



ACReS
Academic Career and Readiness Skills

**Degrees Open Doors
to Success**

Unit

6



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The GED

Words to know:

✓ GED

GED stands for **General Educational Development**. It is an exam offered to people who did not get a high school diploma. The GED test covers the same material taught in high school. Success on the GED test results in a GED diploma.

A GED diploma is equivalent to a high school diploma. It can be used to get jobs. It is accepted by most colleges and universities in the United States. In order to take the GED exam,

- You must not be enrolled in any high school program.
- You must not already have a high school diploma.
- You must be 18 or older. (Sixteen and 17-year-olds may take the exam under special circumstances.) There is no maximum age limit.

Each state has additional requirements for the GED exam. To find out how to take the GED in your state, go online to **adulted.about.com**. Look to the left at *Browse Topic* and click on *Get Your GED*. Click on *State GED Requirements* (at right on the next page). Click on *GED in Your State – Official GED Websites in the United States*. You will end up on a page with a list of states. Click on your state to get GED requirements and information.

Each state offers GED exam study programs. Many adult education centers offer free classes. GED classes occur during the day and at night. Students work at their own pace and get help as they need it. The cost of the GED exam varies by state. In some states, it is free. The information from the website noted above will tell you the cost in your state.

The current GED exam (2012) will be discussed in this course. The test, in total, takes about seven hours to complete. It consists of five parts:

- Language Arts, Writing
- Language Arts, Reading
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science

Your state will decide how many parts you can take at one time. Each state decides what score it will accept as passing.

- (1) **Language Arts, Writing**. Part I of the Writing portion tests your understanding of English grammar. You will be asked to “fix” sentences and paragraphs. Part II requires you to write an essay.
- (2) **Language Arts, Reading**. In this part, you read various pieces of text. It tests your understanding, memory, and thinking skills.
- (3) **Social Studies**. This part contains questions in history, geography, government, and economics.
- (4) **Mathematics**. There are 50 questions about number operations, geometry, statistics, and algebra. The use of a calculator is allowed for some parts of this exam.
- (5) **Science**. The science test covers three areas: physical science, life science, and earth and space science.

The GED exam is not an easy test. It requires study and practice. Every year, over 800,000 people take it. Seventy percent (70%) of those 800,000 pass it. They earn GED certificates or diplomas. They use their GED to get a better job or to continue their education at the college level.

The GED and the Military

The armed forces limit the number of GED holders they admit each year. The Air Force has the strictest policy. They allow less than 1% of annual recruits to be GED holders. The Marines allow only 5%; the Army and Navy, 10%.

There are always many more GED holders than slots available in the military. Doing well on the ASVAB can improve the chance of being accepted. The ASVAB is an entrance exam for the military. The letters stand for Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery. The ASVAB shows the military whether you have the mental ability to serve in the armed forces. It also shows which military jobs you might be good at.

Service in the military can result in educational benefits. Military service often provides training for specific jobs. That training can be used in life after military service. People in the military can go to college after their service is completed. A program exists to help them pay for college.

A GED diploma is as valuable as a high school diploma. If you have dropped out of high school, consider taking the GED test. Many others have been on the road you are on. It is never too late to get the education you need. A GED diploma can lead you to a better life.

Answer each question with **T** for true or **F** for false.

- _____ 1. The GED is a vocational program for high school students.
- _____ 2. The GED is for people between 18 and 30 years old.
- _____ 3. The GED is a way for high school dropouts to get a diploma.
- _____ 4. Most U.S. colleges and universities accept the GED diploma.
- _____ 5. The GED exam is easy and requires very little preparation.
- _____ 6. In most cases, a GED diploma has the value of a high school diploma.

Get access to the Internet. Find the GED information page of the state you live in. Answer the following questions.

7. Are GED preparation classes offered? If so, by whom? _____

8. Is there a fee for the GED exam? If so, how much is it? _____

9. What is your state's minimum passing score on the GED exam – for each part and for the total average? _____

10. Look at the test scheduling information.

a. Is there a test center near you? _____

b. Are there many opportunities to take the GED exam? _____

c. Is the exam given in languages other than English? If so, list them:

Notes:

∞ End of Lesson 3 ∞