



2002/2014 GED® Test Comparison

General Test Differences

2002	2014	Page Number
Item types: multiple-choice, essay, and grid format questions	Item types: hot spot, drag-and-drop, short answer, extended response, fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice, drop-down	1.4 – 1.23
Assessment is informed by Bloom's Taxonomy	Assessment is informed by Webb's Depth of Knowledge model and the Common Core State Standards	2.3
Test is administered using paper and pencil	Test is computer based	1.4
Price varies by state.	Minimum cost is \$30 per test area or \$120 for full battery	GEDTS Pricing Memo
Multiple-choice items have five answer options.	Multiple-choice items have four answer options.	1.5
Test-takers are allowed to use scratch paper.	Test-takers will be given a small dry-erase board with Expo markers.	2012 GED Conference

Reading and Writing/Reasoning through Language Arts

2002	2014	Page Number
There is a reading test and a writing test .	There is a reading comprehension component and a writing component to the Reasoning through Language Arts test .	2.11
Combined, the reading and writing test include 90 multiple-choice questions and one essay and takes around 3 hours to complete .	The number of questions on the Reasoning through Language Arts test will vary . It takes around 2 hours, 5 minutes to complete . Test-takers will be given a 10-minute break.	2012 GED Conference GEDTS-November 2012
The test contains multiple-choice questions only .	The test includes multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, drag-and-drop, drop-down , and an extended response item .	1.4-1.6
READING: Each passage contains between 200 and 400 words .	Passages in the reading comprehension section will contain between 450 and 900 words .	2.12
READING: 75% of texts are literary – poetry, drama, prose	75% of texts are informational – nonfiction and workplace contexts.	2.11
READING: The test includes poetry .	The test does not include poetry.	2.14-2.16
WRITING: Writing is scored based on these traits: focused main points; clear organization ; specific development of ideas; sentence structure control, punctuation, grammar, word choice, and spelling.	Writing is scored based on these traits: analysis of arguments and use of evidence ; development of ideas and structure; clarity and command of standard English conventions, grammar, usage, capitalization and punctuation.	2.17
WRITING: Test-takers are required to write an essay about a familiar subject .	Test-takers are required to draw evidence from a literary or informational text to support analysis and reflection.	2.17
WRITING: Essays are written on paper .	Test-takers must use technology to produce writing, demonstrating sufficient command of keyboarding skills .	2.17
WRITING: Test-takers have 45 minutes to plan, write, and edit the essay.	It is suggested that test-takers use 45 minutes to read a source text, compose their responses, and review/edit.	1.6

Social Studies

2002	2014	Page Number
The test contains 50 multiple-choice questions . The test takes around 70 minutes to complete.	The number of questions on the Social Studies test will vary . It takes around 90 minutes to complete .	2012 GED Conference
The test contains multiple-choice questions only .	The test includes an extended response item . It is suggested that test-takes use 25 minutes to provide an analysis of primary and secondary source documents. Extended response passages will not exceed 550 to 650 words. The test also includes multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, drop-down, drag-and-drop, and hot spot items .	1.10-1.11 2.54 1.10-1.12
Questions come from the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. History—25% • World History—15% • Geography—15% • Civics and Government—25% • Economics—20% 	Questions come from the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics and Government—50% • U.S. History—20% • Economics—15% • Geography and the World—15% 	2.40

Science

2002	2014	Page Number
The test includes the following content areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science (physics and chemistry)—35% • Life Science—45% • Earth and Space Science—20% 	The test includes the following content areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Science—40% • Physical Science—40% • Earth and Space Science—20% 	2.31
The test includes 50 multiple-choice questions and takes around 80 minutes to complete .	The number of questions on the test will vary . It takes around 75 minutes to complete . This test includes a short answer question.	2012 GED Conference GEDTS-November 2012
The test contains multiple-choice questions only .	The test includes multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, drop-down, hot spot, and drag-and-drop items, and a short answer question.	1.8-1.10

Mathematics

2002	2014	Page Number
The test contains 50 multiple-choice questions . The test takes around 90 minutes to complete.	The number of questions on the test will vary . It takes around 75 minutes to complete . The test also includes multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, drop-down, hot spot, and drag-and-drop items .	2012 GED Conference 1.6-1.8
Test-takers may use the Casio fx-260 Solar Scientific calculator for one of the two sections of the exam.	Candidates will be provided a virtual, on-screen Texas Instruments TI-30XS scientific calculator and calculator reference tool to use on a portion of the items in the math test.	Item Sampler Guide pg. 22
A page of commonly used formulas is provided to the test-taker.	Test-takers can click to see a formula sheet . However, the new formula sheet does not provide the same information as the current formula sheet.	2.30

Scoring

2002	2014	Page Number
There are no short answer questions on the test.	Short answers are scored on a three-point scale .	3.3-3.4
An essay is scored using a four-point scoring guide .	Extended response items in the Reasoning through Language Arts test will be scored on a 12-point scale . The extended response item on the Social Studies test will be scored on an seven-point scale .	3.5
The essay is scored holistically by two readers .	Extended response and short answer items will initially be scored by humans. Once all items from field testing have been scored by humans, the scoring guides and exemplars will be used to train an automated scoring engine .	3.3-3.4

Page Numbers, unless otherwise noted, are from the November 2012 GED Testing Service Assessment Guide for Educators, available at <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/the-new-assessment-downloads>.

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