



Virginia's General Educational Development Content Standards

Virginia Department of Education
Office of Adult Education and Literacy

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Language Arts, Writing

The GED writing test is a two-part examination requiring test takers to use the standards of Edited American English (EAE) to recognize and correct errors in usage, mechanics, sentence structure, and paragraph organization, as well as to write a unified and coherent essay. By preparing for this test, learners also gain skills that will serve them in their various roles as parents, workers, and citizens.

Language Arts, Writing, Part 1 is a multiple-choice assessment that presents learners with excerpts of authentic documents from the home, workplace, and community. The questions in Part I require the learner to understand the meanings and relationships of words and ideas. Additionally, the test requires learners to rearrange sentences and paragraphs in the most effective order. These skills reflect everyday writing, proofreading, and editing tasks.

Language Arts, Writing, Part 2 measures technical mastery of skills and requires the writer to demonstrate creative mental processes: imagination, recollection, planning, logical organization, and elaboration of ideas by using clear connections and precise word choices. In Part 2, learners are challenged to create an essay that presents a main idea addressing a prompt, to establish logical organization, to achieve coherent development with specific and relevant details and examples, to control sentence structure using the conventions of Edited American English, and to demonstrate varied and precise word choices.

The GED Writing Standards are organized as building blocks for developing a mastery of the essential components of coherent writing. The order of progression of the writing standards begins with word usage and punctuation, proceeds to sentence construction and paragraph organization, and culminates with essay development.

These standards are a guide for teachers to assist their learners in attaining necessary writing skills. Effective writing reflects the use of these skills to express learners' personal experiences and opinions and empowers learners to communicate more confidently. Ultimately, their mastery will help them reach their full potential as parents, workers, and citizens.



Language Arts, Writing, Part I

<i>Content Area: Usage</i>	
Standard Statements	References
<p>LAW.1 The learner will apply the subject and verb number agreement rules to perform the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Choose the correct subject and verb when they are separated by a phrase or clause b) Choose the correct subject and verb when the verb precedes the subject in a sentence c) Choose the appropriate verb for a collective noun <p>LAW.2 The learner will apply the verb tense rules to perform the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recognize and correct errors in verb tense b) Select tense using context clues c) Recognize and correct errors in regular and irregular verb forms <p>LAW.3 The learner will apply pronoun rules to perform the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recognize and choose the correct pronouns b) Recognize and choose the correct subject and object pronouns c) Recognize and correct vague pronoun references d) Recognize and correct faulty agreement between pronouns and antecedents 	<p>GED Test Writer's Manual, 11-12</p> <p>Official GED Practice Test Administrator's Manual II- 4 & 5</p> <p>Virginia Standards of Learning: Writing 9.7</p> <p>Texas Standardized Curriculum Framework 1.02</p>
<i>Content Area: Writing Mechanics</i>	
Standard Statements	References
<p>LAW.4 The learner will apply the capitalization rules to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Proper nouns and proper adjectives b) Days of the week, months of the year, and seasons c) Titles <p>LAW.5 The learner will apply the comma usage rules to perform the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Separate a list of items in a series 	<p>Virginia Standards of Learning: Writing 9.7</p> <p>GED Test Writer's Manual, 12-13</p> <p>Official GED Practice Test Administrator's Manual II- 4 & 5</p>



<p>b) Separate independent clauses joined by a conjunction</p> <p>c) Separate introductory elements from the rest of a sentence</p> <p>d) Separate non-essential appositives and parenthetical expressions from the rest of the sentence</p> <p>e) Eliminate unnecessary commas</p> <p>f) Separate nouns of direct address</p> <p>LAW.6 The learner will apply spelling rules to perform the following.</p> <p>a) Spell singular and plural possessive nouns with the appropriate use of an apostrophe</p> <p>b) Spell possessive pronouns</p> <p>c) Identify correct use of apostrophes in contractions</p> <p>d) Differentiate between or among frequently confused homonyms</p>	
<p><i>Content Area: Sentence Structure</i></p>	
<p>Standard Statements</p>	<p>References</p>
<p>LAW.7 The learner will apply sentence structure rules to perform the following.</p> <p>a) Recognize and correct sentence fragments</p> <p>b) Recognize and correct run-on sentences</p> <p>LAW.8 The learner will apply modifier rules to perform the following.</p> <p>c) Recognize and correct misplaced modifiers</p> <p>d) Recognize and correct dangling modifiers</p> <p>LAW.9 The learner will apply parallelism rules to perform the following.</p> <p>a) Recognize and correct items in a list that lack parallel structure</p> <p>b) Recognize and correct items in a list when combinations of words, phrases and clauses are used together</p>	<p>Virginia Standards of Learning: Writing 9.7</p> <p>Texas Standardized Curriculum Framework, 1.03</p> <p>GED Test Writer's Manual, 10</p> <p>Official GED Practice Test Administrator's Manual II- 4 & 5</p>
<p><i>Content Area: Organization</i></p>	
<p>Standard Statements</p>	<p>References</p>
<p>LAW.10 The learner will recognize paragraph structure rules in order to perform the following.</p>	<p>Official GED Practice Test</p>



<p>a) Identify the main idea and supporting details b) Properly place a topic sentence in a paragraph</p> <p>LAW.11 The learner will recognize paragraph development rules in order to perform the following.</p> <p>a) Determine proper placement of transitions to maintain logical flow of ideas, sentences, or paragraphs b) Remove, revise, or edit sentences that do not contribute to the coherence of the paragraph c) Combine related ideas into one effective paragraph d) Divide documents into appropriate paragraphs</p>	<p>Administrator's Manual II- 4 & 5</p> <p>Virginia Standards of Learning: Writing 9.6, 11.7</p> <p>Texas Standardized Curriculum Framework 1.04.2, 1.04.7, 1.06.2</p>
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Language Arts, Writing, Part II

Content Area: Essay

Standard Statements	References
<p>LAW.12 The learner will use pre-writing strategies to perform the following.</p> <p>a) Generate ideas for writing b) Organize ideas for writing</p> <p>LAW.13 The learner will organize ideas for writing in order to perform the following.</p> <p>a) Present a main idea that addresses the prompt b) Develop supporting ideas c) Establish a clear and logical organization</p> <p>LAW.14 The learner will develop a well-balanced essay using substantial and concrete support to perform the following.</p> <p>a) Incorporate personal observations b) Include relevant explanations c) Provide specific details/examples</p> <p>LAW.15 The learner will write an essay to perform the following.</p> <p>a) Demonstrate control of sentence structure b) Observe the conventions of Edited American English c) Exhibit varied and precise word choices</p>	

