

GED Social Studies Test

The GED Social Studies Test contains 50 multiple-choice questions and is 70 minutes long. The questions measure a candidate's knowledge of social studies concepts, principles, and issues. Approximately 60% of the questions take a global or international perspective while 40% reflect a national setting. In addition, the test assesses the candidate's ability to use the higher-order critical thinking skills of application, analysis and evaluation.

Content

The Social Studies Test includes questions from each of the following areas:

- History (National and World) – 40%
- Geography – 15%
- Civics and Government – 25%
- Economics – 20%

Each Social Studies Test includes an excerpt from:

- A key historic document
 - Declaration of Independence
 - U.S. Constitution
 - Landmark Supreme Court cases
 - Federalist Papers
- A practical (real-life) document
 - Voter's guide, tax forms, political speeches
 - Consumer information, atlases and almanacs, budget graphs

Format

The multiple-choice questions on the Social Studies Tests are taken from three basic sources of materials with 60% of the questions including graphic based material.

- Prose or passages from narratives, textbooks, editorials, newspapers
- Graphic-based material including maps, charts, graphs, tables, photographs, and political cartoons.
- Prose and graphic-based material that combine items such as a narrative and map, an editorial and political cartoon, etc.

Cognitive Level of Questions

The GED Social Studies Test assesses the following cognitive skill levels:

- Comprehension questions (20%) that measure the candidate's ability to understand the basic meaning and intent of a passage or graphic.
- Application questions (20%) that assess the ability to use information in a new context or situation.
- Analysis questions (40%) that assess the ability to deconstruct information or understand the relationship among its basic parts.
- Evaluation questions (20%) that assess the ability to make judgments about the information based on criteria provided in the passage or graphic.