

# Syllabus

## Preparation for the GED® Test Social Studies

### Course Overview

The Preparation for the GED Test courses were developed by aligning Plato courseware with the strands and topics assessed on the 2014 GED test. Each unit aligns to one or more strands in the 2014 GED test, and the modules within each unit target the individual indicators on the test. In Preparation for the GED Test—Social Studies, you'll learn how to gather, analyze, and interpret historical information. You'll study important events in world history and US history, as well as functions of US democracy, concepts in civics, geography, and economics.

### Course Goals

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

- Use different reading strategies to understand history.
- Understand how to gather, analyze, and interpret historical information.
- Explore data sets in statistics applicable to social studies.
- Explore and understand significant historical events, such as World War II and the Cold War.
- Understand the historical background of the development of democracy in United States.
- Explore important events of US history, from the American Revolution to the advent of the international war on terrorism.
- Explain the branches, important positions, and workings of the US government, as well as the rights and responsibilities of US citizenship.
- Explore different concepts related to geography and economics.

### 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 and participate in discussion boards.

*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
- pencil or ink pen
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

## **Course Structure**

### **Unit 1: Social Studies Practices**

This unit focuses on the practices used in the study and inquiry of the social sciences. You'll study reading and vocabulary-building strategies for reading and writing about history. You'll gather, analyze, and interpret information from historical data sources and use graphs and variables to interpret historical data. In this unit, you'll examine important geography concepts, such as regions and place, physical environment, population, migration, settlement, and tools used in geography. You'll explore the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the United States. At the end of the unit, you'll learn to analyze history for correlation and causation and use measures of central tendency and spread.

### **Unit 2: Development of Modern Liberties and Democracy**

In this unit you'll study political systems, the US Declaration of Independence, the US Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution. You'll study the significant events and documents relevant to America's founding. You'll explore the branches of government, important domestic and foreign policies, and the workings of the US and local governments. Throughout the unit, you'll study important events in US history, from the American Revolution through the twentieth century.

### **Unit 3: Dynamic Responses in Societal Systems**

In this unit, you'll focus first on US political parties, elections, and elected officials and learn about US domestic policies. Then you'll examine the causes, events, and consequences of World War II and the Cold War. At the end of the unit, you'll study the fundamental concepts of US economic principles and policies.