Tips for the Calculator-Prohibited Section
of the Mathematical Reasoning GED® Test

Non-calculator questions make up about 12% of the points on the Mathematical Reasoning GED® Test and assess foundational arithmetic skills including

- The four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division)
- Exponents and roots,
- Order of operations,
- Scientific notation, and
- Basic number sense.

The following examples of calculator-prohibited questions address the skills students need in each of the identified GED® test assessment target/indicator areas. For multiple choice questions, the correct answer is indicated by an asterisk (*).

Q.1.a: Order fractions and decimals, including on a number line.

A list of numbers is shown.

$$\frac{3}{4}, \ 0.6, \ \frac{5}{16}, \ 0.15, \ \frac{3}{8}$$

Which list shows the numbers in order from least to greatest?

A* $0.15, \ \frac{5}{16}, \ \frac{3}{8}, \ 0.6, \ \frac{3}{4}$

B $\frac{5}{16}, \ 0.15, \ \frac{3}{8}, \ 0.6, \ \frac{3}{4}$

C $0.6, \ 0.15, \ \frac{3}{4}, \ \frac{3}{8}, \ \frac{5}{16}$

D $0.15, \ 0.6, \ \frac{5}{16}, \ \frac{3}{8}, \ \frac{3}{4}$

Q.1.d: Identify absolute value of a rational number as its distance from 0 on the number line and determine the distance between two rational numbers on the number line, including using the absolute value of their difference.

The numbers -8 and -3 are plotted on a number line. What is the distance, in units, between the two points?

A   -11   **B**   -5   **C***   5   **D**   11

Q.2.a: Perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division on rational numbers.

Multiply.

$$2.25 \times 1.6$$

A   0.1675

B   0.36

C   1.675

D*   3.6

Q.2.b: perform computations and write numerical expressions with squares and square roots of positive, rational numbers.

An expression is shown.

$$\sqrt{15} \cdot \sqrt{12}$$

Simplify the expression completely. Leave your answer in radical form. Type your answer in the box. Use only numbers and symbols in your answer. (NOTE: Click the symbol selector when you need to enter the radical sign.)

Correct answer: $6\sqrt{5}$

Q.2.d: Determine when a numerical expression is undefined.

What value of x makes the expression $\dfrac{1}{2x}$ undefined?

A   -2

B   -1

C*   0

D $\dfrac{1}{2}$