Interdisciplinary Assessment. Reading and writing are combined on the new RLA Test. Literacy and quantitative reasoning will be assessed in context across all four sections. Writing will be assessed on the RLA test:

- One extended response item will require test-takers to read and analyze multiple passages and/or graphic stimuli and respond to a prompt.

  ▹ One 45-minute extended response prompt will appear on the RLA Test.

  ▹ When the social studies test was released in 2014, it included one extended response prompt. The prompt was eliminated on March 1, 2016

The four content areas will often overlap. For example, test-takers might have to demonstrate reading comprehension skills on a science passage or use math calculations to answer a social studies question. You will find more details on the content of each test in Chapters 5–8.

Varied Item Format. The change to a computer-based test allows for more variety in question formats. In that way, the test can measure more complex skills and concepts and also allow people to demonstrate basic computer skills. The computer-based item formats also allow for quick scoring by computer.

Test-takers need to be able to use the mouse, do basic keyboarding, and use some directional tools to answer questions. The chart shows item types, which test they will appear on, a description of how they work, examples of test items, and how they are scored.

Passage Sets and Item Scenarios. Multiple items that refer to a single stimulus are grouped in passage sets or item scenarios. The RLA Test comprises text passages of 400–900 words followed by six to eight test items. The Math, Science, and Social Studies Tests comprise discrete items as well as item scenarios which may include two or three items with a single stimulus, such as brief text, graphs, tables, or other graphic representations. The Social Studies Test may also include maps.

Navigation. Navigating the test requires basic computer skills: mouse clicking and scrolling. A split screen display allows test-takers to see passages and/or graphics alongside questions. Scrolling may be required to see some passages and graphics. Longer passages will be divided into pages with numbered tabs. Test-takers will be able to "flip" the pages by clicking on the tabs.

Test-takers will also be able to navigate from question to question, backward or forward. The item number will be displayed at the top of the screen. "Previous" and "Next" arrows at the bottom of the screen can be used to move from question to question.

Item Type	Description	Examples	Scoring
Multiple choice (Tests: RLA, Math, Science, Social Studies)	Use the mouse to click and select the correct answer from four choices.	Similar to questions on 2002 test, but only four answer options.	1 point each
Drag and drop (Tests: RLA, Math, Science, Social Studies)	Click on an item and drag it to the correct place.	Drag numbers and numerical expressions to assemble an equation. Drag words or phrases into a graphic organizer to compare, categorize, or sequence. Drag items to maps or graphs.	1 point each
Hot spot (Tests: Math, Science, Social Studies)	Click on items that have virtual sensors in order to select answers or select the placement of an item.	Click items to select multiple answers. Click on a graph or map to indicate the correct placement of an item, such as a point or place.	1 point each
Drop-down (Tests: RLA, Math, Science, Social Studies)	Click to select the answer from a drop-down menu.	Choose the correct sentence from a drop-down menu embedded within a text passage to demonstrate editing skills on the RLA Test. Choose a word, phrase, or numerical expression to complete a passage or equation on the Social Studies or Math Test.	1 point each
Fill-in-the-blank (Tests: RLA, Math, Science, Social Studies)	Type a number, word, or phrase into an answer box.	Type a word, phrase, or number to complete a statement or answer a question.	1 point each
Extended response (Test: RLA)	Type a written response to a prompt that is based on one or more text passages.	45-minute task Read and analyze source text(s). Type a response to the prompt that includes a thesis statement and an argument that supports the thesis and uses evidence cited from the text(s).	12 points max Electronically scored using a three-trait rubric.

The Science Test

Overview

The GED Science Test measures science reasoning skills and the ability to apply these skills in realistic situations. Content focuses on three content domains: life science, physical science, and Earth and space science. Stimulus materials may include a brief text, diagram, graph, table, or other graphic representation of data or scientific concepts.

Test-takers will be required to analyze, understand, and extract information from scientific text, make inferences and predictions based on scientific data, and solve problems by applying scientific theories and processes.

The Science Test will be 90 minutes long and include approximately 34 questions worth a total of 40 raw score points. Multiple-choice items are worth 1 point each, but other item types may be worth 2 or 3 points. The Science Test originally included two short answer questions. These questions were removed at the beginning of 2018.

Item Types

A test item may stand alone, or two or three items may pertain to a stimulus such as a brief text, graph, or diagram. About half of the test items will be traditional multiple-choice questions with four answer options. In addition, the test will include the following interactive item types:

- Fill-in-the-blank: Type a word or phrase to define an idea or describe a trend on a graph.

- Drop-down: Choose the correct answer from a drop-down menu embedded within a passage. Answers may include words or phrases that complete a sentence. When an answer is selected, it will appear on the screen as part of the text or equation.

- Hot spot: Click a sensor on the screen in order to select the correct answer on a graph, chart, or diagram.

- Drag-and-drop: Use the mouse to drag small objects, words, or data to targets on the screen. This might be used to properly sort data or to complete a graphic representation.

Approximately 80 percent of the items will involve a cognitive complexity or DOK level of two or three. The rest of the items will be at level one.

Content

Content focuses on two main themes: "Human Health and Living Systems" and "Energy and Related Systems." The test will cover three major domains:

- Life science (40%): human body and health, structure and function of life, molecular basis for heredity, evolution, relationships between life functions and energy intake, ecosystems

- Physical science (40%): chemical properties and reactions related to human systems; conservation, transformation, and flow of energy; work, motion, and forces

- Earth and space science (20%): interactions between Earth's systems and living things, Earth and its system components and interactions, structure and organization of the cosmos

Science assessment targets are derived from CCSS for Literacy in Science & Technical Subjects, CCSS for Mathematics, and the National Research Council's A Framework for K-12 Science Education. Eight science practices are used to guide the assessment of scientific reasoning:

1. Comprehending scientific presentations

2. Investigation design, through both experiment and observation

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The Social Studies Test

Overview

The GED Social Studies Test focuses on the fundamental reasoning skills necessary to analyze and understand information that represents a broad range of social studies content. Test items cover civics, U.S. history, economics, and world geography. Stimulus materials include primary source documents as well as secondary sources and may consist of text, maps, graphs, tables, or other graphic representations of data.

The Social Studies Test is 70 minutes long and includes approximately 35 questions. Multiple-choice items are worth 1 point each, but other item types may be worth 2 or 3 points. The test is worth 36 raw score points. The Social Studies Test originally included an extended response item. This prompt was removed on March 1, 2016.

The Social Studies Test includes a variety of item types.

Item Types

More than half of test items will be multiple-choice questions with four answer options. The test also includes a variety of technology-enhanced, interactive test items:

- Drag-and-drop: Use the mouse to move small images, words, or numerical expressions to drop targets on the screen. This might be used to properly classify, sort, or order items.

- Drop-down: Choose the correct word or phrase from menu options embedded within a passage. The selected answer will appear on the screen to complete a logical conclusion or generalization.

- Fill-in-the-blank: Type a word or phrase to demonstrate understanding of a concept, term, or graphical representation.

- Hot spot: Click a sensor on the screen in order to select the correct answer on a graph, chart, or map.

Approximately 80 percent of the items will involve a cognitive complexity or DOK level of two or three. The rest of the items will be level one.

Content

Content focuses on two main themes: "Development of Modern Liberties and Democracy" and "Dynamic Responses in Societal Systems." The test covers four major content domains:

- Civics and Government (50%): types of modern and historical governments, principles that have contributed to American democracy, structure and design of U.S. government, individual rights and civic responsibilities, American politics, contemporary public policy

- United States History (20%): historical documents that have shaped American government, revolutionary and early republic periods, Civil War and Reconstruction, civil rights, European settlement and population of the Americas, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, American foreign policy since 9/11

- Economics (15%): key economic events that have shaped American government and policies, political and economic freedoms, fundamental economic concepts, micro- and macro-economics, consumer economics, economic causes and impacts of wars, economic drivers of exploration and colonization, scientific and industrial revolutions