



# General Educational Development

A decorative graphic consisting of a grid of light gray squares, resembling a keyboard layout, with a thick black curved line arching over it from the top left towards the bottom right.

**GED: A Testing Service for**

**Adult High School Equivalency**



INDEPENDENT LEARNING CENTRE  
CENTRE D'ÉTUDES INDÉPENDANTES

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# GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## GED TESTING SERVICE

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# GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GED TESTING SERVICE

## *A Testing Program for Adult High School Equivalency*

### Introduction

General Educational Development (GED) is an international testing program for adults who have been unable to complete high school. Adults acquire knowledge, skills, and concepts through working, training, travelling, reading, and other informal learning. GED Tests measure the level of “educational maturity” gained through experience, which is often equal to, or above, the level of a high school graduate.

GED Tests are available in all Canadian provinces and territories, in all of the United States, and in several other countries. In 2005, more than 750,000 adults worldwide completed the GED Tests.

This brochure should answer most of your questions about the GED. Please read it carefully.

All the information contained in this brochure is available on our Web site at *www.ilc.org*

The application form and the most current test schedule are also available on our Web site.

# What are the GED Tests?

The GED Tests are a set of five tests in the core high school curriculum areas:

- Language Arts: Writing
- Language Arts: Reading
- Mathematics Part 1 (use of calculator)  
Part 2 (no calculator)
- Social Studies
- Science

The tests measure important knowledge and skills (such as your ability to understand and apply information; to evaluate, analyse, and draw conclusions; and to express ideas and opinions in writing) that are usually acquired during a regular high school program of study.

The tests contain questions that require the use of important ideas and thinking skills; few of the questions ask for isolated details, definitions, or specific facts. Multiple-choice questions are used for each of the five tests; the Language Arts: Writing Test includes an essay component **that a candidate must pass in order to receive a score for the test**. The Mathematics Test includes the use of standard and coordinate plane grids and a calculator.

The tests are available in English and French. Special editions and testing accommodations are available to help people with special needs and physical and/or learning disabilities. Please refer to page 4 for more information.

The tests used in Canada have been developed especially for Canadians.

## Am I eligible to take the GED Tests?

To write the GED Tests in Ontario, you must meet the following four requirements:

1. be at least 18 years old\*
2. have not graduated from high school
3. have been out of the school system for at least one full year
4. be a resident of Ontario

\* Candidates who are 18 years old must provide a date of leaving letter from the last high school they attended. Home-schooled candidates must provide a letter from their Board of Education indicating that they have been home-schooled.

## Why do people write the GED Tests?

Some of the many reasons people write the GED Tests are

- to receive a high school equivalency certificate
- to qualify for employment
- to gain promotion within their own organization
- to apply for admission to an educational or training institution
- to achieve personal satisfaction

## Can I get special accommodation to write the GED Tests?

The GED Tests are available in large-print, audio-cassette, and Braille editions. Special testing arrangements can also be made for candidates who, because of physical, psychological, or learning disabilities, may not have the ability or test-taking skills required under standard testing conditions.

If you have specific learning and/or physical disabilities, you may be granted special accommodation to write the GED tests. These may include extra time to write the tests, frequent breaks during testing, a separate testing area, a scribe, a special edition of the tests, etc.

To request special accommodation, you must submit a completed copy of the appropriate form to the Independent Learning Centre along with your application form and fee. No form is required when requesting the large-print edition of the tests.

Any request submitted without the appropriate completed application form and fee will be returned.

Due to the time required to review these cases, you must submit your application form, GED fee, accommodation form and documentation **at least TWO MONTHS prior to the preferred writing date.**

You may be contacted for further information and clarification.

**FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: *www.ilc.org***

# How long do the tests take and what subjects are included in each test?

The five tests take a total of seven hours and five minutes to complete.

Test	Content	No. of Questions	Time
<b>Language Arts: Writing (Part I)</b>	Organization 15% Sentence Structure 30% Mechanics 25% Usage 30%	50	1 hour, 15 minutes
<b>Language Arts: Writing (Part II)</b>	Essay Component	Essay	45 minutes
<b>Language Arts: Reading</b>	Literary Text 75% • Poetry • Drama • Fiction (Pre-1920, 1920–1960, 1960 to present) Non-fiction Text 25% • Non-fiction Prose (Biography, Critical Review of Fine and Performing Arts) • Workplace Documents	40	1 hour, 5 minutes
<b>Mathematics</b>	Numbers, Number Sense and Operations 20–30% Data, Statistics, and Probability 20–30% Geometry and Measurement 20–30% Algebra, Functions, and Patterns 20–30%	50	1 hour, 30 minutes
<b>Social Studies</b>	History 40% Civics 25% Economics 20% Geography 15%	50	1 hour, 10 minutes
<b>Science</b>	Life Science 45% (Biology and Health) Earth and Space Science 20% Physical Science 35% (Chemistry and Physics)	50	1 hour, 20 minutes

## **Is a GED certificate equivalent to high school graduation?**

The GED Testing Program compares your performance on the tests to the results of Grade 12 students on the same tests. The tests take into consideration the skills and knowledge people are expected to retain from high school, especially the ability to reason, put together information, and draw conclusions.

If you obtain a standard score of at least 450 on each of the five GED Tests, you will receive an Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate. Individual test results are expressed as standard scores ranging from 200 to 800 on each of the five tests. The GED certificate will show others that you have the potential of a high school graduate and the maturity to succeed in areas of further training and/or study. However, specific knowledge that a recent high school graduate might have acquired (such as mathematical and chemical formulas, or the work of specific authors) is not tested. There is no credit value associated with the GED Tests.

## **Who recognizes the GED certificate?**

The GED certificate is widely accepted as meeting secondary school graduation requirements for purposes of employment, promotion, licensing, and further education. However, the Ministry of Education cannot guarantee that the certificate will be accepted by employers or post-secondary institutions or trainers in every instance.

Many colleges of applied arts and technology and universities accept satisfactory GED scores as one factor in their assessment for admission as a mature student.



## How much does it cost to write the GED Tests?

The cost of writing or rewriting the GED Tests is \$80.00. This non-refundable fee must accompany your GED application.

Payment may be made by money order, certified cheque, Visa, or MasterCard. Certified cheques or money orders should be made payable to **TVOntario—GED**. Please **do not send cash**. Personal cheques will not be accepted.

## How do I apply to write the GED Tests?

GED application forms can be obtained directly from the GED Coordinator and from our Web site (see page 13 for the addresses).

You must send proof of age, such as a copy of your birth certificate, driver's licence, photo health card, or passport. Do not send original documents.

After you have carefully filled out the application form, please mail it, along with your \$80 fee and required documentation, to the GED Coordinator at the Independent Learning Centre (address on page 13).

**Note:** If you are paying by credit card, you may fax your completed application to (416) 484-2750 or email it to [ged@tvontario.org](mailto:ged@tvontario.org).

**Your application must be received at least THREE WEEKS prior to the testing date you select.**

Applications are kept on file for a period of one year. After that time you must reapply if you have not written the GED Tests or if you want to rewrite one or all of the tests.

## How do I prepare for the GED Tests?

Skills you have acquired from work, training, reading, and other experiences have already helped prepare you to write the GED Tests.

For additional preparation, you may

- study books from the library on various subject areas
- obtain a GED preparation book from your local library or a bookstore:
  - 1) *Complete Canadian GED Preparation*, ISBN 0-7747-1631-2, Nelson College Indigenous;
  - 2) *How to Prepare for the GED*, ISBN 0-7641-2959-7, Barron's
- take a GED preparation course

If you are interested in taking a GED preparation course, check with a local school board, school, or college. Some preparation courses are available through private enterprises. A list of known GED Preparation centres can be found on our website under “Resources”.

## Where are the GED Tests held?

Testing sessions are held in Barrie, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Stratford, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto, and Windsor. Residents of Ontario may choose to write at any site. Testing is available in both English and French at all sites.

## When are the GED Tests held?

GED testing is divided into two days, usually held on a Friday evening and all day Saturday.

A detailed schedule of test times and dates is included in this package and can also be found on our website.

## What do I bring to the testing session?

When you come to write your tests, you must bring an original photo identification with your signature, for example, a driver's licence, photo health card, or passport.

All supplies, such as paper, pencils, pens, and calculator (*Casio fx-260*) will be provided at the testing session. You will NOT be permitted to use any other materials such as reference books, dictionaries, a slide rule, or your own personal calculator when writing the tests.

## What is the testing procedure?

You are expected to take all five tests the first time you write the GED Tests.

You will be asked to arrive half an hour before you write your first test in order to present your identification and to register.

A fifteen-minute break is scheduled between tests. You will also have a one-hour lunch break. Additional time is scheduled for giving instructions before each test begins.

Most questions on the GED Tests are multiple choice with five possible answers given. You are required to mark a space in pencil on an answer sheet to show which answer is best for each question. For the Language Arts: Writing Test you will be required to write an essay, and for the Mathematics Test you will be required to use grids.

## Example

In each set of words, find the misspelled word if there is one. No set has more than one misspelled word. On the answer sheet, blacken the space having the same number as the answer you have chosen. If there is no misspelled word, mark answer space 5.

1. Article
2. Vehicle
3. Icicle
4. Bicycle
5. No error



## What if I cancel my testing?

The \$80 fee is **non-refundable**.

If you register for a specific session, but decide to write at another session, you **must** contact the GED at least **ONE WEEK before the testing date to reschedule**. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 re-scheduling fee.

You must reschedule to write the tests within **12 months** of the initial application date. After that, you will need to submit a new application form and repay the testing fee.

If you fail to show up for the test without having properly notified the GED, you must submit a new application form and repay the testing fee.

## When will I receive my test results?

Your results will be mailed to you two to four weeks after you have written the tests. Since GED test results are confidential, they will not be given over the telephone to anyone.

If you obtain a standard score of **at least** 450 on each of the five tests, you will be issued an Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate.

## Can I get additional copies of my results?

To request additional copies of your transcript or certificate, you must submit a written request. All requests must be signed by the applicant.

Your request must include the following:

- your full name
- your date of birth
- the name and address of the institution to which the document is to be sent (if applicable)
- the contact name at the institution (if applicable)
- the reference number for your file at the institution (if applicable)
- your daytime telephone number
- your signature

The fee for additional copies of your transcript or certificate is \$5.00 per copy.

Requests can be sent via mail, fax, or can be submitted in person.

## **Are rewrites possible?**

Rewrites are possible in the following two cases:

- if your standard score on a test is less than 450
- if an employer or education institution requires a higher score (A written request from the employer or education institution is required.)

A rewrite is allowed with no waiting period unless your score is less than 400, in which case you must wait three months before rewriting. You are encouraged to do some form of preparation during that time.

Further rewrites are possible; however, you must wait until the following calendar year. Tests may be written only twice in any calendar year (January 1 to December 31).

## **Who administers the GED program?**

The GED Testing Program is administered by the Independent Learning Centre (ILC).

The Ministry of Education has designated the ILC as the sole provider of the GED testing services for the province of Ontario.

The High School Equivalency Certificate is signed by the Deputy Minister of Education.

# How do I contact the GED Coordinator?

To contact the GED Coordinator, write, phone, or fax:

**Address:**

GED  
Independent Learning Centre  
PO Box 200, Station Q  
Toronto ON, M4T 2T1

**Telephone number:** (416) 484-2737  
1-800-573-7022

**Fax:** (416) 484-2750

**E-mail:** [ged@tvontario.org](mailto:ged@tvontario.org)

**Web site:** [www.ilc.org](http://www.ilc.org)

**Please notify the GED Coordinator of any change of name, address, or telephone number.**

*This brochure is also available in French.*