



Effective Test Taking Strategies for the GRE® - *Graduate Record Examinations*

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GRE® - Graduate Record Examinations®

- The **GRE® General Test** measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study.
- The **GRE® Subject Tests** gauge undergraduate achievement in eight specific fields of study.

Analytical Writing — The skills measured include the test taker's ability to

- articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively.
- examine claims and accompanying evidence.
- support ideas with relevant reasons and examples.
- sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion.
- control the elements of standard written English.

Verbal Reasoning — The skills measured

include the test taker's ability to

- **analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it.**
- **analyze relationships among component parts of sentences.**
- **recognize relationships between words and concepts.**

Quantitative Reasoning — The skills measured include the test taker's ability to

- **understand basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis.**
- **reason quantitatively.**
- **solve problems in a quantitative setting.**

GRE Subject Tests Overview

- The GRE® Subject Tests gauge undergraduate achievement in the eight disciplines.
- Each Subject Test is intended for students who have majored in or have extensive background in that specific area.

Disciplines

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
- Computer Science
- Literature in English
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

Who Takes Them and Why?

- Prospective graduate applicants take the Subject Tests. GRE test scores are used by admissions or fellowship panels to supplement undergraduate records and other qualifications for graduate study.
- The scores provide common measures for comparing the qualifications of applicants and aid in the evaluation of grades and recommendations. Some Subject Tests yield sub scores that can indicate the strengths and weaknesses of individual students' preparation and may be useful for guidance and placement purposes.

Where Do People Take Them?

- The Subject Tests are given at paper-based test centers worldwide three times a year in:
 - November - 07/11/2009
 - October - 10/10/2009
 - April – 10/04/2010
- In Puerto Rico, the GRE Paper Based Test is only offered in Mayagüez (RUM) two times each year:
 - October – 24/11/2009
 - February – 6/02/2010

Test Dates Announced for Revised GRE General Test

- The revised Graduate Record Examinations® (GRE®) General Test was offered for the first time worldwide in September 2007.
- GRE results

Summary of GRE Changes



Length

- The length of the GRE General Test has decreased from 4 hours long to 2½ hours.
- The test will change from a linear paper based test (PBT), to computer based test (CBT).

Administration

- Currently, the CBT General GRE is offered almost every day of the year.

Date and Time Selection

The appointment duration is 4-hour(s) and 00-minutes.

Select an available month and click the 'Go' button. When the calendar(s) appear, select an available date and then time.

- Find available seats in a 3 month period.
 Find available seats for a specific day.

October 2009

Go

Select an available date

October 2009							November 2009							December 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Select an available time

08:00
12:00
12:00

Content

Analytical Writing

- Essay questions will be more specific in nature
- Admissions Deans will now have access to actual student essays instead of just seeing a score

Time: One 30-minute (argument task) and one 45-minute essay (issue task)

Content

Verbal:

- Analogies
- Antonyms
- Simple and complex sentence completion
- Reading comprehension (reasoning and application)
 - Computer enabled tasks (highlighting passages and sentences)
- **Time:** One 30-minute section

Content

Quantitative:

- Quantitative Comparison
 - Data interpretation
 - Problem Solving
 - Arithmetic
 - Algebra
 - Geometry
 - Statistics and Probability
 - Addition of fill in the blank questions
- Time:** One 45-minute section

Typical Computer-Based GRE® General Test

Section	Number of Questions	Time
Analytical Writing	(1) Issue Task*	45 minutes
Analytical Writing	(1) Argument Task*	30 minutes
Break : 10 minutes		
Verbal	30	30 minutes
Quantitative	28	45 minutes
Unscored**	Varies	Varies
Research***	Varies	Varies

*For the Issue task, two essay topics are presented and you choose one. The Argument task does not present a choice of topics; instead one topic is presented.

** An unidentified unscored section may be included and may appear in any order after the Analytical Writing section. It is not counted as part of your score.

*** An identified research section that is not scored may be included, and it is always at the end of the test.

Time: 3 hours (without research or unscored section).

Typical Paper-Based GRE® General Test

Section	Number of Questions	Time
Analytical Writing	(1) Issue Task*	45 minutes
Analytical Writing	(1) Argument Task*	30 minutes
Break: 10 minutes		
Verbal (2 sections)	38 per section	30 minutes per section
Quantitative (2 sections)	30 per section	30 minutes per section
Unscored**	Varies	30 minutes

Time: 3 hours and 45 minutes (without unscored section)

Scoring

- For the Quantitative and Verbal sections, the scoring scale is 200-800.
- The Analytical Writing section is graded on a 6-point scale in .5 increments.

Testing Center (CBT)

- **Puerto Rico**
Guaynabo

Prometric Testing Center 0052

Metro Office Park
Suite 114
Street, Lot 11
Metro Square Bldg
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00968
Puerto Rico
(787)706-7620

Directions

Fees

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010

- **\$150 General Test**
- **\$130 Subject Tests**
- **\$ 25 Late Registration Fee**
- **\$ 50 Standby Testing**
- **\$ 50 Rescheduling Fee**
- **\$ 50 Changing Your Test Center or Subject Test**
- **\$ 12 Scores by phone**
- **\$ 20 Additional score report (ASR) requests—per recipient**
- **\$ 30 Paper-Based Test Hand Scoring**
- **\$ 30 Score Reinstatement Fee**

Test Takers with Disabilities

- ETS® is committed to serving test takers with disabilities by providing services and reasonable accommodations that are appropriate given the purpose of the test. Nonstandard testing accommodations are available for test takers who meet ETS requirements. See [Resources for Test Takers with Disabilities](#) for additional information.

Effective Strategies to study for the GRE®

Quantitative Section

■ Problem Solving:

- Size up the question
 - Area covered, formulas
- Size up the answer choices
- Look for a shortcut to the answers
 - Is there a quick way to determine the correct answer?
- Set up the problem and solve it
 - Compute, calculations, drawing.
- Verify your selection before moving on

Quantitative Section (cont.)

■ Comparison:

- Size up the question
- Check for shortcuts and clues
 - Eliminate common terms
- Deal with each one of the quantities
 - If there is central information, how does each relate to it?
- Consider all possibilities for variables
 - Positive, negative, decimal, and zero.
- Compare the two quantities
- Check your answer

Quantitative Section (cont.)

■ Data interpretation

- Look at the “big picture” first.
 - What’s the information/figure about?
- Read the entire question carefully.
 - What’s the question really about?
- Perform the steps needed to reach the answer.
 - Look for a shortcut
- Check the choices for your answers
- Check your calculations.

Quantitative Example

Column A

$$0 < a < 1$$

$$0 < b < 1$$

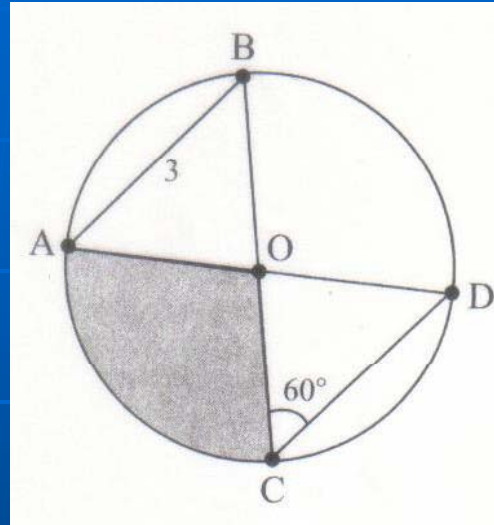
$$a + b$$

Column B

$$a^2 + b^2$$

- a. The quantity in Column A is greater;
- b. The quantity in Column B is greater;
- c. The quantities are equal;
- d. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Quantitative Example 2



- If O is the center of the circle in the figure above, what is the area of the shaded region, expressed in square units?
 - A) $3\pi/2$
 - B) 2π
 - C) $5\pi/2$
 - D) $8\pi/3$
 - E) 3π

Verbal Section

■ Antonyms

- Determine the headword's part of speech.
- Define the headword in your own words.
- Compare each answer with your definition of the headword.
 - Eliminate answers that don't fit your definition.
- Compare the quality of the remaining choices.
- Confirm your selection by comparing it to the headword.

Verbal Section (cont.)

■ **Analogies** (A : B :: C : D)

- Determine the meaning of the words
 - prefix, suffix, root, etc.
- Figure out how the words are related
- Try out your sentence using the answer choices
- Try again if you have more than one answer
- Choose the best answer

Verbal Section (cont.)

- **Sentence and text completions**
 - Read the sentence in its entirety.
 - Find logical connections
 - Reread the sentence and try answering with your own word(s)
 - Fill in the second blank with your own words.
 - Test each answer choice.
 - Eliminate the ones that don't make sense.
 - Compare the remaining choices and choose the best one.

Verbal Section (cont.)

- **Reading comprehension**
 - Read the first question and answer choice before reading the passage.
 - Read the passage with a possible thesis in mind.
 - Choose a tentative answer.
 - Formulate an outline of the passage as you go.
 - Formulate a brief thesis statement.
 - Confirm your selection for the first question.
 - Move on to the remaining questions.

Verbal Example

- Write : Scribble ::
 - a) shout : mutter
 - b) send : dispatch
 - c) cut : carve
 - d) walk : stagger
 - e) please : worry

The Issue Task

- Choose a task, then brainstorm and make notes (3 minutes)
- Review your notes and decide on a viewpoint (1 minute)
- Organize your ideas into a logical sequence (1 minute)
- Compose a brief introductory paragraph (2 minutes)
- Compose the body of your essay (30 minutes)
- Compose a brief concluding summary paragraph (3 minutes)
- Proofread for mechanical problems (5 minutes)

Issue Task Examples

- “Schools should be responsible not only for teaching academic skills but also for teaching ethical and social values”
- “As adults, we prefer to define ourselves more by our occupation than by our affiliation with social groups”
 - Pool of Issue Topics

The Argument Task

- Read the argument and identify its conclusion(s) (1 minute)
- Examine the argument's evidence and determine how strongly it supports the conclusion (3 minutes)
 - Look for reasoning flaws (3-4)
- Organize and prioritize your points of critique (1 minute)
- Compose a brief introductory paragraph (2 minutes)
- Compose the body of your essay (16 minutes)
 - Support your critique with examples.
 - Appear organized and in control – structure
- Compose your final paragraph (2 minutes)
- Proofread for mechanical problems (5 minutes)

Argument Task example

- “Workforce Systems, a consulting firm specializing in workplace productivity and efficiency, reports that nearly 70 percent of Maxtech’s employees who enrolled in Workforce System’s one week seminar last year claim to be more content with their current jobs that prior to enrolling in the seminar. By requiring managers at all large corporations to enroll in the kinds of seminars that Workforce System offers, productivity in our economy’s private sector is certain to improve”
 - Pool of Argument Tasks

Lets take a **10 minute break** before
a practice test



Tips for taking the GRE

- Find out when are the deadlines for the application to Graduate School and take the GRE 2-4 months before.
- Enroll using exactly the name that appears in your ID: with your two last names and a hyphen in between.
 - Ex. **Estepar-Garcia**
- Prepare a study calendar per day, and stick with it.
 - 2-5 months before taking the test
 - The last weeks, prepare with GRE Powerprep® Software
- Don't study the day before the test.
- Arrive early.
- Bring your passport and/or your drivers license.
- Bring a snack for your 10 minute break.

Tips for taking the GRE (cont.)

- Prepare with GRE practice materials that ETS publishes.
 - The GRE Program is investigating the feasibility of reusing questions that have been published in GRE practice materials. As part of that investigation, you may see questions from these materials on a test you take.
 - Source: [ETS.org](https://ets.org)

Questions?

We hope that this presentation along with the materials we compile for you can help you to achieve a high score on your GRE General Test.

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<http://cea-uprrp.blogspot.com/>

