

# The GED – A Valuable Credential

## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What do you know about the GED?
- What would you like to know about it?

### Definitions:

- Credential – written evidence of a person’s qualifications



## Reading

13 Many people believe the GED, General Educational Development, was created as a means  
31 for high school dropouts to obtain the **equivalent** of a high school diploma. This is not the case.  
48 The GED was originally created in 1942 for veterans who had to leave school early to fight  
66 overseas in World War II. In the 1950’s, the GED became available to all adults who had not  
graduated from high school.

70 To date, more than 15 million people have received the GED. One in every seven  
85 Americans with high school credentials has received the GED, as well as one in twenty college  
101 students. Famous GED recipients include Paris Hilton, Chris Rock, Bill Cosby, Jessica Simpson,  
114 and Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy’s Restaurants.

122 In a recent article by Bettina Lankard Brown entitled *Is the GED a Valuable Credential?*  
137 four outcomes of GED certification were identified:

- 144 • GED **recipients** tend to feel better about themselves than do dropouts  
155 who never return to school. They have an enhanced sense of self-esteem  
167 by knowing that they have accomplished the requirements of educational certification.
- 177 • GED recipients tend to realize greater satisfaction with their lives than do  
189 dropouts. They are more apt to read, continue learning, and be financially secure.
- 202 • GED recipients are more likely to encourage their children to finish school as they  
216 realize the struggles they have had to face by not completing high school themselves.
- 230 • GED recipients are more likely to get a better job than high school dropouts who  
245 do not return to school. They tend to have more full-time work and experience  
260 regular, uninterrupted employment.

263 The reasons for getting a GED are clear. A GED means new **opportunities**. People who get their  
280 GED have better jobs, better pay, and a better chance of continuing their education.

294 Be prepared to study. The GED Test is not easy. It is comprised of five subject-based  
311 timed tests that measure how well a person has mastered the skills and general knowledge that are  
328 acquired in a four-year high school education. The subjects of the GED Test are: language arts –  
345 writing, language arts – reading, social studies, science, and math.

## Understanding

1. Do you think the GED is a valuable credential? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What does the word **opportunity** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. What subjects are in the GED Test? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Why was the GED created? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. What does the word **equivalent** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Where could a person get help with studying for the GED Test? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. What is a **recipient**? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: What are your educational goals? How are you planning to meet those goals?

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