

1 Learn the Skill

Pictographs are visuals that use symbols to illustrate data in chart form. Pictographs are very versatile because their symbols can represent any type of item. These symbols also can represent any quantity of the featured item. A single symbol could represent one dollar of income or one million members of a population group. Pictographs are not used to identify an exact measure of something, but can show how the value has changed over time, or how it compares to other similar items.

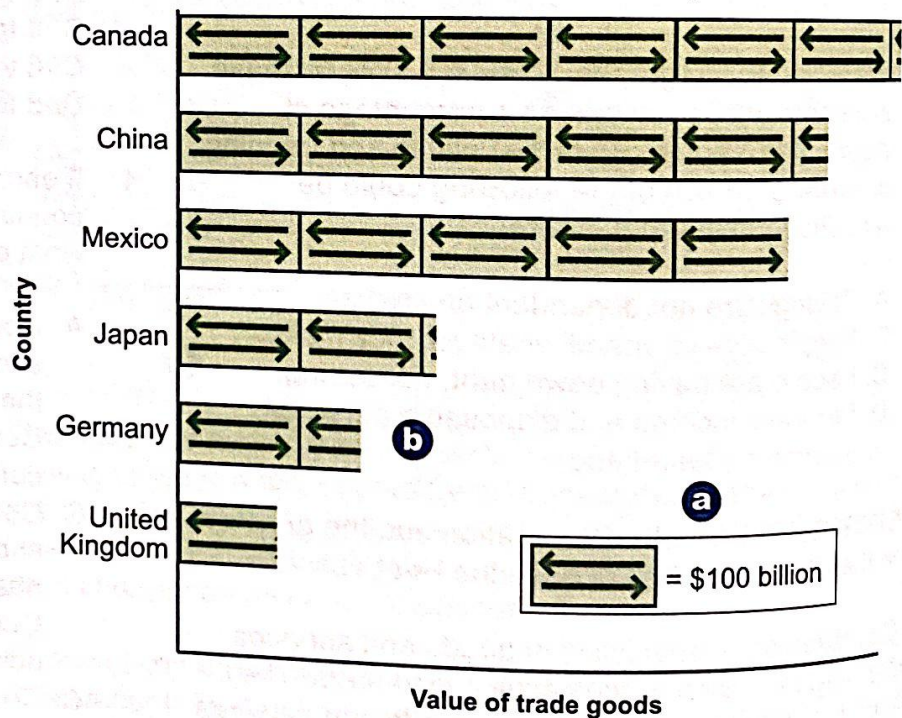
As with other areas of the GED® test, questions about **interpreting pictographs** will test your ability to interpret information at various Depth of Knowledge levels through the use of complex reading skills and thinking skills.

2 Practice the Skill

By practicing the skill of interpreting pictographs, you will improve your study and test-taking abilities, especially as they relate to the GED® Social Studies Test. Study the information and pictograph below. Then answer the question that follows.

Countries and economies are interdependent, meaning that they rely on each other for goods and services. The amount of trade between two countries can be a measure of their interdependence.

**TOP U.S. TRADE PARTNERS:
TOTAL TRADE VALUE OF GOODS, 2012**



a Similar to a map key, a key to a pictograph identifies the symbol used in the pictograph, and also gives its value so you can then calculate the values represented on the chart itself.

b At times, the symbol will appear in partial or incomplete form. In these instances, the incomplete symbols represent some portion of the quantity indicated by the full symbol.

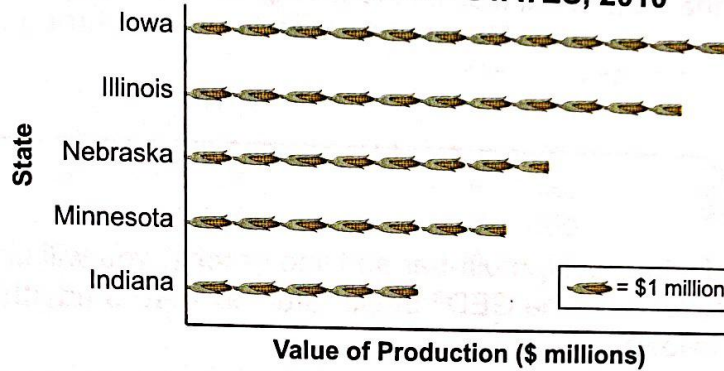
MAKING ASSUMPTIONS
You can make the assumption that when you are interpreting a pictograph, you will probably be asked to estimate the values represented by the symbols on the chart.

- Which of the following is the approximate total value of goods traded between the United States and Japan?
 - A. \$100 billion
 - B. \$150 billion
 - C. \$200 billion
 - D. \$250 billion

★ **Spotlighted Item: DROP-DOWN**

DIRECTIONS: The passage below is incomplete. Use information from the passage and the pictograph to complete the passage. For each drop-down item, choose the option that correctly completes the sentence.

TOP CORN PRODUCING STATES, 2010



Specialization, in an economic sense, refers to individuals and organizations focusing on a limited range of production tasks they perform best. It requires workers, organizations, or even countries to give up performing other tasks at which they are not as skilled, leaving those jobs to others who are better suited for them. An assembly line, for example, where individual workers perform specific tasks in the production process, is the best example of specialization. Specialization is related to another economic concept, division of labor.

Specialization occurs within the United States. For example, citrus goods naturally occur in the warmer climates of the South and West, while maple syrup comes from the maple trees of Vermont and New Hampshire. In the area of agriculture, for example, the Midwest region of the United States is well known to specialize in corn production.

The top corn-producing state in 2010 was Iowa.

Its value of production was more than twice that of

2. Drop-down 1, which ranked fifth of the top five states in U.S. corn production. Kansas, South Dakota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Missouri rounded out the top 10 states in terms of U.S. corn production. The median value of production for the top five states is 2. Drop-down 2. From this information, you can assume that the value of the corn produced in 2. Drop-down 3 was less in 2010 than that produced in Ohio.

Drop-Down Answer Options

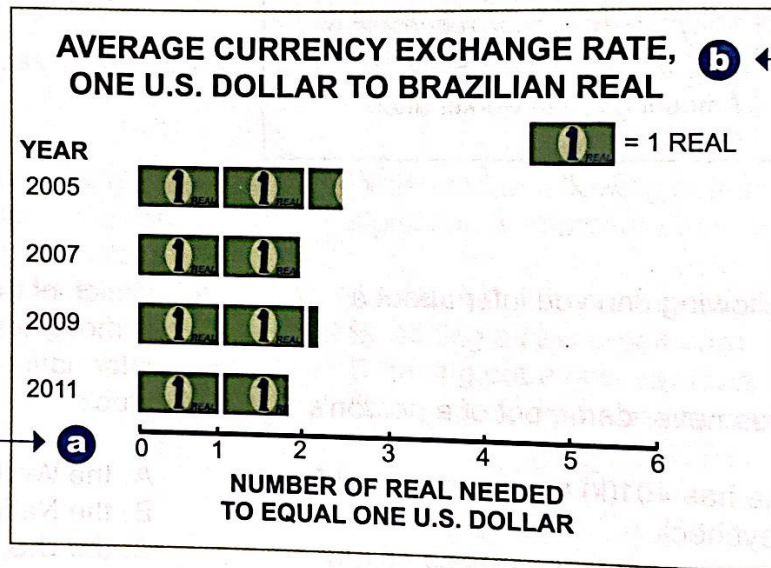
- 2.1 A. Minnesota
B. Iowa
C. Indiana
D. Nebraska

- 2.2 A. \$11,735 million
B. \$10,707 million
C. \$7,860 million
D. \$6,719 million

- 2.3 A. Iowa
B. Illinois
C. Indiana
D. Wisconsin

2 Refine the Skill

By refining the skill of interpreting pictographs, you will improve your study and test-taking abilities, especially as they relate to the GED® Social Studies Test. Study the information below. Then answer the questions that follow.



a A currency exchange rate compares the values of two nations' currencies, in this case the U.S. dollar and the real, a unit of currency in Brazil.

b In this pictograph, the exchange rate is expressed as the number of real equal to a single U.S. dollar.

USING LOGIC

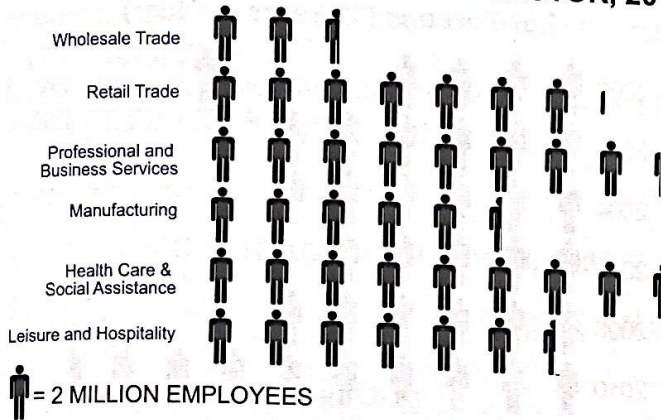
Authors frequently use pictographs to compare two things or to show how something has changed over time. Try to determine the author's purpose for including a pictograph.

- Which of the following was the approximate value of the U.S. dollar in 2007?
 - 1 real
 - 1.5 real
 - 2 real
 - 2.5 real
- Based on the information in the pictograph, which of the following conclusions can you draw?
 - The value of the real changes dramatically from year to year.
 - The value of the dollar decreased between 2007 and 2011.
 - The value of the real decreased between 2007 and 2011.
 - The exchange rate for these currencies would have increased in 2013.

3 Master the Skill

DIRECTIONS: Study the information presented in the pictograph, read the questions, then choose the **best** answers.

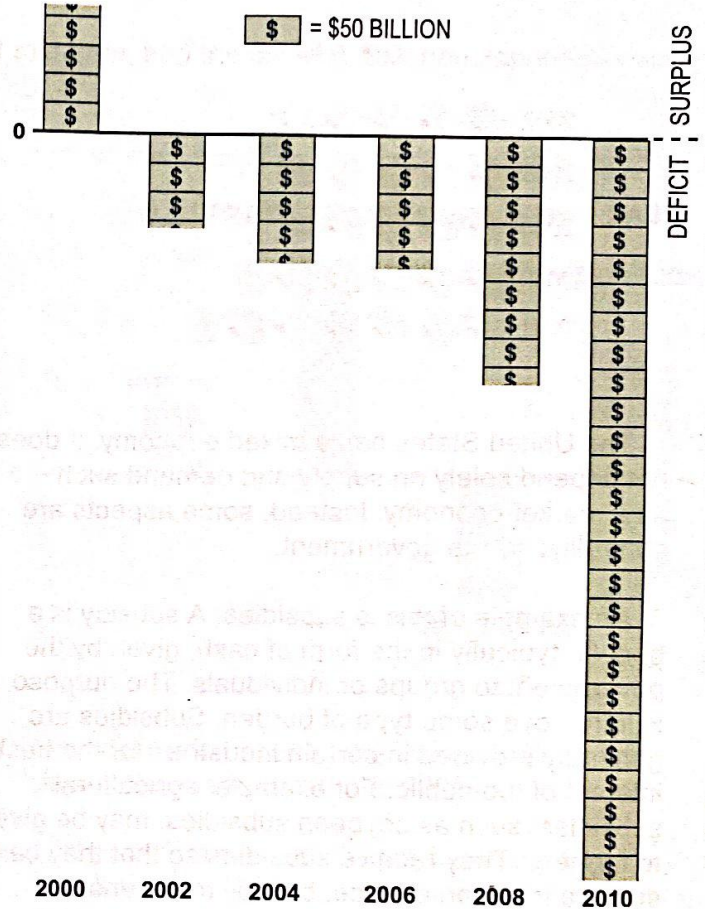
U.S. EMPLOYEES BY ECONOMIC SECTOR, 2010



- Based on the pictograph, which of the following statements is correct?
 - About 20 million people work in Wholesale Trade and Retail Trade combined.
 - The Health Care and Social Assistance sector employs about twice as many people as Manufacturing.
 - The Leisure and Hospitality sector employs the largest number of people.
 - Fewer than 5 million people work in Wholesale Trade.
- In 2010, there were 19,513,100 people working in state and local government. If you were to add this sector to the pictograph, which of the following number of symbols would appear next to this sector?
 - $8 \frac{1}{2}$
 - $9 \frac{3}{4}$
 - $10 \frac{3}{4}$
 - $19 \frac{1}{2}$
- Also in 2010, there were 64,000 people working for the legislative and judicial branches of the federal government. If you were to add this sector to the pictograph, which of the following would first need to be changed for the pictograph to be effective?
 - The economic sectors would need to be listed alphabetically.
 - The icon of the person would need to change.
 - The title would need to change.
 - The key would need to change.

DIRECTIONS: Study the information presented in the pictograph, read the questions, then choose the **best** answers.

U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT OR SURPLUS, 2000–2010

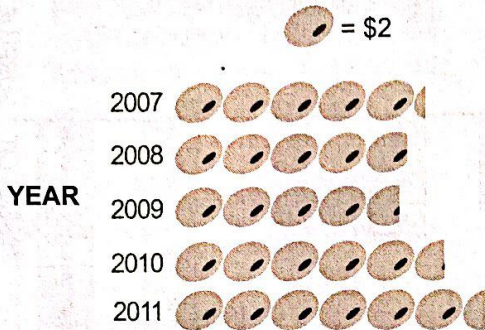


- Based on the pictograph, which of the following describes the U.S. government's budget in 2004?
 - It broke even.
 - It spent about \$250 billion less than it made.
 - It spent about \$350 billion more than it made.
 - It ran a larger deficit than it did in 2002.
- Which of the following could help explain the budgetary changes that occurred between 2000 and 2004?
 - higher taxes
 - a reduction of federal aid programs
 - funding for the war in Iraq
 - an influx of new taxpayers
- Which years did the deficit increase the most?
 - between 2002 and 2004
 - between 2004 and 2006
 - between 2006 and 2008
 - between 2008 and 2010

3 Master the Skill

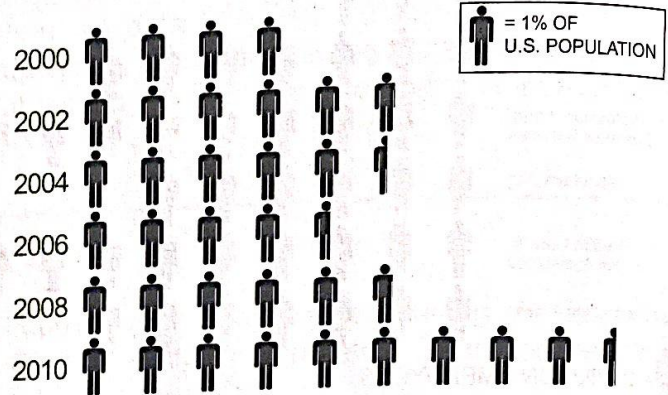
DIRECTIONS: Study the pictograph and the information, read the questions, then choose the best answers.

PRICE PER BUSHEL OF U.S. SOYBEANS, 2007–2011



DIRECTIONS: Study the information presented in the pictograph, read the questions, then choose the best answers.

U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE For Persons (16 Years & Older)



The United States has a mixed economy. It does not depend solely on supply and demand such as a market economy. Instead, some aspects are controlled by the government.

An example of this is subsidies. A subsidy is a benefit, typically in the form of cash, given by the government to groups or individuals. The purpose is to remove some type of burden. Subsidies are generally provided in certain industries for the best interest of the public. For example, agricultural subsidies, such as soybean subsidies, may be given to farmers. They receive subsidies so that they can sell at a low market price, but still make enough money to be profitable.

The unemployment rate is a commonly used economic indicator. The percent reported as the unemployment rate is the percent of people who are available and looking for work who do not have jobs. A person may be either employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force. Those who are not in the labor force are not calculated in the unemployment rate.

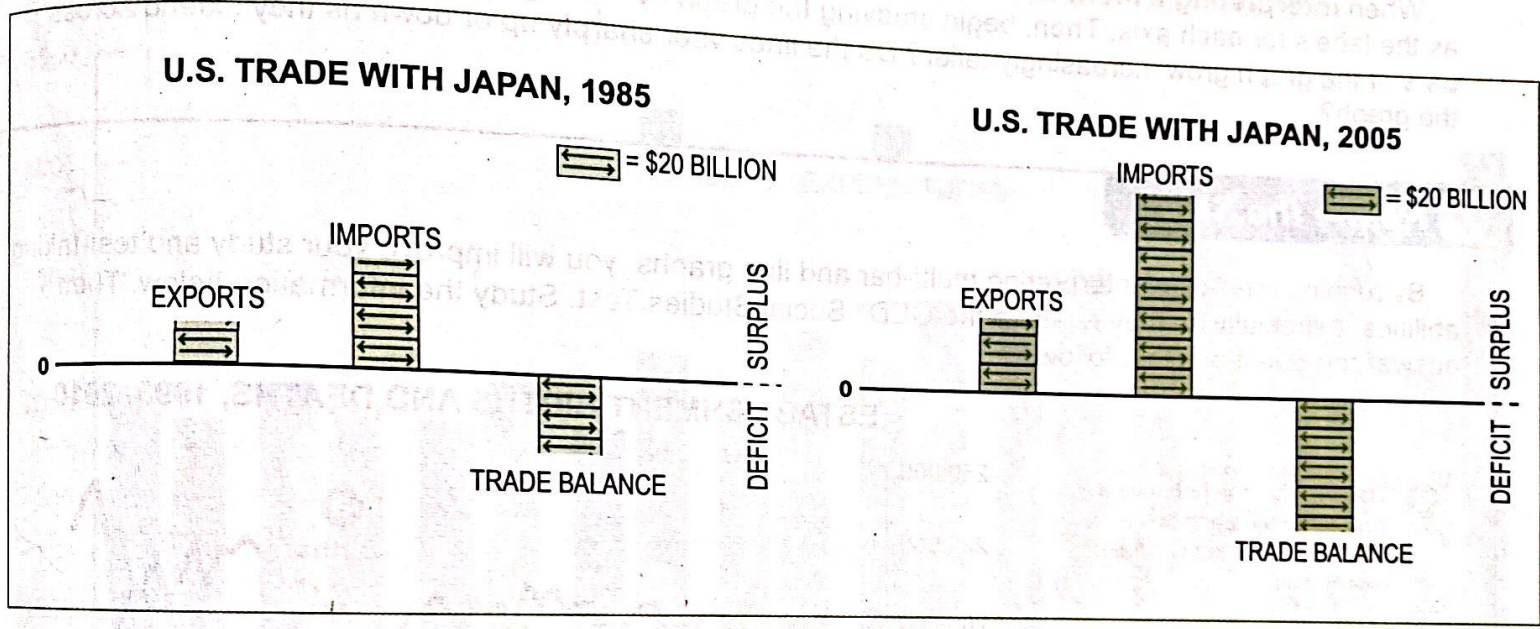
- Which of the following could have caused the change in price per bushel for soybeans from 2009 to 2010?
 - deflation in the U.S. economy
 - a shortened growing season due to inclement weather
 - decreased demand for soybeans and soy products
 - an increase in the supply of soybeans
- Subsidies often guarantee a minimum price for a product or good. If the market price is below this price, farmers will receive a subsidy. In which of the following years would farmers have received a subsidy if the minimum guaranteed price had been \$9.65 per bushel?
 - 2007
 - 2008
 - 2009
 - 2010

- In which of the following ways would you describe the U.S. unemployment rate in the 10-year period represented by the pictograph?
 - It experienced one sharp increase.
 - It experienced several sharp increases.
 - It increased steadily.
 - It decreased steadily.
- Between which of the following two years can you conclude that the U.S. economy experienced a downturn based on the unemployment rate?
 - between 2002 and 2004
 - between 2004 and 2006
 - between 2006 and 2008
 - between 2008 and 2010
- Between which of the following two years can you conclude that the U.S. economy experienced an upturn based on the unemployment rate?
 - between 2002 and 2004
 - between 2004 and 2006
 - between 2006 and 2008
 - between 2008 and 2010

DIRECTIONS: Study the information and the pictographs, read the questions, then choose the **best** answers.

The concept of interdependence is visible in exports and imports among countries. Countries may be dependent on other countries for the products they either cannot produce themselves, or cannot produce as efficiently as other countries. Countries will tend to export goods they produce efficiently to other countries and import the goods they produce less efficiently from other countries.

In these pictographs, the exports describe U.S. goods sent to Japan, and the imports describe Japanese goods sent to the United States.



14. Based on these pictographs, which of the following statements is correct?
 - A. The United States imported about \$40 billion from Japan in 1985.
 - B. The United States nearly achieved a trade balance with Japan in 1985.
 - C. The value of U.S. exports to Japan doubled between 1985 and 2005.
 - D. The value of U.S. imports from Japan changed only slightly during the period between 1985 and 2005.

15. Which of the following describes U.S. trade with Japan in 2005?
 - A. Exports totaled about \$75 billion.
 - B. Imports totaled about \$200 billion.
 - C. The trade surplus was about \$25 billion.
 - D. The trade deficit was more than \$80 billion.

16. How did trade between the United States and Japan change from 1985 to 2005?
 - A. The U.S. trade deficit grew by nearly \$40 billion.
 - B. The value of exports increased by more than the value of imports.
 - C. The U.S. trade balance moved from a small surplus to a large deficit.
 - D. The value of imports increased by about \$20 billion.

17. In which of the following ways might the U.S. government seek to change its 2005 trade balance with Japan?
 - A. lower taxes on imports
 - B. impose strict tariffs on exports to Japan
 - C. remove all trade restrictions between the two nations
 - D. provide tax relief to U.S. companies manufacturing technology products