

## 2014 GED® Test Free Practice Test Companion

Now that you have viewed or taken the 2014 GED® Free Practice Test, the information in this Companion will help you understand what content is covered on each content area section of the 2014 GED® test. In addition, the Companion identifies what skill is tested by each question on the Free Practice Test to help you in preparing for the 2014 GED® test.

### Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA)

The 2014 GED® Reasoning Through Language Arts test covers all of the skills listed in the left column below. Not every test form will contain every skill that is listed, but each skill is considered “fair game” to appear on the test. Each test form, however, will be made up of a consistent percentage of test questions in each of the three major skill areas that make up the test. The right column shows what is tested by each question on the 2014 GED® Free Practice Test.

RLA Skill Descriptions	Question Numbers
<b><u>RLA Skill Area 1: Ways of Expressing Meaning</u></b> <b>(35% of the 2014 GED® RLA test)</b>	
Put events from a written source in the correct order	5
Make inferences about plot/sequence of events, characters/people, settings, or ideas in written sources	2, 4, 6
Analyze relationships within written sources	
Infer the relationship between ideas in written sources	
Analyze how details function in a written source	
Determine the author's point of view or purpose in a written source	
Analyze how an author explains his or her position and responds to conflicting viewpoints	
Infer what an author's stated and unstated purpose is based on the details in a written source	
Analyze how an author uses rhetorical techniques	
Determine what words and phrases mean using clues from the context of a written source	3
Analyze how meaning or tone is affected when one word is replaced with another	
Analyze how specific words, phrases, or figurative language affect a written source	
Analyze how a particular section fits into the overall structure of a written	

source and contributes to ideas	
Analyze the structural relationship between neighboring paragraphs in a written source	
Analyze how transition words (for example: however, nevertheless, etc.) function in a written source	
Analyze how the structure of a paragraph, section, or written source contributes to ideas or author's purpose	
Compare two different written sources that address similar themes or topics or compare information presented in different formats	
Compare two different types of written sources so that you can look at the differences in scope, purpose, emphasis, audience, and impact	
Compare two different types of written sources so that you can pull together ideas, draw conclusions or apply the information to new situations	
Compare two argumentative written sources for how they interpret and use evidence differently	
Skills of the ways of expressing meaning tested by the RLA Extended Response writing task	10
<b><u>RLA Skill Area 2: Using evidence</u></b> <b>(45% of the 2014 GED® RLA test)</b>	
Understand specific details and main ideas in a written source	
Summarize the details and ideas in a written source	9
Infer the relationship between the details and main idea given	
Infer the main idea based on a set of details in single paragraphs and the whole written source	
Determine which details support the main idea	1
Identify a theme or element of a written source that supports a theme	
Make generalizations or hypotheses based on evidence in a written source	8
Pull together multiple main ideas to draw conclusions or make generalizations	
Identify and describe the specific steps of an argument	
Identify the specific pieces of evidence that an author uses in support of claims or conclusions	
Make a judgment about whether the evidence offered to support a claim is relevant and sufficient	
Determine when a statement is supported by a written source and when it is not supported	
Assess whether the reasoning in an argument is valid	
Identify the main assumptions and underlying premises in an argument and evaluate the support for that belief	
Compare two argumentative written sources for how they interpret and use evidence differently	

Analyze how data, graphs, or pictures work in a written source or support an argument	
Compare two different types of written sources so that you can pull together ideas, draw conclusions or apply the information to new situations	
Skills of using evidence tested by the RLA Extended Response writing task	10
<b><u>RLA Skill Area 3: Language conventions and usage</u></b> <b>(20% of the 2014 GED® RLA test)</b>	
Correct errors with frequently confused words	
Correct errors with subject-verb agreement in straightforward sentences	
Correct errors with pronouns	7 (d)
Eliminate words or phrases that are informal or not standard	
Eliminate dangling or misplaced modifiers or illogical word order	7 (b)
Edit to correct parallelism, subordination, and coordination to ensure proper sentence construction	7 (c)
Make sure that subjects and verbs, or pronouns and antecedents agree in more complicated sentences	
Eliminate wordiness or awkward sentence structure	
Make sure transitional words and phrases (for example: however, nevertheless, etc.) are used effectively to make points clearly	
Make sure the correct words are capitalized	
Eliminate run-on sentences, fused sentences, or sentence fragments	7 (a)
Edit to correct use of apostrophes with possessive nouns	
Edit to correct use of punctuation	
Skills of language conventions and usage tested by the RLA Extended Response writing task	10

## Extended Response Answer Guidelines for Reasoning Through Language Arts

Please use the guidelines below as you answer the Extended Response question on the Reasoning Through Language Arts test. Following these guidelines as closely as possible will ensure that you provide the best response.

1. **You will have up to (but no more than) 45 minutes to complete this task.** However, don't rush through your response. Be sure to read through the passage(s) and the prompt. Then think about the message you want to convey in your response. **Be sure to plan your response before you begin writing.** Draft your response and revise it as needed. (On the paper version of the *Free Practice Test* you will want to use extra sheets of paper to draft, revise, and finalize your response, since there is not enough room in the answer space to record your complete response.)

2. As you read, think carefully about the **argumentation** presented in the passage(s). “Argumentation” refers to the assumptions, claims, support, reasoning, and credibility on which a position is based. Pay close attention to **how the author(s) use these strategies to convey his or her (their) positions.**
  
3. When you write your essay, be sure to
  - determine which position presented** in the passage(s) is **better supported** by evidence from the passage(s)
  - explain why the position you chose is the better-supported one**  
—remember, the better-supported position is not necessarily the position you agree with
  - defend your assertions with multiple pieces of evidence** from the passage(s)
  - build your main points thoroughly**
  - put your main points in logical order** and tie your details to your main points
  - organize your response carefully** and consider your **audience, message, and purpose**
  - use transitional words and phrases** to connect sentences, paragraphs, and ideas
  - choose words carefully** to express your ideas clearly
  - vary your sentence structure** to enhance the flow and clarity of your response
  - reread and revise your response** to correct any errors in grammar, usage, or punctuation