

Taking the GED Test

Congratulations on completing the instruction section of this book. You are now familiar with the types of questions you will see on the GED Language Arts, Writing Test. As you ready yourself for the GED test, you may want to think about these test-taking strategies:

- Get a good night's sleep prior to the test.
- Eat breakfast before the test, especially if you are taking the test in the morning.
- Arrive at the testing center a few minutes early. If you have never been to the testing center, visit it before the day of the test so that you can find it easily.
- Grid your answers carefully, ensuring that you mark each answer in the place provided for it.
- Answer every question.
- During the test, work quickly and accurately. If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate any options that do not make sense; then select the best answer from the remaining options.
- If you still cannot answer a question, or if you run out of time, guess.
- Use the scratch paper provided to plan your essay. Remember to use all of the steps in the writing process: planning, organizing, writing, and revising. See pages vii–viii to review the steps in the writing process.
- If you find yourself feeling nervous or unable to focus, close your eyes for a minute or two and take a few deep breaths. Then return to the test.

Pacing is important, so use these tips to manage your time:

- Difficult questions may precede easy ones. Because all of the questions have equal point value, make sure you have an opportunity to answer all of the easy questions. Don't spend a lot of time on a difficult question. If you find yourself spending a lot of time on a single item, stop working on that item. Write the question number on your scratch paper. Then mark the answer you think is correct, and go on to the next question. If you have time at the end of the test, return to the difficult questions and check your answers.
- Allow yourself 75 minutes to complete the 50 multiple-choice items and 45 minutes to answer the essay question. If you finish the essay before time is up, you may return to the multiple-choice questions.

About the GED Posttest

This GED Posttest is a review of the 50 skills presented in this book. It is parallel in form to the Pretest you took at the beginning of this book. The first 30 multiple-choice items address the four areas tested in Part I of the GED Language Arts, Writing Test:

- Mechanics
- Usage
- Sentence Structure
- Organization

The essay addresses the five areas assessed on Part II of the test, as identified on the GED Testing Service's Essay Scoring Guide:

- Response to the Prompt
- Organization
- Development and Details
- Conventions of Edited (Standard) American English
- Word Choice

The GED Posttest will demonstrate what you learned from the specific skills you practiced throughout this book, and it will help you identify what areas to review prior to taking the GED test.

Take this test just as you would the GED test. On the GED test, you will have 75 minutes to answer 50 multiple-choice questions and 45 minutes to write the essay. On this test, take 45 minutes to answer the 30 multiple-choice questions and 45 minutes to write the essay.

Answer every question on this GED Posttest. Follow the instructions for effective test-taking on the previous page.

When time is up, mark the items you did not finish. Then take extra time to answer those items, too. That will give you an idea of how much faster you need to work on the actual test. After you finish, turn to the Answer Key (pages 146–174) and the GED Essay Scoring Guide (pages x–xi) to check your answers. Then use the GED Posttest Evaluation Charts (pages 140–141) to figure out which skills to review in the instruction section of this book (pages 20–121). Use the additional essay topics on page 142 for additional practice writing essays.

GED Posttest

Part I

Directions: Choose the one best answer to each question.

Questions 1 through 8 refer to the following letter.

Dear Springfield Resident,

A

(1) The Twenty-Fifth Annual Downtown Jazz and Blues Music Festival is scheduled to take place the Weekend of June 17 at Davis Park. (2) The festival will kick off on Friday night at 7:30 with a concert by the Dixieland Jazz Ensemble. (3) During the festival, over 80 different music groups representing many varieties of jazz and blues music will perform.

B

(4) Evening concerts on our main stage, the band shell in Davis Park, starting at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. (5) Concerts there will last until 10:30. (6) To celebrate the festival's twenty-fifth anniversary a special fireworks show will close the last concert on Sunday night.

C

(7) The community stage, which is north of the band shell, will highlight amateur and up-and-coming performers from our local community. (8) The Acoustic Stage will feature performers who work without artificial amplification.

D

(9) Singers and performers of numerous varieties of music will perform—including jazz, blues, and bluegrass, as well as many other styles. (10) On Saturday night, festivalgoers can hear a special tribute to the late Latin jazz great, Tito Puente. (11) Sunday night features hip-hop/jazz fusion artist Tahiri.

E

(12) All of the concerts and events at the Downtown Jazz and Blues Music Festival is free, and no tickets are required. (13) Food, drinks, and other refreshments will be available from 20 of the cities' best restaurants. (14) You can sample ribs from Howie's Barbecue, roasted corn on the cob from Organic Marketplace, or homemade desserts from Cheesecake and More.

F

(15) You can walk or take public transportation to the festival, or one can drive and use the city parking garage beneath Davis Park or any of the private lots nearby.

- 1 Sentence 1: **The Twenty-Fifth Annual Downtown Jazz and Blues Music Festival is scheduled to take place the Weekend of June 17 at Davis Park.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 1?

- ① replace Downtown with downtown
- ② change is to are
- ③ change scheduled to schedule
- ④ replace to with too
- ⑤ replace Weekend with weekend

- 2 Sentence 4: **Evening concerts on our main stage, the band shell in Davis Park, starting at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 4?

- ① remove the commas after stage and Park
- ② replace band shell with Band Shell
- ③ change starting to will start
- ④ remove the commas after Friday and Saturday
- ⑤ insert a comma after and

- 3 Sentence 6: **To celebrate the festival's twenty-fifth anniversary a special fireworks show will close the last concert on Sunday night.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 6?

- ① insert a comma after celebrate
- ② replace festival's with festivals'
- ③ insert a comma after anniversary
- ④ change fireworks to firework's
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

- 4 Which sentence would be most effective if inserted at the beginning of paragraph C?

- ① Many great local performers are featured in this year's festival, too.
- ② Two special acts will perform during the day on Friday and Saturday.
- ③ There will be food, performances, and events for children during the day.
- ④ During the day, festival goers can enjoy a variety of acts at our two day stages.
- ⑤ Everyone should plan to come to the festival early and stay late.

- 5 Sentences 10 and 11: **On Saturday night, festivalgoers can hear a special tribute to the late Latin jazz great, Tito Puente. Sunday night features hip-hop/jazz fusion artist Tahiri.**

The most effective combination of sentences 10 and 11 would include which group of words?

- ① Tito Puente Sunday
- ② Tito Puente, Sunday
- ③ Tito Puente and Sunday
- ④ Tito Puente, and Sunday
- ⑤ Tito Puente, moreover, Sunday

The letter is repeated for your use in answering the remaining questions.

Dear Springfield Resident,

A

(1) The Twenty-Fifth Annual Downtown Jazz and Blues Music Festival is scheduled to take place the Weekend of June 17 at Davis Park. (2) The festival will kick off on Friday night at 7:30 with a concert by the Dixieland Jazz Ensemble. (3) During the festival, over 80 different music groups representing many varieties of jazz and blues music will perform.

B

(4) Evening concerts on our main stage, the band shell in Davis Park, starting at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. (5) Concerts there will last until 10:30. (6) To celebrate the festival's twenty-fifth anniversary a special fireworks show will close the last concert on Sunday night.

C

(7) The community stage, which is north of the band shell, will highlight amateur and up-and-coming performers from our local community. (8) The Acoustic Stage will feature performers who work without artificial amplification.

D

(9) Singers and performers of numerous varieties of music will perform—including jazz, blues, and bluegrass, as well as many other styles. (10) On Saturday night, festivalgoers can hear a special tribute to the late Latin jazz great, Tito Puente. (11) Sunday night features hip-hop/jazz fusion artist Tahiri.

E

(12) All of the concerts and events at the Downtown Jazz and Blues Music Festival is free, and no tickets are required. (13) Food, drinks, and other refreshments will be available from 20 of the cities' best restaurants. (14) You can sample ribs from Howie's Barbecue, roasted corn on the cob from Organic Marketplace, or homemade desserts from Cheesecake and More.

F

(15) You can walk or take public transportation to the festival, or one can drive and use the city parking garage beneath Davis Park or any of the private lots nearby.

- 6 Sentence 12: **All of the concerts and events at the Downtown Jazz and Blues Music Festival is free, and no tickets are required.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 12?

- ① replace concerts and events with Concerts and Events
- ② change is to are
- ③ remove the comma after free
- ④ remove and after free
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

- 7 Sentence 13: **Food, drinks, and other refreshments will be available from 20 of the cities' best restaurants.**

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- ① cities'
- ② cities's
- ③ city's
- ④ citys'
- ⑤ cities

- 8 Sentence 15: **You can walk or take public transportation to the festival, or one can drive and use the city parking garage beneath Davis Park or any of the private lots nearby.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 15?

- ① insert a comma after walk
- ② replace to with too
- ③ replace one with you
- ④ insert a comma after drive
- ⑤ insert a comma after Park

Questions 9 through 17 refer to the following information.

A

(1) Picking a pair of athletic shoes used to be easy. (2) There were only a few brands and styles of shoes in those days, one just chose the pair that seemed the most comfortable and stylish. (3) But today, athletic shoes are a multi-billion dollar business that offers thousands of different styles and colors, and have special features that make picking a pair of athletic shoes difficult. (4) Nevertheless, there are ways to help you find your ideal shoes.

B

(5) First, you should wear different shoes for working out than for everyday use. (6) For everyday shoes, comfort and appearance are the most important criteria. (7) For exercising, finding the right shoe involves several factors. (8) First, consider the type of activities you will engage in. (9) If you mainly participate in a specific sport or activity, such as running, walking, or playing tennis, you will want to get shoes designed specifically for that activity. (10) Running shoes, for example, contain extra padding to make running easier on your feet. (11) Tennis shoes contain extra padding in the tow area to provide extra cushioning while serving. (12) Walking shoes are specially designed to help you walk quickly and effortlessly. (13) If you participates in many sports, a pair of cross-training shoes is a good idea. (14) These shoes have enough padding for runners, but they also meet the needs of other common sports and activities.

C

(15) After you had selected a kind of shoe, begin to look at individual pairs of shoes. (16) Try to find shoes that are lightweight and comfortable. (17) When you try on shoes, make sure you are wearing the same kind of socks you will be wearing when you work out. (18) It's important to put on clean, white cotton socks each time you exercise. (19) When you try on shoes, make sure you do more than just look at them in a mirror. (20) Take a short walk around the shoe department, and see how they feel. (21) Make sure they fit snugly but are not too tight. (22) Also make sure that there is extra room at the tip of the shoe. (23) If your feet are jammed too closely to the tip of the shoe, your feet will hurt and you run the risk of injuring yours.

D

(24) Finally, look for style and special features. (25) For example, if you run early in the morning or late at night, you should look for shoes with reflective material on them so that drivers can see you in the dark. (26) If you are interested in measuring the distance you run or walk, you could consider shoes with a built-in pedometer. (27) If you have trouble with your feet, look for special padding. (28) Some shoes are filled with air or gel that provide extra cushioning. (29) After you get your shoes, make sure you break them in before your first workout. (30) As you continue to wear them, watch for signs of wear and tear. (31) Worn-out shoes can be just as harmful to your feet as improper footwear.

- 9 Sentence 2: **There were only a few brands and styles of shoes in those days, one just chose the pair that seemed the most comfortable and stylish.**

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- ① days, one
- ② days one
- ③ days, since one
- ④ days, so one
- ⑤ days, or one

- 10 Sentence 3: **But today, athletic shoes are a multi-billion dollar business that offers thousands of different styles and colors, and have special features that make picking a pair of athletic shoes difficult.**

The most effective revision of sentence 3 would include which group of words?

- ① styles, colors, and have special features
- ② styles, have colors and special features
- ③ styles, have colors, and have special features
- ④ styles, colors, and special features
- ⑤ styles, colors, special features

- 11 Sentence 6: **For everyday shoes, comfort and appearance are the most important criteria.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 6?

- ① remove the comma after shoes
- ② insert a comma after comfort
- ③ insert a comma after appearance
- ④ change are to is
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

- 12 Sentence 11: **Tennis shoes contain extra padding in the tow area to provide extra cushioning while serving.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 11?

- ① replace shoes with Shoes
- ② replace contain with contains
- ③ replace tow with toe
- ④ replace to with two
- ⑤ insert a comma after cushioning

- 13 Sentence 13: **If you participates in many sports, a pair of cross-training shoes is a good idea.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 13?

- ① replace participates with participate
- ② remove the comma after sports
- ③ replace pair with pear
- ④ change is to are
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

The information is repeated for your use in answering the remaining questions.

A

(1) Picking a pair of athletic shoes used to be easy. (2) There were only a few brands and styles of shoes in those days, one just chose the pair that seemed the most comfortable and stylish. (3) But today, athletic shoes are a multi-billion dollar business that offers thousands of different styles and colors, and have special features that make picking a pair of athletic shoes difficult. (4) Nevertheless, there are ways to help you find your ideal shoes.

B

(5) First, you should wear different shoes for working out than for everyday use. (6) For everyday shoes, comfort and appearance are the most important criteria. (7) For exercising, finding the right shoe involves several factors. (8) First, consider the type of activities you will engage in. (9) If you mainly participate in a specific sport or activity, such as running, walking, or playing tennis, you will want to get shoes designed specifically for that activity. (10) Running shoes, for example, contain extra padding to make running easier on your feet. (11) Tennis shoes contain extra padding in the tow area to provide extra cushioning while serving. (12) Walking shoes are specially designed to help you walk quickly and effortlessly. (13) If you participates in many sports, a pair of cross-training shoes is a good idea. (14) These shoes have enough padding for runners, but they also meet the needs of other common sports and activities.

C

(15) After you had selected a kind of shoe, begin to look at individual pairs of shoes. (16) Try to find shoes that are lightweight and comfortable. (17) When you try on shoes, make sure you are wearing the same kind of socks you will be wearing when you work out. (18) It's important to put on clean, white cotton socks each time you exercise. (19) When you try on shoes, make sure you do more than just look at them in a mirror. (20) Take a short walk around the shoe department, and see how they feel. (21) Make sure they fit snugly but are not too tight. (22) Also make sure that there is extra room at the tip of the shoe. (23) If your feet are jammed too closely to the tip of the shoe, your feet will hurt and you run the risk of injuring yours.

D

(24) Finally, look for style and special features. (25) For example, if you run early in the morning or late at night, you should look for shoes with reflective material on them so that drivers can see you in the dark. (26) If you are interested in measuring the distance you run or walk, you could consider shoes with a built-in pedometer. (27) If you have trouble with your feet, look for special padding. (28) Some shoes are filled with air or gel that provide extra cushioning. (29) After you get your shoes, make sure you break them in before your first workout. (30) As you continue to wear them, watch for signs of wear and tear. (31) Worn-out shoes can be just as harmful to your feet as improper footwear.

- 14 Sentence 15: **After you had selected a kind of shoe, begin to look at individual pairs of shoes.**

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- ① had selected
- ② selected
- ③ selecting
- ④ selects
- ⑤ have selected

- 15 Sentence 18: **It's important to put on clean, white cotton socks each time you exercise.**

Which revision should be made to the placement of sentence 18?

- ① move sentence 18 to the beginning of paragraph A
- ② move sentence 18 to follow sentence 16
- ③ move sentence 18 to follow sentence 19
- ④ remove sentence 18
- ⑤ no revision is necessary

- 16 Sentence 23: **If your feet are jammed too closely to the tip of the shoe, your feet will hurt and you run the risk of injuring yours.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 23?

- ① change jammed to jam
- ② replace too with to
- ③ replace shoe, your with shoe, you're
- ④ change run to ran
- ⑤ change yours to yourself

- 17 Which revision would improve the effectiveness of the information?

- ① begin a new paragraph with sentence 26
- ② begin a new paragraph with sentence 27
- ③ begin a new paragraph with sentence 28
- ④ begin a new paragraph with sentence 29
- ⑤ begin a new paragraph with sentence 30

Questions 18 through 24 refer to the following information.

(1) Have you ever wondered how a mobile phone works? (2) The cell phone, a truly amazing example of technology, uses a highly complex system so that me and you can use our mobile phones to make calls from almost anywhere.

(3) A mobile phone is really a special kind of radio. (4) A regular radio only receives sound. (5) Other kinds of radios, such as a walkie-talkie, communicate with a single radio signal that can either send or receive a message at the same time. (6) That's why walkie-talkie users have to keep saying "over" each time they are finished speaking and are ready to listen. (7) A mobile phone uses two signals, one for speaking and one for listening. (8) Therefore, unlike a walkie-talkie, a mobile phone user does not have to keep saying "over."

(9) Mobile phone companies use a network of towers with radio transmitters, and receivers throughout the city. (10) In a typical mobile phone network, the land is divided into areas called "cells," each of which is about ten square miles large. (11) When a customer turns on his or her phone, it sends a signal to the tower in that cell. (12) Computers then check the phone's number. (13) If the phone belongs to a paying customer, then the phone is ready to make a call.

(14) A customer makes a call, and a message is sent to the tower. (15) The tower then sends the call to central computers where they're connected to the regular phone system. (16) From there, the call is routed to the number being called.

(17) Mobile phones also continue to work as callers move about. (18) That's because the tower keeps track of the strength of the signal from the phone. (19) At the same time, other towers keep track of the signal, too. (20) The first tower notices the signal getting weaker. (21) The second tower notices the signal getting stronger. (22) At some point, the first tower will tell the phone to switch towers and start communicating with the second tower. (23) If a call is long enough, it can switch towers several times.

(24) These facts about mobile phones explain why calls sometimes get lost. (25) The mobile phone is in a place where the signal isn't strong or is blocked by a building. (26) The result is the common question, "Can you hear me now?"

- 18 Sentence 2: **The cell phone, a truly amazing example of technology, uses a highly complex system so that me and you can use our mobile phones to make calls from almost anywhere.**

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- ① me and you
- ② myself and I
- ③ you and myself
- ④ you and I
- ⑤ myself and yourself

- 19 Sentence 7: **A mobile phone uses two signals, one for speaking and one for listening.**

The most effective revision of sentence 7 would begin with which group of words?

- ① In contrast,
- ② In addition,
- ③ In sum,
- ④ Second,
- ⑤ For example,

- 20 Sentence 8: **Therefore, unlike a walkie-talkie, a mobile phone user does not have to keep saying "over."**

Which correction should be made to sentence 8?

- ① remove the comma after walkie-talkie
- ② insert the word user after walkie-talkie
- ③ remove the word user
- ④ change does to do
- ⑤ change have to has

- 21 Sentence 9: **Mobile phone companies use a network of towers with radio transmitters, and receivers throughout the city.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 9?

- ① insert a comma after companies
- ② change use to uses
- ③ insert a comma after towers
- ④ remove the comma after transmitters
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

The information is repeated for your use in answering the remaining questions.

(1) Have you ever wondered how a mobile phone works? (2) The cell phone, a truly amazing example of technology, uses a highly complex system so that me and you can use our mobile phones to make calls from almost anywhere.

(3) A mobile phone is really a special kind of radio. (4) A regular radio only receives sound. (5) Other kinds of radios, such as a walkie-talkie, communicate with a single radio signal that can either send or receive a message at the same time. (6) That's why walkie-talkie users have to keep saying "over" each time they are finished speaking and are ready to listen. (7) A mobile phone uses two signals, one for speaking and one for listening. (8) Therefore, unlike a walkie-talkie, a mobile phone user does not have to keep saying "over."

(9) Mobile phone companies use a network of towers with radio transmitters, and receivers throughout the city. (10) In a typical mobile phone network, the land is divided into areas called "cells," each of which is about ten square miles large. (11) When a customer turns on his or her phone, it sends a signal to the tower in that cell. (12) Computers then check the phone's number. (13) If the phone belongs to a paying customer, then the phone is ready to make a call.

(14) A customer makes a call, and a message is sent to the tower. (15) The tower then sends the call to central computers where they're connected to the regular phone system. (16) From there, the call is routed to the number being called.

(17) Mobile phones also continue to work as callers move about. (18) That's because the tower keeps track of the strength of the signal from the phone. (19) At the same time, other towers keep track of the signal, too. (20) The first tower notices the signal getting weaker. (21) The second tower notices the signal getting stronger. (22) At some point, the first tower will tell the phone to switch towers and start communicating with the second tower. (23) If a call is long enough, it can switch towers several times.

(24) These facts about mobile phones explain why calls sometimes get lost. (25) The mobile phone is in a place where the signal isn't strong or is blocked by a building. (26) The result is the common question, "Can you hear me now?"

- 22 Sentence 11: **When a customer turns on his or her phone, it sends a signal to the tower in that cell.**

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- ① his or her
- ② his or hers
- ③ him or her
- ④ him or hers
- ⑤ his or her's

- 23 Sentence 15: **The tower then sends the call to central computers where they're connected to the regular phone system.**

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- ① they're
- ② there
- ③ its
- ④ it's
- ⑤ their

- 24 Sentences 20 and 21: **The first tower notices the signal getting weaker. The second tower notices the signal getting stronger.**

The most effective combination of sentences 20 and 21 would include which group of words?

- ① weaker, the
- ② weaker and the
- ③ weaker while the
- ④ weaker, however, the
- ⑤ weaker the

Questions 25 to 30 refer to the following information.

Louise M. Holst, Mayor
City Hall
Allerton, TX 98923

Dear Mayor Holst:

(1) I am a lifelong resident of Allerton. (2) I am writing to you today to inform you of some problems we are experiencing in the West End neighborhood. (3) As you know, traffic in the West End had been increasing for the last few years. (4) In our neighborhood is several new stores and a new car wash. (5) We have also added over 100 homes, and many apartment buildings, and a small hotel.

(6) Now, during rush hour and on weekends, traffic on Enfield Road has increased dramatically at busy times, the line of cars in front of the new car wash is often two blocks long. (7) Sometimes the line even blocks the intersection of Enfield Road and Highway 66. (8) As a result, traffic on both Enfield and the highway backs up, and several accidents have occurred. (9) When traffic is heavy, ambulances and fire trucks have trouble getting through. (10) Just last week, a fire in an empty store burned out of control because fire trucks could not get there in time. (11) The increased traffic has caused other problems. (12) Parking is now almost impossible to find after 6:00 P.M., and noise and litter have gone up dramatically.

(13) I would like the city to take action. (14) The problem is getting worse and worse by the day. (15) I believe that the city should ban parking on Enfield Road during rush hour. (16) That would create an additional lane for traffic and for cars waiting to enter the car wash. (17) In addition, the city should make it illegal for the line of cars entering the car wash to extend for more than one block. (18) Furthermore, the city should make all businesses, hotels, and apartment buildings provide off-street parking for their customers. (19) That way, visitors will not be competing with residents for parking spaces. (20) Finally, street cleaning needs to take place more often. (21) That would reduce the amount of litter and trash in sidewalks and streets.

(22) I hope that the city will be able to take these steps which are needed to keep our neighborhood nice. (23) I look forward to hearing about the city's plans to address these issues.

Sincerely,

Ralph Williams

Ralph Williams

- 25 Sentence 3: As you know, traffic in the West End had been increasing for the last few years.

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- ① had been increasing
- ② has been increasing
- ③ is increasing
- ④ will be increasing
- ⑤ increases

- 26 Sentence 4: In our neighborhood is several new stores and a new car wash.

Which correction should be made to sentence 4?

- ① insert a comma after our
- ② change is to are
- ③ replace new with knew
- ④ insert a comma after stores
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

- 27 Sentence 5: We have also added over 100 homes, and many apartment buildings, and a small hotel.

Which correction should be made to sentence 5?

- ① remove have
- ② remove the comma after homes
- ③ remove and after homes
- ④ remove the comma after buildings
- ⑤ remove and after buildings

- 28 Sentence 6: Now, during rush hour and on weekends, traffic on Enfield Road has increased dramatically at busy times, the line of cars in front of the new car wash is often two blocks long.

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- ① dramatically at busy times,
- ② dramatically, at busy times,
- ③ dramatically. At busy times,
- ④ dramatically and at busy times,
- ⑤ dramatically, but at busy times,

- 29 Sentence 12: Parking is now almost impossible to find after 6:00 P.M., and noise and litter have gone up dramatically.

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- ① gone
- ② went
- ③ go
- ④ goes
- ⑤ going

- 30 Sentence 13 and 14: I would like the city to take action. The problem is getting worse and worse by the day.

The most effective combination of sentences 13 and 14 would include which group of words?

- ① action because
- ② action, because
- ③ action, or
- ④ action, while
- ⑤ action, since

Essay Directions and Topic

Part II

Look at the box on page 139. In the box is the assigned topic.

You must write on the assigned topic **ONLY**.

You will have 45 minutes to write on your assigned essay topic.

After you write your essay, you or your instructor will score your essay according to its overall effectiveness. Follow the evaluation instructions on page ix. The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- Well-focused main points
- Clear organization
- Specific development of your ideas
- Control of sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, word choice, and spelling

Be sure to do the following:

- Write legibly in ink so that readers will be able to read your writing.
- Write on the assigned topic.
- Write your essay on ordinary lined paper or the Essay Answer Sheet (page 143).

IMPORTANT:

On the GED, you may return to the multiple-choice section after you complete your essay if you have time remaining in the test period.

Essay Topic

Many people prefer to take public transportation. Others prefer to walk or drive. What kind of transportation do you prefer? Why? In your essay, tell what kind of transportation you prefer. Give reasons to explain your answer. Use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge to support your essay.

Part II is a test to determine how well you can use written language to explain your ideas.

In preparing your essay, you should take the following steps:

- Read the **DIRECTIONS** and the **TOPIC** carefully.
- Plan your essay before you write. Use scratch paper to make any notes.
- Before you turn in your essay, re-read what you have written and make any changes that will improve your essay.

Your essay should be long enough to develop the topic adequately.

GED Posttest Evaluation Chart

After you complete the GED Posttest, use these charts to figure out which skills you need to review in the instruction section of this book.

To complete the charts, use results from the Answer Key pages, 146–174, and the GED Essay Scoring Guide, pages x–xi.

Part I

Circle the numbers of the questions you missed in column 1. The second and third columns tell you the name of the skill and its number in the instruction section of this book. Focus your review on those skills. The fourth column tells you the pages to review in the instruction section. The last column indicates the pages in Contemporary's *GED Language Arts, Writing* where the skill is taught in greater detail.

Question Number	Skill Name	Skill Number	Pages	GED Language Arts, Writing
1	Capitalization	18	54–55	177–178
2	Sentence Fragments	1	20–21	20, 23–24
3	Comma Details	23	64–65	183–184
4	Topic Sentences and Paragraphs	27	72–73	115
5	Commas Joining Independent Clauses	20	58–59	83, 89
6	Agreement with Interrupting Structures	8	34–35	68–69
7	Using Apostrophes	25	68–69	36–37, 43
8	Avoiding Pronoun Shift	17	52–53	159–160
9	Comma Splice	3	24–25	96
10	Parallel Structure	6	30–31	154–156
11	Commas After Introductory Prepositional Phrases	22	62–63	68–70
12	Homonyms	26	70–71	179–182
13	Subject-Verb Agreement	7	32–33	62–63
14	Sequence of Verb Tense	12	42–43	101–102
15	Unity and Coherence	28	74–75	248–249
16	Reflexive and Indefinite Pronouns	16	50–51	71–73
17	Joining and Dividing Paragraphs	29	76–77	120–126
18	Subject and Object Pronouns	13	44–45	39–40
19	Transitions Within Paragraphs	30	78–79	286–287
20	Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers	5	28–29	149–152
21	Avoiding Excess Commas	24	66–67	183–184
22	Possessive Pronouns	14	46–47	39–43
23	Pronoun Agreement	15	48–49	38–40
24	Subordination	4	26–27	89–92
25	Using Word Clues to Figure Out Verb Tense	11	40–41	51–53
26	Agreement with Inverted Structures	9	36–37	66–67
27	Commas in a Series	19	56–57	183
28	Run-On Sentences	2	22–23	86
29	Correct Verb Forms	10	38–39	54–56
30	Commas with Subordinate Clauses	21	60–61	83–85

Part II

After you evaluate your essay using the instructions on pages ix–xi, circle your score for each part of the GED Essay Scoring Guide in this chart. Then review the skills with a score of 2 or lower. The remaining columns tell you each skill's name, number, and page numbers to review. The last column lists the pages in Contemporary's *GED Language Arts, Writing* book for additional instruction. For extra practice writing essays, see More GED Essay Topics on page 142.

Criteria	My Score	Skill Name	Skill Number	Pages	GED Language Arts, Writing
Response to the Prompt	1 2 3 4	What Is an Essay?	31	80–81	208
		Understanding the Topic	32	82–83	220–222
Organization	1 2 3 4	Parts of the Paragraph	35	88–91	115–116
		Description	36	92–93	220–221
		Narration	39	98–99	220–221
		How-To	40	100–101	220–221
		Giving Reasons	41	102–103	233–234
		Checking the Organization	42	104–105	232
		The Three-Paragraph Essay	44	108–109	---
		The Introductory Paragraph and Thesis Statement	45	110–111	255–258
		Writing Body Paragraphs	46	112–113	259–263
		Writing Concluding Paragraphs	47	114–115	265–266
Development and Details	1 2 3 4	Writing Longer Essays	48	116–117	214–216
		Brainstorming	33	84–85	224–227
		Support and Relevance	38	96–97	248–249
		Raising Your Score: Content and Organization	49	118–119	250–251
Conventions of Edited American English	1 2 3 4	Complete Sentences	34	86–87	19–20
		Revising Mechanics	43	106–107	293–294
		Raising Your Score: Sentence Structure	50	120–121	83–85 89–92
Word Choice	1 2 3 4	Word Choice	37	94–95	283–285

More GED Essay Topics

Use these topics to gain additional experience writing essays. You or your instructor should use the GED Essay Scoring Rubric on page x to evaluate your work.

Topic 1

Each of our lives has exciting and memorable moments. What is the most exciting or memorable moment in your life?

In your essay, identify that time or moment. Why was it so exciting? Give reasons to explain your answer. Use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge to support your essay.

Topic 2

Each of us likes to do certain things on a day off. For you, what's a perfect day off?

In your essay, describe a perfect day off. Tell what you would do on your day off. Use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge to support your essay.

Topic 3

Cell phones are becoming more and more common. But many people feel that cell phone users are an annoyance in restaurants, buses, and other public places.

Do you think that people should be allowed to use cell phones in places such as restaurants, buses, and public places? Give reasons to explain your answer. Use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge to support your essay.

Topic 4

If you could live anywhere, where would you live?

In your essay, state where you would live. Give reasons to back up your choice. Use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge to support your essay.

Topic 5

Each of us has a job or occupation. But our present jobs might not be ideal for us. For you, what is your ideal job?

In your essay, identify your dream job. Why is it so special? Why is it the perfect job for you? Give reasons to explain your answer. Use your personal observations, experience, and knowledge to support your essay.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Essay Answer Sheet