

# Preparation for the GED® Test – RLA v4.0

## Course Overview and Goals

The Preparation for the GED® Test Courses were developed by aligning Plato Courseware with the strands and topics that are assessed on the GED® Test. Each unit aligns to one or more strands within the GED® Test and the modules within each unit target the individual indicators on the test. The GED® Test for Reading Language Arts is the study of different reading and writing strategies. In this course, you will find a variety of lessons and activities to improve your knowledge of these strategies.

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- ❖ Explore different reading strategies for literature and informational text
- ❖ Understand how to summarize, find main ideas as well as details in both literary and informational text
- ❖ Analyze arguments in informational text
- ❖ Analyze and evaluate persuasive essays
- ❖ Understand the concept of thesis statements
- ❖ Explore how to evaluate and outline information, write strong introductions and strong conclusions
- ❖ Understand how to write, support, and prove arguments
- ❖ Explore different grammatical conventions and correct usage of language
- ❖ Understand how to revise and edit writing

## Scope and Sequence

This document outlines the design of Preparation for the GED® Test – RLA v4.0 as well as the coverage of the topics within the course.

[Technical Manual for the GED® Test](#)

## UNIT 1: READING - TEXT STRUCTURES AND TECHNIQUES IN FICTION

The unit focuses on understanding text structures and developing the skills required to understand works of fiction. In the beginning of the unit, students will explore the structure and basic characteristics of fiction. They will then learn to identify and investigate different characters and settings in a novel. They will also learn how characters and plots are developed in short stories. Students will investigate the themes and symbols in novels. The unit also includes lessons on evaluating point of view and analyzing the tone and mood of short stories. Students will learn to understand theme and figurative language in poetry. They will also examine the form and literary elements of modern dramatic texts. Finally, students will learn how plot influences character development in drama.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
<b>Syllabus and Orientation</b>	Review the Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.
<b>Fiction: Doing a Close Reading</b>	Explore how to do a close reading of a fiction text.
<b>Elements of Fiction</b>	Explore the structure and basic characteristics of fiction.
<b>Characters and Setting in Novels</b>	Identify characters and setting in a novel.
<b>Character and Plot Development in Fiction</b>	Use evidence to describe the development of characters and plot in short stories.
<b>Themes and Symbols in Novels</b>	Investigate themes and symbolism in novels.
<b>Point of View and Conflict in Novels</b>	Examine point of view and word choice and how they affect conflict in a novel.
<b>Point of View and Conflict with the Self in Short Stories</b>	Evaluate point of view and structure in Amy Tan's "Rules of the Game" and Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart."
<b>Writing About Short Fiction</b>	Investigate approaches for writing argumentative essays about works of fiction.
<b>Tone and Mood in Fiction</b>	Analyze tone and mood in short stories.
<b>Theme and Language in Poetry</b>	Explain the role of theme and figurative language in poetry.
<b>Modern Drama</b>	Explain the form and literary elements of modern dramatic texts.
<b>Observing Characters: Drama</b>	Explore character development in drama.
<b>Observing Change in Characters: Drama</b>	Explore how plot affects character development in a drama.

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## UNIT 2: READING - TEXT STRUCTURES AND TECHNIQUES IN NONFICTION

This unit focuses on the skills required for reading, comprehending, and analyzing nonfiction texts. Students will be introduced to methods for writing critically about plays. They will also explore strategies for organizing research information. Students will learn to form and develop a main idea in academic writing. They will also learn to explore topics of social change and examine various writing structures in informational texts.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
<b>Nonfiction: Doing a Close Reading</b>	Explore how to do a close reading of a nonfiction text.
<b>Writing Critically about Plays</b>	Learn ways to write critically about plays.
<b>Organizing Ideas</b>	Explore methods for organizing research information.
<b>Constructing a Main Idea</b>	Form a main idea in academic writing.
<b>Investigating Change in Society</b>	Explore topics of social change in informational texts.
<b>Creating Structure in Nonfiction</b>	Review various writing structures found in informational texts.

## UNIT 3: READING - EXAMINING PURPOSE AND REASONING

The unit focuses on developing students' abilities to evaluate arguments and purposes in a variety of literary and nonfiction texts. Students will learn how to identify and analyze the themes of Frank Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. Students will also learn identify and investigate the purpose in informational texts. They will later analyze the characteristics of public and persuasive essays while carefully analyzing their rhetorical and persuasive elements. Next, students will extend these ideas to evaluate arguments and claims in even more informational texts. In the last lesson, students will learn about the form and function of speeches.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
<b>Theme Across Genres</b>	Compare and contrast the presentation of a theme or topic across genres to explain how genre shapes a message.
<b>Theme and Genre in Fiction: The Metamorphosis</b>	Describe the theme and genre in Franz Kafka's <i>The Metamorphosis</i> .
<b>Purpose in Informational Texts</b>	Identify and analyze the purpose in informational texts.
<b>Public Essays</b>	Analyze the characteristics of public essays.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
<b>Rhetorical Elements in Persuasive Essays</b>	Explain the key rhetorical elements in persuasive essays.
<b>Writing a Persuasive Argument</b>	Identify the characteristics of persuasive essays.
<b>Evaluating Arguments</b>	Investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays.
<b>Analyzing Differences in Opinion</b>	Evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts.
<b>Speeches</b>	Explain the function and form of speeches.

## UNIT 4: LANGUAGE - APPLYING CONVENTIONS OF GRAMMAR AND USAGE

This unit focuses on providing students with the skills to use the conventions of English grammar in their own writing and in a wide variety of contexts. The unit begins with a lesson where students will practice their own writing by keeping a diary. Students will also explore the process of creating narratives. In the next lesson, students will identify and analyze literal and figurative language as well as conflict in poetry. They will then analyze the impact of meter and punctuation in poetry. Students will also develop skills for planning, organizing, drafting, and editing academic writing. They will develop skills for writing persuasively. They will explore the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays and understand the characteristics of informative essays. They will learn to use the apostrophes to show shared or separate ownership. The unit also addresses words that look alike but have different meanings and common mistakes in college-level writing. The unit ends with a lesson in which students will examine the steps (including editing and revising) for completing the final draft of an essay.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
<b>Dear Diary: Writing for Yourself</b>	Review examples of famous diaries, and practice keeping your own diary.
<b>Personal Essays</b>	Explain the importance of purpose and meaning within personal essays.
<b>Writing Narratives</b>	Explore the process of creating a narrative.
<b>The Power of Words</b>	Analyze the literal and figurative language in poetry.
<b>Conflict in Poetry</b>	Identify and examine conflict in poetry.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
<b>Meter, Punctuation, and Self-Understanding in Poetry</b>	Analyze the impact of meter and punctuation in Emily Dickinson’s poem "I'm Nobody! Who Are You?"
<b>The Importance of Point of View</b>	State the impact that a point of view has on a story.
<b>How Society Shapes Your Point of View</b>	Explore point of view in memoirs and practice writing a short memoir.
<b>Identifying the Writing Process</b>	Develop skills for planning, organizing, drafting, and editing academic writing.
<b>Composing a Research Paper</b>	Identify as well as practice methods for writing, revising, and editing a paper.
<b>Writing Persuasively</b>	Develop skills for writing persuasively.
<b>Writing Essays</b>	Identify the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays.
<b>Writing Informative Essays</b>	List the characteristics of informative essays.
<b>Using Apostrophes with Compound Possessives</b>	Study how to use the 's to show shared or separate ownership.
<b>Homonyms (ERS)</b>	Learn words that look alike but have different meanings.
<b>Common Mistakes in Writing</b>	List the common mistakes in college-level writing.
<b>After You Write</b>	Examine the steps for completing the final draft of an essay, including editing and revising.