



Testing Prep Options & Tips



There are many options to prepare for GED/HiSET exams:

- Visit: <http://www.myadulthood.org> for adult education options
- Register online at: www.ged.com or www.hiset.ets.org (look at all the site information: study material, online courses, practice tests, frequently asked questions -FAQ, what to expect on test date, requirements, etc...)
- YouTube (search: GED prep (+subject... math, language arts, science, social studies); HiSET prep (+subject); testing techniques).
- Google prep/testing options.
- Buy or check out from the County Library a GED/HiSET Prep Book.
- Google local 'Adult Education' for course prep options and contact information

Online Links:

Below are a few links that are available

National Literacy Directory: The National Literacy Directory provides a database for adult learners to find local tutoring on academic subjects and on preparing for high school equivalency exams.

Magoosh – GED Basics: Magoosh is a leader in online test prep, and while they charge for many of their detailed test prep services, individuals can obtain a wealth of free knowledge about high school equivalency exams, including the GED.

CliffsNotes: CliffsNotes is in the business of selling test prep materials, but also has plenty of free information, including a detailed overview of the different sections of the GED.

Quizlet: Quizlet offers free test prep materials and resources to students looking for study materials online; including some designed specifically for high school equivalency exams. Simply type the name of the desired test into the search bar.

MathTV.com: A free online database of videos where math experts explain a variety of math problems and concepts.

Purplemath: Purplemath is a free online study resource for those seeking additional practice with their math skills.

Study Strategies: No matter which test you take, preparation is key. Develop a plan to choose which test will likely emphasize your strengths, give yourself ample time to study for it, and be ready when you walk through the door (with your ID)! Here, we offer some tips for gearing up in the months leading up to the test, as well as how to handle the exam itself.



Getting Ready

- **Find a study friend.** Keep in mind that this person does not necessarily have to be a tutor or someone who is also taking the GED/HiSET. The study friend's most important role is to make sure the test taker is staying on schedule with his or her studies. The study friend is like a personal trainer for the GED/HiSET, keeping the test taker on track with learning the necessary material and information.
- **Identify problem subject areas.** Some test takers will not have enough time or resources to put forth maximum effort to study all the subject areas in-depth. Therefore, they will need to focus on subjects that give them the most difficulty. This targeted study is important; students must achieve a minimum score for each section, no matter how well they do in any other section.
- **Practice, practice, practice!** Being familiar with the test format makes it easier to focus on the subject matter at hand, and not whether the questions have been answered properly or if the test taker is keeping up the pace to complete the exam within the allotted time. There are plenty of practice tests available, so plan to take several during your time of preparation. You can identify any places you are doing poorly and give them extra attention.
- **Take a prep class.** Especially if you are unsure of what you need to work on, or how you plan to stay on track, get some outside help through a formal class that will lead you through the process. "If you plan on taking a class, make sure it fits your learning style, time schedule and overall educational goals. There are some programs that complete courses in 4-12 weeks and others in one year per subject," Ithier says.

Taking the Test

- **Take care of yourself.** The "big day" starts the day before, and by now your prep work should have done its job. Do not tire yourself out trying to cram in last minute studying; make it a point to get enough sleep the night before, being well rested will ensure you feel at your best physically — and that translates to your best mental performance.
- **Never leave a question unanswered.** Unlike standardized tests in the past, there is no penalty for guessing. Make your best educated guess (logic, what makes sense, narrow down choices by eliminating the obvious wrong options). Even if you have no idea what the answer is to a multiple-choice question, there is no harm in taking a guess. After you answer the question, you can flag/mark for review, once you have completed the test, you will have the option to review any questions you flagged/marked and decided if you want to keep the answer or change it.
- **Do the prep work.** Of course, you prepared for the entire exam, but once you are sitting at the desk, each task in front of you has its own version of preparation. If it is a reading comprehension question or math equation, read the whole question before you attempt to answer. Rushing ahead to save time may cause you to miss valuable information and get the answer wrong. If you are writing, plan to use a few minutes at the start outlining what you want to say. Organizing your thoughts up front will keep you focused and allow you to make the most of your time.
- **Pace Yourself.** Do not get bogged down on a question. If you do not know the answer, take a guess and flag it to come back after you have finished the rest of the section. Aim to complete each section with at least a few minutes to spare. Those extra minutes provide a cushion in the event of a particularly tricky question, the need to rewrite a paragraph in the essay section.

