# GED Information for Tutors

Many Whatcom Literacy Council Learners would like to earn their GED and state this is their goal because they need it to either keep their job, or get a better job, that allows them to earn higher wages. Some learners would like to obtain their GED so that they can go on to study at college.

GED stands for General Educational Development. Individuals who did not complete high school or attended high school in another country can take this equivalency test to demonstrate their knowledge in 4 core subject areas. The cost of the GED is $30 per subject test, or $120.

The 2014 GED® Test consists of four content areas:

[Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA)](http://www.gedtestingservice.com/rlalink) (150 minutes)

Section 1 (27 minutes\*)

Section 2 (45 minutes)

Student Break (10 minutes)

Section 3 (60 minutes\*)

*\* The time allotted for sections 1 and 3 may vary slightly, but the total test time will always be 150 minutes.*

[Mathematical Reasoning](http://www.gedtestingservice.com/mathlink) (**115 minutes)**

Part 1 ([first 5 test questions](http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/2014-faqs#math)) calculator not allowed

Part 2 - (remaining 41 test questions) calculator allowed

[Science](http://www.gedtestingservice.com/sciencelink) (90 minutes)

[Social Studies](http://www.gedtestingservice.com/socialstudieslink)(90 minutes)

Section 1 (65 minutes)

Section 2 (25 minutes)

**General Test Information**

* Tests are administered in English and Spanish
* Students can test three times on the same subject without waiting. After the third attempt, there is a 60-day waiting period before trying again.
* Tests consist of 7 different [item types](http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/itemsampler):
  + Extended response
  + Drag-and-drop
  + Drop-down
  + Fill-in-the-blank
  + Hot spot
  + Multiple choice
  + Short answer
* Tests are delivered on [computer](http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/what-is-cbt) (not online). Paper testing is only available as an [accommodation](http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/accommodations-for-disability).

**What to Teach your GED Student**

* Build your learner’s general reading skills. Reading is an important part of test taking as it is required in all of the GED exams. Use a variety of reading materials during instruction including fiction, non-fiction, poems and real-life reading materials such as schedules, menus and pay stubs. Look for newspaper or magazine articles at the learner’s level that are also of interest to the learner. Practice strategies for reading comprehension and drawing conclusions. See handouts for GED reading instruction such as comprehension strategies.
* Interpreting graphic materials such as line graphs, bar graphs, maps, etc.
* Essay writing
* Teach subject area vocabulary and content for science and social studies.
* If you are comfortable, cover basic math skills, story problem solving strategies (all math problems appear as story problems) and use of a calculator.
* Review test-taking strategies - especially those for multiple choice tests.
* Have the learner start studying with the subject where they feel most confident.

**Library Resources**

*Steck-Vaughn Pre-GED & GED* workbooks (WLC Library & Whatcom County Library System)

Learning Express Library A database that the Bellingham Public Library subscribes to it offers free lessons and practice tests for the GED for library card holders.

*Voyager: Reading & Writing for Today’s Adults*, Books 1-6, by Siedow (WLC Library) this is a great text for pre-GED at the lower levels for learners who have been assessed at the 1st through 6th grade reading equivalency level.

*The Write Stuff: Shaping Sentences* and *The Write Stuff: Putting it into Paragraphs* (WLC Library)

*Caps, Commas and Other Things (WLC Library)*

This workbook offers practice with punctuation, grammar, spelling and capitalization. (WLC Library)

Scoreboost, Writing Across the Tests (WLC Library and Bellingham Public Library Adult Basic Education Collection)

The books in this series approach writing as it relates directly to the subject tests. Students are given explicit instruction in how to approach and respond to questions.

Writing for the GED Test, books 1-3 (WLC Library and Bellingham Public Library Adult Basic Education Collection)

Book 1, Grammar, Usage and Mechanics

Book 2, Reading Comprehension

Book 3, Extended Response and Short Answers

These books provide explicit instruction and guided practice based on the standards that make up the scoring rubric on the GED

Write Math Answers to Open-Ended Questions in Algebra, levels g-j (WLC Library)

This series teaches students to do more than just answer algebra questions. Students learn strategies for understanding and solving word problems. Most important, they practice showing their work and writing explanations of how they found their answers.

**GED Preparation Classes**

Bellingham Technical College

(360) 752-8341

http://www.btc.ctc.edu/BasicAcademic/index.asp

**Goodwill Education Center**

(360) 738-0483

http://www.seattlegoodwill.org/jobtraining/jtecenters/bellingham

**Whatcom Community College**

(360) 383-3060

http://whatcom.ctc.edu/degrees-and-programs/special-programs/adult-basic-education-and-ged