The GED – A Valuable Credential

Pre-reading

Questions:
- What do you know about the GED?
- What would you like to know about it?

Definitions:
- Credential – written evidence of a person’s qualifications

Reading

Many people believe the GED, General Educational Development, was created as a means for high school dropouts to obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma. This is not the case. The GED was originally created in 1942 for veterans who had to leave school early to fight overseas in World War II. In the 1950’s, the GED became available to all adults who had not graduated from high school.

To date, more than 15 million people have received the GED. One in every seven Americans with high school credentials has received the GED, as well as one in twenty college students. Famous GED recipients include Paris Hilton, Chris Rock, Bill Cosby, Jessica Simpson, and Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy’s Restaurants.

In a recent article by Bettina Lankard Brown entitled Is the GED a Valuable Credential?

four outcomes of GED certification were identified:

- GED recipients tend to feel better about themselves than do dropouts who never return to school. They have an enhanced sense of self-esteem by knowing that they have accomplished the requirements of educational certification.

- GED recipients tend to realize greater satisfaction with their lives than do dropouts. They are more apt to read, continue learning, and be financially secure.

- GED recipients are more likely to encourage their children to finish school as they realize the struggles they have had to face by not completing high school themselves.

- GED recipients are more likely to get a better job than high school dropouts who do not return to school. They tend to have more full-time work and experience regular, uninterrupted employment.

The reasons for getting a GED are clear. A GED means new opportunities. People who get their GED have better jobs, better pay, and a better chance of continuing their education.

Be prepared to study. The GED Test is not easy. It is comprised of five subject-based timed tests that measure how well a person has mastered the skills and general knowledge that are acquired in a four-year high school education. The subjects of the GED Test are: language arts – writing, language arts – reading, social studies, science, and math.

Level 7.5
Understanding

1. Do you think the GED is a valuable credential? Why or why not? __________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What does the word opportunity mean? ________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What subjects are in the GED Test? ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why was the GED created? __________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

5. What does the word equivalent mean? _________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

6. Where could a person get help with studying for the GED Test? __________________________
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   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

7. What is a recipient? __________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________

Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: What are your educational goals? How are you planning to meet those goals?

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The GED – A Valuable Credential – Level 7.5