

## 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.

### Social Studies

The 2014 GED® Social Studies test covers all of the content areas in the left-hand column of the table listed below. Not every test form will contain every area listed in the left-hand column, but all of those areas are “fair game” to appear on the test. Each test form, however, will be made up of a consistent percentage of items in each of the three major social studies practices areas that make up the test. The middle column shows what is tested by each question on the 2014 GED® Free Practice Test. The right-hand column has links to instructional materials that cover each area that is covered on the 2014 GED® Free Practice Test.

Social Studies Practices	Question Numbers
<b><u>Social Studies Practices Skill Area 1: Reading and Writing in a Social Studies Context</u></b> <b>(30% of the 2014 GED® Social Studies test)</b>	
Determine the clearly stated details in primary and secondary sources, and use this information to make logical inferences or valid claims	1, 2
Determine the central ideas or information from a primary or secondary source document	
Figure out the meaning of words and phrases used in a social studies context	3
Determine how authors reveal their points of view or purposes in historical documents	
Determine the difference between fact and opinion in a primary or secondary source document	
Determine the differences between hypotheses that are based on social studies evidence and unsupported claims	
Compare two sources on the same social studies topic, paying special attention to the differences between them	

Use of reading and writing skills in a social studies context tested by the Social Studies Extended Response writing task	10
<b><u>Social Studies Practices Skill Area 2: Applying Important Social Studies Concepts</u></b> <b>(40% of the 2014 GED® Social Studies test)</b>	
Pull specific evidence from a document or other source to support inferences or analyses of given processes, events, or concepts	
Describe people, places, environments, processes, and events, and describe the connections between them	
Put historical events in chronological order and understand the order of steps in social studies processes (e.g., how a bill becomes a law)	
Analyze a written document for how events, processes, and ideas develop and interact. Determine whether earlier events actually caused later ones or simply occurred before them	
Analyze cause-and-effect relationships, including those with multiple factors	4
Compare different sets of social-studies-related ideas and make judgments about how those ideas create meaning in different arguments	9
Identify bias and propaganda	
Analyze how historical circumstances shape an author's point of view	
Make judgments about how believable an author is in historical and modern-day documents	
Skills of applying social studies concepts tested in the Social Studies Extended Response writing task	10
<b><u>Social Studies Practices Skill Area 3: Applying Mathematical Reasoning to Social Studies</u></b> <b>(30% of the 2014 GED® Social Studies test)</b>	
Analyze numerical and technical materials (for example, charts, research data) and written materials on a common topic	7
Analyze information presented visually, for example, in maps, tables, charts, photographs, political cartoons, etc.	6
Put numerical information found in a written source into tables, graphs and charts, and express numerical information in words	8
Interpret, use and create graphs with appropriate labeling, and use the data to predict trends	5
Show how dependent and independent variables are represented on a graph. Analyze and communicate how the variables are related to each other	
Recognize the difference between when one event or action actually causes another and when two or more events or actions simply correlate with each other	

Calculate the mean, median, mode, and range of a set of data	
<b><u>Social Studies Content Knowledge Areas</u></b>	
Each question on the 2014 GED® Social Studies test measures essential social studies ideas in two ways. First, each question tests one of the Social Studies Practices skills as described above. These skills require you to demonstrate the reasoning and critical thinking skills that are important to social studies. But second, each question also includes a social studies concept or topic drawn from one of the four main social studies knowledge areas: Civics and Government, U.S. History, Economics, and Geography & the World. You may find that being generally familiar with this focused range of concepts and topics helps you better understand what the test questions ask. These Content Topics and Subtopics, as well as the percentage of the test questions that cover each of the four main social studies knowledge areas, are listed below to the left. The information on the right shows what is tested by each question on the 2014 GED® Free Practice Test in social studies.	
When preparing for the 2014 GED® Social Studies test, you should always remember that the main focus of the test is on your skills of reasoning and thinking applied in a social studies context. You might look at the content knowledge areas below and worry that you will never be able to have enough detailed knowledge to do well on the 2014 GED® Social Studies test. But in reality, the test doesn't require you to have in-depth knowledge of any of the social studies content knowledge topics and subtopics. Instead, you should be broadly and generally familiar with each of the basic concepts listed below. This means that you should be prepared to recognize and understand, in context, each of the terms listed. The questions on the test will never ask you to give your own definition of a term or topic. For example, one of the subtopics in the Civics and Government social studies content knowledge areas is "checks and balances." In being prepared for the test, it would be helpful for you to generally know that checks and balances refers to the idea that no one branch of government can do something without any other branch of government being able to review that action and, possibly, stop it. Your general familiarity with this term would likely help you to understand the context of the question and successfully use your reasoning and thinking skills to arrive at an answer.	
<b><u>Social Studies Content Knowledge Area 1: Civics and Government</u></b> <b>(50% of 2014 GED® Social Studies test)</b>	
<b><u>Types of modern and historical governments</u></b>	
- Direct democracy, representative democracy, parliamentary democracy,	

presidential democracy, monarchy and others types of government that contributed to the development of American constitutional democracy	
- Principles that have contributed to development of American constitutional democracy	
- Natural rights philosophy	
- Popular sovereignty and consent of the governed	
- Constitutionalism	
- Majority rule and minority rights	10
- Checks and balances	
- Separation of powers	
- Rule of law	
- Individual rights	4
- Federalism	
<b>Structure and design of United States government</b>	
- Structure, powers, and authority of the federal executive, judicial, and legislative branches	
- Individual governmental positions (e.g. president, speaker of the house, cabinet secretary, etc.)	
- Major powers and responsibilities of the federal and state governments	
- Shared powers	
- The amendment process	1, 3
- Governmental departments and agencies	
<b>Individual rights and civic responsibilities</b>	
- The Bill of Rights	
- Personal and civil liberties of citizens	5
<b>Political parties, campaigns, and elections in American politics</b>	
- Political parties	
- Interest groups	
- Political campaigns, elections and the electoral process	2
<b>Contemporary Public Policy</b>	
<b><u>Social Studies Content Knowledge Area 2: United States History (20% of the 2014 GED® Social Studies test)</u></b>	
<b>Key historical documents that have shaped American constitutional government</b>	
- Key documents and the context and ideas that they signify (e.g. Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Martin Luther King’s Letter from the Birmingham Jail, landmark decisions of the United States Supreme Court, and other key	

documents)	
<b>Revolutionary and Early Republic Periods</b>	
- Revolutionary War	
- War of 1812	
- George Washington	
- Thomas Jefferson	
- Articles of Confederation	
- Manifest Destiny	
- U.S. Indian Policy	
<b>Civil War and Reconstruction</b>	
- Slavery	
- Sectionalism	
- Civil War Amendments	
- Reconstruction policies	
<b>Civil Rights</b>	
- Jim Crow laws	
- Women's suffrage	6
- Civil Rights Movement	
- Plessy vs. Ferguson and Brown vs. Board of Education	
- Warren court decisions	
<b>European settlement and population of the Americas</b>	
<b>World Wars I &amp; II</b>	
- Alliance system	
- Imperialism, nationalism, and militarism	
- Russian Revolution	
- Woodrow Wilson	
- Treaty of Versailles and League of Nations	
- Neutrality Acts	
- Isolationism	
- Allied and Axis Powers	
- Fascism, Nazism, and totalitarianism	
- The Holocaust	
- Japanese-American internment	
- Decolonization	
- GI Bill	
<b>The Cold War</b>	
- Communism and capitalism	9
- NATO and the Warsaw Pact	
- U.S. maturation as an international power	

- Division of Germany, Berlin Blockade and Airlift	
- Truman Doctrine	
- Marshall Plan	
- Lyndon B. Johnson and The Great Society	
- Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal	
- Collapse of U.S.S.R. and democratization of Eastern Europe	
<b>American foreign policy since 9/11</b>	
<b><u>Social Studies Content Knowledge Area 3: Economics</u></b> <b>(15% of the 2014 GED® Social Studies test)</b>	
<b>Key economic events that have shaped American government and policies</b>	
<b>Relationship between political and economic freedoms</b>	
<b>Fundamental Economic Concepts</b>	
- Markets	
- Incentives	
- Monopoly and competition	
- Labor and capital	
- Opportunity cost	
- Profit	
- Entrepreneurship	
- Comparative advantage	
- Specialization	
- Productivity	
- Interdependence	
<b>Microeconomics and Macroeconomics</b>	
- Supply, demand and price	
- Individual choice	
- Institutions	
- Fiscal and monetary policy	
- Regulation and costs of government policies	
- Investment	
- Government and market failures	
- Inflation and deflation	
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	
- Unemployment	
- Tariffs	
<b>Consumer economics</b>	
- Types of credit	

- Savings and banking	
- Consumer credit laws	
<b>Economic causes and impacts of wars</b>	8
<b>Economic drivers of exploration and colonization</b>	
<b>Scientific and Industrial Revolutions</b>	
<b><u>Social Studies Content Knowledge Area 4: Geography &amp; the World</u></b> <b>(15% of the 2014 GED® Social Studies Test)</b>	
<b>Development of classical civilizations</b>	
<b>Relationships between the environment and societal development</b>	
- Nationhood and statehood	
- Sustainability	7
- Technology	
- Natural resources	
- Human changes to the environment	
<b>Borders between peoples and nations</b>	
- Concepts of region and place	
- Natural and cultural diversity	
- Geographic tools and skills	
<b>Human migration</b>	
- Immigration, emigration and diaspora	
- Culture, cultural diffusion and assimilation	
- Population trends and issues	
- Rural and urban settlement	

## Extended Response Answer Guidelines for Social Studies

Please use the guidelines below as you answer the Extended Response question on the Social Studies 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) 25 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 the quotation and the passage, think carefully about the **enduring issue** expressed in the quotation given. An **enduring issue** reflects the founding principles of the United States and is an important idea that people often grapple with as new situations arise.
  
3. When you write your essay, be sure to
  - develop an argument** about how the ideas expressed by the author of the passage are related to the excerpt or quotation that is presented first
  - support your explanation** with multiple pieces of evidence, **using ideas from both the quotation or excerpt and the passage**
  - incorporate your own knowledge** of the topic’s background and historical context into your response
  - answer the prompt directly** by staying focused on the passage and the quotation or excerpt throughout your response
  - 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