

# Maryland High School Diploma Program by Examination

## Facts About GED

### WHAT IS THE GED?

GED is short for **General Educational Development**. It is the high school equivalency test that is a series of five subtests in the areas of:

1) Language Arts - Writing	50 questions and an essay of approximately 200 words
2) Language Arts - Reading	40 multiple-choice questions
3) Social Studies	50 multiple-choice questions
4) Science	50 multiple-choice questions
5) Mathematics	25 multiple-choice questions with calculator
	25 multiple-choice questions without calculator

Adults who pass this exam are awarded a **MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The applicant must:

- have resided in Maryland for a period of three months
- be at least 16 years of age
- not be a high school graduate
- be officially withdrawn from a regular high school program for at least three months

### WHAT ARE THE TESTS LIKE?

Many questions on the GED are multiple-choice with five possible answers given. The Language Arts – Writing Test requires applicants to write an essay. There are math problems that will need to be calculated with a scientific Casio FX-260 Solar Calculator and the correct answer recorded on the answer sheet. The tests are designed to measure as directly as possible the major generalizations, ideas, and intellectual skills that would be the outcome after four years of high school. The questions range in difficulty and cover a wide range of subjects. Emphasis is placed on the ability to comprehend, evaluate critically, and think clearly in terms of concepts and ideas.

### WHEN AND WHERE IS THE EXAMINATION GIVEN?

The test will be given on the second and third Saturday of each month from 8:00AM to 2:00PM at sites throughout the state. **Howard County residents are usually assigned to Catonsville Community College.**

### HOW MUCH DOES THE TEST COST?

The test costs \$45. An application must be completed and received by the GED Office by the 15th of the month prior to being tested.

### HOW MAY APPLICANTS PREPARE FOR THE TEST?

Howard Community College offers GED preparation classes for 12-week sessions at a cost of \$180. Day and evening classes are available and they meet two times per week. The class is an intensive review aimed at preparing students for the GED test. Class registration requires a pre-screening test in reading, writing, and mathematics. The Official GED Practice Test is also available at Howard Community College to predict a student's readiness for the actual test. The Practice Test is given for a \$20 fee and by appointment only - call Meredith Lowman at 410-772-4841.

### WHO ACCEPTS THE GED?

The GED is widely accepted as basis for awarding high school equivalency credentials. It satisfies high school graduation requirements for purposes of employment, promotion, and licensing. Most colleges and universities accept GED scores in place of a high school transcript.

**For any additional information, please call the Maryland State Department of Education GED Office at 410-767-0538.**