

Myth-Busters

Adult Education ESOL & GED® Test Preparation

Myth #1: Adult learners, who finish an advanced ESOL class, are ready to go to a Pre-GED® class.

Truth: Reading levels and context

- The reading level targeted through the higher level life skills ESOL textbooks is generally at the fourth or fifth grade level.
- The reading level of the pre textbooks target native speakers of English at the 8th grade reading level. A Pre-GED® class is taught at a 9th grade reading level.
- The reading level of an ABE (adult basic education) textbook targets native speaker of English at the 5th grade reading level.

Myth #2: Having a 9th grade reading level in English is enough to be ready for a pre class.

Truth:

- Content knowledge is also vital to be successful. The test measures reading/writing and math skills within the context of U.S. education systems' social studies (U.S. History), science, and literature context.
- It will take a year(s) because of the amount of material and the part-time nature of instruction as compared to public school instruction that is all day every day.
- Additionally students need to have academic reading strategies and skills.

Myth #3: Adult learners don't need to learn critical thinking skills – they are intuitive.

Truth: The large majority of adult education students need direct and or indirect practice and instruction with critical thinking skills. Critical thinking skills include:

- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Problem recognition and problem solving
- Inference
- Evaluation

Some examples of activities in the books:

- Practice making logical inferences from a given fact
Fact: Everyone in the class failed the test.
Inference: (1) The test was very difficult or (2) Everyone in the class understood the material.
- Using context clues to get the general meaning of a specific vocabulary word.
- Recognizing cause and effect in statements or text

Myth #4: Every adult English language learner needs and wants to take the GED®.

Truth:

- If an ESOL student has a high school diploma they DO NOT need to take the GED® for high school equivalency. It is best to find out if students have a credential from their country and advise credential evaluation.
- If a student has a foreign credential it is unnecessary to work towards at U.S credential. As stated in Myth #2 working to pass the GED® can be a time consuming and costly process.

What can I do in my class to help a learner in an ESOL class be successful in a Pre-GED class?

- Become familiar with Webb's Depth of Knowledge and building lessons based on DOK with an emphasis on cognitive processes not just learner activity: integrate higher order reasoning activities such as compare and contrast (written and oral), agreement evaluation (pros and cons with evidence), use two or more text to address similar themes.
- Used contextualized lesson to include U.S. History (70% of the social studies content), non-fiction prose (75% of the language arts texts)
- Incorporate writing into the majority of lessons, 2014 exam will group all language arts under a single test to include: reading comprehension, writing and language conventions and usage.

General Info – what is different about GED® 2014:

From Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation – Division of Workforce Development & Adult Learning <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/gedmd/ged.shtml>

A few important tips you should know about testing in Maryland before the end of 2013:

- The application deadline for paper-based testing has expired. The Series 2002 GED® Test is now available to first-time testers and re-testers only on computer. Refer to [GED® Test on Computer](#).

Registration for the Series 2014 GED® test will be starting soon. Visit www.ged.com for information and updates.

- Paper-based scores may now be combined with computer-based scores. Re-testers wishing to take modules of the current GED® test on computer should refer to [GED® Test on Computer](#).
- Notice! Many computer based test centers will be closed for the winter holidays from December 20 through December 31, 2013. Register and schedule early for computer-based testing in 2013.
- December 31, 2013: Last date for delivery of Series 2002 GED® test either paper-based (\$45) or computer-based (\$150)
- January 2, 2014: First date of delivery of Series 2014 GED® test on computer (\$45 or \$11.25 per module)
- SERIES 2002 TEST SCORES CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH SERIES 2014 SCORES.
- INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT: If you are scheduled at a community college for GED® testing, visit the college website for information about closings or delays. GED® testing will be cancelled anytime the college is closed. If you are scheduled at Digit All Systems in Baltimore City, call 1-888-332-3462, ext. 115.
- WATCH THIS SITE FOR CHANGES OR UPDATES.