

## 2002/2014 GED Test Differences

### General Test Differences

2002	2014
Test is administered using paper and pencil	Test is computer based
Multiple choice items have five answer options	Multiple choice items have 4 answer options
Scratch paper is allowed	Dry erase boards with Expo markers; no scratch paper allowed
Questions are multiple choice, essay, and grid format style	Questions are multiple choice, drop-down, fill in the blank, short answer, extended response, hot spot, and drag and drop styles
Assessment is informed by Bloom's Taxonomy	Assessment is informed by Webb's Depth of Knowledge model and the Common Core Standards

### Reading and Writing Language Arts

2002	2014
There are separate Reading and Writing tests	Reading Comprehension and Writing are combined in the new Reasoning through Language Arts test
The tests are multiple choice based	Questions are multiple choice, drop-down, fill in the blank, extended response, and drag and drop styles
Between the two there are 90 multiple choice questions with an essay and takes approximately 3 hours to complete	The amount of questions will vary and take approximately 2 hours and 5 minutes to complete with one 10-minute break
Reading test includes poetry	No poetry included
75% of the test is literary: poetry, drama, and prose	75% of the test is informational: nonfictional and workplace contexts
Each passage is between 200-400 words	Passages are between 450-900 words
Writing is based on a clear thesis, organization, sentence structure, grammar, idea development, and word choice	Writing is based on analysis of arguments and the use of evidence, development of ideas and organization, clarity and command of the English language (grammar, spelling, and punctuation)
Testers write an essay about a familiar subject	Testers are required to draw evidence from either a literary or informational text to support analysis and reflection
Essays are written on paper	Testers must use technology to produce writing and demonstrate their command of basic keyboarding skills
Essays are 45 minutes in length	Testers are recommended to take 45 minutes to read a source text, compose a response, and edit it

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### Social Studies

2002	2014
The test has 50 multiple choice questions which must be completed within 75 minutes	The number of questions will vary and must be completed within 90 minutes
<p>A variety of multiple choice questions from the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. History- 25%</li> <li>• Economics- 20%</li> <li>• Civics and Government- 15%</li> <li>• Geography- 15%</li> <li>• World History- 15%</li> </ul>	<p>A variety of questions including an extended response question which will be up to 650 words in length. It is recommended to spend at least 25 minutes to provide an analysis of the response passage and its primary and secondary source materials. Questions will cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civics and Government- 50%</li> <li>• U.S. History- 20%</li> <li>• Economics- 15%</li> <li>• Geography and the World- 15%</li> </ul>

### Science

2002	2014
The test contains 50 multiple choice questions which must be completed within 80 minutes	The number of questions will vary and requires a short response answer and must be completed within 75 minutes
<p>A variety of multiple choice questions from the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life Science- 45%</li> <li>• Physical Science- 35%</li> <li>• Earth and Space Science- 20%</li> </ul>	<p>A variety of questions including multiple choice, fill in the blank, drop down, hot spot, drag and drop items, and short response questions from the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life Science- 40%</li> <li>• Physical Science- 40%</li> <li>• Earth and Space Science- 20%</li> </ul>

### Mathematics

2002	2014
The test contains 50 multiple choice questions which must be completed within 90 minutes	The number of questions will vary and must be completed within 75 minutes. The test will also utilize fill in the blank, drop down, hot spot, and drag and drop items
Testers are allowed to use a Casio fx-260 Scientific Calculator for one section of the test	Testers will be allowed access to a virtual on-screen TI-30XS scientific calculator to use on certain questions of the test
A formula page is provided to the tester	Testers can click on a virtual formula sheet. Basic formulas such as area and perimeter are no longer included as they presume the tester should know these

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### Scoring

2002	2014
There are no short answer questions on the test	Short answers are graded on a 3 point scale
The essay is scored using a 4 point scale	Extended response questions on the Reasoning through Language Arts will be scored on a 12 point scale. The Social Studies response question will be graded on a 7 point scale
The essay is scored holistically by 2 readers	Both extended response and short answer questions will be graded by a combination of readers and an automated scoring engine.