

General Educational Development (GED)



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“A Testing Program for Adult High School Equivalency”

Introduction

General Educational Development (GED) is an international testing program for adults who have been unable to complete high school. We recognize that adults acquire knowledge, skills, and concepts through working, training, travelling, reading, and other informal learning. GED Tests measure the level of “educational maturity” gained through experience, which is often equal to, or above, the level of a high school graduate.

GED Tests are available in Canada, the United States, and in some foreign countries.

This brochure should answer most of your questions about GED. Please read it carefully. We recommend that you discuss GED with someone familiar with the program. Personnel in this department can answer any questions you have. Information may also be obtained from the New Brunswick Community Colleges and high schools.

You may wish to contact the GED Chief Examiner directly by using the address, phone number, fax number, or e-mail address found on page 7.

1. What are the GED Tests?

The GED is a series of five tests in the core high school curriculum areas of writing, social studies, science, reading, and mathematics. The tests measure important knowledge and skills usually acquired during a regular high school program of study such as your ability to understand and apply information; evaluate, analyze, and draw conclusions; and express ideas and opinions in writing. Multiple-choice questions are used for each of the five tests. The Mathematics test also includes ten alternate format questions and the Writing test has an essay component. GED Tests contain questions that require the use of important ideas and thinking skills; few ask about isolated details, definitions or specific facts.

The tests are available in English and French. In New Brunswick, a GED test candidate may combine the language in which he or she chooses to write the tests in either one of Canada's official languages; according to his or her choice. However, you must pass all five tests in order to be awarded the diploma. The candidate may also rewrite a test in either one of the two official languages of Canada of his or her choice, as it is permitted to combine the language to write the test.

Tests used in Canada have been developed especially for Canadians. The tests are available in regular print and large print format.

2. Am I eligible to take the GED Tests?

To write the GED Tests in New Brunswick, you must meet the following three requirements:

- Have not graduated from high school;
- Be at least nineteen (19) years of age; and
- No longer enrolled in the public school system.

3. How long do the GED Tests take?

The five (5) tests can be written over two days for a total of seven (7) hours, five (5) minutes (see “**Where & when are the GED Tests held?**” on page 7). Test may also be scheduled to be written one at a time.

4. Why do people write the GED Tests?

Some of the many reasons people write the GED Tests are:

- To receive a high school equivalency diploma;
- To qualify for a better job;
- To gain promotion within their own organization;
- To apply for admission to educational and training institutions;
- For personal satisfaction.

5. Testing for persons with disabilities

Special testing arrangements can be made for candidates who, because of physical, psychological, or learning disabilities, may not have the ability or test-taking skills required under standard testing conditions.

Some accommodations are available upon request; however, special testing arrangements will require additional documentation.

Please contact the GED Chief Examiner to obtain the form that must be completed when requesting accommodations or you may access it on our website (see page 7).

6. What do the GED Tests cover?

TEST	CONTENT	%	# OF QUESTIONS	TIME
Language Arts Writing	Sentence Structure	30 %	50	75 minutes
	Word Usage Mechanics (Spelling, Punctuation, Capitalization) Organization Essay Component	30 % 25 % 15 %		
Social Studies	History	40 %	50	70 minutes
	Economics	20 %		
	Civics & Government	25 %		
	Geography	15 %		
Science	Life Science	45 %	50	80 minutes
	Physical Science (Chemistry & Physics)	35 %		
	Earth & Space Science	20 %		
Language Arts, Reading	Literary Texts: 1 selection from each of these areas: • drama • poetry • prose fiction prior 1920 • prose fiction 1920 - 1960 • prose fiction after 1960 Non-fiction texts: • non-fiction prose • (Biography, Critical Reviews of Fine & Performing Arts) • Workplace, Community Documents	75 % 25 %	40	65 minutes
Mathematics	Number Operations and Number Sense	20 %-30 %	50	90 minutes (Two Parts: 45 minutes each)
	Measurement and Geometry	20 %-30 %		
	Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability	20 %-30 %		
	Algebra, Functions and Patterns	20 %-30 %		

Part I: Calculator Provided (Casio fx-260 Solar); Part II: Calculator Use Not Allowed

7. Is a GED Diploma equivalent to high school graduation?

The GED Testing Program compares your performance on the tests to the results of high school seniors on the same tests. The tests take into consideration the skills and knowledge people are expected to retain from high school, especially the ability to reason, put together information, and draw conclusions.

If you obtain a standard score of at least 450 out of a possible 800 on each of the five GED Tests, you will receive a high school equivalency diploma. This diploma will show others that you have the potential of a high school graduate and the maturity to succeed in areas of further training and/or study. However, specific knowledge that a recent high school graduate might have acquired, (such as mathematical and chemical formulas, or the work of specific authors) is not tested. There is no credit value associated with the GED tests.

8. Who recognizes a GED Diploma?

The GED Diploma is widely accepted as meeting secondary school graduation requirements for purposes of employment and further education. However, there is no guarantee that the diploma will be accepted by employers or post-secondary institutions in every instance.

Many community colleges and universities accept satisfactory GED scores as one factor in their assessment for admission as a mature student.

The New Brunswick Community Colleges will accept a GED Diploma as equivalent to high school completion. Please consult the Community Colleges Calendars for specific admission requirements.

9. How much does it cost?

There is no fee for writing the GED. Additional copies of test results can be obtained for a fee of five dollars each. A replacement diploma can be obtained for a fee of ten dollars.

10. How do I apply to write the GED Tests?

Application forms are available on-line (see website address on page 7). Paper copies of the Application can also be obtained directly from this Department.

After you have carefully filled out the Application form please submit it by email, mail or faxed.

Due to limited seating numbers, you are advised to apply early. Your application should be received at least two (2) weeks prior to the testing date you select.

Candidates are asked to contact the GED Chief Examiner 1 week prior to your writing date if you are unable to show up for a scheduled testing session.

Applications are kept on file for a period of one year.

11. How do I prepare for the GED Tests?

Skills you have acquired from work, training, reading, and other experiences have already helped prepare you to write the GED Tests.

For additional preparation, you may:

- Attend a GED preparation course at a Community Adult Learning Centre. Please contact the Employment and Continuous Learning Services Branch at the toll free number 1-877-444-0510 or your local Regional Adult Learning Committee.
- Study books from the library on various subject areas;
- Obtain GED preparation book(s) from friends, your local library, schools or book stores.
- For online GED preparation, please contact the Employment and Continuous Learning Services Branch at the toll free number 1-877-444-0510.

12. Where and when are the GED Tests held?

Testing sessions are held in various regions around the province.

Approximately one week before the testing session, you will be advised of the specific location, dates, and times of writing.

The testing sessions are scheduled regularly during the year.

Contact the GED Chief Examiner for further information.

13. What do I bring to the test session?

PHOTO I.D.

Upon arrival you must show a valid Photo I.D. bearing your name, date of birth, address, and signature (such as driver's license, passport, and military identification). You will not be permitted to write without proper identification.

All supplies will be provided at the testing session. No materials such as reference books, slide rules or dictionaries may be used when writing the tests.

14. Test Results

If you obtain a standard score of at least 450 on each of the five tests, you will be issued a high school equivalency diploma.

You must complete both the multiple-choice questions (Part I) and the essay component (Part II) to receive a score on the Writing test. The two parts are combined and one score reported. Two evaluators will score the essay according to its overall effectiveness. It is important to note that an essay score below two (2) is inadequate and will result in a zero on the Writing test.

Within six (6) weeks after you take the tests, your results will be communicated to you. A diploma and transcript will be mailed to the client when all 5 tests have been successfully completed.

If you require a transcript be sent to someone other than yourself, you must submit your request along with the required five dollar fee to Service New Brunswick (SNB) by one of the following options: online at www.snb.ca/gede; by telephone at 1.888.762.8600 or in person at your nearest SNB office.

15. Are rewrites possible?

You may rewrite any test which the standard score is less than 450.

Paper-Based and Computer-Based test delivery – In order to achieve a Passing Standard, Candidates may rewrite on a content area test in accordance with the following:

- a. After the Candidate's initial testing attempt may rewrite up to two times on the content area with no wait time between the rewrites.
- b. For attempts after the third testing attempt each rewrite attempt must be preceded by a 60-day waiting period.

A test which has been passed may be rewritten if an employer or educational institution submits written verification that a higher score is required.

16. Addresses - Telephone Numbers

Candidates who wish to write GED Tests in English may contact:

GED Chief Examiner
Employment and Continuous Learning Service
Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
470 York Street (Suite 120)
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3B 5H1

Telephone: (506) 444-2525, (506)453-8251 or toll free 1-877-453-3030
Fax: (506) 444-4078
Email: nb-ged-n-b@gnb.ca

For more information, you may also visit our website: <http://www.gnb.ca/post-secondary>