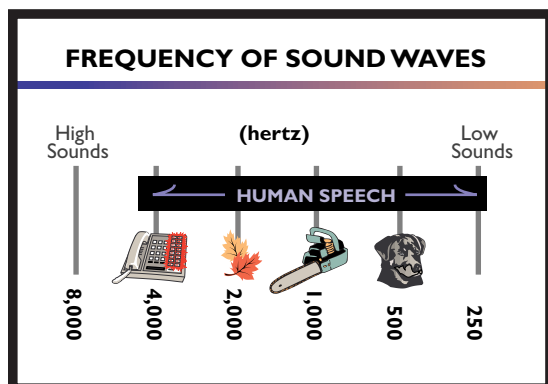


# Science Pretest

DIRECTIONS: Choose the one best answer to each question.

Question 1 refers to the following diagram.



1. The higher the frequency of a sound wave, the higher its pitch. As people age, they lose the ability to hear higher-frequency sounds. To improve an older person's ability to understand speech, what sounds should a hearing aid be designed to amplify?

- (1) all sounds
- (2) sounds between 250 and 500 hertz
- (3) sounds between 500 and 1,000 hertz
- (4) sounds between 1,000 and 6,000 hertz
- (5) sounds over 6,000 hertz

2. Some skin infections are caused by fungi. The most common fungi cause ringworm, athlete's foot, jock itch, and vaginal yeast infections. They are transmitted by contact. These conditions are all similar, but they were given different names because they occur in different parts of the body. For example, athlete's foot is a fungal infection on the foot. What is the best way to avoid getting athlete's foot?

- (1) Avoid exercising in gyms and health clubs.
- (2) Wash your hands frequently.
- (3) Avoid going barefoot in places where many people walk.
- (4) Wear a different pair of shoes on alternate days.
- (5) Stay away from people who have ringworm.

Question 3 refers to the following table.

Meteor Shower	Can Be Seen
Quadrantids	January 1–6
Perseids	August 9–13
Geminids	December 11–16

3. When a comet revolves around the sun, it leaves a trail of dust and debris that remains for many years. As Earth moves through these trails, the dust and debris burn in the atmosphere, and a meteor shower occurs. Which of the following is the best explanation of why each meteor shower can be seen at the same time each year?

- (1) Comets take one year to revolve around the sun, and Earth is stationary.
- (2) Earth takes one year to revolve around the sun, and the comets take many years.
- (3) Earth takes one year to revolve around the sun, and the comet trails stay in the same area.
- (4) The dust and debris burn in Earth's atmosphere, making it visible.
- (5) The dust and debris reflect the sun's light, making it visible.

4. Many turkeys are sold with pop-up thermometers that indicate when the bird is cooked to the proper temperature. These thermometers have a tightly coiled spring anchored by a solid metal alloy. When the meat reaches a certain temperature, the alloy melts and the spring is released, pushing the indicator up. For which of the following properties is the metal alloy used in a pop-up thermometer chosen?

- (1) its ability to reflect heat
- (2) its elasticity
- (3) its melting point
- (4) its expansion when heated
- (5) its ability to conduct electricity

This program helps you get ready to watch the other four science programs by introducing you to science and the scientific method. You'll also learn what's expected of you on the GED Science Test, and you can try some sample test questions.



## Passing the GED Science Test

### OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce the types of passages and graphics on the test.
2. Determine the number of items and how long you will have to take the test.
3. Investigate the types of questions on the test.
4. Explore the general science concepts on the test.

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You should become familiar with the scientific method on page 274 of the Reference Handbook.

We eat genetically engineered tomatoes, get vaccinated against polio, and go to the beach when the forecaster predicts hot, sunny weather. We get X-rayed when we break a bone. At work, we use computers and other technology to improve productivity. So science and technology play important roles in our daily lives.

The purpose of the GED Science Test is to assess your ability to apply what you know about science, to analyze scientific information you see or read, and to evaluate the scientific information that comes your way.

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This lesson and the four that follow will help you prepare for the GED Science Test. You can also prepare on your own. Pay attention when science stories appear on TV or in the newspaper. Observe the world around you and analyze causes and effects in nature and with technology. If you do these things, you will soon become familiar with many of the topics that are on the GED Science Test.

**For additional practice, visit *LiteracyLink* online at <http://www.pbs.org/literacy>.**