

What You Need to Know About the GED Science Test

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About the Test

- The GED Science Test consists of 50 multiple choice questions
- Test Time is 80 minutes (1 hour and 20 minutes)



More About the Test

- Test Covers
 - Life Science (45%)
 - Plants
 - Animals
 - Physical Science (20%)
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Earth and Space Science (15%)



More About the Test

- Test measures skills in:
 - Problem Solving
 - Reasoning

50% of the test focuses on **PROBLEM SOLVING!**

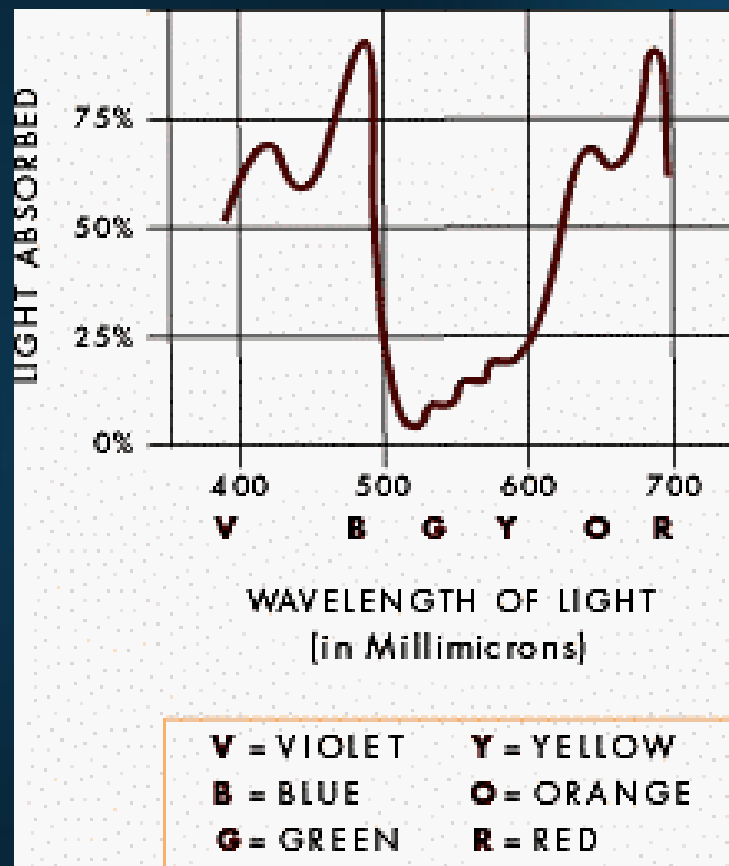


More About the Test

- Questions consist of a single question or set of questions based on either:
 - 1.Prose-only: articles, informative paragraphs**
 - 2.Visual-only: maps, graphs, charts, tables, diagrams**
 - 3.Combined: source materials containing both prose and graphics**

Sample Question

Item 3 is based on the following figure:





Sample Question

3) According to the graph above, which of the following colors of light is absorbed the **least by a plant**?

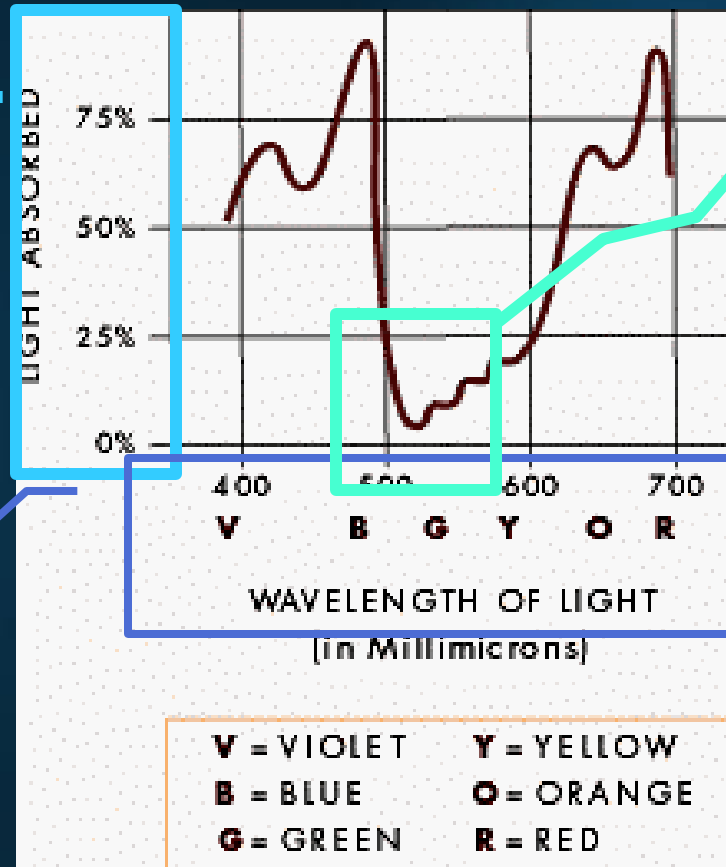
1. Red
2. Green
3. Yellow
4. Blue
5. Violet

Answer

- #2 “Green” is the correct answer

The X axis is titled “Light Absorbed.” The percentages listed show the amount of light absorbed by the plant

The Y axis is titled “Wavelength of Light.” Each of the colors is represented by a letter shown in the orange box



The line is at the lowest percentage at the G, which stands for Green



Sample Question

Directions: Choose the *one best answer* to each question.

1. Clay soil forms a fairly effective barrier against the movements of water. It also swells and shrinks significantly as its water content changes. Sandy soil, in contrast, allows water to move freely and does not change shape as the water content varies.



Sample Question

In which statement is the appropriate soil selected for the intended site?

1. Sandy soil would make a good lining for a toxic waste site.
2. Clay soil would work well in a drain field.
3. Clay soil would be a good foundation for a large building.
4. Clay soil would form a good liner if a person built a pond.
5. A sandy lake bottom would prevent water from seeping out of the lake.



Answer

The correct answer is:

4. Clay soil would form a good liner if a person built a pond.

“Clay soil absorbs and holds more water than sandy soil. Its ability to swell or shrink as the water content changes should help to maintain the pond by retaining more water. Because of its shifting characteristics, clay soil would not be a good choice for building a stable foundation.”



Tips on Problem Solving

1. Look at (Analyze) all of the information
 - What is the graph/chart/reading about?
 - Title of the visual/reading selection?
 - Important details?
 - Look for patterns/similarities in the information
 - How is the information the same?
 - How is the information different?



Tips on Problem Solving

2. Put the information in your own words (Comprehension)

- If you struggle with a word try to put a different and/or more familiar word with it
- Don't get stuck on unfamiliar words
- Try to use the context of the passage to understand unfamiliar words
- Use your scratch paper to write out key facts from long reading sections



Tips on Problem Solving

3. Think Logically (Evaluation/Application)

- “Which of these things is not like the others?”
- Eliminate obviously wrong answers
- Does the answer you chose make sense?
 - Ex. If you are answering a graph question with 10,000, does the graph even go up that high?
- If you think several answers are correct, pick the choice that BEST answers the question



Resources

- The official GED Illinois guide includes practice questions and helpful hints
 - <http://www.gedi.org/staffinfo/teachresources/start.pdf>
- Online GED practice test
 - <http://steckvaughnadult.hmhco.com/en/gedtestmenu.htm>
- GED Sample Questions
 - <http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/test/science.htm>
- Article from About.com
 - <http://adulted.about.com/od/gettingyourged/a/gedtestscience.htm?once=true&>