

What you Need to Know about the GED Language Arts Writing Test

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A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (red, white, and blue) extending from the right side of the slide.

About the Test

- The GED writing test consists of 2 sections
 - Multiple Choice Editing
 - Created Essay
- Test time is 120 min.
 - 75 min. for the multiple choice section
 - 45 min. for the writing section

The Multiple Choice Test- Editing Skills

- The multiple choice writing test tests students in the areas of
 - Correction
 - Revision
 - Construction shifts
- The test does NOT focus on spelling EXCEPT
 - Homonyms (words that sound the same)
 - Possessives
 - Contractions

The Multiple Choice Test- Editing Skills

- Test Format
 - Students are asked to read a paragraph and make editing corrections
 - Selected paragraphs can be in one of the following categories
 - Business Communications
 - “How to” texts
 - Informational documents
 - This Test must be taken in **PENCIL**

Sample Selection

Directions: Choose the one best answer to each item

Items 1 to 3 refer to the following paragraph.

(1) One of the lifelong memories many of us share are the moment we obtained a driver's license. (2) If we were teenagers at the time, these licenses signified our passage to adulthood. (3) We clearly remember practicing to handle a car well in heavy traffic and learning to parallel park. (4) We also prepared for the test by studying the driver's booklet, memorizing rules, and learning road signs. (5) Because we dreaded possible disaster, the road test seemed worse than the written test. (6) While conducting these difficult tests, the state driving inspectors often seemed stern and unyielding. (7) Therefore, when all the tests were finally over, we felt a real sense of achievement. (8) Whether or not we have chosen to use our licenses since then, they remain of enormous value to us. (9) They symbolize our passport both to independence and to the open road.

Sample Question

Sentence 1: One of the lifelong memories many of us share are the moment we obtained a driver's license.

What correction should be made to this sentence?

1. Change the spelling of memories to memors
2. Insert a comma after memories
3. Change are to is
4. Change driver's to drivers
5. No correction is necessary

Answer

3 is the correct answer

“Change the are to is”

The subject of this sentence is “One.” One is a singular word that requires a singular verb is.

The focus of the sentence is “one of the memories” not all of them.

The Created Essay

- The time for this test is 45 min.
- The essay consists of a prompt which asks for a response.
- Test must be taken in **PEN**.

Sample Writing Prompt

Topic A

What does it take to be a good parent?

In your essay, describe the characteristics of a good parent. Give specific details to explain your views. Use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge.

Steps to Writing a Successful Essay

1. Analyze the Prompt

- What is the question asking? (Main Purpose)
- How does the question want you to respond?
- What information are you supposed to use?

Analyzing the Prompt

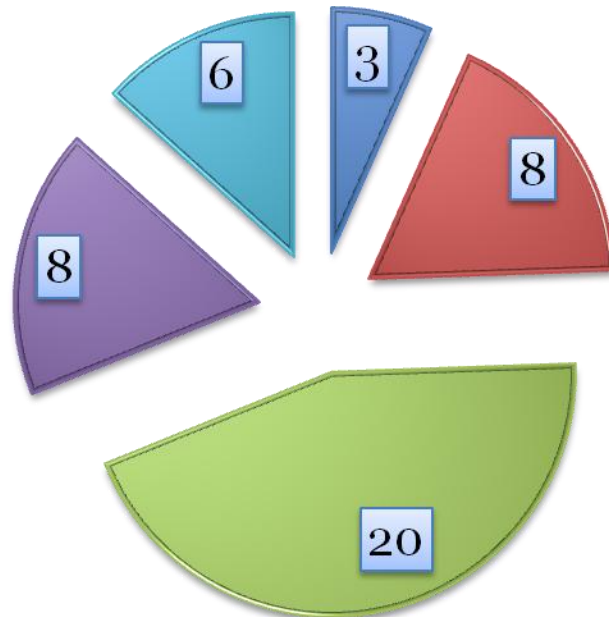
In your essay, **describe the characteristics of a good parent.** Give specific details to explain your views. Use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge.

1. **Main purpose?**
Describe characteristics of a good parent
2. **How?**
Give specific details to explain your views
3. **With what?**
In an essay, use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge.

Essay Writing Tips

2. Budget your time

The Essay—45 min.



- Read Directions
- Planning
- Writing
- Revising
- Editing

Essay Writing Tips

Budget your time

- Read ALL DIRECTIONS!
- Planning (use the scratch paper!)
 - Use a picture or outline
 - Make notes to yourself
- Writing
 - Create a main idea and stick to it!
 - Remember to support your points
 - Write NEATLY
 - Messy writing only frustrates scorers

Essay Writing Tips

Budget your time

- Read ALL DIRECTIONS!
- Planning
- Writing
- Revising
 - Read through your essay all the way through
 - Make sure sentences “flow”
 - Make sure your essay says what you want it to
 - Consider adding transition words

Essay Writing Tips

Budget your time

- Planning
- Writing
- Revising
- Editing
 - Editing is like going through a checklist
 - Double-check did I do the following?

Essay Writing Tips

- Editor's Checklist
 - Do I have a main idea?
 - Do I include supporting details?
 - Does the essay have a clear conclusion?
 - Are the first words of all sentences capitalized?
 - Does each sentence end with a punctuation mark?

Steps to Writing a Successful Essay

1. Analyze the Prompt
2. Budget your Time
3. Write Neatly!
 - Messy handwriting frustrates the reader
 - Neat handwriting is easier for you to edit 😊
4. Stay Calm 😊

Other things you should know

- This test must be taken in **PEN**.
- Write **ONLY** on the lined spaces in the booklet. **DO NOT** fill out more than the given space in the test booklet (**anything written outside of the test booklet WILL NOT BE SCORED!**)
- Answer **ONLY** the **GIVEN** prompt (**If you create your own prompt your TEST WILL NOT BE SCORED!**)
- Essay should be a **MINIMUM** of 200-250 words

References

The official GED Illinois guide

<http://www.ged-i.org/staffinfo/teachresources/start.pdf>

- includes practice questions and helpful tips

GED Essay Topics

http://www.unm.edu/~tinan/writing/ged_essay_directions.htm

- Includes practice prompts

Other Resources

- <http://steckvaughnadult.hmhco.com/en/gedpractice.htm>
 - online GED practice test
- http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/test/prepare/GED_Prepare_Online.htm
 - Official test prep launch site
- <http://www.bestsamplequestions.com/ged-sample-questions/ged-sample-questions-writing-skills/ged-sample-questions-writing-skills-part-2/ged-sample-questions-writing-skills-part-2.html>
 - sample GED writing prompts