

Quick GED® & HiSET® Test Comparison

	GED®	HiSET®
General Test Information	https://ged.com/	http://hiset.ets.org/test-takers
PA-Specific Information & Policies	http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/policy_pa	http://hiset.ets.org/requirements/state/pa
Description	<p><u>Four subtests:</u></p> <p>Reasoning through Language Arts (RLA) (1 essay, 45 other Q types, 150 mins.) http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/rlalink</p> <p>Mathematical Reasoning (46 Q, 115 mins) http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/mathlink</p> <p>Science (34 Q, including 2 short-answer constructed response questions, 90 mins) http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/sciencelink</p> <p>Social Studies (35 Q, 70 mins) http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/socialstudieslink</p> <p>Item types vary between extended response, drag-and-drop, drop-down, fill-in-the-blank, hot spot, multiple choice and short answer</p>	<p><u>Five subtests:</u></p> <p>FOR HIGHLY DETAILED CONTENT & COMPETENCIES INFORMATION: http://hiset.ets.org/s/pdf/2017_taag.pdf</p> <p>Language Arts-Reading (40 Q, 65 mins) Language Arts-Writing (50 multiple choice questions, one essay question, 120 mins) Mathematics (50 Q, 90 mins) Science (50 Q, 80 mins) Social Studies (50 Q, 70 mins.)</p> <p>All test items, except Language Arts-Writing essay, are multiple choice.</p>
Passing Scores	Each subtest score ranges from 100-200. A passing score of 145 is required on each subtest.	Passing score of 8 (out of 20) on each subtest, 2 (out of 6) on the essay and a minimum score of 45 (out of 100) on the complete battery.
Format	Computer-based <u>only</u> English & Spanish	Computer <u>or</u> Paper-based English & Spanish
Cost	\$30 per subtest (\$20 GED Testing Service Fee + \$10 PA Test Center Fee)	\$18 per subtest (\$10 ETS Test Fee + \$8 PA Test Center Fee)
Retest Costs & Wait Periods	Retakes must occur within 12 months of initial attempt. No waiting period for retake. 2 retakes per subtest allowed for just the \$10 test center fee. After two retakes (3 total attempts), there's a minimum 60 day wait period. 4 th attempt is full test price (\$30), then 2 more \$10 retakes (5 th & 6 th attempts) are allowed.	2 retests per subtest permitted in calendar year, after official score report received. \$8 test center fee for each subtest re-take. No additional fees.

READING TEST

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SUBTEST TITLE	Reasoning Through Language Arts (Reading)	Language Arts-Reading
CONTENT/ COMPETENCIES ASSESSED	<p>75% Informational & non-fiction texts drawn from science & social studies and a variety of workplace contexts</p> <p>25% Literature/fiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading passages are 450-900 words long and of various levels of complexity • US founding documents and “the Great American Conversation” that followed are required texts for study and assessment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Determine main idea and supporting details ✓ Determine the details of what is explicitly stated and make logical inferences or valid claims supported by evidence ✓ Analyze how characters and events develop and interact ✓ Interpret language and understand word choice ✓ Analyze the structure and how parts of a text relate to each other and the whole ✓ Determine the author’s purpose or point of view ✓ Evaluate the author’s argument or claims and assess the validity of the evidence ✓ Compare 2 or more texts, synthesizing the information and analyzing the differences 	<p>60% Literature/fiction</p> <p>40% Informational & non-fiction texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading passages are 400-600 words long • Selections from multiple genres, such as narratives, memoirs, essays, biographical sketches, editorials & poetry, on subject matter that varies in purpose & style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Comprehension – understand restatements of information; determine meaning of words & phrases from context; analyze the impact of word choice on meaning & tone ✓ Analysis – determine main idea, topic or theme of text; identify author’s or speaker’s purpose or viewpoint; distinguish among facts, opinions, assumptions, observations & conclusions; recognize aspects of an author’s style, structure, mood or tone; recognize literary or argumentative techniques ✓ Inference and Interpretation – make inferences from the text; draw conclusions or deduce meanings not explicitly present in text; infer traits, feelings & motives of characters or individuals; apply information; interpret non-literal language ✓ Synthesis and Generalization – draw conclusions & make generalizations; make predictions; compare & contrast; synthesize information across multiple sources

LANGUAGE ARTS TESTS (1/2)

	GED®	HiSET®
SUBTEST TITLE	Reasoning Through Language Arts (Writing: Language)	Language Arts-Writing Part 1: Edit and revise text
CONTENT/ COMPETENCIES ASSESSED	<p>Items are presented within a text passage.</p> <p>Highlighted words or phrases appear in dropdown menus offering alternatives, which include a clear best choice alongside common errors or misconceptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrate command of a foundational set of conventions of standard English that includes essential components of grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, sentence structure, agreement (subject-verb & pronoun-antecedent), homonyms, possessives ✓ Edit text in context to eliminate errors and nonstandard usage 	<p>22% Organization of Ideas 43% Language Facility 35% Writing Conventions</p> <p>Questions are embedded in draft texts which span various forms such as letters, essays, newspaper articles, personal accounts and reports.</p> <p>Parts of the text are underlined or highlighted to indicate a possible need for revision.</p> <p>Questions present alternatives that may correct or improve the indicated portions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recognize & produce standard American written English ✓ Make revision choices concerning organization, diction, clarity, sentence structure, usage & mechanics

LANGUAGE ARTS TESTS (2/2)

	GED®	HiSET®
SUBTEST TITLE	Reasoning Through Language Arts (Writing: Essay)	Language Arts-Writing Part 2: Essay
CONTENT/ COMPETENCIES ASSESSED	<p>Read two text passages totaling up to 650 words that describe opposing views on a topic. Prompt requires writing a well-developed and supported argument based on the passages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Draw relevant and sufficient evidence from a literary or information text to support analysis or reflection ✓ Use technology to produce writing, demonstrating sufficient command of keyboarding skills 	<p>Read two text passages and create a written response to a prompt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Development of Central Position or Claim – focus on central idea & supporting ideas; explain supporting ideas; command over writing an argument ✓ Generate and organize ideas in writing – introduction & conclusion; sequencing of ideas; paragraphing; transitions ✓ Language Facility – word choice; sentence structure; expression & voice ✓ Writing Conventions – grammar, usage, mechanics
ESSAY SCORING	<p>Computer-scored using a multi-trait rubric that focuses on three elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of Arguments & Use of Evidence 2. Development of Ideas and Structure 3. Clarity & Command of Standard English conventions-Grammar, Usage, Capitalization and Punctuation 	<p>Human scorers evaluate responses based on candidate’s abilities to develop positions or claims supported by evidence from the materials provided.</p>

MATHEMATICS TEST

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SUBTEST TITLE	Mathematical Reasoning	Mathematics
CONTENT/ COMPETENCIES ASSESSED	<p>45% Quantitative problem solving with rational numbers (positive & negative whole numbers, decimals & fractions; ratios, proportions, percents; data & statistics) and geometric measurement</p> <p>55% Algebraic problem solving (expressions, polynomials, equations, inequalities, linear and quadratic equations, patterns, graphs & functions)</p> <p>Math reasoning skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Planning a method and selecting appropriate math processes to solve problems ✓ Representing real-world problems using algebra ✓ Building or completing a line of reasoning ✓ Solving and displaying algebraic expressions with graphs ✓ Evaluating and correcting lines of reasoning <p>Math Formula Sheet is provided but does NOT include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Area and Perimeter of squares, rectangles & triangles. ✓ Circumference & area of circles ✓ Measures of central tendency ✓ Distance ✓ Total cost 	<p>19% Numbers & Operations on Numbers 18% Measurement/Geometry 18% Data Analysis/Probability/Statistics 45% Algebraic Concepts</p> <p><i>*Test at a Glance</i> document provides detailed lists of content* (http://hiset.ets.org/s/pdf/2017_taaq.pdf)</p> <p>Questions are presented as practical problems and are solved by numerical operations, measurement, estimation, data interpretation and logical thinking.</p> <p>Problems are based on realistic situations and may test abstract concepts such as algebraic patterns and probability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understand mathematical concepts & procedures ✓ Analyze & interpret information ✓ Synthesize data & solve problems <p>Math Formula Sheet is provided but does NOT include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Distance-Rate-Time ✓ Pythagorean Theorem ✓ Quadratic Formula
CALCULATORS	<p>TI-30XS online calculator & reference sheet. Hand-held TI-30XS calculator permitted to be brought in by candidate, but is not provided by test center</p> <p>Part 1: no calculator (5 questions) Part 2: calculator (41 questions)</p>	<p>Calculator neutral – not required, but if requested by test taker a simple calculator is provided by the test center</p>

SCIENCE TEST: CONTENT & COMPETENCIES ASSESSED

GED®	HiSET®
<p>40% Life Science - cell structures & processes, human body systems, health & nutrition, heredity & reproduction, genetics & DNA, evolution & natural selection, organization of ecosystems</p> <p>40% Physical Science - atoms & molecules, properties and states of matter, chemical reactions, energy & work, motion & forces, waves, electricity, magnetism)</p> <p>20% Earth and Space Science - structure of Earth, plate tectonics, geological cycles & processes, renewable & non-renewable natural resources, weather & climate, the solar system, the universe</p> <p>2 Focusing Themes (content that falls outside the spheres of these themes does not appear on the test):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Human Health & Living Systems pertains to material that is vital for the health and safety of all living things on the planet. 2. Energy and Related Systems deals with sources, transformations, and uses of energy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Broad and general familiarity with, but not in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of, each of the basic science content topics and subtopics. ✓ Approximately 50% of items are presented in item scenarios, in which a single stimulus relates to two to three test items ✓ Primary focus is the measurement of essential reasoning skills applied in a scientific context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analyze, understand & extract information from a scientific text ○ Make inferences based on scientific data ○ Solve problems by applying scientific theory & processes 	<p>49% Life Science - organisms, their environment & their life cycles; interdependence of organisms; relationships between structure & function in living systems; human body systems</p> <p>28% Physical Science – recognize observable properties such as size, weight, shape, color & temperature; concepts related to the position & motion of objects; principles of light, heat, electricity, & magnetism; principles of matter and atomic structure; chemical reactions</p> <p>23% Earth Science – properties of earth materials; Earth’s systems, processes, geologic structures & time; Earth’s movements & position in the solar system; sun, other stars & the solar system</p> <p>Science situations use material from a variety of content areas such as physics, chemistry, botany, zoology, health & astronomy based on reports that might be found in scientific journals.</p> <p>Information and results are presented using graphs, tables and charts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use science content knowledge ✓ Interpret and evaluate scientific information ✓ Apply principles of scientific inquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify research question of interest ○ Select the best design for a specific research question ○ Evaluate adequacy of procedures ○ Recognize conclusions that can be drawn from results ○ Distinguish between hypotheses, assumptions, & observations

SOCIAL STUDIES TEST: CONTENT & COMPETENCIES ASSESSED

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<p>50% Civics & Government - modern & historic governments, principles that have contributed to American democracy, structure & design of US government, electoral system, individual rights & civic responsibilities, American politics, contemporary public policy</p> <p>20% U.S. History - historical documents that have shaped American government, revolutionary & early republic periods, civil war & reconstruction, civil rights, European settlement & population of the Americas, WWI, WWII, the Cold War, American foreign policy since 9/11</p> <p>15% Economics - key economic events that have shaped American government & policies, political & economic freedoms, fundamental economic concepts, micro- & macro-economics, consumer economics, economic causes & impacts of wars, economic drivers of exploration & colonization, scientific & industrial revolutions</p> <p>15% Geography & the World - classical civilizations, relationships between the environment & societal development, borders between peoples & nations, human migration</p> <p>2 Focusing Themes (content that falls outside the spheres of these themes does not appear on the test):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of Modern Liberties & Democracy explores the development of current ideas about democracy as well as human & civil rights from ancient civilizations to the present. It examines contemporary thinking, policies & structures, major events that have shaped our democratic values, & major thinkers who contributed to American ideas of democratic government. 2. Dynamic Responses in Societal Systems explores how the systems, structures & policies that people have created respond to each other, conditions, & events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Focuses on the fundamentals of social studies reasoning, including conceptual understanding of social studies themes, procedural skill & fluency, & the ability to apply these fundamentals in realistic situations. ✓ Demonstrate textual analysis & understanding, data representation & inference skills, & problem solving using social studies content 	<p>35% Civics & Government –role of the citizen in a democratic society, including rights & responsibilities & informed participation; structure & functions of different levels of US government, including concepts of power & authority; purposes & characteristics of various governance systems, with emphasis on US government</p> <p>35% History – understand specific eras in US and world history, including the people who have shaped them & the political, economic & cultural characteristics of those eras</p> <p>20% Economics – fundamental economic concepts; principles of supply & demand; government involvement in the economy; comparative economic systems & globalization; consumer economics</p> <p>10% Geography – concepts & terminology of physical & human geography; use geographic concepts to analyze spatial phenomena & economic, political & social factors; interpret maps & other visual and technological tools</p> <p>Information is presented using primary documents, posters, cartoons, timelines, maps, graphs, tables, charts, & reading passages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use social studies content knowledge ✓ Analyze & evaluate various kinds of social studies information ✓ Distinguish statements of fact from opinion ✓ Recognize the limitations of procedures & methods ✓ Make judgments about the reliability of sources, the validity of inferences & conclusions, & the adequacy of information for drawing conclusions

REFERENCES:

GED Test 2016: Strategies, Practice & Review. Kaplan Inc., 2016.

<https://ged.com/>

<http://hiset.ets.org/test-takers>

Teaching Adults: A 2014 GED Test Resource Book. New Readers Press, 2013.