



Pre-GED Connection
GED Connection
GED Fast Track

User's Guide

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Project Sponsors
Massachusetts Department of Education
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
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Materials and teacher support are free to enrolled students.

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Overview

GED Connection is a multimedia education series designed to prepare adult learners for the 2002 GED Tests. The program includes videos, workbooks, and online activities introducing the skills and knowledge needed to pass the GED exam. There is a series of 39 half-hour programs including instruction in the areas of writing, reading, social studies, science, mathematics, and test taking strategies. The Fast Track Series is a general review of GED topics. It includes one workbook covering all areas of the GED test. It is intended for students who need a short review of the content areas.

Program Components

Videos: Thirty-nine video programs comprise the GED Connection program. Each video is 30 minutes in length and introduces a topic within one of the five main GED test areas. Each video helps bring to life the content covered in one of the chapters of the workbook material

Workbooks: The workbooks cover the five main test subjects for the GED test. Each workbook covers individual topics within a content area. Each chapter is linked with a video program and has a preview section called "Before You Watch" and an instruction and activity section called "After You Watch". Answer keys are provided at the back of each book making self-checking possible. The workbook chapters match the video instruction chapter by chapter. The workbooks can be used effectively with or without the video component.

Online Materials: GED and Pre-GED Connection have an online classroom Web site offering additional content in each of the five GED test areas. Students can access support and assistance from their online teacher through the use of the portfolio system. The portfolio allows students to save work and teachers to view and comment on completed online activities. A message center supports communication between teachers and students. The distance learning program teaches students basic computer skills for effective online classroom use.

Using the Workbooks

After selecting the workbook you will start with, read the information in the program overview, and follow the step by step instructions for using the workbook below:

Workbook Pretest

The first activity in each workbook is the pretest. The pretest is a survey that provides a preview of the material and an assessment tool for the student and the teacher. After completing the pretest, check your work with the answer key at the end of the pretest. Complete the pretest assessment chart.

Workbooks Step by Step

1. Read “Before You Watch” and check your work at the end of the section.
2. Watch the video that matches the workbook chapter. (Skip if you are not using the videos)
3. Complete the “After You Watch” section in the workbook.
4. Check your work with the answer key in the back of the book.
5. Make a list of questions or circle any items you had trouble with, and discuss with your teacher/tutor at your next meeting.

Using the Videos

There are 39 half-hour video programs that go along with the print material and the online classroom resources. Each video provides instruction on a particular GED test topic. You can watch each video and proceed with the chapter work in a structured format, or watch selected videos on topics of particular interest to you. Follow the suggestions below on using the videos. Use the table to keep a record of the video programs viewed and any questions you have to discuss with your teacher or tutor.

1. Select the video that matches the chapter/topic you are working on in your workbook.
2. Read and complete the “Before You Watch” section at the beginning of each chapter.
3. View the video, and remember you can:
 - take notes
 - stop and rewind the video to watch and review any section as needed
 - watch short portions of the video or the whole program at one time
 - record any questions you have to discuss with your teacher or tutor
4. Complete the “After You Watch” section of your workbook chapter.

Video Program (# + title)	Questions for your teacher/tutor	Date completed

Using the Web Component

GED Connection includes Web-based learning activities at the PBS Literacy Link Web site. Featured are full length learning modules, quizzes, and practice tests with answers for each subject area of the GED test. Students work in an online classroom with teacher support and feedback. The topics correspond to the chapters in the GED and Pre-GED Connection workbooks.

Follow the instructions below and then complete the step by step procedure to enroll in and use the online classroom component.

Using the online classroom

- Enroll in the online classroom (see Online Materials User's Guide)
- Send a message to your teacher at the Message Center
- Locate the online lessons for GED or Pre-GED Connection
- Select and view a practice lesson/unit
- Send a completed activity to your teacher using the Portfolio

Step by Step - How to Begin

Complete the checklist below:

Getting Started Checklist	Done
1. Look over program materials with your teacher	
2. Complete an Individual Learning Plan with your teacher	
3. Review and complete a practice packet Practice Packets include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excerpt from one workbook chapter• Video program matched with this chapter• Online classroom activity for the selected chapter	
4. Try your first assignment	
5. Meet with your teacher to evaluate completed work.	