



Tarrant Literacy Coalition Newsletter

February 2014

In This Issue

[Metroplex Literacy Conference](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Quick Links](#)

[January in Review](#)

[We want to feature YOU](#)

Upcoming Events

[Kids' Vision Fest](#)

(2/7)

Valentine's Day (2/14)

Presidents' Day (2/17)

State of Texas Anniversary
Remembrance Day (2/19)

[February Fourth Friday](#)

(2/28)

[Metroplex Literacy Conference](#)

(@ DBU) (3/1)

Project BEST GED Graduation
(3/23)

Spelling Bee (TCU) (4/29)

Quick Links

[Online Teaching Resources](#)

[Online Courses for Adult
Educators](#)

[Tarrant Literacy Coalition
Website](#)

[Email for Support & More Info](#)

[Sign-up to Become a Volunteer](#)

[Make a Donation](#)

February 7, 2014

We are pleased to partner with Catholic Charities of Fort Worth to provide you an outstanding educational opportunity this month.

Bill Bliss, President of Language and Communication Associates, will be presenting at this month's Fourth Friday Forum. His organization provides training and consulting services in language learning, literacy, immigrant education, and citizenship. He holds an M.Ed. degree from Harvard University and his interests include social justice education, immigration policy, and the impact of social media and emerging technologies on education.

The focus for this month is on techniques for teaching low literacy students and for integrating everyone in multi-level classrooms. This workshop will focus on various challenges that ESL teachers encounter in their everyday teaching experiences: Finding materials and incorporating techniques to teach adults with low literacy skills and integrating activities that cater to all in a multi-level classroom. We will also discuss ideas for classroom speaking activities, pair and group work in order to enhance learning. Mr. Bliss will talk at all levels of instruction, with a special emphasis on teaching refugees.

What: February Fourth Friday Forum

When: Friday, February 28 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: Lockheed Martin Training Room, Catholic Charities: 249 W. Thornhill Dr., Fort Worth 76115

Why: To learn from language expert Bill Bliss how to teach more

[YouTube](#)

January in Review

GED 2014 Mathematical Reasoning

The Format

- 40 multiple-choice, approximately 40 items
- A variety of formats and answer modalities, including drag and drop, multiple choice, and select
- The test will focus on reasoning using mathematics; students must be able to plan a method and select appropriate math processes to solve, represent, and model problems using algebra, basic and geometry in one of reasoning, solve and display algebraic expressions with graphs, evaluation and correct time of reasoning, solve

The Content

- 45% quantitative reasoning (approximately 20-24 items)
 - arithmetic and algebraic numbers
 - fractions
 - ratios and proportions
 - geometry
 - sets and statistics
 - geometric figures
- 55% of the test is algebraic reasoning (approximately 22-25 items)
 - exponents
 - polynomials
 - equations
 - inequalities
 - linear equations
 - functions

Item Types

- **Multiple-choice** items will have four answer choices. Some items will have more than four choices.
- **Drop-down lists** will allow the student to select one or more items from a list of possible answers.
- **Drag and drop** will require the student to drag and drop items from a list of possible answers to a target area.
- **Hot spots** will require the student to click on a specific location on a number line, coordinate grid or geometric figure. Test takers must click on the correct location on the grid to indicate their answer.

Other Information

- The **GED calculator** will be available by clicking on the browser computer icon. If the hard hat calculator has an on/off button on the lower left side, however, the entire calculator has an "on/off" button. There is no "Reset" button.
- The **calculator reference page** (with some calculator instructions) will be available to test takers by clicking on the calculator reference icon.
- The **GED test** will be available to test takers as well by clicking on the icon. This is NOT the same format as the one used in the past. Students will be responsible for copying area and perimeter of squares, rectangles and triangles, circumference and area of circles, measures of central tendency, distance and time unit.
- Students will need to be familiar with the graphic displays to answer the "fill in the blank" questions that require questions such as greater than, less than, etc. Test takers will "click and drag" the appropriate symbol from their list of choices.
- An **on-line chat** is provided, and students will NOT be allowed to "leave" their chat window. They must close their hand when they need a moment's pause.

Tarrant Literacy Coalition, January 2014

Mathematical Reasoning 2014 GED pdf

effectively to low level ESL learners.

Space is very limited. Register today!

[Click to register now!](#)

When Tarrant area literacy instructors and tutors face challenges, they know where to turn for support...

FOURTH FRIDAY FORUM
FEBRUARY 28TH 9:00-12:00
LOCKHEED MARTIN TRAINING ROOM AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES
249 W. THORNHILL DR., FORT WORTH 76115

This month, come learn about teaching low level ESL students.

Catholic Charities Fort Worth | Tarrant Literacy Coalition

Sincerely,
Jennifer Rollins
Community Outreach Coordinator

Make plans to attend this year's Metroplex Literacy Conference at Dallas Baptist University

GED 2014 Reasoning Through Language Arts

The Format

- 150 minute test with one 10 minute break
- Approximately 51 questions with 1 extended response (ER) for a total of 65 possible raw score points, 12 from the ER
- The RLA module is in three sections, with a break occurring after the second section. The first section is approximately 35 minutes and consists of a variety of item types. The second section consists of one 45 ER item. The ER item is followed by a 10-minute break. The break is managed by the computer, and the final approximately 60-minute section begins automatically after 10 minutes, so test-takers will need to be aware that they must be back at their testing station in time to begin the last section of the RLA module.

The Content

- Reading Skills (passages range from 400-900 words):
 - Interpreting Nonfiction and Informational Text
 - Analyzing Nonfiction and Informational Text
 - Interpreting Fiction
- Writing and Language Skills:
 - Writing Effective Sentences and Paragraphs
 - Polishing Your Writing
 - Using Grammar
 - Using Mechanics
- Extended Response (one two passage reading prompt):
 - Analyze the Writing Prompt
 - Identify Arguments, Opinions, and Information and Collect Support
 - Plan Your Response
 - Draft Your Response
 - Revise Your Response

Item Types

- Drag-and-drop: Drag a word, phrase, or sentence to the correct position within a graphic organizer or move sentences to their correct position in a paragraph.
- Drop-down: Choose the correct answer (word, phrase, or sentence) from menu options embedded within a passage.
- Fill-in-the-blank: Type a word, phrase, or sentence to answer a question or complete a passage.
- Extended response: Type a well-developed, supported response to a prompt based on two passages, citing evidence from the passages and using standard English conventions.

Rubric evaluates:

- Creation of arguments and use of evidence
- Development of ideas and organizational structure
- Clarity and command of standard English conventions

Other Updates

- 75% of texts are informational (academic and workplace contexts), 25% are literature.
- Many of the texts will be drawn from U.S. founding documents and the "Great American Conversation."
- Poetry will not appear on the test.

© Pearson Education, Inc. 2014



The Metroplex Literacy Conference is coming your way on **Saturday, March 1, 2014** on the campus of **Dallas Baptist University**, 3000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas 75211. The conference will be held in the Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel at DBU. The check-in begins at **8:30 a.m. with the first session beginning at 9:00 a.m. The conference will end at 4:30 p.m.** The cost of the conference will be **\$25.00 per person.**

This year's Metroplex Literacy Conference Topics include:
2014 GED content and teaching resources
Informal Assessments
ESL resources, every level-every topic
How to teach a citizenship class
Free tech tools and apps for your classroom
And much, much more!

This year Bill Bliss, one of the authors/editors for Pearson Education, will lead 2 of the ESL sessions on Saturday afternoon.

Reps from New Readers Press, Cambridge, National Geographic, as well as TCALL will be there.

Come for a full day of learning - there is something for

GED 2014 Science

The Format

- 50-minute test, approximately 39 items
- Includes 2 short answer items which will require responses to passages and/or graphics - all 30 minutes each. The test will require a student to be able to show higher understanding of skills used in scientific study and investigation.

Three Science Practices include the following:

- Ability to comprehend scientific representations
- Use of the scientific method (observations, questions, collect data, state hypotheses, test/experiment, conclude, report)
- Reason with scientific information
- Apply scientific concepts and formulas
- Use probabilities and statistics

The Content

- Physical Science - 40%, topics include:
 - Atoms and molecules
 - Properties and states of matter
 - Chemical reactions
 - Energy and work, motion and forces
 - Waves, electricity and magnetism
- Life Science - 40%, topics include:
 - Cell structures and functions
 - Heredity and evolution
 - Health and nutrition
 - Sustainable and natural resources
 - Organization of organisms
- Earth and Space Science - 20%, topics include:
 - Solar system
 - Stars
 - Development of the universe
 - Geological and environmental resources
 - Weather and climate
 - The greenhouse effect and global warming

Item Types

- Multiple choice: 30 in the basic, straight-up select, drag and drop, hot spot and short answer
- Short-answer items (SAI) will require the student to type text in a box with setting tools. This will involve writing a summary, creating an experimental design, or explaining how evidence supports a hypothesis. Each answer should take no more than 10 minutes. Students will receive points based on the quality of their answer, based on a scoring guide. Questions and answers are not checked, either an effective response will answer the question using specific information from the source material and should be one to two paragraphs (composed of complete sentences with well-developed ideas. A comprehensive, well thought out answer will receive more points than a brief one or two sentence answer that does not thoroughly cover the topic.

Other Information

- There will be math problems on the science test; students will be allowed to use the online calculator.
- The most answer choice items will have six bubble, tick, copy and paste, and undo or redo, as well as an online highlighter for use in one test type specific to answering a writing task for answer.

GED 2014 Social Studies

The Format

- 50-minute test divided into two sections
- Approximately 35 questions with 1 extended response (ER) for a total of 44 possible raw score points, 8-point ER.
- The SS module is in two sections with 60 minutes allowed for the section, which includes a variety of item types allowed for 25 minutes for the ER. If time remains after the ER, students will not be able to go back to the first test section.

The Content

- Civic and Government (20%)
- U.S. History (20%)
- Economics (15%)
- Geography and the World (25%)

Item Types

- Drag and drop: use the mouse to move small images, words, or numerical responses to drop targets on the screen. This might be used to properly classify, sort, or order things.
- Drop-down: choose the correct word or phrase from menu items.
- Select: the selected answer will appear on the screen for the duration of the test.
- Fill in the blank: type a word or phrase in the blank space following a prompt.
- Hot spot: click a small image to select the correct answer on a map.
- Extended response: write a response to a question that requires the development of an argument or the development of an answer to a question. Development of an answer to a question requires the use of evidence from the source material to support the answer. Development of an answer to a question requires the use of evidence from the source material to support the answer. Development of an answer to a question requires the use of evidence from the source material to support the answer.

Subtest Objectives

- Analysis of arguments and use of evidence
- Development of ideas and organizational structure
- Clarity and command of standard English conventions

Other Updates

- The calculator function will be available in sections of the SS test
- Stimulus materials include primary source documents as well as secondary sources and may consist of text, maps, graphs, tables, or other graphic representations of data.
- The three SA will assess:
 - Reading and Writing in a Social Studies Context (20%)
 - Applying Important Social Studies Concepts (10%)
 - Applying Historical Reasoning to Social Studies (20%)

For a list of skills and content students should be familiar with before testing visit: <http://www.ged.com/resources/updates/the-social-studies-test-2014-09-08-0819.pdf>



everyone!

Register now at: hopeliteracy.com.
The deadline to register is Feb. 25.

We want to feature YOU in upcoming issues of the Coalition newsletter. You get to hear about our efforts and events all the time but we really want to hear from you! Please submit stories and articles to: [Jennifer Rollins](mailto:Jennifer.Rollins). Be sure to include a short author bio and some general information about your program

Join Our Mailing List!

Stay Connected



Tarrant Literacy Coalition | info@tarrantlit.org | PO Box 470744 Fort Worth, TX 76147 | (817) 870-0082



Copyright © 2013. All Rights Reserved.