GED® Test: Reasoning Through Language Arts Performance Level Descriptors
What Your Score Means: Level 1 — Below Passing

Test-takers who score at this level are typically able to comprehend and analyze **simple** passages similar to those found in L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*, Joy Hakim's *A History of US*, and Colin A. Ronan's "Telescopes," and generally demonstrate **limited but developing** proficiency with the following skills:

Analyzing and Creating Text Features and Technique

- Make inferences about plot/sequence of events, characters/people, settings, or ideas in texts at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Analyze relationships within texts, including how events are important in relation to plot or conflict; how people, ideas, or events are connected, developed, or distinguished; how events contribute to theme or relate to key ideas; or how a setting or context shapes structure and meaning, at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Analyze the roles that details play in texts at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Analyze how meaning or tone is affected when one word is replaced with another at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Analyze the structural relationship between adjacent sections of text at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Analyze transitional language and determine how it functions in a text at a limited and/or inconsistent level

Using Evidence to Understand, Analyze, and Create Arguments

- Comprehend explicit details and main ideas in a text at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Summarize details and ideas in a text at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Make sentence-level inferences about details that support main ideas at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Determine which details support a main idea at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Identify a theme, or identify which element(s) in a text support a theme at a limited and/or inconsistent level

Applying Knowledge of English Language Conventions and Usage

- Edit to correct errors involving frequently confused words at a limited and/or inconsistent level

- Edit to correct errors in straightforward subject-verb agreement at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Edit to eliminate run-on sentences, fused sentences, or sentence fragments at a limited and/or inconsistent level
- Edit to ensure correct use of punctuation at a limited and/or inconsistent level

In order to progress to the **Pass/High School Equivalency** level, test-takers need to:

1) **strengthen** the skills listed in the **Below Passing** level and apply them to texts at a **more challenging** level of complexity, such as Sandra Cisneros' "Eleven," John Steinbeck's *Travels With Charley: In Search of America*, and Donald Mackay's *The Building of Manhattan,* with a particular focus on improving the following skills:

   - Make inferences about plot/sequence of events, characters/people, settings, or ideas in texts
   - Analyze the roles that details play in complex literary or informational texts
   - Analyze the structural relationship between adjacent sections of text
   - Comprehend explicit details and main ideas in a text
   - Determine which details support a main idea
   - Edit to ensure correct use of punctuation

and

2) **develop** the following additional skills:

   - Order sequences of events in texts
   - Determine the meaning of words or phrases as they are used in a text, including determining connotative and figurative meanings from context
   - Analyze the impact of specific words, phrases, or figurative language in text, with a focus on an author's intent to convey information or construct an argument
   - Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of ideas
   - Determine an author's point of view or purpose of a text
   - Infer an author's implicit as well as explicit purposes based on details in a text
   - Analyze how an author uses rhetorical techniques to advance his or her point of view or achieve a specific purpose
   - Infer implied main ideas in paragraphs and whole texts
   - Draw conclusions or make generalizations that require synthesis of multiple main ideas in text
   - Edit to eliminate dangling or misplaced modifiers or illogical word order
   - Edit to correct errors in subject-verb or pronoun-antecedent agreement in more complicated situations
   - Edit to ensure effective use of transitional words, conjunctive adverbs, and other words and phrases that support logic and clarity
   - Edit to ensure correct use of capitalization