

GED Language Arts, Reading Test

The GED Language Arts, Reading Test contains 40 multiple-choice questions and is 65 minutes long. The test measures the ability to comprehend and interpret reading selections. Passages from a variety of literacy and nonfiction texts are included. They reflect the types of texts that would normally be encountered during a high school program of study. The questions have been designed to assess the reading skills that are expected of adults in their real-life roles as family members, employees, and community members.

Content

Literary texts comprise 75% of the test and include at least one selection from each of the following areas:

- Poetry
- Drama
- Prose Fiction before 1920
- Prose Fiction between 1920-1960
- Prose Fiction after 1960

Nonfiction texts in each test form make up 25% of the test and include two selections of nonfiction prose representing two of the three following areas:

- Nonfiction prose
- Critical review of visual and performing arts
- Workplace and community documents, such as mission and goal statements, rules for employee behavior, legal documents, communications, such as letters, excerpts from manuals, etc.

Format

The reading selections in the *Language Arts, Reading Test* are self-contained passages with a beginning, a middle, and an end. Excerpts range from 200 to 400 words, with poetry running from 8 to 25 lines. Each selection is followed by 4 to 8 questions.

A purpose question provides information that orients the candidate to the text. Since the candidate does not need to possess specific prior knowledge about a given passage, this purpose question helps set the stage for the candidate and provide a purpose for reading the text.

Cognitive Level of Questions

The GED Language Arts, Reading Test assesses the following skill levels:

- Comprehension (20%) the ability to understand the basic meaning and intent of a passage
- Application (15%) the ability to use information in a new context or situation
- Analysis (30-35%) the ability to deconstruct information or break it down into its basic parts
- Synthesis (30-35%) the ability to make connections among various parts of the text, or integrate information from outside the passage with information from within the passage