

GED: General Educational Development

General Information

The GED, or General Educational Development Test, is a test that certifies the taker has attained American (USA) or Canadian high school-level academic skills. To pass the GED, the test taker must perform in at least the 40th percent of high school seniors nationwide, though individual states can set their own requirements for passing. The GED is currently not offered in Myanmar and the nearest testing center is in Bangkok, Thailand.

The GED is taken by individuals who did not obtain a regular American or Canadian high school diploma. The GED tests were originally created to help veterans after World War II complete basic high school courses in preparation for returning to civilian life. Common reasons for GED recipients not having received a high school diploma include immigration to the United States or Canada; home schooling, and leaving high school early due to a lack of interest, the inability to pass required tests, or personal problems.

More than 15 million students have received the GED since its inception. One in every seven Americans with high school credentials received the GED, as well as one in twenty college students. 70% of GED recipients complete at least the 10th grade before leaving school, and the same number are over the age of 19, with the average age being 24.

For most Myanmar students, the GED helps to ensure you are at a level of high school that is internationally accepted. Most colleges and universities will not accept only a Myanmar tenth standard pass certificate because of the often questionable quality of education in Myanmar as well as the fact it is only ten years; if you pass the GED, it will count as 12 years—the same as the high school in the USA. The GED is accepted in many countries, including most universities in Thailand. Also worth noting, the GED seems easier to pass and requires less preparation for than the IGCSE, the SAT, and other knowledge exams.

Description of the Test

Although the term "GED test" is often used, students must pass 5 individual tests in order to obtain their GED. These are known collectively as the *testing battery*. The five tests in the battery are: language arts, writing; social studies science; language arts, reading; and mathematics. The Language Arts, Writing test is further divided into Part I and Part II, and the Mathematics test is split into a calculator-optional portion and a calculator-free one.

Depending on the location, students may or may not have to take all of the tests at the same time. Due to the length of the testing battery, most districts divide the tests into two or more days, and testing sessions are not always consecutive. In larger districts, students are usually given the option of taking their tests on multiple consecutive days or evenings, or they can take them on two consecutive weekends, depending on which time frame is more convenient for them.

Scoring

The maximum score anyone can receive on an individual GED test is 800.

If a student passes some but not all tests within the battery, they are not required to retake the entire battery; instead, they only need to retake the portion(s) they did not pass. In most locations, students are limited to a set amount of times they can take any portion of the battery each year, meaning that there will generally be a waiting period of a few months or more before they can take the failed test again. Students can take any test as many times as it takes them to pass, though most states charge a fee for each retest.

In most locations, students must receive a minimum score on each individual test, as well as an overall average that is higher than the minimum individual score. The most common standard is no individual test score below 410, and an average score on all tests of no lower than 450. Minimum scores and averages are also set for honors diplomas. In some districts, graduation ceremonies are held for GED graduates, and scholarships are also awarded to the highest scorers each session.

The GED itself is issued by the state or territory in which the student resides, though it is scored by a national testing service located in Maryland. Like other diplomas, they are valid and accepted in each U.S. state.

Test Fee and Registration

The GED is not available in Myanmar but it is administered by Prometric Educational Testing in Bangkok, Thailand. Contact the College Foundation Program or Student Support Service for more information. Seats are usually limited in testing centers and it is strongly advised to book in advance about two months. The Student Support Service may be able to assist with the fees with their University Application Assistance Scheme (UAAS)--request a UAAS application directly from Student Support Service.

How to Prepare:

You will want to prepare for the exam in advance. It is best to begin studying by a cd that includes practice exams. Many books usually come with a cd.

The USA has Adult Education, free or very low cost classes are available in every state and territory. In adult education classes, students review familiar high school material. They also get formal instruction in the subjects that they haven't covered. Students in these classes often use traditional high school textbooks, go to class, and complete homework assignments.

Individual tutoring is also available in some areas. Some commercial tutoring centers may offer preparation for the GED Tests. Students can also prepare for the tests on their own. Many GED preparation books on the market offer practice questions, test-taking tips, and guidelines to help students determine areas for improvement. In addition, the GED Testing Service produces the Official GED Practice Tests, currently distributed through Steck-Vaughn™. Some jurisdictions require a person to take and pass the Practice Tests before sitting for the actual GED Tests. Persons who do not pass the Practice Tests often must complete a remedial course in the failed area(s) before they can apply again to take the

tests.

Regardless of how they prepare, students will study topics that may not come up on the GED Tests. For example, a student may learn much about medieval history, only to find that there isn't a question about that time period in their test booklet. Instructors and book publishers do not know exactly what will be on the test. It's important each student truly understands all the topics covered in high school so that they are prepared to do well on the test, regardless of what subject matter comes up.

More Information

Contact the Student Support Service for further information.

Visit the official GED testing website at: <http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=GEDTS>

Find information from Wikipedia at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GED>

International GED takers should look at Thompson Prometric who administer the exam outside of the USA and Canada to obtain fee information and test centers: <http://www.prometric.com/GED/default.htm>