The Ultimate Step by Step Guide to Preparing for the GED Science Test

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GED Science 2026

for Beginners

2 FULL-LENGTH PRACTICE TESTS IN THE BOOK

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Reza Nazari

Recommended by Test Prep Experts



GED® Science for Beginners

The Ultimate Step by Step Guide to Preparing for the GED Science Test



A Complete Study Guide and Practice Workbook

Lessons, worked examples, data sets, and full-length practice

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Scan Me

CHAPTER 1

REASONING TOOLKIT

Reading Scientific Passages

Scientific reasoning depends on close reading. This chapter shows you how to find meaning in a passage even when the topic is unfamiliar.

Your Reading Strategy

An unfamiliar topic does not make a passage impossible. Its structure still gives you a way in: identify the main idea, separate it from the supporting details, use nearby words to understand new vocabulary, and return to the sentence or figure that answers the question. The passage itself contains the path to the answer.

By the end of this chapter, you should be able to:

- ✓ find the main idea of a science passage
- ✓ separate main ideas from supporting details
- ✓ figure out science words from context
- ✓ connect a passage to its diagram or caption
- ✓ restate a scientific idea in your own words
- ✓ locate the sentence that answers a question

Study Tip

For a short passage, preview the question first so you know what evidence to find. For a longer shared scenario, first scan the title, headings, figures, and question set; then read with that target in mind. You are not reading to remember everything—you are reading to locate and use the evidence that answers the question.

The Q–S–E–A Reading Routine

Question: notice exactly what you must answer. **Scan:** read the title, labels, headings, and figure caption. **Evidence:** return to the sentence, value, or visual that supports an answer. **Answer:** choose or write only what that evidence allows. This four-step routine turns a dense scenario into a short, repeatable search.

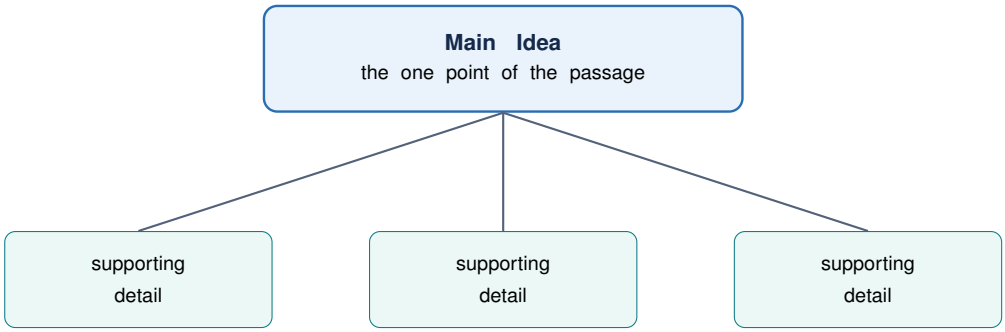
When Two Sources Disagree

GED-style items may pair two short passages, a passage and a diagram, or results from two investigations. Summarize each source separately, mark the evidence each one uses, and then compare their claims. Do not treat a difference in wording as a contradiction; ask whether the sources used different samples, conditions, measurements, or time periods.

1.1 How a Science Passage Is Built

When you first look at a science passage, it can feel like a jumble of facts thrown at you. The reassuring truth is that it is not random at all. Most short passages are built around one **main idea**, the central point the writer wants you to understand. Longer shared scenarios may include several smaller ideas, but those ideas still connect to one larger topic. **Supporting details** explain or back up the central point.

A passage has a central point and details that develop it. Examples, measurements, causes, and results may explain or support that point. Your first task is to state the central point in one clear sentence.



Most science paragraphs follow a simple pattern. They often begin with a **topic sentence** that states the main idea, then add sentences of evidence and explanation. Sometimes the main idea appears at the end instead, as a conclusion. Either way, ask yourself after reading: "What is the one thing this paragraph wanted me to understand?"

☞ Words to Know

Main idea: the central point of a passage.

Supporting detail: a fact, example, or reason that backs up the main idea.

Topic sentence: a sentence, often first, that states the main idea.

Example 1: Find the Main Idea

Passage. Honeybees do more than make honey. As they move from flower to flower collecting nectar, they carry pollen with them. This pollen lets plants make seeds and fruit. Without bees and other pollinators, many crops that people depend on would produce much less food or fail to set fruit.

The question asks for the passage's main idea. Every sentence points to one thing: bees matter because they pollinate plants. The main idea is that honeybees are important pollinators, not simply honey-makers. The details (carrying pollen, seeds, crops failing) all support that one idea.

✔ **Answer:** Honeybees are important because they pollinate plants that people rely on.

Tutor Walkthrough: Example 2: Which Sentence Is the Main Idea?

Passage. The Sun is the source of almost all energy used by Earth's living systems. Plants and other photosynthetic organisms capture its light to make food. Animals eat those organisms, and other animals eat them. Even the energy in most foods people eat can be traced back to organisms that captured sunlight.

Which single sentence states the main idea? The first sentence makes the broad claim; the rest give examples that support it. "The Sun is the source of almost all energy used by Earth's living systems" is the main idea. Plants, animals, and foods are examples that support that carefully limited point.

☞ **Tutor's answer:** "The Sun is the source of almost all energy used by Earth's living systems."

- Most short science passages have one central idea; longer scenarios may connect several smaller ideas to one larger topic.
- The main idea is often the first sentence, but sometimes it is the last.
- After reading, ask: "What one point did this passage make?"

23. Which statement best combines the passage, arrows, and caption?

A. The heart circulates blood through the body.
B. Veins move blood away while arteries return it.
C. Blood moves outward once and then stops.
D. Arteries and veins perform exactly the same job.

24. Reading a passage, you should read the question

A. first, so you know which evidence to find
B. only after summarizing every detail from memory
C. after choosing the answer that matches prior knowledge
D. instead of examining the passage or figure

25. On a diagram, when should you read the labels?

A. after choosing an answer from the picture alone
B. only when a label contains an unfamiliar term
C. after using the caption to make an initial guess
D. before answering

26. According to the caption, veins carry blood

A. away from the heart
B. only between the heart and lungs
C. toward the heart
D. only through the upper body

27. The answer to a caption question is often found

A. in outside facts rather than the visual
B. in the caption or a label
C. in the title without examining the diagram
D. in a nearby paragraph even when it describes a different figure

28. A caption is best described as

A. a decorative sentence unrelated to the image
B. a numerical scale placed beside a graph
C. text beside or beneath an image that explains it
D. a list of sources used to create the image

29. "The heart pumps blood in a loop" best means blood

A. remains close to the heart
B. travels in a circuit and returns
C. moves through arteries but not veins
D. changes into oxygen before returning

30. Reading a passage, your first job is to find

A. every minor fact in the exact order
B. the central point supported by the details
C. one unfamiliar term from the passage
D. background facts about the author

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GED-Style Mixed Formats

The real test is computer based. For practice on paper, write drag-and-drop tokens on the target lines, circle the requested hot-spot region, and mark a drop-down selection.

31. **Multiple choice**

Two reports examine nitrate concentration downstream from a farm. Report A finds higher nitrate after heavy rain; Report B finds little change during a dry month. Which conclusion best reconciles the reports?

- **A** One report must be incorrect because the results differ.
- **B** Runoff conditions may affect nitrate concentration, so the reports can both be accurate.
- **C** Nitrate concentration never changes downstream from farms.
- **D** Dry weather proves fertilizer cannot reach streams.

32. **Fill in the blank**

A material that is opaque _____ light.

33. **Drop-down**

One measured fact that supports a larger point is a [supporting detail / main idea ▼].

34. **Drag and drop**

Match each context clue to its type.

Token bank: means inactive; such as a camel storing fat; unlike clear glass, it blocks light

Definition clue: _____
Example clue: _____
Contrast clue: _____

35. **Hot spot / select an area**

Circle the sentence that states the main idea.

Some seeds float.	Plants spread seeds in several ways.	Burrs stick to fur.

36. **Short answer**

Describe two steps you can use to find the main idea of a short scientific passage.

37. **Select all that apply**

Which **TWO** actions help a reader identify a passage's main idea?

☐ A. Notice ideas or terms repeated across the passage.
☐ B. Choose the first number that appears.
☐ C. State one idea broad enough to cover the important details.
☐ D. Treat one narrow example as the whole point.

Chapter 1 Answers and Explanations

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. A
9. D
10. D
11. A
12. D
13. A
14. B
15. C
16. D
17. A
18. C
19. C
20. D
21. C
22. B
23. A
24. A
25. D
26. C
27. B
28. C
29. B
30. B

31. B

32. blocks

33. supporting detail

34. Definition–means inactive; Example–such as a camel storing fat; Contrast–unlike clear glass, it blocks light

35. Plants spread seeds in several ways.

36. Notice the repeated topic, then state one idea broad enough to cover the important details.

37. A and C