**\*\*This link will allow you to comment. If you have any questions, feel free to comment here. I’ll add a FAQ section in this doc and address them.**

**\*\* Disclaimer**: I am just noting down the methods I followed for my 1-month preparation. These methods may not be useful for everyone.

Here’s the link of guidelines by some seniors, in case you don’t find mine to be particularly useful

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vpXmWgfxT4wCf5DGqHqd_2w7qBDmxdPkezD8K9l3K7w/edit>

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/asif-khan/prepping-for-gre/1084191681612555/>

**Materials I used:**

1. Manhattan 5lb GRE book: a great book for practice, thoroughly covers all topics, even pdf versions are available.
2. Magoosh GRE Flashcards: More than useful for improving your vocabulary. If you find these words too hard and think that you may not be up to the level yet, you can use the Magoosh TOEFL or IELTS Flashcards. All of these apps are available for free on Google playstore and Apple app store.
3. Powerprep mock tests: They provide you with 2 free mock tests when you register for GRE. Use these 2 tests wisely. Don’t make the mistake of thinking that you’ll get different tests by ordering multiple times(I know, I tried) (I have been informed that they have turned off the service in BD, you need to open a fake account with a US address to avail the free powerpreps.)

**GRE format: Check it out online**

**Guidelines:**

**AWA:**

Follow the instructions in the book. A good number of both types of essays are available in the Manhattan 5lb book. You’ll get a good idea about how to formulate and write your essays by reading the provided answers. Practice writing these essays on a word processing software(WordPad should be preferred). Make sure to turn off any spell-checking and grammar-checking add-ons.

I only practiced writing during my mock tests. I didn’t even follow what I just said above. I read a couple of essays from the book, that’s about it. I went in having zero clues as to how I’d do in AWA. That being said, you should not leave it to chance. See if you find the following link helpful.

<https://www.quora.com/Where-can-I-practice-GRE-analytical-writing-assessment-or-AWA-online>

**Verbal:**

The verbal section consists of 4 types of questions-

1. *Text Completion (****TC****)*: You have to choose the correct word for a blank space in a sentence. There may be multiple blank spaces for each question, you have to select the correct word for each blank. Getting one word wrong would mean you got the entire question wrong (I know, it’s not fair, but that’s just how it is). For answering, understanding the context is key, you need a clear idea of grammar, to understand what a sentence might mean, and therefore what word might fit there. Read the solutions carefully, you’ll start to get them eventually, if not at first.
2. *Sentence Equivalence (****SE****)*: You have to do what you did in the Text completion problems, but twice. Meaning you’ll have to find two words that fit the blanks in the sentence while meaning similar things.
3. *Reading Comprehension (****RC****)*: There will be a passage and multiple questions regarding information directly available in the passage. Some of these passages will be really long, so practice reading fast, otherwise, you’ll be pressed for time.
4. *Logic-based reading comprehension (****LC****):* The passages here will be shorted, there will be one or two questions from each passage. But the answers are not straightforward or readily available information in the passage. You will have to deduce some information from the passage and answer accordingly. Your logic sense will come into play here.

**Step 1: Get your vocabulary and grammar up to the mark**

It’s likely that your knowledge of English won’t be up to mark to start practicing from the book from the get-go. There’s nothing wrong with that. Start by practicing words from the Magoosh vocabulary flashcard app. Practice around 50 words every day. Once you have a good grasp of the common words, you should be good to go.

If you feel that your knowledge of grammar isn’t up to the task, then you can study a book I studied back in school. It’s a grammar book by PKD Sarker or something like that, I don’t remember the exact name. Don’t know if it’s still available in the market, I didn’t seek help from it during my GRE prep, but it might be useful to you.

**Step 2: Start practicing from the book**

Set a daily target e.g.

* 10 text completions
* 10 sentence equivalence
* 3 Reading comprehensions
* 5 logic-based reading comprehensions

Set your goal based on the free time you have and the number of days till your exam.

Parallel to this, keep practicing from the flashcard app.

***\*\*Tips on how to practice from the book***

For SE, TC:

Solve all the problems on a page, mark the answers down with a pencil. Once you are done with all the problems on that page, go to the solutions section, check how many you got right. Also, try to understand why you got any of them wrong. Don’t be disheartened if you cannot get them right at first. You will feel the improvement yourself as you keep practicing.

For RC:

Read the entire passage. Underline the information that might be important. Once you are done, read the questions. Find the information in the passage needed to answer that question. Answer all the questions from a passage then check your answers.

For LC:

A similar approach as RC. Except, don’t check your answers after each passage. Complete all on a page like SE and TC, and then check the answers.

***\*\*Tips on how to practice from the flashcard app:***

1. If you find a word that you don’t know, read the example sentence provided on the flashcard. Try forming a connection to a word in that sentence with the word you just learned.

E.g. The meaning of the word “**Ingenuous**” is naive and innocent.

The example sentence is “*Two years in Manhattan had changed Jenna from an* ***ingenuous*** *girl from the suburbs to a jaded urbanite, unlikely to fall for any ruse, regardless of how elaborate.”*

You need not remember the whole sentence. Just remember the part of it that makes the meaning clearer. Here, that part would be “*an* ***ingenuous*** *girl from the suburbs”*

A person from the suburbs is naive and innocent, more often than not.

2. Try forming connections between the words you learn. These connections may come in the form of

1. Synonyms - words with the same meaning
2. Antonyms - words with the opposite meaning
3. Homophones- same pronunciation, different meaning, etc.

I used to create a mental chain of such words. Such as, castigate, rebuke, admonish, reprimand - all mean to scold someone harshly

Form your own connections. It will be easier to remember that way.

3. Don’t write words down, don’t create a failsafe. Keep practicing from the app. If you are looking for a particular word, you’d have to go through 50 other words. That way, you’ll get in more practice.

4. Practice words whenever in any type of free time- on the bus ride home, or whenever you are bored. You don’t need to be seated at your table to practice words on your phone.

**Quantitative:**

Quant should be easy for any BUET student. Don’t get complacent though, as I did (got two Algebra problems wrong, ouch). Practice enough, so that you are confident you won’t get any of them wrong.

**Taking the mock-tests:**

Once you are confident with your preparation, or you have gone through an entire book, take a mock test (they provide 2 free mock tests with your registration). Your score on the mock might give you an idea about how your actual score might look like (although mine didn’t). You might not be satisfied with the score, so take the first mock at least a week before your test. Address your weaknesses after taking the mock. Take the 2nd mock a day or two before the test. Don’t be disheartened if your mock score is low, in my experience mock score usually represents a lower bound.

**What to do when you are done with a book:**

Buy another book, there’s plenty of books available. Keep practicing. If you feel like it, erase the marks you made while solving the problems and answer them again, see how many you get this time around.