



GED[®] Language Arts Skills

*Each section on this handout gives an overview of the skills GED[®] test-takers should practice before taking the Language Arts section of the exam. Words in **bold** on this handout are defined further on the Literacy Lubbock[™] GED Skillset Glossary.*

When students log on to GED.com, they can explore skills related to each section of the GED[®] test. Students can access examples of passages and questions for the Language Arts Reasoning portion of the test by clicking on the purple “Language Arts” button on their home screen and then reviewing each mini-module in the “Study Guide” section OR by clicking on the “Free Language Arts Practice Questions” in the “Practice” section.

To access strategies for the Extended Response section, click on the button labeled “How to Write a Good Extended Response.”

Reading for meaning:

- Events, plots, characters, settings, and ideas
 - Organize events
 - Draw **conclusions** from the information in the passages
 - Analyze relationships between people or events
- Understanding the main ideas and details
 - Analyze how details develop the main ideas
 - Determine how those ideas are connected
- Point of View and Purpose
 - Recognize the **point of view** presented by the authors
 - Identify how authors respond to other points of view and explain their own position
 - Infer an author’s **purpose**, especially when it is not stated
- Tone and figurative language
 - Understand how word choice affects the tone of a passage
 - Determine how **figurative language** affects the meaning of words or phrases
 - Understand how an author’s word choice or figurative language clarifies the purpose of the passage
 - Identify how **rhetorical techniques** (including word choice and figurative language) convey different meanings, emotions, or persuade readers
- Organizing ideas
 - Determine how sections build upon one another and develop the author’s ideas
 - Analyze the way a text is organized
 - Understand the meaning and purpose of **transition words**
 - Analyze how the **organization** of a paragraph or passage supports the author’s ideas
- Comparing different ways of presenting ideas
 - Contrast how two different texts address the **scope**, purpose, **audience**, and impact, or certain issues or topics
 - Evaluate two different passages based on the point of view, **tone**, **style**, organization, purpose, and impact each passage presents

Identifying and Creating Arguments

- Relating evidence to main ideas and details

- **Summarize** information
- Identify how the details and the **main idea** of a passage are related
- Determine the main idea in a passage
- Understand what details support the main idea
- Determine the **theme** and its supporting elements
- Drawing conclusions, making inferences, and evaluating evidence
 - Make evidence-based **generalizations**
 - Use main ideas to draw conclusions
 - Describe the structure (or steps) of an **argument**
 - Identify the **evidence** used to support a **claim** or conclusion
 - Determine if the evidence presented is **relevant** and **sufficient**
 - Determine whether the author's statements are supported
 - Assess the **validity** of an argument
 - Identify the **assumptions** made in an argument and whether or not the evidence presented backs up those assumptions
 - Analyze two arguments and evaluate the evidence used to support each claim
- Incorporating data, graphs, or pictures as evidence
 - Identify how visual aids support an author's claim or argument
- Extending your understanding to new situations
 - Combine information from different sources
 - Draw conclusions
 - Transfer information to new situations

Grammar and Language

- Word usage
 - Correct errors with commonly misused words
 - Understand and correct **subject-verb agreement** errors
 - Identify and correct **pronoun** errors
 - Eliminate non-standard English words or phrases
- Sentence structure
 - Eliminate **dangling and misplaced modifiers**
 - Edit sentences for **parallel structure** and correct use of **conjunctions**
 - Edit for pronoun-**antecedent** and subject-verb agreement
 - Eliminate wordiness or awkward sentence structure
 - Eliminate **run-on sentences** and **sentence fragments**
- Transition words
 - Use effective transition words and phrases
- Capitalization, punctuation, and apostrophes
 - Use correct capitalization
 - Identify the correct placement of apostrophes with possessive nouns
 - Punctuate sentences correctly