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Built-In GED Tips

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GED SOCIAL STUDIES

Graphs, Charts & Tables Practice

Master Data Analysis with

75 Practice Questions

**Data Analysis + Answer Key • 8 Skill Lessons • GED-Style
Review Test • Detailed Explanations**



marie semsim

A Skill-
Building
Workbook for
Adult
Learners

GED Social Studies

Graphs, Charts & Tables Practice

Master Data Analysis for Test Day

Data Analysis + Answer Key • 8 Skill Lessons • 75 Practice Questions • GED-Aligned Skills Practice Review • Detailed Explanations

A Skill-Building Workbook for Adult Learners

Marie Semsim

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SECTION 1 • TEACHER & STUDENT SETUP

Teacher Guide

This workbook is designed to be flexible. It works as a stand-alone unit, a supplement to an existing GED Social Studies curriculum, or a set of warm-up and closing activities for a data-skills unit. Every lesson follows the same four-page pattern (Learn, Worked Example, Guided Practice, Independent Practice), so once students learn the rhythm of one lesson, they can move through the rest independently.

Suggested Uses

- Whole-class instruction: Project or read aloud the Learn the Skill page together, work the Worked Example as a class using the SCALE steps out loud, then release students to Guided and Independent Practice.
- Small-group / station rotation: Assign one lesson per station. Students rotate through Learn, Worked Example, and Practice stations across a class period.
- One-on-one tutoring: Use the Worked Example as a model conversation, then let the student narrate their SCALE thinking aloud during Guided Practice before working Independent Practice unaided.
- Independent study: Students work straight through each lesson in order, using the Confidence Check on the Independent Practice page to decide whether to repeat the lesson or move forward.

Suggested Pacing

A full 8-lesson cycle typically fits into one of the schedules below:

Format	Pacing	Notes
Intensive course	1 lesson per class session, 8 sessions	Best for structured classes meeting 2–3x/week
Standard course	1 lesson per week, 8 weeks	Pairs well with a broader Social Studies review
Small-group pull-out	2 lessons per week, 4 weeks	Good for targeted small-group interventions
Independent study	Self-paced using Confidence Checks	Student repeats a lesson if confidence is Low/Medium

Small-Group Pacing Option

In a small group, assign the Learn the Skill and Worked Example pages as shared reading, discussed aloud. Then have pairs complete Guided Practice together, checking their reasoning against the Guided Prompts before comparing answers as a group. Independent Practice should be completed solo and silently to build test-day stamina, then reviewed together using the Answer Key.

Independent Study Option

Students working alone should resist the urge to skip straight to the questions. Instruct them to read the Learn the Skill page first, cover the Worked Example's answer explanation, attempt the question, and only then check their reasoning against the provided explanation. The Confidence Check at the end of each lesson is the single most important habit for independent learners: it turns self-assessment into a built-in decision point.

SECTION 1 • TEACHER & STUDENT SETUP

Student Introduction

Why Data Skills Matter on the GED Social Studies Test

Many GED Social Studies questions use graphs, charts, maps, or tables. These questions focus less on memorizing facts and more on your ability to read information carefully, identify patterns, and use evidence.

Most mistakes happen when test-takers move too quickly. For example, they may:

- Confuse a percentage with a raw number
- Misread a label or category
- Overlook the graph's scale
- Choose an answer before reviewing all the data

This workbook teaches a five-step strategy called **SCALE**. It will help you identify what a visual shows, locate the relevant evidence, and answer questions efficiently.

GED TIP: Read the title, labels, units, scale, and source before looking at the answer choices. A few seconds of careful review can prevent avoidable mistakes.

Do not skip the **Learn the Skill** pages. Each lesson teaches a habit that strong test-takers use when analyzing data. With practice, SCALE will help you approach visual-based questions with greater accuracy and confidence.

Learning Goal: By the end of this workbook, you will be able to interpret common social studies visuals and support your answers with evidence from the data.

SECTION 1 • TEACHER & STUDENT SETUP

The SCALE Strategy

SCALE is a five-step process you apply, in order, to any graph, chart, table, or map question. It takes seconds once it becomes a habit, and it helps reduce many common careless errors.

S — Scan

Read the title first, before anything else. The title tells you the topic and often the time period or place.

Ask yourself: 'What is this data actually about?' Do not look at the answer choices yet.

C — Check

Examine the axis labels, units of measurement, dates, scale intervals, legend or key, and the source line.

Ask: 'Am I looking at percentages or raw numbers? Dollars or people? Does the scale start at zero, and do the intervals go up evenly?'

A — Analyze

Look for patterns: what is increasing, decreasing, staying flat, highest, lowest, or unusual. Compare categories or time periods to each other.

Ask: 'What stands out? What is the exception to the pattern?'

L — Link

Reread the question itself and connect it directly to what you just found in the data.

Ask: 'What specifically is this question asking me to find or compare?' Many wrong answers are true statements about the graph that simply don't answer the question asked.

E — Evaluate

Test each answer choice against the evidence in the graph, not against what sounds reasonable or what you already believe. Eliminate any choice that the data does not directly support, even if it seems plausible. Choose only the option the evidence proves.

SCALE STRATEGY REMINDER

S — Scan the title. What is this data about?

C — Check the labels, units, dates, scale, legend, and source.

A — Analyze patterns, comparisons, changes, and exceptions.

L — Link the data to what the question is actually asking.

E — Evaluate the choices and pick only the one the evidence supports.

SECTION 1 • TEACHER & STUDENT SETUP

Data-Analysis Vocabulary Reference

Keep this page handy while you work. You will see these terms throughout the workbook and on test day.

Term	Definition
Axis	A reference line on a graph (usually horizontal 'x-axis' and vertical 'y-axis') along which values are measured.
Legend / Key	A small box on a graph that explains what each color, pattern, or symbol represents.
Scale	The set of values marked along an axis, and the size of the interval between them.
Truncated axis	An axis that does not begin at zero, which can make differences between values look larger than they really are.
Interval	The fixed gap between one marked value on an axis and the next for example, jumps of 10, 20, 30).
Trend	The general direction data moves over time — increasing, decreasing, or staying roughly the same.
Correlation	A relationship in which two things tend to change together; it does not by itself prove that one causes the other.
Proportion	The size of one part compared to the whole, often shown as a percentage or fraction.
Percentage point	A unit used to describe the difference between two percentages (going from 40% to 45% is a 5 percentage-point increase, not a 5% increase).
Data point	A single value plotted or listed on a graph, chart, or table.
Outlier	A data point that is noticeably different from the rest of the data set.
Source line	A note, usually in small print, identifying where the data came from and often the year it was collected.
Bar graph	A graph using rectangular bars to compare values across categories.
Line graph	A graph connecting data points with a line, typically used to show change over time.
Circle (pie) graph	A circular graph divided into slices that represent proportions of a whole; all slices should total 100%.
Table	Data organized into rows and columns rather than shown as a visual shape.

Lesson 1: Reading Titles, Labels, Scales & Legends

What This Skill Means

Before analyzing a graph, chart, or table, first identify exactly what the visual shows. Preview its title and other important features. Then read the question and return to the labels, units, scale, legend, or source that will help you answer it.

Skipping these details can lead to avoidable mistakes. Two visuals may look similar while presenting different topics, units, categories, places, or time periods.

What to Examine

- Title: What topic, place, and time period does this cover?
- Axis labels: What does each row, column, or axis represent (people, dollars, percent, years)?
- Units: Are the numbers in thousands, millions, percentages, or raw counts?
- Scale: What are the marked values, and is the interval between them equal? Does it start at zero?
- Legend / key: If there is more than one category or color, what does each one represent?
- Source: Where did the data come from, and when was it collected?

Not every visual includes all these features. Check the ones that are present.

Two Common Mistakes

1. Assuming the units without checking.

A graph may show percentages rather than numbers of people. Confusing the two can change the meaning of the data.

2. Skipping the legend on multi-category graphs.

On a graph with multiple colors, lines, or patterns, the legend identifies the category represented by each one.

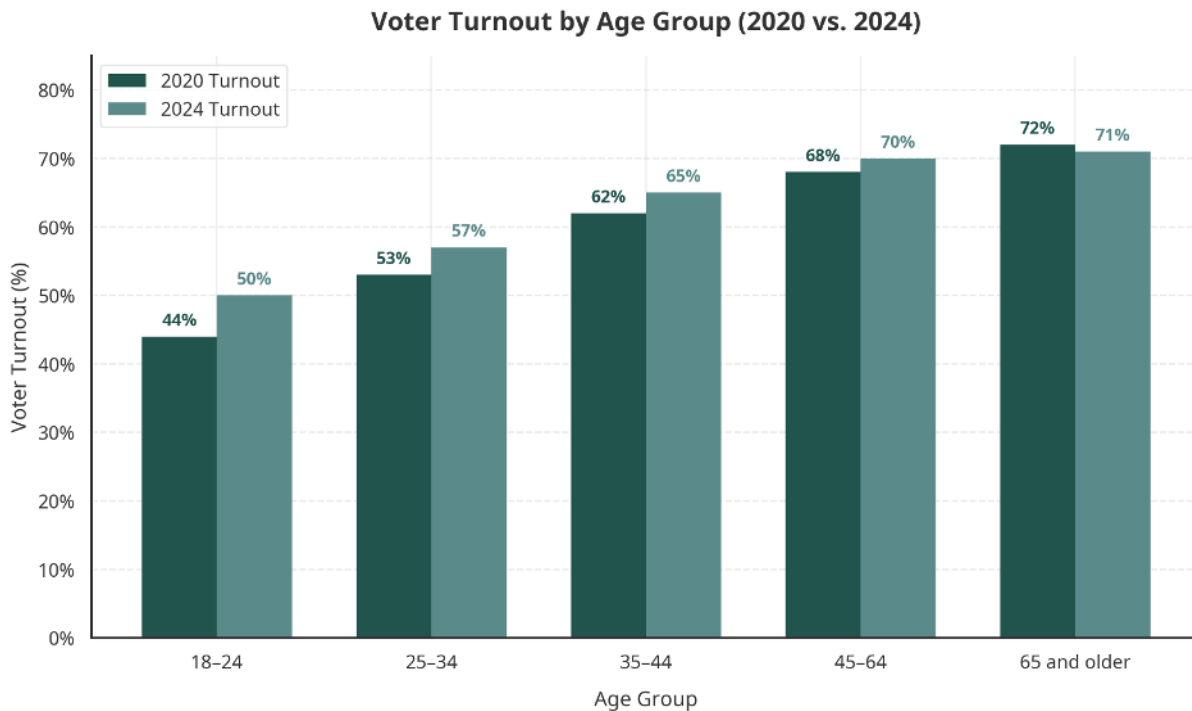
GED TIP

Preview the visual, read the question, and then examine the relevant data. Do not choose an answer until you have checked the labels, units, and legend.

SCALE STRATEGY REMINDER

- S — Scan:** Identify the title and general topic.
- C — Check:** Examine the relevant labels, units, dates, scale, legend, and source.
- A — Analyze:** Look for patterns, comparisons, changes, and exceptions.
- L — Link:** Connect the evidence to what the question asks.
- E — Evaluate:** Select only the answer supported by the evidence.

Lesson 1: Reading Titles, Labels, Scales & Legends



Source: Illustrative data for instructional use

Question 1. According to the graph, which age group had the **greatest increase** in voter turnout from 2020 to 2024?

- A. 18–24
- B. 25–34
- C. 45–64
- D. 65 and older

Step-by-Step SCALE Reasoning

Scan: The title shows voter turnout by age group in two illustrative national elections.

Check: The vertical axis measures the percentage of eligible voters who voted. The legend identifies which bars represent 2020 and 2024.

Analyze: Compare the two percentages for each answer choice:

- 18–24: $50\% - 44\% = 6$ percentage points
- 25–34: $57\% - 53\% = 4$ percentage points
- 45–64: $70\% - 68\% = 2$ percentage points
- 65 and older: $71\% - 72\% = -1$ percentage point

Link: The question asks for the greatest increase, not the highest overall turnout.

Evaluate: The largest increase is 6 percentage points for the 18–24 age group.