About the GRE

The Graduate Record Examination, or GRE, is an important step in the graduate school or business school application process. The GRE is a multiple-choice, computer-based, standardized exam that is often required for admission to graduate programs and graduate business programs (MBA) globally.

The GRE is developed and administered by testmaker ETS to provide graduate and business schools with common measures for comparing applicants' qualifications and preparedness for graduate-level academic work. Graduate school and business school admissions committees look at your GRE score, along with your academic record and supporting materials, to assess your readiness for the rigors of graduate academic study.

What's the takeaway? A high score on the GRE will have a direct, positive impact on your graduate or business school application.

What is om the GRE?

The GRE exam measures your command of basic arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis as well as college-level vocabulary. More importantly, it measures your ability to analyze and evaluate written material, think critically, and solve problems. Learn more about what's on the GRE here.

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You will receive three scores on the GRE:
[Analytical Writing <<](#)
[Verbal Reasoning <<](#)
[Quantitative Reasoning <<](#)

These scores are generated by the following sections:
1 Analytical Writing Assessment section
2 Verbal Reasoning sections
2 Quantitative Reasoning sections

In addition, you will see one of the following sections:
Unscored (may be either Verbal Reasoning or Quantitative Reasoning)
Research (used for ETS research purposes)

The Quantitative Reasoning and Verbal Reasoning sections are each scored on a scale of 130 to 170. The mean score for Verbal Reasoning is 151, and the mean score for Quantitative Reasoning is 153.
The Analytical Writing Assessment is scored from 0 to 6 in half-point increments, and the mean score is 4.0.
[RELATED: [How difficult is the GRE?](#)]

ANALYTICAL WRITING

Number of questions:
Two separately timed tasks: one "Analyze an Issue" task and one "Analyze an Argument" task.
Minutes to complete Analytical Writing:
30 minutes per task; 60 minutes total
Score range: 0 to 6

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The Analytical Writing Assessment, or "essay" section, measures whether you can articulate your thoughts and responses to complex ideas in a clear and reasoned way. Formulating a well-supported thesis in response to new and unfamiliar topics and key to doing well on Analytical Writing.

During the two, separately timed tasks in Analytical Writing, you will be asked to "Analyze an Issue" and to "Analyze an Argument." For the "Analyze an Issue" task, you will read an opinion on a topic of general interest and be given instructions on how to respond to the issue at hand. For the "Analyze an Argument" task, you will need to consider an argument according to instructions given in the prompt.

VERBAL REASONING (VERBAL)

Number of questions:
6 Text Completion questions, 4 Sentence Equivalence questions, 10 Reading Comprehension questions, 20 total questions per section
Minutes to complete Verbal Reasoning:
30 minutes per task; 60 minutes total
Score range:130 to 170
The Verbal section of the GRE tests your ability to analyze written material, as well as relationships among component parts of sentences, including words and concepts. Verbal Reasoning questions appear in several formats:

TEXT COMPETION

Text Completion (TC) questions ask you to fill in the blank to complete sentences. Variations include 1-, 2-, and 3-blank questions. You'll encounter approximately six of these in each Verbal section, and you should aim to complete each in about 1–1.5 minutes. To master these, you'll need to build your vocabulary as well as develop your skill at using context clues from the sentence to make predictions for the blanks. There is no partial credit: you must answer correctly for all blanks to receive points for these questions.

SENTENCE EQUIVALENCE

Sentence Equivalence (SE) questions require you to fill in a single blank with two choices that create two coherent sentences that are logically similar in meaning. You will encounter approximately four SE questions in each Verbal section. Aim to complete each in about 1 minute. As with TC questions, you'll need to work on building your vocabulary and identifying context clues in order to master SE questions

READING COMPREHENSION

Reading Comprehension (RC) questions are based on passages of one or more paragraphs that develop an explanation or argument on a topic. RC questions require you to understand central ideas presented in the text and the structure of a text, as well as to research details in the passage and draw valid inferences from it. RC questions require strategic reading and paraphrasing skills.

Each Verbal section will contain approximately 10 RC questions associated with five different passages, and you should aim to spend an average of 1–3 minutes on reading a passage and 1 minute per question.

QUANTITATIVE REASONING (QUANT)

Number of questions:
7–8 Quantitative Comparison questions
12–13 Problem Solving questions
20 total questions per section
Minutes to complete Quantitative Reasoning: 35 minutes per section
Score range: 130 to 170

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The Quant section of the GRE tests your basic quantitative skills, as well as your ability to reason and solve problems with quantitative methods. You'll see questions covering basic arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis. These topics are typically covered in high school. You will not see trigonometry, calculus, or any other high-level math.
[GOOD TO KNOW:
Rates and Work Questions & High-Yield Topics]

Quantitative Reasoning questions appear in several formats:

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON

Quantitative Comparison (QC) questions ask you to compare two quantities—Quantity A and Quantity B—and to identify the relationship between the two. You'll likely see about 7–8 of these in each Quant section. To master these, be familiar with the QC answer choices and with shortcut methods that allow you to compare rather than calculate.

PROBLEM SOLVING

The most common Problem Solving (PS) questions are standard multiple-choice questions, with five choices and one correct answer. Variants include questions that ask you to select one or more answers from a list of choices (multiple-choice all-that-apply) and questions that ask you to enter your answer in a box (numeric entry.) To master PS questions, be familiar with the math concepts that are tested as well as strategies that allow you to approach solving efficiently.
There are also a handful (typically three per section) of Problem Solving questions associated with one or more charts. These Data Interpretation (DI) questions work like other PS Qs, but it's important to note that gleaning the information correctly from the graphs is the key to answering them.

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