

TIPS FOR SUCCESS: TAKING THE GED TEST



BEFORE THE TEST

- If you can, pre-register for the test online at www.ged123.org. By pre-registering, you will save yourself a lot of time when you come in for your first test.
- Visit the testing center a few days before your test, or call and get directions so you can plan your driving time, where to park, which bus to use, etc.
- Do not cram for the test the night before. Do something relaxing.
- Gather the materials you will need for testing, such as picture ID (drivers license or other government-issued ID...high school IDs won't work); social security number; Proof of Registration (if you pre-registered online); payment (cash, check, credit card, or voucher – if an agency is paying for your testing); bus tokens; etc.
- Get a good night's sleep the night before the test.
- Eat a good meal before the test and wear clothes that are comfortable.

DURING THE TEST

- **Read the test directions carefully.** If you have a question about the directions or procedure, ask the test administrator **before** you start the test. The test administrator will not be able to help you with individual test questions, spelling or vocabulary.
- **Stay calm.** Yes, the GED Test is an important step in moving your life in a positive direction, but keep things in perspective. You've prepared, you're ready. Think positive thoughts. Telling yourself it's the end of the world if you don't pass a test is

setting yourself up for a nerve-jangling experience. If you don't pass a test, you have two more chances in that calendar year. Remember to breathe!!

- **Don't try to read too much into a question.** There are no trick questions on the GED test. Pay attention to words that are underlined (for example, "Which is not a probable cause?").
- **Work at a steady pace.** Do not spend too much time on any one question. You can always come back to a question if you have time at the end of the test. If you want to skip a question and come back to it later, fill in the answer sheet with your best guess and then put a light mark next to the number on the answer sheet.
- **Trust your instincts.** Unless you are absolutely sure you have made an error, do not go back and change your answer.
- **Do not mark in the test booklets.**
- **Do not leave any answers blank.** If you really do not know the answer, you should guess. Here are some strategies to use if you have to guess:

If two answers are almost identical except for a few words, narrow your choices to those two.

If an answer seems extreme, consider eliminating it. For instance, if your choices are 3, 86, 89, 95, and 900, you may consider eliminating 3 and 900.

If the question is an incomplete sentence and the answers complete the sentence, pick the one that makes the best sense and is grammatically correct.

Answers that use the words "always", "never", "all", or "without exception" should be carefully scrutinized. Things are rarely "always" or "never" true.

These hints are only for guessing. If you think your answer is correct, do not change it because it does not fit with these hints.

AFTER THE TEST

- Before leaving the Test Center, be sure you have your ged123.org Access Code so that you can check your test scores online. If you don't have your Access Code, ask the test administrator for help.
- Do something nice for yourself. You deserve it.

(Updated July 2009)