Day 8 - Sentence Correction in McGraw-Hill's GMAT

After going through the materials on pages 137-151 of the McGraw-Hill's GMAT and pages 631-637 of the OG for GMAT Review I went and tried to do some of the questions in the two books. I said tried because the results are absolutely unacceptable. Out of the 12 questions in the McGraw book I got 5 incorrect and in the OG I got 11 incorrect. Oh Boy! Sentence Correction is gonna be a killer for me.

Looks like I might have to get the Manhattan GMAT Prep's book for sentence correction.

Summary of study material:

1. McGraw-Hill's GMAT: sentence correction, pages 137-151.
2. McGraw-Hill's GMAT: sentence correction questions, #1-12, pages 151-154.
3. OG for GMAT Review: sentence correction, pages 631-637.
4. OG for GMAT Review: sentence correction questions, #1-40, pages 638-643.

Knowledge for today:

1. This section is going to give me the most problem.
2. Need to spend more time on this section.

Posted on April 28th, 2008 by George
Filed under: Strategies | Sentence Correction
No Comments »

Day 7 - Critical Reasoning in McGraw-Hill's GMAT

There's not much strategy-wise in the OG so I switched over to the McGraw-Hill's GMAT book. Read through pages 115-131, which includes the practice argument problems, and did ten practice problems on pages 131-134. After getting 8 out of 10 correct in the practice problems I am feeling confident. Did the first 14 questions in the OG and only got 1 wrong. Still not perfect but it's a start.

Next stop sentence correction.

Summary of study material:

1. McGraw-Hill's GMAT: critical reasoning, pages 115-131.
2. McGraw-Hill's GMAT: critical reasoning questions, #1-10, pages 131-134.

3. OG for GMAT Review: critical reasoning, pages 465-467.
4. OG for GMAT Review: critical reasoning questions, #1-14, pages 468-471.

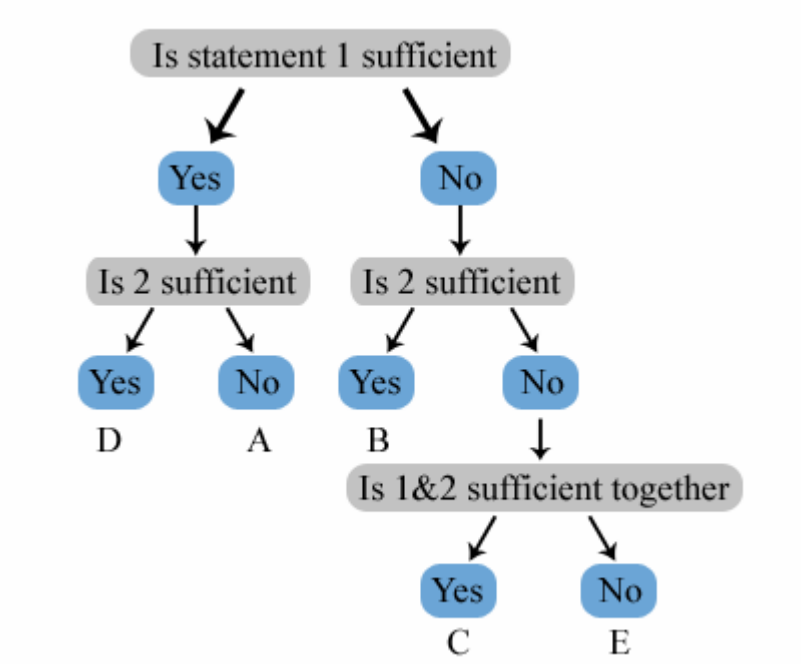
Knowledge for today:

1. Need to put more hours into my study.

Posted on April 23rd, 2008 by George
Filed under: Strategies | Critical Reasoning
No Comments »

Data Sufficiency: Flowchart

A picture is worth a thousand words so here is a flowchart of how to answer the data sufficiency questions.



Posted on April 17th, 2008 by George
Filed under: Quantitative | Data Sufficiency
No Comments »

Day 6 - Data Sufficiency in Official Guide for GMAT Review

This is my first time seeing a data sufficiency question and from the looks of it they seem complex. There is no need to find a solution in a data sufficiency question. You just need to be able to look at the problem and figure out if there is enough information to solve the problem.

In a data sufficiency problem you are given a question with two additional statements labeled **(1)** and **(2)**. From these two additional statements, you have to decide if they are sufficient to answer the question or not. You have five choices to pick from:

(A) Statement (1) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (2) alone is not sufficient to answer the question asked.
(B) Statement (2) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (1) alone is not sufficient to answer the question asked.
(C) BOTH statements (1) and (2) TOGETHER are sufficient to answer the question asked, but NEITHER statement ALONE is sufficient.
(D) EACH statement ALONE is sufficient to answer the question asked.
(E) Statements (1) and (2) TOGETHER are NOT sufficient to answer the question asked, and additional data are needed.

OG's strategy to answer these problem seem straight forward enough. To sum it up, OG suggest you look at each of the two additional statements separately to narrow down your choices. When statement (1) is sufficient your choices is either (A) or (D), if (2) is sufficient your answer is (D) and if (2) is not sufficient your answer is (A). When statement (1) is not sufficient your choices would be (B), (C), or (E). If (2) is sufficient your answer is (B), but if (2) is not sufficient your answer is either (C) or (E). If both statements are sufficient the answer is (C) and if none of the statements are sufficient the answer is (E).

With the quantitative section of the GMAT containing a large number of these questions it might be a good idea to get a feel for these problems.

Summary of study material:

1. OG for GMAT Review: data sufficiency, pages 273-276.

Knowledge for today:

1. Data sufficiency questions are important.
2. Memorize the five answer choices.

Posted on April 15th, 2008 by George
Filed under: Strategies | Data Sufficiency
No Comments »

Day 5 - Finishing up on Problem Solving Questions

Just finished the last 49 questions of the sample questions in the Problem Solving section in the big Official Guide. After finishing these questions I feel even better about taking the real test. Now I only have to make sure I stop making these careless mistakes and I would be fine when I sit for the test. Man after doing those 249 questions my brain's fried.

Summary of study material:

1. OG for GMAT Review: Problem Solving questions, pages 152 - 186.

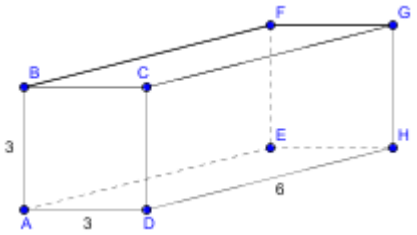
Knowledge for today:

1. Watch out for careless errors.
2. Look at the answer choices than solve and see what answer they are looking for like fractions or decimals.

Posted on April 14th, 2008 by George
Filed under: Strategies | Problem Solving
No Comments »

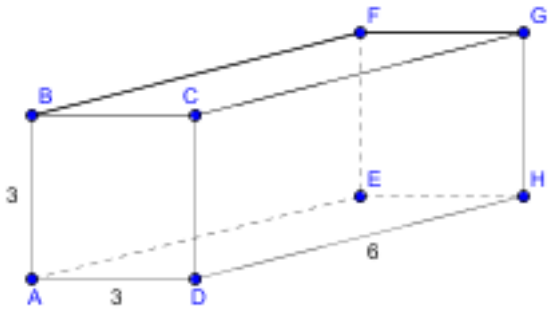
Geometry: Three-Dimensional

Surface area of a rectangular solid
Sum of the areas of all sides



$2(3 \times 3) + 2(3 \times 6) + 2(3 \times 6) = 18 + 36 + 36 = 90$

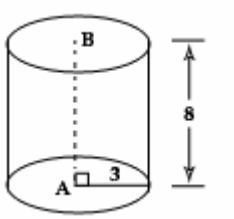
Volume of a rectangular solid
$(length) \times (width) \times (height)$ or $(area\ of\ base) \times (height)$



6 x 3 x 3 = 54

Surface area of a cylinder

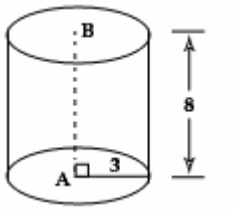
$2(\pi r^2) + 2\pi rh$



$2(9\pi) + 2\pi(3)(8) = 18\pi + 48\pi = 66\pi$

Volume of a cylinder

$\pi r^2 h$= (area of base) X (height)

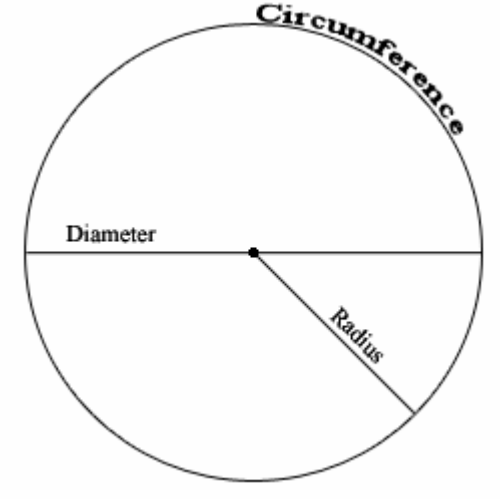


$9\pi(8) = 72\pi$

Posted on April 13th, 2008 by George
Filed under: Quantitative | Math Review
No Comments »

Geometry: Circles

- **Radius** is a line segment from the center of the circle to an endpoint on the circle
- **Diameter** a straight line segment that passes through the center from one end point to the other.
- **Circumference** is the distance around a circle



Circumference of a Circle

$2\pi r$

Area of a Circle

πr^2

$\pi$is approximately 3.14 or $\frac{22}{7}$

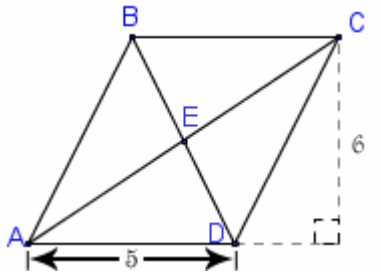
Posted on April 10th, 2008 by George
Filed under: Quantitative | Math Review
No Comments »

Geometry: Quadrilaterals

Quadrilaterals is a polygon with four sides.
Parallelogram is a quadrilateral with two sets of parallel sides.
Trapezoid is a quadrilateral with two parallel sides.

Area of a Parallelogram

$(length\ of\ the\ height) \times (length\ of\ the\ base)$

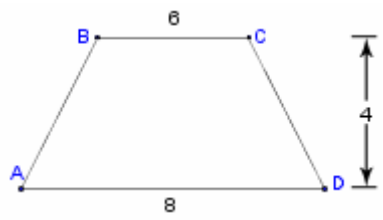


$AB = CD, AD = BC$
$AB \parallel CD, AD \parallel BC$

$6 \times 5 = 30$

Area of a Trapezoid

$$\frac{(sum\ of\ the\ two\ parallel\ sides) \times (height)}{2}$$



$$\frac{(AD + BC)(height)}{2}$$

$$\frac{(8+6)(4)}{2} = \frac{56}{2} = 28$$

Area of a Rectangle or square

$$length \times width$$

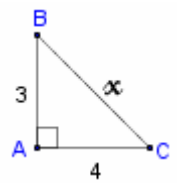
Posted on April 9th, 2008 by George
Filed under: Quantitative | Math Review
No Comments »

Geometry: Triangles

- Triangle is a polygon with three sides.
- Lengths of any two sides is greater than the length of the third side.
- *Equilateral triangles* has equal lengths and angles.
- *Isosceles triangles* has two sides with the same length and the angles opposite these sides are the same.

Pythagorean Theorem

For a right triangle the square of the hypotenuse (longest side) is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides. $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$

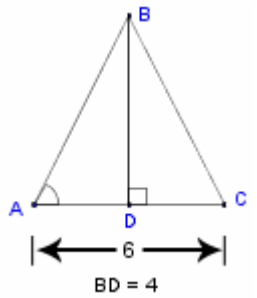


$$(BC)^2 = 3^2 + 4^2 = 9 + 16 = 25$$
$$x = \sqrt{25} = 5$$

45° - 45° - 90° triangles have a ratio of $1 : 1 : \sqrt{2}$
30° - 60° - 90° triangles have a ratio of $1 : \sqrt{3} : 2$

Area of a Triangle

$$\frac{(length\ of\ altitude) \times (length\ of\ base)}{2}$$



$$\frac{BD \times AC}{2} = \frac{4 \times 6}{2} = 12$$

Posted on April 9th, 2008 by George
Filed under: Quantitative | Math Review
No Comments »

Algebra: Exponents

Some of the rules concerning exponents:

1. $(x^a)(x^b) = x^{(a+b)}$
2. $\frac{x^a}{x^b} = x^{a-b}$
3. $(x^a)(y^a) = (xy)^a$
4. $\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^a = \frac{x^a}{y^a}$
5. $(x^a)^b = x^{ab} = (x^b)^a$
6. $x^{-a} = \frac{1}{x^a}$
7. $x^0 = 1$
8. $x^{\frac{a}{b}} = \left(x^{\frac{1}{b}}\right)^a = (x^a)^{\frac{1}{b}} = \sqrt[b]{x^a}$

Rules 1-6 still apply if a and b are any real numbers.