

PBS LiteracyLink®

GED LOCATOR TESTS

Understanding the Locator Tests

Overview

In this section of the *LiteracyLink Teacher's Guide*, you will find reproducible masters for the *LiteracyLink GED Locator Tests*. These tests will enable you to place students at the appropriate level in *LiteracyLink* GED materials:

- *GED Connection*[™]—8th-grade level and above—39 videos, three workbooks, and online activities at www.pbs.org/literacy
- *Pre-GED Connection*—6th- to 8th-grade level—26 of the 39 *GED Connection* videos, five workbooks, and online enrichment websites at www.pbs.org/literacy

Because of the multi-level nature of the *LiteracyLink* GED system, you can use the results of the locator tests to match each student's needs and abilities to the appropriate instructional materials. Utilizing these locator tests will enable you to make one of the following initial placements:

- Placing the student at the Pre-GED level in all subject areas
- Placing the student at the GED level in all subject areas
- Placing the student at the Pre-GED level in some areas and at the GED level in others

Preparation Instructions

1. Before you administer the tests, familiarize yourself with the following:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| L-2 | Administering the Locator Tests |
| L-3 | Using the Results of the Locator Tests |
| L-4 and L5 | Answer Key for <i>LiteracyLink</i> GED Locator Tests |
| L-6 and L-7 | <i>LiteracyLink</i> GED Locator Tests Answer Sheet |
| L-8 | <i>LiteracyLink</i> GED Locator Tests Study Planner |
| L-9 | Directions for <i>LiteracyLink</i> GED Locator Tests |

2. Make copies of the following for students:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| L-6 and L-7 | <i>LiteracyLink</i> GED Locator Tests Answer Sheet |
| L-8 | <i>LiteracyLink</i> GED Locator Tests Study Planner |
| L-9 | Directions for <i>LiteracyLink</i> GED Locator Tests |
| L-10 to L15 | Writing Locator Test |
| L-16 to L19 | Reading Locator Test |
| L-20 to L23 | Social Studies Locator Test |
| L-24 to L27 | Science Locator Test |
| L-28 to L31 | Mathematics Locator Test |

You may use the reproducible masters to either:

- Make one test packet for students from pages L-9 to L-31, or
- Make individual test packets for each test.

You may wish to make a folder for each student to store:

- Study Planner
- Answer Sheet
- Tests

Administering the Locator Tests

Background

The *PBS LiteracyLink*® *GED Locator Tests* consist of five tests, one for each GED subject area:

- **Writing**
 - Part I*—16 multiple-choice questions from the areas of grammar and usage, mechanics, sentence structure, and organization
 - Part II*—3 writing assignments, in increasing levels of difficulty
- **Reading**—16 multiple-choice questions reflecting comprehension, application, analysis, and synthesis skills as applied to fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama
- **Social Studies**—16 multiple-choice questions reflecting comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation skills with prose and graphics about history, economics, geography, and government and civics topics
- **Science**—14 multiple-choice questions reflecting comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation with prose and graphics about life science, earth and space science, and physical science topics
- **Mathematics**—20 multiple-choice problems based on whole numbers, decimals, fractions, ratio and proportion, statistics and probability, algebra, and measurement and geometry

Before You Give the Locator Tests

Step 1 Before you distribute the tests, explain that the *LiteracyLink* GED materials have two different levels. *Pre-GED Connection* builds the foundation students need to effectively study for the GED, while *GED Connection* prepares them for the test itself. Use an analogy, such as pouring a foundation for a house and then building the house, to explain the importance of developing a strong foundation for GED-level study. Explain that students will take five short tests to help you to determine which level of material is the best starting place for them.

Step 2 Give students a copy of the *LiteracyLink* GED Locator Tests Answer Sheet from pages L-6 and L-7, which they can use for everything except for Writing, Part II. Have students write their name on the sheet with the date that they take the first test. Go over the directions on page L-9. Have them use the sample questions to practice filling in the answer grid for multiple-choice questions. Give them scrap paper and explain that they can use it for planning Writing, Part II, and for math calculations.

Step 3 To ensure that students are not overwhelmed, administer no more than two tests at a sitting. These are not timed tests, but students should not spend more than 30 minutes for most tests (although Writing may take longer because of the writing assignments). One possible scenario is: one test session for Writing, Parts I and II; one session for Social Studies and Mathematics; and one session for Reading and Science.

Step 4 Urge students to try to answer every question but not to spend too much time on any one. If you see that a student looks frustrated or upset, you can stop the student and discuss it with him or her. You can then make a decision to either let the student finish that test or to discontinue it and place the student in Pre-GED material for that subject area.

Step 5 Check answers and give students feedback as quickly as you can. For Writing, Part II, you will have to read three short writing assignments and use information on page L-4 to evaluate each student's writing. Fill out a copy of the *LiteracyLink* GED Locator Tests Study Planner from page L-8 and share the results with the student. Use the chart on page P-3 of this guide to choose video programs and corresponding workbook lessons at the GED or Pre-GED levels.

Using the Results of the Locator Tests

Below are suggestions for using the Locator Tests to place students in the *LiteracyLink* GED or Pre-GED materials.

Guidelines for Placement

| | Pre-GED Level Placement | GED Level Placement |
|--|---|---|
| Writing Part I: 16 questions Part II: 3 levels of assignments for points 17, 18, and 19 | 6 or fewer questions correct AND 17. Student cannot write complete coherent sentences. 18. Student cannot write a paragraph with a clear central point and supporting ideas. 19. Student fits description of "Pre-GED Level Placement" on page L-4 of this guide. | 7 or more questions correct AND 17. Student can write complete sentences. 18. Student can write a clear paragraph. 19. Student fits description of "GED Level Placement" on page L-4 of this guide. |
| Reading 16 questions | 6 or fewer questions correct | 7 or more questions correct |
| Social Studies 16 questions | 6 or fewer questions correct | 7 or more questions correct |
| Science 14 questions | 5 or fewer questions correct | 6 or more questions correct |
| Mathematics 20 questions | 7 or fewer questions correct | 8 or more questions correct |

Please combine these guidelines with ongoing observation of student performance.

- If you placed a student at the GED level, and the student is struggling or frustrated in one or more subject areas, you can suggest a switch to the Pre-GED level to build skills in that area.
- If you placed a student at the Pre-GED level, and the student is either racing through the material or seems bored, suggest that he or she try a lesson at the GED level. Then evaluate the student's work and discuss which level seems the most appropriate for him or her.

In any case, monitor their comfort with material as the students work through the *LiteracyLink* GED Preparation System. Because this is a multi-level system, you can adjust a student to easier or more challenging work, per subject area, based on his or her individual performance or need.

Placing the Student

Step 1 After evaluating the student's performance, share the results on a copy of the *LiteracyLink* GED Locator Tests Study Planner on page L-8. If you placed the student at the Pre-GED level in any area, reassure the student that he or she is building foundation skills for GED-level study.

Step 2 Use the bottom of the Study Planner to make notes about issues that you and the student discussed during the placement discussion.

Step 3 Use the chart on page P-3 of this guide to choose video programs and corresponding workbook lessons at the either the GED or Pre-GED level. Remember, the Pre-GED videos are 26 of the *GED Connection* videos with different program numbers. Since there are two distinct workbook series, make sure that the program numbers of the videos and workbook lessons correspond.

Step 4 In addition, you may use the pretests at the beginning of each workbook to more specifically evaluate specific areas of strength and weakness.

Answer Key for LiteracyLink® GED Locator Tests

Writing, Part I

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (5) (<i>Mechanics: Capitalization</i>) | 9. (5) (<i>Sentence Structure: Subordination</i>) |
| 2. (3) (<i>Mechanics: Spelling/Homonyms</i>) | 10. (1) (<i>Grammar: Subject/Verb Agreement</i>) |
| 3. (4) (<i>Sentence Structure: Run-Ons</i>) | 11. (4) (<i>Organization: Paragraph Division</i>) |
| 4. (2) (<i>Grammar: Verb Tense</i>) | 12. (1) (<i>Grammar: Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement</i>) |
| 5. (4) (<i>Sentence Structure: Fragments</i>) | |
| 6. (2) (<i>Mechanics: Commas</i>) | 13. (2) (<i>Mechanics: Commas</i>) |
| 7. (3) (<i>Mechanics: Spelling/Homonyms</i>) | 14. (3) (<i>Sentence Structure: Sentence Combining</i>) |
| 8. (2) (<i>Grammar: Verb Forms</i>) | 15. (4) (<i>Organization: Topic Sentence</i>) |
| | 16. (2) (<i>Grammar: Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement</i>) |

Writing, Part II

Part II of the Writing Placement Test asks your students to write three samples. Review these samples to help you determine whether each student should be placed at the GED or Pre-GED level for writing instruction.

The following evaluation criteria for your students' writing samples are based on the GED Essay Scoring Guide. We have provided brief descriptions that might characterize the writing of a student beginning at the Pre-GED level or at the beginning of the GED level.

| Characteristics of Student Writing | Pre-GED Level Placement | GED Level Placement |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Response to the Prompt | writes about a completely different topic; takes up a topic that is only tangentially related, and/or shifts topic suddenly | responds to the prompt at least initially; may shift topic or take off on a tangent |
| Organization | lack of paragraphing and/or ideas scrambled among paragraphs; sequence of ideas unclear; paragraphs may lack topic sentences | shows attempt to organize with paragraphing |
| Development and Details | generalizations are repeated and/or unsupported; few details; relevance of details unclear | some repetition, but also some support for generalizations; details are mostly relevant |
| Conventions of Standard English | many serious errors interfere with understanding the writer's ideas | sentence-level errors may be frequent, but the writer's ideas are generally understandable |
| Word Choice | narrow vocabulary and/or inappropriate word choice for essay writing | vocabulary may be limited, but word choice is generally suitable for essay writing |

Reading

1. (1) (*Comprehension: Literal*)
2. (4) (*Comprehension: Inferential*)
3. (2) (*Analysis*)
4. (5) (*Synthesis*)
5. (3) (*Application*)
6. (1) (*Analysis*)
7. (4) (*Comprehension: Inferential*)
8. (4) (*Synthesis*)
9. (5) (*Comprehension: Literal*)
10. (2) (*Analysis*)
11. (5) (*Comprehension: Inferential*)
12. (1) (*Synthesis*)
13. (2) (*Comprehension: Inferential*)
14. (3) (*Application*)
15. (3) (*Analysis*)
16. (2) (*Synthesis*)

Social Studies

1. (2) (*Comprehension: Literal*)
2. (3) (*Comprehension: Inferential*)
3. (1) (*Evaluation*)
4. (5) (*Analysis*)
5. (3) (*Comprehension: Inferential*)
6. (2) (*Analysis*)
7. (4) (*Evaluation*)
8. (1) (*Analysis*)
9. (5) (*Comprehension: Literal*)
10. (3) (*Evaluation*)
11. (5) (*Application*)
12. (4) (*Application*)
13. (1) (*Comprehension: Literal*)
14. (4) (*Comprehension: Inferential*)
15. (3) (*Analysis*)
16. (2) (*Application*)

Science

1. (3) (*Comprehension: Literal*)
2. (1) (*Application*)
3. (2) (*Analysis*)
4. (5) (*Application*)
5. (4) (*Comprehension: Literal*)
6. (5) (*Analysis*)
7. (4) (*Analysis*)
8. (2) (*Evaluation*)
9. (2) (*Application*)
10. (4) (*Evaluation*)
11. (3) (*Synthesis*)
12. (5) (*Comprehension: Inferential*)
13. (1) (*Evaluation*)
14. (4) (*Synthesis*)

Mathematics

1. (4) (*Whole Numbers*)
2. (5) (*Whole Numbers*)
3. (1) (*Decimals*)
4. (4) (*Decimals*)
5. (5) (*Fractions*)
6. (1) (*Fractions*)
7. (2) (*Fractions*)
8. (1) (*Ratio*)
9. (3) (*Proportion*)
10. (2) (*Percents*)
11. (2) (*Measurement*)
12. (4) (*Measurement*)
13. (3) (*Graphs*)
14. (4) (*Graphs*)
15. (2) (*Statistics*)
16. (3) (*Probability*)
17. (1) (*Algebra*)
18. (2) (*Algebra*)
19. (4) (*Geometry*)
20. (3) (*Geometry*)

LiteracyLink[®] GED Locator Tests Answer Sheet

Name: _____ Start Date: _____

Writing Test, Part I

1. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

2. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

3. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

4. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

5. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

6. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

7. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

8. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

9. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

10. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

11. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

12. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

13. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

14. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

15. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

16. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Writing Test, Part II

(Write in your test booklet.)

Reading Test

1. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

2. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

3. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

4. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

5. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

6. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

7. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

8. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

9. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

10. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

11. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

12. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

13. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

14. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

15. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

16. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

LiteracyLink® GED Locator Tests Answer Sheet

Social Studies

1. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

2. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

3. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

4. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

5. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

6. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

7. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

8. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

9. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

10. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

11. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

12. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

13. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

14. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

15. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

16. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Science

1. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

2. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

3. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

4. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

5. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

6. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

7. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

8. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

9. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

10. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

11. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

12. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

13. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

14. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Mathematics

1. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

2. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

3. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

4. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

5. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

6. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

7. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

8. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

9. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

10. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

11. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

12. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

13. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

14. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

15. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

16. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

17. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

18. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

19. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

20. ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

LiteracyLink® GED Locator Tests Study Planner

Name: _____ Start Date: _____

WRITING

Part I: Correct Answers: _____ out of 16

Part II: Writing Evaluation:

Placement

- Pre-GED Writing GED Writing

READING

Correct Answers: _____ out of 16

Placement

- Pre-GED Reading GED Reading

SOCIAL STUDIES

Correct Answers: _____ out of 16

Placement

- Pre-GED Social Studies GED Social Studies

SCIENCE

Correct Answers: _____ out of 14

Placement

- Pre-GED Science GED Science

MATHEMATICS

Correct Answers: _____ out of 20

Placement

- Pre-GED Mathematics GED Mathematics

Notes on Teacher-Student Discussion

Directions for LiteracyLink® GED Locator Tests

You are about to begin the LiteracyLink GED Locator Tests. These tests will be used to help you determine which set of materials will help you best prepare to pass the GED Tests. The locator tests are simply a way to get you started on the road to earning your GED.

You will take five locator tests in the areas of writing, reading, social studies, science, and mathematics. Based on these locator tests, your instructor will determine your level of study for each subject area—Pre-GED or GED. The Pre-GED level helps build a solid foundation of skills to prepare you for GED-level instruction. The GED level focuses your work on the skills you need to pass the GED. It is important to remember that these levels are simply two different starting points on the same road—the road to GED success!

Before you begin the tests, your instructor should provide you with scrap paper and a locator answer sheet. You can use the scrap paper for planning your writing and for doing math computations. You will use the answer sheet to record all of your answers for the five tests, except for Writing, Part II, which you will write on the lined pages in the test booklet. Below is a sample question and answer grid. Answer the question, and then practice filling in the answer grid.

1. Sylvia uses 3 eggs in a cake recipe. The recipe feeds 6 people. If Sylvia is having 12 people over for dinner, how many eggs does she need to use to have enough cake for her 12 guests?
 - (1) 3
 - (2) 4
 - (3) 6
 - (4) 7
 - (5) 12

0. 1 2 3 4 5

The correct answer is **(3) 6** since she is doubling the recipe. You should have completely filled in the circle labeled “3”.

As you take each test, make sure that you answer every question. If you are not sure about the answer, make a reasonable choice, or move on and come back to the question later. Even though the tests are not timed, you should try to finish each test in about 30 minutes or less. However, the writing test may take you a little longer because it has three short writing assignments.

You should stop at the end of each test where it is labeled **STOP**. **Do not move on to the next test until you are told to do so by your instructor.** If you finish a test early, you may choose to go back and check your work, spend more time on a difficult question, or revise your writing pieces.

Remember to relax, take your time, and answer all the questions. **GOOD LUCK!**