

# Preparation for the GED® Test - RLA

## Course Overview

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.

## Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will:

- Explore how to do a close reading of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Explore the structure and basic characteristics in fiction.
- Identify and investigate different characters and settings in novels.
- Investigate theme and symbolism in novels.
- Examine how point of view and word choice affect conflict novels and evaluate the point of view in short stories.
- Investigate approaches for writing argumentative essays about works of fiction.
- Explore character development and how plot affects character development in drama.
- Analyze tone and mood in short stories.
- Inspect theme and figurative language in poetry.
- Write critically about plays and explore methods for organizing research information.
- Explore topics of social change in informational texts.
- Examine various writing structures found in informational texts.
- Compare of topics across genres to explain the messages in them.
- Identify and investigate purpose in informational texts.
- Analyze the characteristics of public essays and persuasive essays.
- Explain the key rhetorical elements of persuasive essays.
- Discuss the purpose and meaning of personal essays and the process of creating narratives.
- Consider the form and function of speeches.
- Evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts.
- Analyze literal and figurative language as well as conflict in poetry.
- Explore the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays.
- Develop skills for writing persuasively and planning, organizing, drafting, and editing academic writing.

- Understand the characteristics of informative essays.
- Examine the steps for completing the final draft of an essay, including editing and revising.

## General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email.

*For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.*

## Course Materials

- notebook
- pencils or ink pens
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

## Course Structure

### Unit 1: Reading - Text Structures and Techniques in Fiction

#### Summary

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.

## Unit 2: Reading - Text Structures and Techniques in Nonfiction

### Summary

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.

## Unit 3: Reading - Examining Purpose and Reasoning

### Summary

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 to 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.

## Unit 4: Language - Applying Conventions of Grammar and Usage

### Summary

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.