



GED Test Taking Tips

The day of the test:

Sleep the night before. Cramming the night before the GED probably won't raise your score. The lack of sleep might actually affect you adversely.

Eat beforehand. Do not try testing on an empty stomach. Watch out for caffeine (and other drugs) as they may make you more anxious than they normally might.

Dress in layers. Classrooms in schools can have their own "weather." Dress in layers so you can take layers off/add layers so you are comfortable, no matter what the room's temperature.

Wear a watch. Classrooms don't always have a working clock. This will help you pace yourself as you test.

Plan to be at the testing site early. Plan a test drive to the site a few days before your testing date. If driving makes you anxious, see if you can have a friend drive you.

Use the hour before the test to "rest." You don't need to take a nap, but don't worry yourself by pushing yourself to complete any last minute studying.

Bring a book or magazine with you to the test. For some people talking to other students before a test only makes them more anxious. Use the book as a distraction (and an excuse) to spend time quietly preparing for the test to begin.

Arrive early so you can get used to the room. Don't make yourself more nervous by arriving late.

As you test:

Remember the test proctor is your ally. The person giving the test is there to make sure the test is given fairly and that the environment doesn't detract from student performance.

- ✓ If something is bothering you, ask the proctor if it can be corrected.
- ✓ If you have questions about how the test will be administered, ask the proctor.

There is no use in saving these kinds of questions for later.

Read the directions. If a question is confusing, take a breath and reread it. If it is still confusing, look to see if there is a graph, chart, table or passage that you need to consider to find the answer. If the question is still confusing, skip it and return to it later.

Remember to SWAG (Scientific Wild Arse Guess):

- ✓ Read the question.
- ✓ Eliminate obvious wrong choices.
- ✓ Take your best stab at which of the remaining choices is right.

Remember, if you can correctly eliminate three of the wrong choices (or "distracters") you can increase your odds of getting the question correct to a 50% chance.

Go with your gut. Oftentimes, your first instinct is correct. Students are more likely to change a right answer to an incorrect one if they switch answers on a whim.

Tips for specific tests:

Science, social studies and reading tests:

- ✓ Read the questions and then read the passage.
- ✓ Remember that you are looking for the “best” answer.

Math test:

- ✓ Don't watch the calculator video if it will make you anxious.
- ✓ Use your reasoning. Trees are never 2 centimeters tall – not even in GED world.
- ✓ Estimating is all you will have to do to find the answers to some questions.
- ✓ On questions where you don't have to find the solution, just the correct equation or expression, try to write your own expression and then compare your answer to the choices given.
- ✓ If you are stuck on a problem, you can “go on a treasure hunt” and try out each of the choices to see which one works. Caution: this can be time consuming.
- ✓ On geometry problems, play “name the shape” and identify which basic shapes are being combined.
- ✓ Remember which tools are provided for your use on the formula sheet.

Writing test:

Correct the sentences in your mind, then look for the correction you made among the choices provided.

Essay:

Take time to plan your writing. It makes writing easier.

- ✓ Brainstorm main ideas.
- ✓ Create a thesis.
- ✓ Check your thesis against the question (or “prompt”) to make sure you are answering all of what is being asked.
- ✓ Draft your essay, placing the thesis and topic sentences where the reader expects them.
- ✓ Include specific details to back your ideas.
- ✓ Reread and correct errors.

Remember, your essay needs to be legible, but the readers expect a “working final draft” or a draft with some corrections. Don't waste time writing a draft and then recopying.

