

# GED ILLINOIS

## GED 2002 FACTS AND RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

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### ARE YOU READY FOR GED 2002?

Across Illinois, we are all in the midst of planning for the advent of GED 2002 due to be released on January 1, 2001. This test will reflect the national and state movement toward higher standards. Test candidates will be required to demonstrate higher level thinking and problem-solving skills. Changes in test format, essay scoring, question prompts and the introduction of calculator usage affect how and what needs to be taught. The "Facts and Resources Sheet" has been developed to assist you in identifying specific changes and additions to the GED test. It also provides some strategies and resources for you to use to address these changes.

The Illinois Adult Education Service Center Network has been actively involved in securing the most up to date information and training to provide adult education teachers with the professional development activities they will need to effectively undertake the challenges presented by the GED 2002. These Professional Development Opportunities will:

- Help teachers understand the changes in each of the GED tests including how to use the Casio fx-260 scientific calculator and the new 4-point rubric for scoring essays.
- Provide techniques and strategies for incorporating higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills in the GED classroom.
- Assist teachers in developing interactive lesson plans that help students learn the more complex concepts on the GED 2002.
- Provide teachers with tips and techniques for working with students with special learning needs as well as address varying learning styles of the adult learner.

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The *GED ILLINOIS GED 2002 Facts and Resources for Teachers* is a product of the Illinois Adult Education Service Center Network sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board under Title I of Governor's Discretionary Funds of the Workforce Investment Act.



### WHAT DOES THE NEW TEST LOOK LIKE?

#### *Language Arts Writing-Part 1*

##### Documents

- 50 questions
- 15-20 sentences
- 200-300 words in passages
- Paragraphs lettered - (A), (B), (C), etc.
- Sentences numbered - (1), (2), (3), etc.
- One page instructional and informational documents

##### Item Content

- 15% - Organization
- 30% - Sentence Structure
- 30% - Usage
- 25% - Mechanics

##### Item Types

- 45% - Correction
- 35% - Revision
- 20% - Construction Shift

Cognitive level: application

#### *Language Arts Writing-Part 2 Essay*

- 4-point holistic scoring guide
- Two reader's scores added then divided by 2.
- Candidates scoring a "1" on the essay retake the entire Language Arts Writing test
- Part 1 and Part 2 scores combined and reported as one score
- Topic length reduced & format standardized
- 45 minutes to write essay
- No required word count, "sufficient development to communicate idea effectively"
- Is 37-40% of Language Arts Writing test score

#### *Social Studies*

##### Item Format

- Visual on every page
- 20 questions prose of 200-250 words (Examples: newspapers, historical documents, narratives, and editorials)
- 20 questions graph or visual (examples: maps, graphs, charts, diagrams, political cartoons, photographs)
- 10 questions combination (examples: map & narrative or photograph & editorial)

#### Item Content

40% History (15% World History, 25% U.S.)  
25% Civics and Government  
20% Economics  
15% Geography  
30 questions concepts & issues in global or international settings - global perspective  
20 questions concepts & issues about the U.S. - national perspective  
Fundamental historical documents - Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Federalist Papers, landmark Supreme Court cases  
50 questions includes one practical document

#### Cognitive Level

10 questions - Comprehension  
10 questions - Application  
20 questions - Analysis  
10 questions - Evaluation

#### Science

##### Item Content

23 questions Life Science (includes environmental & health topics examples: recycling, pollution, disease prevention, climate, heredity)  
11 questions Earth & Space Science  
16 questions Physical Science (1/2 chemistry & 1/2 physics)

##### Item Format

Relevance to everyday life  
3 types of questions  
1. Brief written passages or statements  
2. Graphics - graphs, tables, pictures, cartoons  
3. Text and graphic illustration  
Use National Science Education Standards:  
Unifying Concepts and Processes  
Science as Inquiry: Abilities & Understandings  
Science and Technology  
Science in Personal & Social Perspectives  
History & Nature of Science  
Problem solving and conceptual understanding

#### Language Arts Reading

##### Item Content

40 questions  
200-400 word passages  
75% literacy texts - 30 items  
15% poetry, 8-25 lines  
15% drama  
45% prose fiction in 3 periods  
(Before 1920, 1920-1960, after 1960)  
25% nonfiction prose - 10 items  
Literacy nonfiction  
Business documents  
Informational text

##### Item Format

Comparison & contrast, cause & effect  
Integration across all subject areas including social, cultural, political and historical context  
Communication and managing information skills  
Incorporation of visuals

Drawing on a piece from another source to use with the information from the reading

#### Cognitive Level

8 questions - Comprehension  
6 questions - Application  
12-14 questions - analysis  
12-14 questions - synthesis

#### Mathematics

##### Item Format

2 separate booklets, one answer sheet, one score  
Booklet 1  
25 questions, scientific calculator Casio fx 260 solar provided and permitted  
18 multiple choice items  
7 alternate format items (6 standard grid and 1 coordinate plane grid)  
Booklet 2  
25 questions, no calculator permitted  
Emphasis on estimation and mental math  
22 multiple choice items  
3 alternate format items (2 standard grid and 1 coordinate plane grid)

##### Item Content

20-30% Numbers, number sense & operations  
20-30% Data, statistics & probability  
20-30% Geometry and measurement  
20-30% Algebra, functions and patterns  
50% of items include visuals (graphs, charts, diagrams, tables)  
25% are item sets with text and visual  
New formula page

##### Cognitive Skills

Procedural-competence, knowledge, recall, one-step problems, order of operations  
Conceptual-vocabulary, properties, principles, set-up  
Applications/Problem Solving/Modeling-generate, extend, modify procedures

## GED 2002 Start-up Packet

The Illinois Adult Education Service Center Network has developed a "GED Start-up Packet" for the GED 2002. It contains over 100 pages of up-to-date and in-depth information about the 2002 GED and how to incorporate the changes into your classroom. It is designed as a supplement for instructors attending or unable to attend training or workshops. This valuable resource is for ALL GED teachers. Contact your adult education program director for your copy.

## Student Information Sheet

A Student Information Sheet will be circulated throughout the state to adults most in need of adult education services. The most prominent message is one of reassurance, stressing the changes in focus and content of the test and the need to seek assistance at a local adult education program.

## TWENTY TEACHING TIPS FOR THE 2002 GED TEST

1. Expand lesson plans to incorporate content across all five test areas increasing focus on direct application to students' lives.
2. Include full page business documents - memorandums, letters, reports; instructional or how-to documents - secure a job, make a repair, plan an event; and informational documents - history of rice, growing popularity of megamalls, building of a monument.
3. Increase practice editing and proofreading a document - add, remove or reposition a sentence and organization - coherence, effective topic sentence, sequencing of paragraphs, transitioning sentence among paragraphs.
4. Improve essay-writing skills including experience with timed writing. Use practice topics requiring the use of personal observations, experience and general knowledge.
5. Practice reading longer passages adding experience with analysis and synthesis questions.
6. Increase use of newspaper to analyze graphs, charts, tables, diagrams, cartoons and maps with supporting text.
7. Address national and global issues across the content areas.
8. Use practical documents such as tax form, credit contract, bank statement and employee handbooks.
9. Increase familiarity with Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Federalist Papers and landmark Supreme Court cases.
10. Increase emphasis on environmental and health topics including recycling, heredity, disease prevention, pollution and climate.
11. Increase focus on fundamental understandings in science - life science, physical science and earth and space science.
12. Interpret non-text scientific data applied to everyday life.
13. Increase ability to synthesize information from two different sources - reference to author or another source related to the presented text. Requires ability to interpret organizational structure or pattern, overall tone, viewpoint, style or purpose of a work.
14. Increase exposure to fictional text in three periods - pre-1920, 1920-1960, 1960 to present including new minority writers.
15. Apply mathematics problem-solving skills to practical everyday life tasks.
16. Use algebra in general mathematics instruction.
17. Incorporate the use of the Casio fx260 calculator.
18. Model estimation strategies, using common sense and setting up mathematics problems.
19. Practice using alternate format math answer sheet.
20. Increase use of graphic stimuli such as tables, diagrams, charts, and maps with text for mathematics item set problems.

## HOW ARE YOU TACKLING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS?

The 2002 GED will require testers to be able to respond to an increased number of questions requiring analysis, synthesis, application and evaluation. How will you develop your students' ability to use these skills? Add these verbs to your daily instruction of ALL subjects.

Application	Analysis	Synthesis	Evaluation
apply	analyze	add to	appraise
classify	appraise	alter	assess
code	associate	arrange	choose
collect	calculate	assemble	compare
construct	combine	assume	conclude
demonstrate	compare	collect	criticize
dramatize	contrast	compose	decide
group	criticize	connect	estimate
illustrate	debate	construct	evaluate
interpret	diagram	create	infer
model	differentiate	design	interpret
operate	dissect	extend	judge
order	distinguish	formulate	justify
organize	divide	hypothesize	rate
practice	experiment	manage	revise
relate	inspect	maximize	select
schedule	inventory	minimize	solve
shop	order	modify	value
sketch	pattern	plan	verify
summarize	question	predict	
translate	relate	prepare	
use	separate	propose	
	solve	organize	
	subtract	reconstruct	
	take apart	regroup	
	take away	rename	
		reorganize	
		restate	
		set up	
		substitute	
		symbolize	
		systemize	
		translate	
		vary	

### Recommended GED Web Sites

GED Illinois online will be an interactive site for teachers this fall. It will also be pilot tested as a site for students to study for the 2002 GED. <http://www.gedillinois.org>  
 GED Testing Service site includes the latest information about the 2002 GED. <http://www.acenet.edu/calec/ged/>  
 PBS has resources for adult education teachers and students <http://pbs.org/literacy/>  
 The Five Paragraph Essay Wizard provides instruction plus practice writing prompts  
<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/atrium/1437/index.html>

English Practice provides a newsletter and simple English activities for students <http://www.englishpractice.com/>  
Grammar Bytes has interactive exercises  
<http://www.chompchomp.com/>  
The Wacky World of Words-mystery words, rhyming buddies, oxymoron's  
<http://www.members.home.net/teachwell/>  
An Online Library of Literature-short excerpts to complete pieces <http://www.literature.org/>  
Quia Top 20 Math Games  
<http://www.quia.com/math.htm>  
Teaching and Problem Solving Sites  
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/suremath/sites.html>  
Mrs. Glossers' Math Goodies puzzles, games, activities, algebra etc. <http://www.mathgoodies.com/>  
Daryl Cagle's Professional Cartoonists Index-includes a teacher's guide to cartoons from over 60 cartoonists  
<http://www.cagle.com/>  
USA Today- current events in social studies and science  
<http://www.usatoday.com>  
Learning Resources - an interactive newspaper site has audio. Comprehension check includes higher-order thinking skills. <http://literacynet.org/cnnsf/home.html>  
U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Illinois Constitution and more. Excellent site for students with super links to all the historical documents you'll need  
<http://www.adultbasiced.org/constitution>  
Museum of Science, Art and Human Perception - all kinds of information <http://www.exploratorium.edu>  
ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS-an excellent science site  
<http://www.leeric.lsu.edu/slr/environment/index.html>  
National Science Education Standards from National Academy of Science - instructor site  
<http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/nse/>

## GED ILLINOIS GED 2002 Professional Development Opportunities

As the GED changes, so must the GED classroom. You will need time to prepare. The Illinois Adult Education Service Center Network employs staff to offer training throughout the state on the new GED 2002. There are a wide variety of opportunities available at times and places convenient to most teachers. Briefly, the *GED 2002 Institute* provides a two-day in-depth overview of the GED 2002 tests. The Institute will provide information on the changes in testing format, content and instructional techniques for each of the five sub-tests; one-day *GED 2002 Content Area Workshops* cover specific GED tests and instructional techniques for effective integration. The calculator, new 4-point rubric for scoring essays and critical thinking are part of the workshops. Contact your program director or Adult Education Service Center for a copy of the "GED Illinois GED 2002 Professional Development Opportunities" calendar and registration forms. Be sure to ask about other GED 2002 resources available through each Center's lending library.

### **Northern Illinois:**

Adult Learning Resource Center  
847-803-3535

### **Central Illinois:**

Central Illinois Adult Education Service Center  
309-298-2285

### **Southern Illinois:**

Southern Illinois Professional Development Center  
618-650-2254