

GED Language Arts, Writing Test, Part I

The GED Language Arts, Writing Test is 120 minutes long. It includes two sections. Part I has 50 multiple-choice questions based on how-to texts, informational articles, and workplace and community documents. Part II requires that candidates write an expository essay based on a specified prompt. In Part II, candidates demonstrate many of the same skills as in Part I.

Candidates are given 75 minutes for Part I and then told to begin Part II. They have 45 minutes for Part II, Essay. If a candidate takes less than 45 minutes for the Essay, he or she can go back to Part I.

Part I is weighted at 60-63 percent of the total test; Part II is weighted at 37-40 percent of the test. Only one combined score is provided for the Language Arts, Writing Test.

GED Language Arts, Writing Test, Part I

- The test has 50 multiple-choice questions. Each question requires the candidate to revise and edit documents just as they would in real-life situations.
- There are 3 types of documents used:
 - Informational
 - How-to-texts
 - Workplace and community documents
- Each passage consists of 200-300 words, in 12-20 sentences.
- All paragraphs are lettered
- All sentences are numbered.
- There are three question formats:
 - Correction
 - Revision
 - Construction shift
- Part I of the GED Language Arts Writing Test covers four basic content areas.

Language Arts, Writing Test, Part I—Content Areas	
Organization (15%)	Effective text divisions Topic sentences Unity/coherence in writing
Sentence Structure	Sentence fragments and run-on sentences Comma splices Improper subordination Modification Parallelism
Usage (30%)	Subject-verb agreement Verb tense errors Pronoun reference
Mechanics (25%)	Capitalization Punctuation—commas in a series, commas between clauses, introductory elements, appositives, and comma overuse

GED Language Arts, Writing Test, Part II

Candidates write an original, expository essay on a specified topic that asks them to present an opinion or an explanation regarding a situation.

- Candidates have 45 minutes to write on the assigned topic.
- No specific length is required for the essay. However, the final draft must fit on the two lined pages provided in the GED Answer Booklet.
- The essay is scored for its overall effectiveness based on:
 - Response to prompt
 - Organization
 - Development and details
 - Conventions of Edited American English
 - Word choice
- The essay is scored holistically using a 4-point rubric with the following levels:
 - 4 – Effective
 - 3 – Adequate
 - 2 – Marginal
 - 1 – Inadequate

Candidates receive a combined score for Parts I and II. However, a candidate must pass the essay with a score of 2 or higher in order to pass the Language Arts Writing Test.