

READING TIME FOR THE GEC CURRICULUM TESTS

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION
DAY 4
16 April 2026



Let's remember that :

- Reading is a complex procedure
- There is a range of learner abilities to accommodate
- Reading habits of learners varies based on

Reading Time (High Stakes Examinations)

1. Internationally Assessment Bodies normed Reading time at 10-15 minutes to ensure fairness to all learners. Concessions for extra time applies for learners with barriers to learners.
2. Reading time is established when test items are **piloted** with a sample of learners. Pilot shows us how long the average learner will need to **process** and **answer** the items.

Research shows that reading time allows for better performance when learners engage with a text before writing.

120 words used as a benchmark as average reading speed.

Why do learners need Reading Time?

- Learners' reading pace is adjusted to accommodate cognitive load of a question (i.e. length of a question, complexity (via cognitive verbs), nature of the subject).
- Allows learners to get an overview of the question paper.
- Enables learners to identify the questions they want to answer first.
- Allows learners to annotate / make notes before they begin writing.
- Assists learners to manage the cognitive load of each question paper so that they don't panic.
- Helps learners to focus
- Helps learners to plan and manage their time.

Basic Examination Writing Skills

- Active reading skills
- Analysis of key question words (cognitive verbs are central).
- Ability to decode MCQ and open-ended questions (including paragraph and essay writing)
- Time management
- A plan / strategy before commencing the examination to work to strengths.

Every child is a National Asset

Thank you!

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