

GRE STUDY PLANNER

The GRE (Graduate Record Exam) involves a lot of logic and application (aptitude) in addition to subject knowledge. Given the structure of the exam, your first step should be finding your strengths and weaknesses.

Take a **diagnostic test**, and assess yourself. We recommend that you take the Diagnostic Test in the GRE Official Guide. Once you identify what your weak areas are, you need to work on those, without compromising on your strong areas.

Most GRE test-takers are full-time students or full-time working professionals, and cannot devote more than 8 to 12 hours per week to GRE prep. Assuming that one spends at least 10 hours a week on GRE preparation, we recommend the following schedule.

Week 1:

The contents of the GRE exam are not the same as those in your Bachelor's degree program. Also, if you are a working professional, you will probably be getting back to studying mode after quite some time. So, it is advisable to take it slow in the first week. Spend the first week brushing up your mathematics and grammar fundamentals that you had studied in school. For this, quite a few of our students attend some of our Math and English foundation webinars, which act as a refresher for the basic math and grammar rules.

In the first week, you should start revising some of the GRE-related vocabulary. You can download Jamboree's GRE Vocabulary app from the play store or app store for this. However, vocabulary is a very small percentage of the overall score. GRE is a test of your reasoning ability, not your vocabulary knowledge. Knowing a lot of words does not guarantee a high score; knowing how to identify keywords and tone of words will help you more. So, do not spend more than 15-20 minutes per day on vocabulary.

Week 2:

The most reliable study material available for GRE preparation is the GRE Official Guide. The second week should be devoted to going through the basic techniques for solving Text Completion, Sentence Equivalence and Reading Comprehension as available in the Official Guide. Spend time going through and familiarizing yourself with the various types of questions in the Reading Comprehension portions.

Week 3:

In this week, go through the theories and techniques of the Quantitative Comparison and Problem Solving questions of the Maths portion of the GRE Official Guide. Aim to solve 5-10 questions every day.

Simultaneously, solve the Easy set of Reading Comprehension section in the Official Guide.



Now that you are solving questions maintain a *Performance Log* to maintain a record of the errors that you are making and keep a progress report of your accuracy rate.

Continue to spend 15-20 mins every day on our GRE Vocabulary app.

Week 4:

You should go through the Analytical Writing Assessment portion of the GRE Official Guide. Attempt an Issue topic and an Argument topic within the prescribed time limit.

In this week, you should go through the concepts and question types of the Data Interpretation portion of the Quantitative section.

You should continue solving Math and Verbal questions targeting 10 to 15 questions every day. Start with the Easy sets, and then move on to the Medium and Hard sets. *Do not even look at the questions from the Full-length tests.* During this time, your focus should be to increase your accuracy. Do not worry about time management at this point. Continue maintaining your *Performance Log*.

In the fourth week, it is a good idea to book your GRE date. People always prepare better when there is a target date to work towards.

Weeks 5 and 6:

By the end of the first four weeks, you are expected to have gained a fair idea of what the course content is for the GRE. In these two weeks, you should start solving questions from the Official Guide for Verbal Reasoning. Start with the Easy sets, and move on to the Medium and Hard sets.

By this time, you are also expected to reach a certain comfort level with the vocabulary in the app.

There is also another change you will need to bring into your preparation. Every day, solve ten questions each of Problem Solving, Data Interpretation, Quantitative Comparison, Text Completion, Sentence Equivalence, and Reading Comprehension. In the actual GRE test, you will be required to do both math and verbal questions within 3.5 hours. So, it is important for you to develop the mental nimbleness to transition smoothly between questions testing different skill sets. If you study maths on one and verbal the other day, then the purpose is not solved. Thus, it is extremely important for you to do each type of question daily.

After solving them, spend enough time analyzing the answers. Students tend to review only the questions that they get wrong, but it is equally important to know that you got the rest correct using the right method and process. Unless you spend time analyzing each answer choice, your GRE preparation remains incomplete.

Do not forget to maintain your *Performance Log*.

You should also write at least one Issue essay and one Argument essay in these two weeks.

Weeks 7 and 8:



After the end of 6 weeks, you will be able to complete the entire content of the Official Guide (except the two full-length tests) and Verbal Reasoning Official Guide comfortably. Once you have done that, you will need to start taking Full-length tests. Before starting the full-length tests, analyze your Performance Log, and revise the theory of the areas in which your accuracy is below 70%.

Most of you have been away from active studying for quite some time, and sitting for 3.5 hours will, in itself, be a task for you! However, to know your exact level of preparation, you will have to take the full-length tests in their entirety and at one go, *without skipping any section or taking breaks*.

Remember that when it comes to taking full-length tests, it's the quality that matters, not the quantity. First, take the two full-length tests in the Official Guide, and then take the 2 Official ETS computer tests. These four tests are the best reflection of the actual GRE. The ideal routine will be to take one test on one day and spend the next two days analyzing your performance in the test, and taking remedial action. If your performance in any section is below par, then take the next two days to go through the GRE Official Guide and revise the techniques involved in that section. Do not start the next full-length test unless you have revised the material in which you did not do well in the previous full-length test.

How can I score 320+?

You must have good conceptual knowledge as GRE is a reasoning-based exam. However, you will need to understand the pattern of the exam and master shortcuts and techniques which can help you in scoring 700 plus. Time management is an important skill you would need to master to crack the GRE.

You should approach your GRE prep in a systematic and disciplined manner. Regular study and practice are far better than studying once a week for 10 hours! The above week-wise Study Plan, if followed religiously, will help you prepare for the GRE well, even if you continue with your college or job schedules.