharon Fears — two genuine **rocket scientists** at Marshall Space Flight Center — talk about Newton’s Laws of Motion as they relate to launching and retrieving spacecraft.

Ken Tucker, **critic at large** for *Entertainment Weekly*, discusses writing as a profession. Retired **English professor** Don Mortland talks about putting his talents toward writing Adopt-a-Pet ads for the Humane Society.

Natalie Goldberg, **widely-acclaimed author** of *Writing Down the Bones*, offers help for everyone who wants to write better.



A Smorgasbord Of Learning Opportunities

Professor Martha Womack helps bring to light some of the dark writings of her favorite author, Edgar Alan Poe.

Delaware **Governor** Ruth Ann Minner encourages individuals who dropped out of school to get their GED diplomas, as she did.

These are only some of more than a hundred “recognized” experts interviewed for the *GED Connection* series. Many less-visible experts describe their struggles and triumphs in working toward a GED diploma, and they encourage others to do the same.

And yes, *GED Connection* really does include an interview with **ocean rower** Tori Murden, first American and first woman to row across the Atlantic. She describes some of the events of her grueling three-month journey and her challenges in writing about it.

“FAST TRACK” PROGRAMS FOCUS ON TEST SPECIFICS

The first program for each of the five subject areas specifically addresses the skills and strategies that will help students do their best on the new GED exam.

GED Testing Service Director Joan Auchter and the test editors who helped guide development of the tests discuss the kinds of questions that will be on the test. They also give advice on reading and interpreting the questions and selecting the best answer.

Each of the Passing the Test programs presents questions similar to those on the GED 2002 exam. The host then examines all possible answers and discusses the reasons one answer is better than the others, and why the others were not acceptable.

“Read each question carefully,” says Auchter. “And be sure to read every possible answer — don’t just go for the first one you see that looks right.”

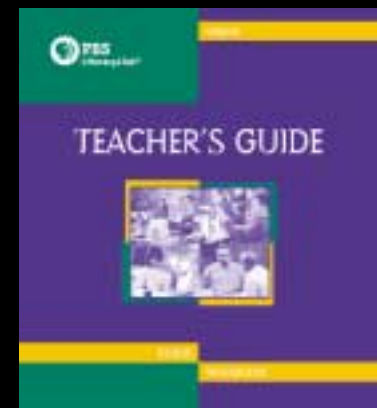
While there are no trick questions on the test, some learners might describe possible answers as tricky. The questions and answers are designed to test thinking and reasoning skills as well as skills related to the subject matter. That’s why it’s important to read and answer carefully.

Math test editor Kenn Pendleton demonstrates use of the Casio *fx-260* scientific calculator; the only calculator students will be permitted to use on the first part of the math test. (See story and diagram on page 7.)

For each of these overview programs, there is a corresponding workbook chapter with additional guidance and practice tests.

KET plans to publish a “Fast Track” workbook to accompany the five “Passing the Test” programs, along with the *GED Connection* Orientation program, and the program on The Essay. 📖

The GED section of the Literacy Link Teacher’s Guide will be ready in August.



Call KET for more information...
(800)354-9067

Even the Wrapping is Special



Teachers told us they would like to have a list of program highlights with time codes so they could get right to the video segments they wanted to show. We know how instructions can get separated from equipment, so we listed program segments with time codes right on the tape box.

Along with the program number and title, you’ll also have the Learning Focus and a bulleted list of Objectives for that lesson.

Keep telling us how we can help you do your job better – **WE’RE LISTENING!** 📖

NCAL



GED Connection

VIDEOS



Engaging documentary-style videos introduce content and give learners a chance to hear from experts in various fields. Students see how the skills they are learning for the GED exam relate to work, home, and community life. All 39 half-hour programs are available from KET on VHS tape, individually packaged with time-coded listings for program highlights. The programs may also be acquired via satellite from PBS.

WORKBOOKS



Three full-color workbooks cover all five subject areas and provide lots of skill-building and test-taking practice. Each workbook chapter corresponds to a video program and a set of Internet lessons and activities. "Before You Watch" sections orient students to the video program. "After You Watch" sections provide direct instruction and skill practice. Each workbook also contains a GED Pretest and a GED Practice Test, an Answer Key, and other helpful learning aids.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES



Free learning activities on the Web at www.pbs.org/literacy provide learners with practice tests, learning modules for each of the five test areas, and skill-building Internet activities.

Organizations may use the online management system for an annual fee per teacher/virtual classroom.

TEACHER'S GUIDE



Each lesson plan is loaded with practical information to help you prepare students to get the most out of every lesson using a multi-media combination of videos, workbooks, and online activities. The teacher's guide covers *GED Connection* and pre-GED *Workplace Essential Skills*.

To order call KET at (800)354-9067.

GED Connection is presented by PBS LiteracyLink®, a partnership of the Public Broadcasting Service, KET, The National Center on Adult Literacy (NCAL), and the Kentucky Department of Education.

Executives See Value of GED from a Business Perspective

Executives' involvement in the genesis of the 2002 Test is revealing the value of the GED — from a business perspective.

Serving on a Workplace Advisory Committee of the American Council on Education (ACE) GED Testing Service (GEDTS), business representatives supplied actual job applications, employee handbooks, benefits manuals and instructional materials to the GED testing staff. Some items were incorporated verbatim into the test, others adapted to reflect more generic actual workplace conditions.

"We gave benefit manuals, anything that we would use with employees; real-life examples," says Brenda Franklin, Human Resources Manager for TEAM Industries in Minnesota. Weaving words and/or illustrations into the test required painstaking attention to diversity issues, she adds. Staff must be very sensitive, "because people taking the test are very diverse, like the population of the United States".

Committee members were doing more than providing materials, however; they were realizing that the GED holds answers to some serious issues.



"your partner in power-train solutions"

In today's tight labor market, businesses "are looking for ways to differentiate themselves and . . . make themselves places where employees want to work and stay," says Stephanie Z. Hamilton, Senior Director of New Business Development for Molly Maid, Inc.

Hamilton and her colleagues have already documented that a series of nationwide rallies for Molly Maid's 5,000 residential cleaning professionals — day-long meetings focusing on team building, self-esteem and other issues — reduced turnover for the individual franchise owners by 25%. The next step was to assist employees with other needs. Owners are providing time and space before work, so that

In today's tight labor market, businesses "are looking for ways to differentiate themselves and . . . make themselves places where employees want to work and stay"

Spanish-speaking workers may study English with tutors. A home office focus on extending services to include GED preparation led to Hamilton's joining the GED committee. Immigrants — a major resource in relieving worker shortages — deserve help with literacy, numeracy and GED preparation, Hamilton and Franklin agree.



"For many reasons, it's the right thing to do — for *them as people* . . . It also makes a lot of sense in retention," says Hamilton. Molly Maid's experience has shown that workers attending rallies and/or early morning tutoring sessions feel an enhanced sense of loyalty to the employer, reducing turnover; and a greater sense of self-esteem, which contributes to higher productivity and high quality performance. "We have a shrinking workforce," Franklin adds. "Why aren't we investing to get immigrants into a successful mode? Immigrants are becoming part of the community. We've got to help people have the skills."

Franklin and Hamilton report another strong business benefit in the GED.

Before their Committee experience, many business representatives tended to view a GED certificate as "second best," Franklin notes.

The Workplace Advisory Committee also included representatives from the AFL-CIO, Nash Finch, the National Association of Business, Red Lobster, Taco Bell and Safeway.

"I tended to look at a job application and see 'GED' and that was *troubling*." There was some inference that the applicant might be undependable, someone who wouldn't see difficult tasks through to completion. Now, it is clear that this is "an *eight-hour* exam; and to study for it and take it requires a goal-oriented person. It certainly doesn't mean 'second best', it simply means a 'second chance' for them."

Moreover, the successful candidate is demonstrating an impressive knowledge base, for the test is formidable. "I've seen the GED test and it is difficult," Hamilton notes. "It seems tougher than high school level work. I think I'd have to study pretty hard and re-learn everything I've forgotten just to pass the test!"

A GED certificate documents that the holder possesses specific skills and can perform specific functions. "It is a *recommendation*," Franklin adds. "(It represents) a huge commitment — shows they're goal-oriented and have basic skills. It's the only scorecard we have." 📖

WORKPLACE ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Do your learners work?

Give them basic skills in workplace context.

Do your learners need better skills to get better jobs?

Give them the basics as they apply on the job.

Do your learners need reading, writing, arithmetic and job-readiness guidance?

Give them Workplace Essential Skills — because relevance works!

Call KET at (800) 354-9067 to learn more.



videos ■ workbooks ■ online lessons

KET KET KET KET KET

Math Test Changes Can Help Candidates Demonstrate 'Real World' Skills

Changes in the 2002 Mathematics Test can help candidates demonstrate both their calculator skills and their ability to read and use grids.



Calculator To Be Used On Part I

A calculator is a fact of modern life: An application option on the home or office computer; an indispensable tool in the workplace, trade school or college.

Familiarity with this tool is part of today's education scene; thus, GED services — designed to provide experience and knowledge equivalent to that found in secondary education — must include training on and interaction with calculators. It is one means of assuring that the student emerges from GED preparation with the full range of the basic, 21st Century work world skills expected by employers.

That is why Part I (25 questions) of the 2002 Mathematics Test will permit calculator use. (Part II will not; candidates must complete both parts in order to earn a score.)

After examination of many types of calculators, the Casio® fx-260 SOLAR was selected for use on the test. A "scientific calculator," its keys perform more than one function; the correct activity selected by using the shift key when appropriate. It was felt that students trained on this unit would gain the skills necessary to perform any activity on

any "brand" they might encounter in school or on the job. The SOLAR is programmed to adhere to the "order of operations". That is, the calculator will multiply or divide before it adds or subtracts regardless of how the candidate enters the equation into the calculator.

Candidates using the *GED Connection* will find calculator training and tips in the corresponding Math Workbook. As the book points out, part of the student's job is deciding when to use the unit: A calculator is a useful tool when it saves time by helping to perform complex computations quickly. However, questions asking for an estimate or interpretation of data are still better solved using careful analysis and common sense.

New Format Uses Grids, Planes

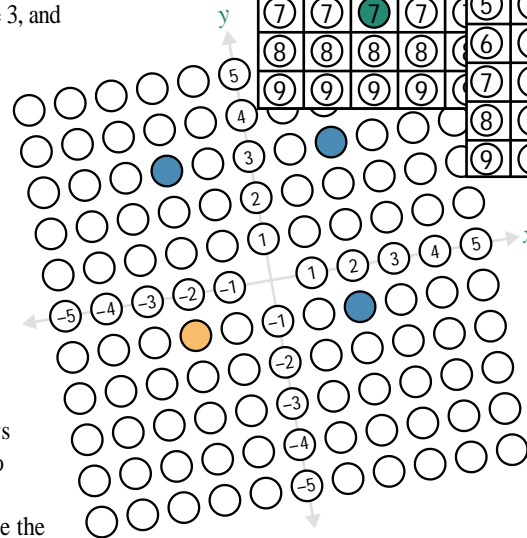
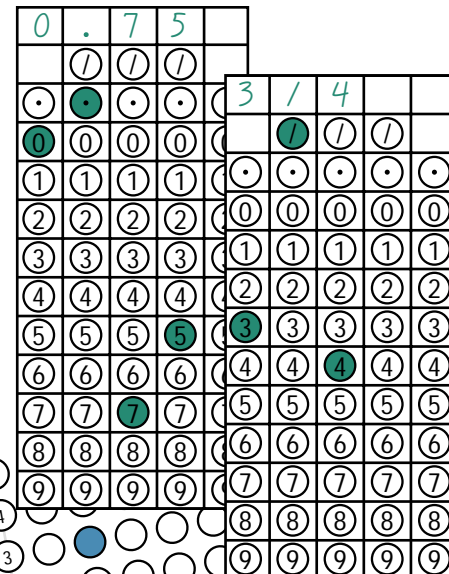
Another intriguing change in the 2002 Mathematics Test involves the way test-takers will be asked to respond.

Ten of this Test's 50 questions will depart from the customary multiple-choice style. One alternate-format response will present bubble-in grids composed of a block of small, open circles, explains GED Director of Test Development Lyn Schaefer. If the correct answer


to a question were "2/3," the candidate would be asked to write out the fraction on the top line, and also to darken, or "bubble-in" the appropriate circles under the 2, the 3, and the slash. If the response were "3/4", however, the test-taker could respond correctly by using either "3/4", ".75," or "0.75," again darkening the appropriate circles under each (see illustration top right).

This format allows the GED candidate to demonstrate not only his/her ability to solve the specific problem, but also — simultaneously — his/her skills at reading and using grids.

Another alternate-format response on the revised Mathematics Test will require a test-taker to mark the location of the correct response on a coordinate grid.

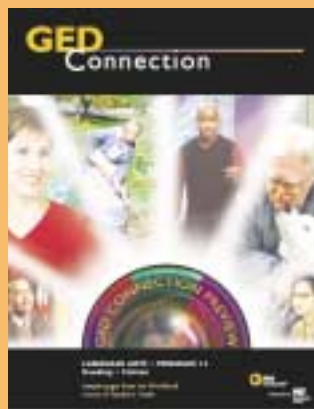
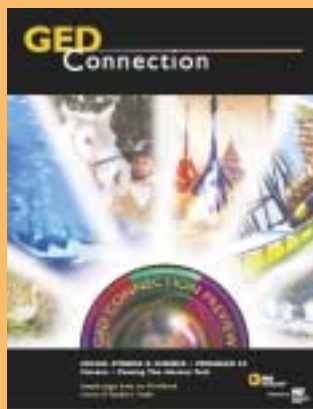


The following points are graphed on the coordinate grid: (2, 3), (2, 3), and (2, 21). Suppose a question asked you to graph the coordinate point that would complete the square. You know that a square has four equal sides, so find the distance between two points on a side. In this case, you could count the distance: 5. To complete the square, count down 5 spaces from (2, 3) or count 5 spaces to the left of (2, 21). Fill in the point at the coordinates (2, 21).

This will allow test-takers to demonstrate their skill at plotting points and reading lines on a coordinate plane. 

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