

## Teaching Tips—Language Arts, Reading

The GED Language Arts, Reading Test comprises seven reading selections--five fiction and two nonfiction--and forty multiple-choice questions about those selections (between four and eight questions per selection). The questions assess the candidate's cognitive skills of comprehension, application, analysis, and synthesis. Each reading selection is preceded by a bolded "purpose question" that provides a focus for the candidate as s/he starts reading.

**Below are some general tips that GED instructors should provide to their students as they prepare for the Language Arts, Reading Test.**

- Remind your students to look at the bolded purpose question before reading the selection. This question (which does not need to be answered) will help candidates identify a purpose and focus for their reading.
- Suggest to your students that they find a reading test-taking strategy that works best for them. Some test-takers benefit from looking at the test questions before reading the actual selection; others prefer to read the selection first.
- Recommend that your students read the entire selection before answering any of the questions because most of the questions assume an overall understanding of the text.
- Encourage your students to use the context of the surrounding words and sentences to approximate the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Remind your students that all text in a reading selection should be read, including explanatory notes--set off in square brackets--and stage directions in plays, which are set off in italics. These sections are important because they include significant information about the setting and characters' actions and emotions.
- Urge your students to use the line references when they appear in questions to reread the lines in their full context. Discourage students from relying solely on memory when working on these questions.
- Remind your students to read the questions carefully to determine what exactly is being asked. An answer choice may be a true statement, but it may not answer the particular question that is asked.