



# 2002/2014 GED® Test Comparison

## General Test Differences

2002	2014	Page Number
<b>Item types:</b> multiple-choice, essay, and grid format questions	<b>Item types:</b> hot spot, drag-and-drop, short answer, extended response, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, cloze	1.3 – 1.5
Assessment is informed by <b>Bloom’s Taxonomy</b>	Assessment is informed by <b>Webb’s Depth of Knowledge</b> model and the <b>Common Core State Standards</b>	2.1
Test is administered using <b>paper and pencil</b>	Test is <b>computer based</b>	1.3
<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$120</b>	GEDTS Pricing Memo
Multiple choice items have <b>five answer options.</b>	Multiple choice items have <b>four answer options.</b>	1.4
Test-takers are allowed to use <b>scratch paper.</b>	Test-takers will be given a small <b>dry-erase board</b> with Expo markers.	2012 GED Conference
A <b>Spanish</b> language version of the test is <b>currently available.</b>	There will be an <b>operational release</b> of the Spanish version of the test <b>sometime in 2014.</b>	2012 GED Conference

# Reading and Writing/Reasoning through Language Arts

2002	2014	Page Number
There is a <b>reading test</b> and a <b>writing test</b> .	There is a reading comprehension component and a writing component to the <b>Reasoning through Language Arts test</b> .	2.11, 2.15
Combined, the reading and writing test include <b>90 multiple-choice questions</b> and one essay and takes around <b>3 hours to complete</b> .	The <b>number of questions</b> on the Reasoning through Language Arts test will <b>vary</b> . It takes around <b>3 hours to complete</b> . Test-takers will be given a 10-minute break.	2012 GED Conference
READING: Each passage contains between <b>200 and 400 words</b> .	Passages in the reading comprehension section will contain between <b>450 and 900 words</b> .	2.10
READING: 75% of texts are <b>literary</b> – poetry, drama, prose	75% of texts are <b>informational – nonfiction</b> and workplace contexts.	2.9
READING: The test includes <b>poetry</b> .	The test does not include poetry.	2.12-2.14
WRITING: Writing is scored based on these traits: <b>focused main points; clear organization</b> ; specific development of ideas; sentence structure control, punctuation, grammar, word choice, and spelling.	Writing is scored based on these traits: <b>analysis of arguments and use of evidence</b> ; development of ideas and structure; clarity and command of standard English conventions, grammar, usage, capitalization and punctuation.	2.15
WRITING: Test-takers are required to <b>write an essay about a familiar subject</b> .	Test-takers are required to <b>draw evidence from a literary or informational text</b> to support analysis and reflection.	2.15
WRITING: Essays are written on <b>paper</b> .	Test-takers must use technology to produce writing, demonstrating sufficient command of <b>keyboarding skills</b> .	2.15
WRITING: Test-takers have <b>45 minutes</b> to plan, write, and edit the essay.	It is suggested that test-takers use <b>45 minutes</b> to read a source text, compose their responses, and review/edit.	1.3

## Social Studies

2002	2014	Page Number
The test contains <b>50 multiple-choice questions</b> . The test takes around <b>70 minutes</b> to complete.	The <b>number of questions</b> on the Social Studies test will <b>vary</b> . It takes around <b>90 minutes to complete</b> .	2012 GED Conference
The test contains <b>multiple-choice questions only</b> .	The test <b>includes an extended response item</b> . It is suggested that test-takers use 25 minutes to provide an analysis of primary and secondary source documents.  Extended response passages will range from 550 to 650 words.	1.9  2.48
Questions come from the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>U.S. History—25%</b></li> <li>• World History—15%</li> <li>• Geography—15%</li> <li>• Civics and Government—25%</li> <li>• Economics—20%</li> </ul>	Questions come from the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Civics and Government—50%</b></li> <li>• U.S. History—20%</li> <li>• Economics—15%</li> <li>• Geography and the World—15%</li> </ul>	2.37

## Science

2002	2014	Page Number
The test includes the following content areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Physical Science (physics and chemistry)—35%</b></li> <li>• <b>Life Science—45%</b></li> <li>• Earth and Space Science—20%</li> </ul>	The test includes the following content areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Life Science—40%</b></li> <li>• <b>Physical Science—40%</b></li> <li>• Earth and Space Science—20%</li> </ul>	2.27
The test includes <b>50 multiple-choice questions</b> and takes around <b>80 minutes to complete</b> .	The <b>number of questions</b> on the test will <b>vary</b> . It takes around <b>75 minutes to complete</b> .	2012 GED Conference

## Mathematics

2002	2014	Page Number
The test contains <b>50 multiple-choice questions</b> . The test takes around <b>90 minutes</b> to complete.	The <b>number of questions</b> on the test will <b>vary</b> . It takes around <b>75 minutes to complete</b> .	2012 GED Conference
Test-takers may use the <b>Casio fx-260 Solar Scientific calculator</b> for one of the two sections of the exam.	Candidates will be provided a <b>virtual, on-screen Texas Instruments TI-30XS scientific calculator</b> and <b>calculator reference tool</b> to use on a portion of the items in the math test.	Item Sampler Guide pg. 22
A page of commonly used <b>formulas</b> is provided to the test-taker.	Test-takers can click to see a <b>formula sheet</b> . However, the new formula sheet <b>does not provide the same information</b> as the current formula sheet.	2.26

## Scoring

2002	2014	Page Number
There are no <b>short answer questions</b> on the test.	Short answers are scored on a <b>three-point scale</b> . Each item will have its own rules for scoring. 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 the <b>automated scoring engine</b> .	3.2-3.3
An essay is scored using a <b>four-point scoring guide</b> .	Extended response items in the Reasoning through Language Arts test will be scored on a <b>12-point scale</b> . The extended response item on the Social Studies test will be scored on an <b>eight-point scale</b> .	3.4
The essay is scored holistically by <b>two readers</b> .	The extended response item will go through the <b>automated scoring engine</b> and then <b>double-checked</b> by a human reader or readers.	2012 GED Conference

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