

GRE notes

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Reading Comprehension

Question Types

Global

About passage as a whole (e.g. purpose, tone of author)

Detail

Identify specific detail from passage - “according to the author”, “is mentioned in the passage”

Inference

Answer that must be true based on the passage - “suggests”, “implies”, “most likely agrees”

Logic

Describe why author included certain word or phrase - “in order to”, “primarily serves to”

Vocab-in-Context

Identify the meaning of the word used in the passage

Reasoning

Identify, point out a flaw in, strengthen or weaken author’s reasoning in an argument

Reasoning Questions

- argument=evidence+conclusion
- conclusion is a prediction, separated with key word (e.g. *therefore*)

Scope Shift arguments

- Discusses different subject in conclusion
- Attack assumption that connects cause to result (i.e. emotional distress → anxiety)
- To weaken - look for answer that **refutes** relation between cause and result.
- To strengthen - look for answer that **supports** relation between cause and result.

Representativeness arguments

- Assuming subjects in evidence (e.g. survey) represent the target group in conclusion.
- Information about one group used to draw conclusion about bigger group.
- To weaken - find argument that says two groups are **different**.
- To strengthen - find argument that states two groups are **similar**.

Causal arguments

- Confuse correlation with causation.
- Bad cases decreased so new system is working.
- Failure to consider effects of other parameters on final result.