



## A guide for the GED® Programme

If you are looking for a way to obtain a Grade 12 high school equivalency\* certificate then consider the GED Testing Service *GED® Programme*, created in 1942 in the US as a second chance opportunity.

The GED® testing programme serves the purpose of making it possible to earn the equivalent of a secondary school leaving certificate to facilitate employment or entry to further studies.

The GED® test is aligned to leading college- and career-readiness standards.

GED Testing Service offers clear guidance on how to evaluate its graduates, including those who have passed the GED® test. These graduates have earned the equivalent of a secondary school leaving certificate, demonstrating skills including critical thinking, problem solving, reading/writing, mathematics, and computer skills, needed for college and career-readiness. GED Testing Service recommends that individuals who pass the GED® test be accepted as high school graduates for the purposes of college admissions.

### About the current GED® test

The GED® test is primarily computer-based and is made up of four test subjects. The test includes written responses that assess the test-taker's thinking and writing skills, known as "constructed response" items. To ensure the GED® continues to measure the content and skills included in the current high school curriculum, the GED® test undergoes regular review and revision. The most recent version of the test was launched in January 2014. For the first time, the GED® test is fully-aligned to leading college and career-readiness content standards, measuring both high school equivalency and college- and career-readiness.

## The GED® test has 4 subjects



Reasoning  
Through  
Language Arts



Mathematical  
Reasoning



Science



Social Studies



## Reasoning Through Language Arts

150 minutes examination

In alignment with career and college readiness standards, the GED® RLA test focuses on three essential groupings of skills:

- The ability to read closely
- The ability to write clearly
- The ability to edit and understand the use of standard written English in context

The test includes texts from both academic and workplace contexts. These texts reflect a range of complexity levels, in terms of ideas, structure and style. The writing tasks, (called Extended Response (ER) items), require test-takers to analyse given source texts and use evidence drawn from the texts to support their written analysis.

75% of the texts in the exam are from informational texts (including non-fiction drawn from the science and the social studies, as well as a range of texts from workplace contexts) and 25% are literature texts.



## Mathematical Reasoning

115 minutes examination

The GED® Mathematical Reasoning Test focuses on two major content areas:

- Quantitative problem solving (45%)
- Algebraic problem solving (55%)

Problem solving skills are measured in both academic and workforce contexts. In addition to problem solving, the test includes items that test procedural skill and fluency. The test also assesses five mathematical practice areas and about 30% of the test items measure one of the mathematical practices, as well as a content indicator.

Candidates are provided with an on-screen calculator, the Texas Instruments TI-30XS Multiview scientific calculator, for use on most of the items on the 2014 GED® Mathematics Test.



## Science

90 minutes examination

The GED® Science Test focuses on three major content areas:

- Life science (40%)
- Physical science (40%)
- Earth and space science (20%)

The test assesses key science reasoning, balancing conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency and the application of the reasoning skills to realistic situations. Each item on the Science Test is aligned to one science practice and one content topic.

The test includes items that test textual analysis and understanding, data representation and inference skills, as well as problem solving with science content, in both academic and workforce contexts. The Science Test also measures statistics and data interpretation skills.



## Social Studies

70 minutes examination

The GED® Social Studies test focuses on four major content areas:

- Civics and government (50%)
- United States history (20%)
- Economics (15%)
- Geography and the world (15%)

The test assesses key social studies reasoning skills, balancing conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency and the application of the reasoning skills to realistic situations. Each item on the Social Studies Test is aligned to one social studies practice and one content topic.

The social studies practices are skills that are key to both textual and quantitative social studies reasoning. The Social Studies test also measures statistics and data interpretation skills.



## External GED® Examinations

There are four examinations

Assessment Fees to GED Testing Service® will be charged separately. These Fees will only be charged when the student is ready to write the examination.

In South Africa, most Boston VUE Testing Centres around South Africa are authorised to offer the GED® Examinations. Examination Vouchers will be made available to enable the booking of examinations.

In Namibia, there is currently one accredited testing centre in Windhoek. Paradise Computer Consultancy Services (PCCS) is located at 26 Salk Street Windhoek West, Windhoek, Namibia.

To be able to test, a student must be able to provide a government issued Identity Document that includes a student's full name, date of birth, signature and photo.

To apply for disability accommodations you need to contact the Pearson VUE International GED Testing Service Booking Line in the United Kingdom. To assist you with this, we have setup a local Johannesburg number which redirects you to the UK number. The number is +27(0)11-083-8844. Office hours are 9am to 5pm UK time.



## Outcomes

- ✓ Meet the minimum requirement for employment as many employers
- ✓ Be a role model for your family or obtain the equivalent of a high school certificate for personal satisfaction

People with a high school credential earn substantially more in a lifetime than people without a high school credential. More than 20 million people have passed the GED® test. The GED® test is administered year-round at more than 3,000 testing centres worldwide. The GED® test was created in 1942 as a second-chance opportunity. One decision shouldn't define a lifetime—transform your life with the GED® test.

To make it easy, we put everything you need online: teaching lessons, books, practice tests and even your own mentor and tutor.



## Entry Requirements

It is recommended that students wanting to study the GED® have a minimum of a Grade 10 Certificate with English 1st Language and Mathematical Literacy.



## Course Category

### Institute Academic Award

On successful completion of the GED®, you will be issued a GED® High School Equivalency Credential (Diploma) issued by the the Office of the State Superintendent of Education in Washington DC together with an Official Transcript.

You will receive your official GED® Transcript and Diploma electronically via email. The transcript lists the test scores for each subject. All Transcripts and Diplomas are printed on copy-safe paper with a raised seal. Any attempt to fax, copy or scan an official GED® transcript or diploma will result in that reproduction being watermarked as an 'UNAUTHORIZED COPY'. Should you print your electronic Transcript or Diploma, it will also print with a watermark which states it is a 'Copy of Official Diploma' or 'Copy of Official Transcript'.

GED® students can request one free printed Diploma to be sent to you by courier through your GED® profile on [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com). You will still be charged courier fees. You do not receive a free printed Transcript.

Should you need a copy of either your GED® Transcript or Diploma sent to someone, such as a university admission officer or SAQA, you can request this, at a minimal fee, through your official GED® profile on [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com).



## Academic & Assessment Structure

<b>Programme Rules of Progression &amp; Certification</b>	All subjects are compulsory and must be passed
<b>Methods of Study</b>	Full Time Part Time Distance
<b>Programme Level</b>	Closely comparable to South African Grade 12 / National Senior Certificate (NSC)*
<b>Pass Mark Required Per Module</b>	Reasoning Through Language Arts: Score of 145 Mathematical Reasoning: Score of 145 Science: Score of 145 Social Studies: Score of 145
<b>Assessment Structure Per Module</b>	In the event a candidate fails, they may retake the exam two additional times at any time. Should they fail a third time, they would have to wait 60 days before the next attempt. There is no minimum grade criterion to qualify for such a rewrite opportunity but it will attract a test fee. No calculators are allowed to be brought into the Mathematics exam. A virtual calculator is supplied.
<b>Calculation of Final Grade</b>	To graduate Test-takers must earn a minimum score of 145 on each test subject to pass and earn the high school equivalency credential.



## Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.ged.org.za/index.php/faq/>

### What is the GED®?

The GED® testing programme serves the equivalent purpose of a secondary school leaving certificate. It has been in existence since 1942.

### What does the GED® stand for?

The term “GED” is a registered trademark of the American Council on Education (“ACE”), which is part owner of the GED Testing Service®, who administers the GED® testing programme globally. Originally, the initials “GED” stood for “General Educational Development,” and the term shows that the GED® test measures the lasting outcomes from a secondary school programme of study. A GED® test credential shows that the recipient has the same general level of academic achievement as a typical high school graduate.

### Is the GED® a Matric?

No. The GED® testing program serves the equivalent purpose of a secondary school leaving certificate.

### What do I need to achieve to pass the GED®?

To graduate test-takers must earn a minimum score of 145 on each test subject to pass and earn the high school equivalency credential. In the event a candidate fails, they may retake the exam two additional times at any time. Should they fail a third time, they would have to wait 60 days before the next attempt. There is no minimum grade criterion to qualify for such a rewrite opportunity but it will attract a test fee.

### What happens if I fail a test?

The GED Testing Service® permits you to test the same subject two additional times without a wait, and then requires a 60-day wait period between additional attempts. There is no minimum grade criterion to qualify for such a rewrite opportunity but it will attract a test fee. The GED® score report will provide you with detailed feedback to address the skills you need to work on.

### What happens when I pass all 4 tests?

On successful completion of the GED®, you will be issued a GED® High School Equivalency Credential (Diploma) issued by the the Office of the State Superintendent of Education in Washington DC together with an Official Transcript.





### **What makes a GED® test credential “equivalent” to a high school diploma or a secondary leaving certificate?**

The GED® is accepted as an equivalent to a high school diploma by approximately 98% of colleges and universities in the U.S. and 95% of employers because they recognise the GED® test as a rigorous examination equal to or exceeding high school proficiency. The GED® test is aligned to the career and college readiness content standards in use throughout the U.S., and the test is standardised and normed using a national sample of recent high school graduates. In addition, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education in Washington DC has reviewed the test and determined that it meets their requirements in order to be granted a High School Equivalency Credential from Washington DC.

### **What are the registration requirements?**

There are no prerequisites for the GED. To write the GED® tests in South Africa and Namibia, candidates must be age 17 or older and must have a form of government issued ID with their full name, date of birth, photo and signature.

### **How do I register a GED® Profile?**

Go to [www.myged.com](http://www.myged.com), click on the “Sign Up” tab. Please ensure that you always have access to the email address you use as the username, as this is where your diploma and transcript will be emailed to once you have passed all your tests. When registering your profile, it is vital that your profile matches your ID exactly, as these are the details that will be printed on your GED Diploma and Transcript.

### **How long do you expect we will wait for scores?**

Scores will be returned from the test within 24 hours of completion of each subject.



## Does SAQA recognize the GED® Credential?

Yes, students can apply to SAQA for a 'Certificate of Evaluation' for the GED® Diploma. SAQA has evaluated the GED® and found the National Senior Certificate as its closest comparable qualification.

You will need to apply to SAQA with your GED® Credential for a Certificate of Evaluation if you require one. The application does have a cost associated with it. SAQA will require an official and verified copy of your Diploma and/or Transcript to be sent directly from the GED® for your application. You can request that a copy is sent directly to SAQA through your GED® profile on [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com) for a small fee.

For any GED® graduate who would like to apply to SAQA for a Certificate of Evaluation, refer to <http://www.ged.org.za/index.php/resources/saqa/>



## Does the NQA recognize the GED® Credential?

Yes, students can apply to the NQA for a 'Certificate of Evaluation' for the GED® Diploma. The NQA has evaluated the GED® and found it to be comparable to a Certificate at NQF Level 4 (four) of the National Qualifications Framework for Namibia.

You will need to apply to the NQA with your GED® Credential for a Certificate of Evaluation if you require one. The application may have a cost associated with it. The NQA will require an official and verified copy of your Diploma and/or Transcript to be sent directly from the GED® for your application. You can request that a copy is sent directly to the NQA through your GED® profile on [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com) for a small fee.

For any GED® graduate who would like to apply to the NQA for a Certificate of Evaluation, refer to <http://www.ged.org.za/index.php/resources/nqa/>





## Fee guide for the GED® Programme

The GED® Programme comprises the following fees

- Tuition Fee: Dependent on tuition provider
- External Examination Fee: US\$75 per examination. There are four examinations
- External Examination Re-write Fee: US\$75 per examination
- Printed Hardcopy of the GED® Diploma and/or Transcript: US\$15\* (excl. Courier fee)
- Courier Fee for Hardcopy Credentials, per document: US\$47.50
- GED Ready® Practice Test: R130+VAT per test available online here
  - <http://www.ged.org.za/index.php/product/ged-ready-practice-test/>
- Application to SAQA for Certificate of Evaluation\*: Click on this link to view the fees <https://www.saqa.org.za/evaluations-foreign-qualifications>
- Application to the NQA for Certificate of Evaluation: Currently free, but may change

\* Optional

*The below fees are correct as at 1 September 2020.*