

Instructional Shifts to Consider in Preparing 2014 GED® Test Takers

What could each of these look like in the level(s) that you teach?

1. Teach higher-order thinking and problem solving skills

Levels 1, 2, and 3 of Webb's Depth of Knowledge* will be incorporated into the 2014 GED® test. In math, explicitly teach solution pathways so that test takers will be able to describe their plan to solve a problem, adjust along the way as needed, and arrive at a solution that makes sense.

2. Integrate the content areas

Data analysis skills will be measured on the science, social studies, and math tests. The Great American Conversation*, including documents and speeches from American history to the present, will be included in the social studies and reasoning through language arts tests.

3. Teach evidence-based writing in response to reading passages

In the reasoning through language arts and social studies tests, test takers will be asked to read two passages about the same topic, state which passage makes a stronger argument, and support their choice with evidence from the text. Each constructed response should have a beginning, middle, and end, but does not need to adhere to the 5-paragraph essay model.

4. Use content-rich materials to teach concepts in social studies and science

Test takers will need a definitional understanding of the assessment targets* measured on the science and social studies tests. Teachers are not expected to be content experts in each of those areas, but to develop each test taker's background knowledge by applying science and social studies practices to content-rich materials such as real time science and social studies web sites and primary source historical documents.

5. Teach academic vocabulary that crosses content areas

Find an academic word list and integrate it into your instruction.

6. Introduce content and higher level math concepts at all levels

Begin working with rich non-fiction content at any ABE or ELL level. When working with complex material, provide appropriate vocabulary and comprehension supports. Include algebra, geometry, data analysis, and number sense at all levels of math instruction. An example of math content at various levels can be found in the Career and College Readiness Standards for Adult Education*.

7. Shift from a focus on math rules to a deeper understanding of key concepts

Teach key math concepts in greater depth and from multiple perspectives.

8. Emphasize algebraic thinking and problem solving

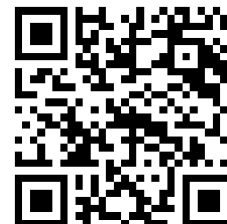
Over half of the math test is algebraic thinking. Find ways to integrate this type of thinking into all levels of instruction.

9. Integrate digital literacy skills into instruction

The 2014 GED® test is computer based. Test takers need to be comfortable with digital literacy skills like word processing, navigating with tabs and multiple windows, using an on-screen calculator, dragging and dropping, and selecting an option or place on the screen.

*For more information:

1. Minnesota's 2014 GED® Test Professional Development web site
<http://2014inMN.org>
2. Summary of the Skills and Content Needed to Prepare for the 2014 GED® Test
http://abe.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/summary_of_2014_ged_test_2.pdf
3. GED Testing Service®
<http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/new-assessment>
4. Career and College Readiness Standards for Adult Education
<https://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/CCRStandardsAdultEd.pdf>



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