

About the Pretest

This Pretest is an overview of the 50 skills you are most likely to see addressed on the GED Language Arts, Writing Test. The first 30 multiple-choice items address the four areas tested by the GED Testing Service:

- Mechanics
- Usage
- Sentence Structure
- Organization

The essay assesses the five areas 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

This Pretest will help you identify specific skills in which you need more practice. The Pretest, unlike the actual GED Test, is not a timed test. In fact, you should take as much time as you need to answer each question and to write your essay.

Answer every question on this Pretest. If you are not sure of an answer, put a question mark by the item number to note that you are guessing. Then make your best guess. (On the actual GED, an unanswered question is counted as incorrect. So, making a good guess is an important skill to develop. For more hints on effective test-taking, see page 122.)

When you are finished, turn to the Answer Key (pages 146–174) and the GED Essay Scoring Guide (pages ix–xi) to check your answers. Then use the Pretest Evaluation Charts (pages 18–19) to figure out which skills to focus on in the instruction section of this book (pages 20–121).

After working through the instruction section, take the GED Posttest (GED practice test) on pages 124–139. Your success on the GED Posttest will indicate your readiness to take the actual GED Language Arts, Writing Test.

Part I

Directions: Choose the one best answer to each question.
Questions 1 through 8 refer to the following letter.

Manager
Value Inn Hotel
122 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, DC 20027

Dear Manager,

(1) I am writing about a number of problems I had when I stayed at your hotel in May of this year. (2) The problems began at the front desk, where I had to wait in line for 10 minutes. (3) When I finally reached the desk, the employee was unable to find my reservation. (4) I spelled my name several times and gave her my reservation number. (5) She then said there were no more non-smoking rooms even though I had reserved one weeks ago. (6) My reservation was also for a room on a lower floor but she told me that only rooms on the twenty-second floor were available.

(7) Then I had trouble with my room key and had to return to the desk where more customers were in line. (8) The clerk who checked me in wasn't their, and another clerk was on duty. (9) Angrily he told me to wait in line with the others, so I had to wait 15 more minutes to get a key to my room. (10) When I finally entered my room, it was a terrible mess. (11) So, I returned to the front desk for a third time. (12) Imagine my surprise when the clerk offered me a non-smoking room on a lower floor!

(13) Your website said that Internet access was free, but I had to pay \$9.95 in order to access the Internet. (14) When I made my reservation, I was told that the pool was working. (15) However, employees told me that the pool was not scheduled to open until the following weekend, which was memorial day. (16) That night, the air conditioner broke in my room. (17) I called the front desk, but the engineer was not able to repair it. (18) Since there were no other rooms available, I had to sleep in a warm, airless room that was uncomfortable.

(19) I complained to a desk clerk about all of these problems, but she said that there was nothing she can do to solve them. (20) Because of the problems I experienced, I would like the cost of my stay refunded to me.

Sincerely,

Charles Walters, Jr.

Charles Walters, Jr.

- 1 Sentences 3 and 4: **When I finally reached the desk, the employee was unable to find my reservation. I spelled my name several times and gave her my reservation number.**

The most effective combination of sentences 3 and 4 would include which group of words?

- ① reservation if
- ② reservation until
- ③ reservation however,
- ④ reservation, but
- ⑤ reservation, since

- 2 Sentence 6: **My reservation was also for a room on a lower floor but she told me that only rooms on the twenty-second floor were available.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 6?

- ① insert a comma after lower floor
- ② insert a comma after but
- ③ replace she with he
- ④ change were to was
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

- 3 Sentence 8: **The clerk who checked me in wasn't their, and another clerk was on duty.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 8?

- ① change in to inn
- ② change wasn't to was'nt
- ③ change their to there
- ④ remove the comma after their
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

- 4 Sentence 9: **Angrily he told me to wait in line with the others, so I had to wait 15 more minutes to get a key to my room.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 9?

- ① insert a comma after Angrily
- ② insert a comma after line
- ③ remove the comma after others
- ④ insert a comma after minutes
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

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

Manager
Value Inn Hotel
122 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, DC 20027

Dear Manager,

(1) I am writing about a number of problems I had when I stayed at your hotel in May of this year. (2) The problems began at the front desk, where I had to wait in line for 10 minutes. (3) When I finally reached the desk, the employee was unable to find my reservation. (4) I spelled my name several times and gave her my reservation number. (5) She then said there were no more non-smoking rooms even though I had reserved one weeks ago. (6) My reservation was also for a room on a lower floor but she told me that only rooms on the twenty-second floor were available.

(7) Then I had trouble with my room key and had to return to the desk where more customers were in line. (8) The clerk who checked me in wasn't their, and another clerk was on duty. (9) Angrily he told me to wait in line with the others, so I had to wait 15 more minutes to get a key to my room. (10) When I finally entered my room, it was a terrible mess. (11) So, I returned to the front desk for a third time. (12) Imagine my surprise when the clerk offered me a non-smoking room on a lower floor!

(13) Your website said that Internet access was free, but I had to pay \$9.95 in order to access the Internet. (14) When I made my reservation, I was told that the pool was working. (15) However, employees told me that the pool was not scheduled to open until the following weekend, which was memorial day. (16) That night, the air conditioner broke in my room. (17) I called the front desk, but the engineer was not able to repair it. (18) Since there were no other rooms available, I had to sleep in a warm, airless room that was uncomfortable.

(19) I complained to a desk clerk about all of these problems, but she said that there was nothing she can do to solve them. (20) Because of the problems I experienced, I would like the cost of my stay refunded to me.

Sincerely,

Charles Walters, Jr.

Charles Walters, Jr.

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

- ① Internet access was my biggest problem.
- ② I didn't like my room, either.
- ③ The pool and the Internet also were problems.
- ④ Unfortunately, my problems did not end there.
- ⑤ I will never stay at this hotel again.

6 Sentence 15: **However, employees told me that the pool was not scheduled to open until the following weekend, which was memorial day.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 15?

- ① remove the comma after However
- ② change pool was to pool is
- ③ replace weekend with Weekend
- ④ change which was to which is
- ⑤ replace memorial day with Memorial Day

7 Sentence 18: **Since there were no other rooms available, I had to sleep in a warm, airless room that was uncomfortable.**

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

- ① a warm, airless room that was uncomfortable
- ② a warm, airless, and uncomfortable room
- ③ a warm and airless and uncomfortable room
- ④ a warm airless uncomfortable room
- ⑤ a warm room that was uncomfortable and airless

8 Sentence 19: **I complained to a desk clerk about all of these problems, but she said that there was nothing she can do to solve them.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 19?

- ① change said to says
- ② change was to were
- ③ change was to is
- ④ remove can
- ⑤ change can to could

Questions 9 through 17 refer to the following information.

CHOOSING THE BEST TELEVISION SERVICE

A

(1) Consumers face a variety of bewildering options when choosing television services. (2) Each service has advantages and disadvantages, so it's important to choose wisely so that you and your family can see the programs they like.

B

(3) The most basic option is regular broadcast TV. (4) The biggest advantage of broadcast TV is that it's free. (5) You only need a television set with an antenna. (6) You can get all of the major TV networks, as well as a few local stations. (7) The disadvantage is the limited choices. (8) You cannot access any of the hundreds of stations available on cable or satellite networks. (9) In some locations your choices may be limited to four or five channels. (10) In addition, some of the major networks are now broadcasting in high-definition, so if you have a high-definition television set, you can watch those programs with better picture and sound.

C

(11) Cable television offers even more choices—up to 100 channels or more in some areas. (12) As technology improve, cable companies plan to increase the number of channels even more. (13) In many cities, you can now choose between two or more cable companies, each with slightly different programming options. (14) Therefore, if you want to watch a particular channel, you may have to choose the cable company that offers that channel. (15) This often happens with the more specialized channels.

D

(16) To help you find the programs you want, cable companies offer a variety of packages at various costs. (17) Basic cable has only a few programs, but it is very inexpensive. (18) Standard packages have more offerings other packages can include many more channels, including premium channels. (19) If you're not careful, the services you order can add up quickly. (20) Finally, cable companies allow parents to control the channels their children have access to. (21) Parents can simply not order an objectionable channel, or they can use blocking technology to prevent their children from watching them.

E

(22) The third alternative is a satellite network. (23) Using a satellite network, a special satellite dish is installed outside your home. (24) Satellite networks, offering the largest selection of programming, often costs more than cable. (25) In addition, you must be able to install the satellite dish. (26) Apartment dwellers, for example, may not be able to install a satellite dish where they live.

F

(27) What's the best deal for you? (28) It depends on how much you can afford to spend and the kinds of programming you want to see. (29) But choose wisely so that you get only the services you actually use at a price you can afford to pay.

- 9 Sentence 2: Each service has advantages and disadvantages, so it's important to choose wisely so that you and your family can see the programs they like.

Which correction should be made to sentence 2?

- ① change has to have
- ② replace it's with its
- ③ replace your with you're
- ④ replace they with you
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

- 10 Sentence 9: In some locations your choices may be limited to four or five channels.

Which correction should be made to sentence 9?

- ① insert a comma after some
- ② insert a comma after locations
- ③ replace your with you're
- ④ replace your with yours
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

- 11 Sentence 10: In addition, some of the major networks are now broadcasting in high-definition, so if you have a high-definition television set, you can watch those programs with better picture and sound.

Which revision should be made to sentence 10?

- ① move sentence 10 to the beginning of paragraph A
- ② move sentence 10 to follow sentence 5
- ③ move sentence 10 to follow sentence 6
- ④ move sentence 10 to follow sentence 8
- ⑤ remove sentence 10

- 12 Sentence 12: As technology improve, cable companies plan to increase the number of channels even more.

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

- ① improve
- ② improves
- ③ improved
- ④ have improved
- ⑤ improving

- 13 Sentence 18: Standard packages have more offerings other packages can include many more channels, including premium channels.

Which revision should be made to sentence 18?

- ① change have to has
- ② insert a comma and and after offerings
- ③ change can include to could have included
- ④ remove the comma after more channels
- ⑤ no correction is necessary

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

CHOOSING THE BEST TELEVISION SERVICE

A

(1) Consumers face a variety of bewildering options when choosing television services. (2) Each service has advantages and disadvantages, so it's important to choose wisely so that you and your family can see the programs they like.

B

(3) The most basic option is regular broadcast TV. (4) The biggest advantage of broadcast TV is that it's free. (5) You only need a television set with an antenna. (6) You can get all of the major TV networks, as well as a few local stations. (7) The disadvantage is the limited choices. (8) You cannot access any of the hundreds of stations available on cable or satellite networks. (9) In some locations your choices may be limited to four or five channels. (10) In addition, some of the major networks are now broadcasting in high-definition, so if you have a high-definition television set, you can watch those programs with better picture and sound.

C

(11) Cable television offers even more choices—up to 100 channels or more in some areas. (12) As technology improve, cable companies plan to increase the number of channels even more. (13) In many cities, you can now choose between two or more cable companies, each with slightly different programming options. (14) Therefore, if you want to watch a particular channel, you may have to choose the cable company that offers that channel. (15) This often happens with the more specialized channels.

D

(16) To help you find the programs you want, cable companies offer a variety of packages at various costs. (17) Basic cable has only a few programs, but it is very inexpensive. (18) Standard packages have more offerings other packages can include many more channels, including premium channels. (19) If you're not careful, the services you order can add up quickly. (20) Finally, cable companies allow parents to control the channels their children have access to. (21) Parents can simply not order an objectionable channel, or they can use blocking technology to prevent their children from watching them.

E

(22) The third alternative is a satellite network. (23) Using a satellite network, a special satellite dish is installed outside your home. (24) Satellite networks, offering the largest selection of programming, often costs more than cable. (25) In addition, you must be able to install the satellite dish. (26) Apartment dwellers, for example, may not be able to install a satellite dish where they live.

F

(27) What's the best deal for you? (28) It depends on how much you can afford to spend and the kinds of programming you want to see. (29) But choose wisely so that you get only the services you actually use at a price you can afford to pay.

- 14 Sentence 21: **Parents can simply not order an objectionable channel, or they can use blocking technology to prevent their children from watching them.**

Which revision should be made to sentence 21?

- ① replace objectionable channel with Objectionable Channel
- ② remove the comma after channel
- ③ insert a comma after technology
- ④ change their to there
- ⑤ replace them with it

- 15 Sentence 23: **Using a satellite network, a special satellite dish is installed outside your home.**

The most effective revision of sentence 23 would begin with which group of words?

- ① When you use a satellite network,
- ② When using a satellite network,
- ③ When the satellite signal comes to your home,
- ④ Using a signal, a satellite dish
- ⑤ When the satellite dish uses a signal,

- 16 Sentence 24: **Satellite networks, offering the largest selection of programming, often costs more than cable.**

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

- ① costs
- ② cost
- ③ costing
- ④ are costing
- ⑤ will have cost

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

- ① join paragraphs A and B
- ② join paragraphs B and C
- ③ join paragraphs C and D
- ④ remove paragraph D
- ⑤ move sentence 16 to the end of paragraph C

Questions 18 through 24 refer to the following information.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT DOG FOR YOU

A

(1) Raising a puppy can be a great experience. (2) But choosing a puppy is a big decision. (3) You want to get the kind of dog that's right for you and your family. (4) In addition, you want to pick a healthy puppy. (5) That will grow up to be a loyal pet for many years. (6) How do you find the right puppy? (7) Experts agree that there is several steps you should follow to ensure you choose the right pet.

B

(8) First, before buying a dog, make sure you are getting the right kind of pet for your family. (9) Think carefully about the breeds you are interested in, and decide which one will be best for your home. (10) For example, if you have young children who like to romp and play, you will probably want to get a breed that is large enough play with your children. (11) A Chihuahua, for example, would not be a good choice, because it could be easily hurt while playing. (12) On the other hand, the dog you choose should not be a large or aggressive breed if your children are very small. (13) The dog could hurt your children. (14) You might get advice from a dog breeder, or veterinarian before making a choice.

C

(15) After choosing the kind of dog you want, begin looking around. (16) In general, large stores that sell puppies may not be the best place to find a puppy. (17) A dog from one of those stores might have health problems. (18) Instead, consider a private breeder. (19) Make sure that you are dealing with a reputable breeder. (20) Don't be afraid to ask for references. (21) If a private breeder is too expensive, you also might consider getting a dog from your city's animal shelter. (22) When you get a dog from the animal shelter you often only have to pay for the dog's license and required shots.

D

(23) When you pick out a puppy from a litter, observe the puppies carefully from a distance. (24) How do the puppies relate? (25) Choose a puppy whose character you like.

E

(26) Once you have narrowed your choice to one puppy, examine it carefully. (27) Does the puppy let you handle him or her? (28) Look over the dog to make sure their skin and fur look healthy. (29) Make sure the puppy doesn't have ticks or fleas. (30) Check the puppy's gums. (31) Pink gums indicate good health. (32) White gums could indicate anemia caused by heartworm.

F

(33) After you get your puppy home, continue to observe it to make sure it is the dog for you. (34) If you need further advice, check with the breeder or your vet. (35) With any luck, you will have a fine pet who will give you and your family years of loyalty and companionship.

- 18 Sentences 4 and 5: **In addition, you want to pick a healthy puppy. That will grow up to be a loyal pet for many years.**

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

- ① puppy. That
- ② puppy that
- ③ puppy and
- ④ puppy. And that
- ⑤ puppy, and that

- 19 Sentence 7: **Experts agree that there is several steps you should follow to ensure you choose the right pet.**

Which revision should be made to sentence 7?

- ① change agree to agrees
- ② replace there with their
- ③ change is to are
- ④ change choose to choosing
- ⑤ replace right with write

- 20 Sentence 12: **On the other hand, the dog you choose should not be a large or aggressive breed if your children are very small.**

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

- ① On the other hand,
- ② In addition,
- ③ As a result,
- ④ Therefore,
- ⑤ For that reason,

- 21 Sentence 14: **You might get advice from a dog breeder, or veterinarian before making a choice.**

Which revision should be made to sentence 14?

- ① replace might with mite
- ② remove the comma after breeder
- ③ insert a comma after veterinarian
- ④ replace before with and
- ⑤ no revision is necessary

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

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT DOG FOR YOU

A

(1) Raising a puppy can be a great experience. (2) But choosing a puppy is a big decision. (3) You want to get the kind of dog that's right for you and your family. (4) In addition, you want to pick a healthy puppy. (5) That will grow up to be a loyal pet for many years. (6) How do you find the right puppy? (7) Experts agree that there is several steps you should follow to ensure you choose the right pet.

B

(8) First, before buying a dog, make sure you are getting the right kind of pet for your family. (9) Think carefully about the breeds you are interested in, and decide which one will be best for your home. (10) For example, if you have young children who like to romp and play, you will probably want to get a breed that is large enough play with your children. (11) A Chihuahua, for example, would not be a good choice, because it could be easily hurt while playing. (12) On the other hand, the dog you choose should not be a large or aggressive breed if your children are very small. (13) The dog could hurt your children. (14) You might get advice from a dog breeder, or veterinarian before making a choice.

C

(15) After choosing the kind of dog you want, begin looking around. (16) In general, large stores that sell puppies may not be the best place to find a puppy. (17) A dog from one of those stores might have health problems. (18) Instead, consider a private breeder. (19) Make sure that you are dealing with a reputable breeder. (20) Don't be afraid to ask for references. (21) If a private breeder is too expensive, you also might consider getting a dog from your city's animal shelter. (22) When you get a dog from the animal shelter you often only have to pay for the dog's license and required shots.

D

(23) When you pick out a puppy from a litter, observe the puppies carefully from a distance. (24) How do the puppies relate? (25) Choose a puppy whose character you like.

E

(26) Once you have narrowed your choice to one puppy, examine it carefully. (27) Does the puppy let you handle him or her? (28) Look over the dog to make sure their skin and fur look healthy. (29) Make sure the puppy doesn't have ticks or fleas. (30) Check the puppy's gums. (31) Pink gums indicate good health. (32) White gums could indicate anemia caused by heartworm.

F

(33) After you get your puppy home, continue to observe it to make sure it is the dog for you. (34) If you need further advice, check with the breeder or your vet. (35) With any luck, you will have a fine pet who will give you and your family years of loyalty and companionship.

- 22 Sentence 22: **When you get a dog from the animal shelter you often only have to pay for the dog's license and required shots.**

Which correction should be made to sentence 22?

- ① insert a comma after dog
- ② insert a comma after shelter
- ③ replace you often with one often
- ④ replace dog's with dogs'
- ⑤ insert a comma after license

- 23 Sentence 28: **Look over the dog to make sure their skin and fur look healthy.**

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

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

- 24 Sentence 30: **Check the puppy's gums.**

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

- ① puppy's
- ② puppies'
- ③ puppies
- ④ puppies's
- ⑤ puppies

Questions 25 through 30 refer to the following information.

WHAT ARE COMETS?

(1) Comets are one of the most interesting bodies orbiting the sun. (2) A comet is a frozen chunk of rock, dust gases, and water that orbits around the sun. (3) Comets have an elliptical (oval-shaped) orbit, which takes them far from the sun. (4) Some comets' orbits are very large. (5) Those comets travel millions of miles beyond Pluto, the planet farthest from the sun. (6) When a comet gets near the sun, energy from the sun causes some of the ice and frozen gases to evaporate and form a long tail.

(7) People have known about comets for thousands of years. (8) For example, the Chinese have records of comets from as early as 240 B.C. (9) However, people didn't understand comets at first. (10) In fact, for many years people thought that the appearance of a comet in the sky meant that something terrible is going to happen.

(11) Among the most famous comets is Halley's Comet, which to this day becomes visible from Earth every 76 years. (12) In fact, Halley was the first person to figure out that comets had regular, elliptical orbits. (13) He predicted that the comet would reappear in about 1758, one year later the comet became visible in March, 1759.

(14) Another famous comet was Comet Hale-Bopp, which was one of the brightest comets ever observed.

(15) Astronomers believe that there are millions of comets in orbit around the sun. (16) However, until now, they have catalog only about 1,000 of them. (17) They believe that most comets are far from the sun on long, slow orbits and will take many years to come close enough to become visible. (18) Each year, about 10 new comets are discovered, usually by amateur astronomers. (19) One famous comet, Hyakutake, was discovered by a Japanese man, Yuji Hyakutake, on January 30, 1996. (20) He was using only binoculars. (21) When someone finds a new comet, he or she can choose the name. (22) Many of the discoverers, such as Hyakutake, choose to name their comets after them. (23) Who will find the next comet? (24) It could be you.

- 25 Sentence 2: A comet is a frozen chunk of rock, dust gases, and water that orbits around the sun.

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

- ① rock, dust gases, and water
- ② rock dust gases and water
- ③ rock, dust, gases, and, water
- ④ rock dust gases, and water
- ⑤ rock, dust, gases, and water

- 26 Sentences 4 and 5: Some comets' orbits are very large. Those comets travel millions of miles beyond Pluto, the planet farthest from the sun.

The most effective combination of sentences 4 and 5 would include which group of words?

- ① are so large that them
- ② are so large that they
- ③ are so large that it
- ④ are so large that them comets
- ⑤ are so large that their comets

- 27 Sentence 10: In fact, for many years people thought that the appearance of a comet in the sky meant that something terrible is going to happen.

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

- ① is
- ② was
- ③ had been
- ④ would have been
- ⑤ were

- 28 Sentence 13: He predicted that the comet would reappear in about 1758, one year later the comet reappeared in March, 1759.

Which correction should be made to sentence 13?

- ① change reappear to reappeared
- ② remove the comma after 1758
- ③ insert and before one
- ④ insert since before one
- ⑤ remove the comma after March

- 29 Sentence 16: However, until now, they have catalog only about 1,000 of them.

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

- ① have catalog
- ② having cataloged
- ③ have cataloged
- ④ had cataloged
- ⑤ have cataloging

- 30 Sentence 22: Many of the discoverers, such as Hyakutake, choose to name their comets after them.

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

- ① them
- ② herself
- ③ himself
- ④ themselves
- ⑤ itself

Part II

Essay Directions and Topic

Look at the box on page 17. In the box is the assigned topic. You must write on the assigned topic **ONLY**.

On the GED test, you will have 45 minutes to write on your assigned essay topic. However, on this Pretest, you may take as much time as you wish.

After you write your essay, you or your instructor will score your essay according to its overall effectiveness. Follow the evaluation instructions on pages ix–xi. The evaluation will be based upon 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 test, you may return to the multiple-choice section after you complete your essay if you have time remaining in the test period. However, on this Pretest, you may take as much time as you wish on both parts of the test.

Essay Topic

We all have different reasons for choosing our friends.

In your essay, identify three reasons you have for choosing your friends. Explain the importance of each reason. 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, reread what you have written and make any changes that will improve your essay.

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

Pretest Evaluation Charts

After you complete the Pretest, use these charts to figure out which skills you need to focus on in the instruction section of this book.

To complete the charts, use results from the Answer Key and the GED Essay Scoring Guide and Instructions, pages ix–xi.

Part I

In column 1, circle the numbers of the questions you missed. The second and third columns tell you the name of the skill and its number in the instruction section of this book. Focus your preparation on those skills. The fourth column tells you the page numbers to study. After you study the pages, put a check in the last column.

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

Part II

After you evaluate your essay by following the instructions on page ix, circle your score for each part of the Essay Scoring Guide in this chart. Then focus your preparation on the skills with a score of 2 or lower. The remaining columns tell you each skill's name, number, and page numbers to study. After you study the pages, put a check in the last column.

Criteria	My Score	Skill Name	Skill Number	Pages	Completed ✓
Response to the Prompt	1 2 3 4	What Is an Essay?	31	80–81	
		Understanding the Topic	32	82–83	
Organization	1 2 3 4	Parts of the Paragraph	35	88–91	
		Description	36	92–93	
		Narration	39	98–99	
		How-To	40	100–101	
		Giving Reasons	41	102–103	
		Checking the Organization	42	104–105	
		The Three-Paragraph Essay	44	108–109	
		The Introductory Paragraph and Thesis Statement	45	110–111	
		Writing Body Paragraphs	46	112–113	
		Writing Concluding Paragraphs	47	114–115	
Development and Details	1 2 3 4	Writing Longer Essays	48	116–117	
		Brainstorming	33	84–85	
		Support and Relevance	38	96–97	
		Raising Your Score: Content and Organization	49	118–119	
Conventions of Edited American English	1 2 3 4	Complete Sentences	34	86–87	
		Revising Mechanics	43	106–107	
		Raising Your Score: Sentence Structure	50	120–121	
Word Choice	1 2 3 4	Word Choice	37	94–95	