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Introduction

The High School Equivalency Test in Reading Skills Has a New Format

EXAM SHORTENED FROM 2 HOURS TO 1 HOUR

NOW CONSISTS OF SEVERAL NEW QUESTION-TYPES

The Reading Skills test — one of the five tests that make up the High School Equivalency Test battery — has been changed. The new Reading Skills was formerly the Literature part of a two-hour test called Reading Interpretation in Social Studies, Natural Sciences, and Literature. The old Literature test was, for the most part, "old-fashioned." The reading selections in the new Reading Skills test are modern — appealing to the interests of the applicants who take the test.

WHAT THIS BOOK COVERS

This book *covers thoroughly* the four types of reading materials that you will encounter in the actual Reading Skills test:

1. **Practical Reading** — directions, contracts, recipes, comic strips, etc.
2. **General Reading** — everyday passages, popular science passages, minority-group passages, etc.
3. **Poetry** — light and serious poetry — mostly modern.
4. **Plays** — humorous scenes and human problem scenes.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

- STEP 1. Take the Reading Skills Pre-Test beginning on page 7. Put yourself under strict examination conditions. Work for 60 minutes with no interruptions.
- STEP 2. When you finish the Pre-Test, turn to the Answer Key on page 22. Count your correct answers. Your "raw score" is the number of answers you got right.
- STEP 3. Then turn to page 30 to find out your "standard score" for the Pre-Test you have taken.
- STEP 4. Proceed to Part Two ("How to Improve Your Reading Ability"), Part Three ("How to Build Up Your Vocabulary"), and Part Four ("Specific Practice for Each Question-Type Appearing on the Reading Skills Test"). Part Four has a wealth of practice material for each of the areas that the actual test includes — Practical Reading, General Reading, Poetry, and Plays.

STEP 5. Take Reading Skills Post-Test #1 (beginning on page 321). The results of this Post-Test will tell you whether you are ready to take the actual GED Reading Skills test. See page 31: "Scores Required by Each State to Get a G.E.D. High School Equivalency Diploma." If the score for your Post-Test #1 indicates that you are not ready to take the actual test, you are urged to get right back on the job of eliminating your existent weaknesses.

STEP 6. Finally, take Post-Test #2 (at the end of the book) just to make sure you are ready for the actual Reading Skills test.

TEST-TAKING TIPS

The Multiple-Choice Question

Every single question in the High School Equivalency Test is a multiple-choice question. There are five choices for each question, only one choice being correct.

The multiple choice question may have one of two forms:

- (a) **discrete type** — that is, a question which begins with a stem (a sentence or part of a sentence) followed by five choices.
- (b) **stimulus type** — that is, a prose passage, poem, drama excerpt, comic strip, index, contract, schedule, recipe, etc. — followed by a set of questions, each of which has five choices.

The Directions Are Important

Be sure that you read carefully the general directions. These directions appear before the first question of the actual test. See, for example, the directions on page 7.

Time Is of the Essence

WHEN YOU ARE SURE ABOUT THE ANSWER

If you recognize one of the choices immediately as the correct choice, don't spend any time looking at the other choices. Mark your answer paper with that choice that "hit" you. There is no need, in this case, to waste your time considering the other choices that are necessarily incorrect.

WHEN YOU MEET A TOUGH QUESTION

Don't spend too much time on a hard question. Return to it later — you will probably have the time to do so. Each question counts as much as any other. Therefore, try to "pile up" as many correct answers as you can, as fast as you can.

WHEN YOU SKIP A QUESTION

If you skip any question, be sure to skip that number on your answer sheet. Be sure that each answer you mark is in the space numbered the same as the question you are answering in your test.

TOWARD THE END OF THE TEST

When the exam proctor announces that you have (let's say) 15 minutes to finish, complete all the questions you can in the remaining time. Be sure that all of your answer boxes have been filled in since there is no penalty for a wrong answer — but you will get credit even if you have a "lucky guess" answer.

If you have some time after all of your answer boxes have been filled in, recheck the answers about which you were not sure. You are permitted to change answers freely on your answer sheet. If you want to change an answer, place an X through the answer you wish to change. Then fill in your new choice.

If you still have some time left over — even a few minutes — check for the following:

1. *Double answers* — Make sure that your answer sheet has only one answer for each question. If two choices are marked, you will receive no credit even though one of them is right.
2. *Answers in the wrong place* — If you skip around on your answer sheet to answer those questions that you know immediately, you may sometimes put an answer in a space on your answer sheet that belongs to another question. Then if you go on marking more answers, you could be losing a whole string of points. A right answer won't even show if it is put down after the wrong question number. Make certain you have marked the answer sheet as intended, so that you will receive full credit for your answers.

A Note from the Author

Dear Exam-Taker:

The High School Equivalency Reading Skills test is a "tough" test. Don't let this bother you. For every one who fails the test, two pass. The odds, then, are 2 to 1 in your favor.

While you are taking the actual Reading Skills test, you will find that many of the questions are very difficult. Don't panic. The fact is that if you get about 35% of all the questions right, you may still get a passing mark. In other words, the Reading Skills test — like the other four tests of the entire High School Equivalency Exam — is not rated on the usual "65% to pass" basis.

The Pre-Test and the Post-Test in this book are very much like the actual Reading Skills exam. The "real" test and the Pre-Test + two Post-Tests have the

- (a) same number of questions
- (b) same types of questions
- (c) same time limit (60 minutes)
- (d) same level of difficulty

As you take the Pre-Test and the Post-Tests in the book, you will find many of the questions quite hard to answer. Bear in mind that the level of difficulty of these three tests is the same as that of the actual Reading Skills test. We could have made these three book tests much easier — but that would have given you a false impression of what the actual exam is really like. This would have been misleading and harmful to you.

If you plan your study properly, you may be fully confident that you will probably pass the Reading Skills test. The odds are with you.

EDWARD C. GRUBER, PH.D.

USE THIS SHEET FOR YOUR ANSWERS

READING SKILLS PRE-TEST

**NOW FIND OUT WHAT TO STUDY AND
PRACTICE TO PASS THE ACTUAL G.E.D.
READING SKILLS TEST**

Part One
Reading Skills Pre-Test

You are now ready to find out where your Reading Skills weaknesses are. Once you are able to pinpoint your "soft spots," you can get right to work to eliminate those weaknesses. This procedure may result not merely in a passing mark — but an excellent mark on your G.E.D. Reading Skills Test.

While you are taking this Pre-Test, put yourself under strict examination conditions. Keep working for 60 minutes with no interruptions whatsoever.

The Answer Key and the Explanatory Answers follow this Pre-Test. In order to judge how well you have done on the Pre-Test, see the "Raw Score-Standard Score Table" appearing on page 30.

USE THIS SHEET FOR YOUR ANSWERS

READING SKILLS PRE-TEST

1 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	11 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	21 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	31 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
2 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	12 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	22 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	32 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
3 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	13 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	23 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	33 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
4 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	14 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	24 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	34 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
5 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	15 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	25 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	35 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
6 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	16 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	26 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	36 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
7 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	17 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	27 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	37 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
8 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	18 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	28 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	38 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
9 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	19 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	29 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	39 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
10 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	20 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	30 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)	40 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Reading Skills Pre-Test

Time: 60 minutes for the entire Reading Skills Test

Directions: The purpose of this test is to determine your ability to understand various kinds of reading matter. Some of the reading materials deal with adult experiences in daily living as expressed in newspaper articles, cartoons (funnies), advertisements, instructions, recipes, contracts, etc. The test also includes literary selections in the form of poetry, novels, nonfiction, and drama. Questions to be answered are based on these reading materials.

Your answers to the questions are to be indicated on the Answer Sheet provided. For each answer, be sure that you fill in the oval space beside the number that corresponds to the question you are answering. Do not make unnecessary marks on your Answer Sheet. If you decide to change an answer, draw an X through the answer that you wish to change — then fill in the oval space you want. Do not fill in more than one space for each question. More than one answer for a question will be scored as incorrect.

You are advised to answer every question. There is no penalty for guessing.

Question 1

Answer Question 1 with reference to the cartoon strip below.



1. The point of this cartoon is that

- (1) Doris is quite economical in regard to her dealings with her daughter
- (2) grandparents interfere with parental discipline
- (3) inflation is a very humorous matter to children
- (4) children may apply adult language or ideas to their own situation
- (5) Bunny has been spoiled by adult treatment that has been too liberal or lenient

Questions 2-3

PLANNING A DO-IT-YOURSELF MOVING JOB

Although commercial movers have been around for thousands of years, existing even in the days of man's earliest societies, there have always been heads of households who thought they could do the job better or for one reason or another preferred not to entrust their personal belongings to any commercial operation.

Today, millions of Americans move their household goods, using their own or a borrowed vehicle or renting a truck or trailer for the job. This operation can work very well if one has the strength, facilities, and knowledge to do the job — plus adequate insurance to cover any difficulty that may arise. The guidelines for a do-it-yourself move are relatively few:

- Plan the move well in advance
- Insure that the required vehicle will be available at the time needed and that it is in good and safe working order and properly licensed
- Obtain proper packing materials and rent pads for furniture protection
 - Line up necessary assistance for the day of the move
 - Buy adequate insurance for protection of household goods and the vehicle used
 - Keep flexible for changes in the weather and other surprises
 - Don't expect the entire operation to be a snap. The professional who makes the job look easy has experience and capabilities the average person lacks

2. In the passage, the advice offered to the do-it-yourselfer includes the suggestion to
 - (1) take an evening course in moving before attempting anything
 - (2) pick a moving date and remain firm despite anything that may happen
 - (3) move during the winter to avoid the fall hurricane season and the spring rains
 - (4) be aware that moving yourself is an easy operation
 - (5) make certain there are enough helpers available on the day of the move
3. Which of the following is mentioned as a good reason for moving yourself rather than hiring a moving company?
 - (1) You get there faster.
 - (2) You have a secure feeling about your possessions.
 - (3) You build up friendships among those who help you.
 - (4) You get practice driving a vehicle with a heavy load.
 - (5) You save money on insurance.

Question 4

Answer Question 4 with reference to
to the newspaper index below.

About New York ..B1	Movies ..C15
Around Nation ..A16	Music ..C14, C19, C23
Backgammon ..C20	Notes on People ..C14
Books ..C21, C24	Obituaries ..D21
Bridge ..C20	Op-Ed ..A23
Business Day ..D1-14	Shipping ..D15
Crossword ..C20	Sound ..C11
Dance ..C18-19	Sports ..D16-20
Editorials ..A22	Theaters ..C16, C23
Going Out Guide ..C18	TV/Radio ..C15, C23
Home Section ..C1-13	U.N. Events ..A14
Man in the News ..A1	Weather ..D20

4. According to this newspaper index,

- (1) the Around Nation coverage comes after the About New York coverage in the paper
- (2) the crossword puzzle takes up a whole page
- (3) the weather report is carried on a sports page
- (4) the place to find out what movies are playing would be the Going Out Guide
- (5) more coverage is devoted to music than to business news

Questions 5-7

Sometimes you don't fit in. Like if you're a Puerto Rican on an Italian block. After my new baby brother, Ricardo, died of some kind of germs, Poppa moved us from 111th Street to Italian turf on 114th Street between Second and Third Avenue. I guess Poppa wanted to get Momma
5 away from the hard memories of the old pad.

I sure missed 111th Street, where everybody acted, walked, and talked like me. But on 114th Street everything went all right for a while. There were a few dirty looks from the spaghetti-and-sauce cats, but no big sweat. Till that one day I was on my way home from school and almost
10 had reached my stoop when someone called: "Hey, you dirty lousy spic."

The words hit my ears and almost made me curse Poppa at the same time. I turned around real slow and found my face pushing in the finger of an Italian kid about my age. He had five or six of his friends with him.

"Hey, you," he said. "What nationality are ya?"

15 I looked at him and wondered which nationality to pick. And one of his friends said, "Ah Rocky, he's black enuff to be a nigger. Ain't that what you is, kid?"

My voice was almost shy in its anger. "I'm Puerto Rican," I said. "I was born here." I wanted to shout it, but it came out like a whisper.

20 "Right here inna street?" Rocky sneered. "Ya mean right here inna middle of da street?"

They all laughed.

I hated them. I shook my head slowly from side to side. "Uh-uh," I said softly. "I was born inna hospital — inna bed."

25 "Umm, paissan — born inna bed," Rocky said.

I didn't like Rocky Italiano's voice. "Inna hospital," I whispered, and all the time my eyes were trying to cut down the long distance from this trouble to my stoop. But it was no good; I was hemmed in by Rocky's friends. I couldn't help thinking about kids getting wasted for moving into
30 a block belonging to other people.

5. The narrator obviously
 - (1) dislikes his father
 - (2) doesn't make friends easily
 - (3) is overly sensitive
 - (4) has no sense of humor
 - (5) prefers his old neighborhood
6. This passage is about
 - (1) street gangs
 - (2) racial prejudice
 - (3) problems of moving
 - (4) feeling alienated
 - (5) conditions in the ghetto
7. Rocky's attitude toward the narrator is best described by which of these statements?
 - (1) He is curious about the narrator's background.
 - (2) He wants to prove how strong he and his friends are.
 - (3) He is trying to intimidate the narrator.
 - (4) He thinks the narrator is too hostile.
 - (5) He is trying to impress the narrator.
8. Which set of words has the correct order for listing in a dictionary?
 - (1) admonish — adolescent — adolescence
 - (2) ambient — ambiguity — ambiguous
 - (3) initiate — initial — initiation
 - (4) idiom — idolatry — idolize
 - (5) spacious — species — special

Questions 9-11

Questions 9-11 are based on the newspaper editorial below.

A great deal of energy has been spent in trying to figure out how to make nursing homes more efficient, economic and responsive to aging Americans' health-care needs. It is now time for an infusion of imagination and new ideas to provide adequate, compassionate medical services to the elderly, at a price we can afford. I am more convinced than ever that the answer to such essential services lies in a effective home health-care program.

Over a period of time the Government unwittingly has adopted a costly, counterproductive institutional bias toward elderly citizens who need health care. We think of home health care for the aging as an alternative to institutionalization. That's a tragedy — a tragedy that goes against traditional American values of independence and personal dignity.

After several hearings on home health care, the House Select Committee on Aging concluded: "It only stands to reason that in the natural order of things it should be just the reverse. Institutionalization should be an alternative to home health care."

There will always be disabled people who require full-time institutionalization in nursing homes. But those who are able to remain in their homes should be given the right to make that choice.

9. The writer feels that
 - (1) nursing homes aren't providing efficient health care
 - (2) medical services for the elderly are too costly
 - (3) institutionalization goes against traditional American values
 - (4) the House Select Committee on Aging is counterproductive
 - (5) the elderly should have the option of receiving health-care services at home

10. The main idea of this passage is about
- (1) the problems of aging
 - (2) an alternative to home health care
 - (3) the tragedy of institutionalization
 - (4) the need to expand the medical services provided for the elderly
 - (5) making nursing homes more responsive to health-care needs

11. In line 3, *infusion* most closely means
- (1) change
 - (2) addition
 - (3) neglect
 - (4) revival
 - (5) renewal

Questions 12-13

Questions 12-13 are based on the following contract.

Dad's Contract

AGREEMENT

made this 15 day of April, 19— by and between SYLVAN R. NOVICK, hereinafter referred to as "Dad," and MICHAEL NOVICK, RONALD NOVICK and STEVEN NOVICK, hereinafter referred to as "Michael," "Ronald," and "Steven" respectively.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, all parties to this contract agree that our household needs a new television set; and

WHEREAS, all parties agree that strict control over the viewing of television programs is important for our education and health;

Now, THEREFORE, In consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable considerations as set forth herein, and the mutual covenants herein contained, the parties agree as follows:

FIRST: Dad within the next two weeks shall purchase a new television set, one that is accepted and approved by all parties to this contract.

SECOND: The new television set and any other television set that may be in our household shall not be viewed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday of any week.

THIRD: The new television set and any other television set may only be used on Friday nights, Saturday and/or Sunday, with a limit of viewing by any one of the parties to this contract, to a maximum of three hours per weekend.

FOURTH: If there is a special and/or unusual program during the week, request shall be made to Dad for special dispensation, and he shall have final and binding authority to amend the terms of this contract.

FIFTH: The time allocated to the special program referred to in Paragraph "Fourth" shall be in addition to the weekly maximum of the (3) hours.

SIXTH: Any viewing of television outside the household shall not be included in the three-hour maximum.

SEVENTH: If any one of the parties does not view his maximum number of hours per week, he cannot add any portion of lost time to increase the viewing during any subsequent week beyond the three-hour maximum.

EIGHTH: Special consideration shall be given during vacation periods and/or holiday periods.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Sylvan R. Novick, a New York lawyer, prepared this legal contract that was signed by his three sons, Michael, Ronald and Steven.

12. The terms of this contract

- (1) apply only to television viewing inside the household
- (2) do not allow anyone in the family to watch television from Monday night to Thursday night under any circumstances
- (3) allow a party to the contract to watch more than three hours on one weekend if he did not watch his full three hours the weekend before

(4) apply only to the three sons

- (5) are meant to keep the sons from watching programs that feature violence

13. The contract may be described as being

- (1) highly technical
- (2) definitely one-sided
- (3) unnecessarily wordy
- (4) generally trivial
- (5) humorously precise

Questions 14-17

Answer Questions 14-17 with reference to the following excerpt from a play.

AMANDA: You mean you have asked some nice young man to come over?

TOM: Yep. I've asked him to dinner.

AMANDA: You really did?

5 TOM: I did!

AMANDA: You did, and did he — accept?

TOM: He did!

AMANDA: Well, well — well, well! That's — lovely!

TOM: I thought that you would be pleased.

10 AMANDA: It's definite then?

TOM: Very definite.

AMANDA: Soon?

TOM: Very soon.

15 AMANDA: For heaven's sake, stop putting on and tell me some things, will you?

TOM: What things do you want me to tell you?

AMANDA: *Naturally* I would like to know when he's coming!

TOM: He's coming tomorrow.

AMANDA: Tomorrow?

20 TOM: Yep. Tomorrow.

AMANDA: But, Tom!

TOM: Yes, Mother?

AMANDA: Tomorrow gives me no time!

TOM: Time for what?

25 AMANDA: Preparations! Why didn't you phone me at once, as soon