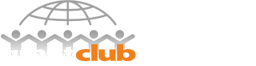
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If you are new to GMAT and looking how to start and dip your toe in the water - this is the right place to start.  **Step 1:** First, You should familiarize yourself with the GMAT structure and principles if you have not done so already - see [**GMAT FAQ for details**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-faq-frequently-asked-questions-about-gmat-129901.html). You can also visit <http://www.mba.com> and poke around. While you are there - go ahead and [download GMATPrep](http://gmatclub.com/forum/review-gmatprep-gmat-prep-powerprep-power-prep-tests-77548.html) - 2 practice tests released by makers of the GMAT. These 2 tests contain real GMAT questions, follow real GMAT principles, and are the best at estimating your GMAT score at any point in time..   **Step 2:** Take a practice test to find out how far you are from your target . Many believe it is a good use of one of the free [GMAT Prep tests](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmatprep-gmat-prep-powerprep-power-prep-free-tests-77548.html) (I'll tell you to actually get more than 2 tests out of the package later). The main reason it is a good use is that you can see your starting point (now) and then compare it against the ending (taking GMAT). Alternatively you can use any other computer adaptive test from Princeton, [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5), Manhattan, or others and then use [GMAT Score Estimator/Calculator](http://gmatclub.com/gmat-score-estimate) to find your real GMAT equivalent. If you are offered to write an Essay (AWA) - skip it. For listing of all available GMAT tests - see [all-gmat-cat-practice-tests-links-prices-reviews-77460.html](http://gmatclub.com/forum/all-gmat-cat-practice-tests-links-prices-reviews-77460.html)  **Step 3:** Find out what GMAT score you actually need. Just to give you an idea - You need 700 for Top 10 schools, 680 for Top 20, and 650 for Top 50 to pass - meaning your score should not be an issue and you will need something 50 points higher to actually stand out. Most people are able to improve between 50 and 150 points - that should give you an estimate of what you can count on based on the diagnostic test you just took.  **Step 4:** Figure out your weaknesses - take a look at your practice test score and note the raw score distribution (you will get one three digit score such as 600 and 2 two-digit scores such as 35, 40 - those two are your raw scores for each of the sections. They have corresponding percentiles). See how you rank in each. Also, do a basic mistake analysis and understand which question types are the most challenging for you. The options are PS, DS, CR, RC, SC and potentially even more detailed such as probability, or assumption questions, etc. Use this information to build your study plan.  **Step 5:** Design your study plan - finally! You need to build up your toolkit and get some ammo for the GMAT. You will need books to review fundamentals/test taking strategies and GMAT tests to practice those strategies and also evaluate your prep level. For GMAT book reviews, see this discussion: [top-gmat-prep-books-guides-reviews-comments-77703.html](http://gmatclub.com/forum/top-gmat-prep-books-guides-reviews-comments-77703.html) For collection of all GMAT Tests available today: [all-gmat-cat-practice-tests-links-prices-reviews-77460.html](http://gmatclub.com/forum/all-gmat-cat-practice-tests-links-prices-reviews-77460.html) Finally - chart/plot/graph your study plan - [use this calendar format](http://gmatclub.com/forum/download/file.php?id=8695)  **Step 6:** Avoid typical GMAT prep mistakes and pitfalls.  Here is the most common one I see - jumping into questions and tests completely unprepared and expecting results/miracles. GMAT consists of several layers and it is important to master each one before moving on to the next - think of it as of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. There is no use in satisfying your social needs before you can take care of basic needs such as safety and food. The same is here, if you don't know the underlying principles that GMAT is testing (such as grammar, arithmetic, etc) there is no use in solving hundreds of questions or taking multiple GMAT tests. This means that if English is not your native language, you should not work on the RC strategies if you can't understand half of the passage - you need to get comfortable reading long passages of text before moving on. To illustrate this principle, consider the following hierarchy for the GMAT:  Attachment:  gmat pyramid.gif gmat pyramid.gif [ 12.6 KiB | Viewed 730263 times ]  In the *General Knowledge* stage cover basics for a chapter/section/area In the *Question Strategies* stage start practicing questions either for the area you just covered or for an entire section but don't attempt questions for sections you have not covered yet In the *Test Strategies* start taking full length tests and practice on putting questions and knowledge together  **Here is one of the most common GMAT study plans used by GMAT Club Members:**  Use one of the general guidebooks i.e. [Kaplan Premiere](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781609780937) Book ([see here for a full list of recommended books](http://gmatclub.com/forum/top-gmat-prep-books-guides-reviews-comments-77703.html)) to learn basic concepts and strategies. You can see how you perform on the [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) tests after going through the Premiere book. (Note that [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) scores are sometimes off compared to the real GMAT, so don't get too hung up on it).   **Month 1**   * Start with Math section first and focus just on math alone (you can do both math and verbal but I suggest you put all attention into one). Plan to spend 4 weeks on it. * Start using an [Error Log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) - keep track of your mistakes and guesses -this will become your study guide in Month 3. * *Optional Step:* If you are feeling the load is too heavy and you are really weak in Math - get [MGMAT Math Foundations](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780984178001) book; it is great in providing a more general overview of math concepts. * At the same time, start reading [GMAT Fiction](http://gmatclub.com/forum/books-to-read-improve-verbal-score-and-enjoy-a-good-read-76079.html) (see below for details on what it is for) * Get involved with the [Math Forum](http://gmatclub.com/forum/7-gmat-math-questions-and-intellectual-discussions) - you will learn a lot esp. when you try to teach someone or explain something * After you are done with the math section - start taking the math portion of the tests you have. * Evaluate results and decided if you need to spend more time in Math and patch up certain weak areas or move on to Verbal. This decision will be based on your target GMAT score. If you are looking for high 600's and 700's, I would not move past Quant unless I was able to score around Q44 (again [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) tests excluded as they are much harder) * If you need additional help in Quant - refer to the [Math Resources on GMATClub](http://gmatclub.com/forum/new-to-the-math-forum-please-read-this-first-77764.html) or the GMAT Math Books section. In particular [Manhattan GMAT Number Properties](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781935707653) book comes highly recommended by many members. Another book you may consider is the [PR 1012](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780375428340) - it contains targeted GMAT practice questions, which could be helpful in honing one's skills. * If you are comfortable with Quant but want to get to Q50+, use the [GMAT Club Tests](http://gmatclub.com/tests) - they contain only hard questions and were designed as practice for high-level math scorers.   **Month 2**   * Start working on the Verbal section. You can start with any section, but my suggestion would be to tackle Sentence Correction first * [Error Log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html)! * *Sentence Correction Optional Step:* If you are not a native speaker, you will need a good grammar book that steps beyond GMAT and gives you a strong background that you can use as a foundation for GMAT-specific books. Several grammar books are recommended on the Forum ([best-gmat-grammar-book-for-international-students-79934.html](http://gmatclub.com/forum/best-gmat-grammar-book-for-international-students-79934.html)). We have created a book specifically for this need - [Ultimate GMAT Grammar](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-grammar-ultimate-by-gmat-club-102387.html) (it covers all of the tested grammar topics on the GMAT, plus a bit more concepts that international students seem to struggle the most (articles, etc)). Other books to consider are [Kaplan Verbal Foundations](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781607148388) and [MGMAT Verbal Foundations](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781937707019) - they are very well written but still not as detailed as [Ultimate GMAT Grammar](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-grammar-ultimate-by-gmat-club-102387.html). This is for you to decide how much help you need or how much time you have. Also, take a look at [GMAT Club's Verbal Resources](http://gmatclub.com/forum/new-to-the-verbal-forum-please-read-this-first-77546.html) for many copies of study notes. * For your verbal practice, you can start with [Kaplan Verbal Workbook](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781419550430) - it has good strategies. However a very good alternative is the [PowerScore Verbal Bible](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780980178265) - i would say it is a good notch higher in terms of value and score improvement. It covers SC, CR, and RC. * *Optional Step:* A large number of GMAT Club members actually skip the step above and instead use specialized books to tackle each of the questions types. The books they use are:   + Sentence Correction - either [MGMAT SC](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780982423868) or [PowerScore SC](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8433&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fsearch.barnesandnoble.com%252FGMAT-Sentence-Correction-Bible%252FVictoria-Wood%252Fe%252F9780972129657)   + Critical Reasoning - either [MGMAT CR](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781935707615) or [PowerScore CR](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780972129633)   + Reading Comprehension - [MGMAT RC](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781935707660)   + Note1: [MGMAT CR](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781935707615) and [MGMAT SC](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780982423868) come without any practice questions. Instead they refer to questions in [the Official Guide](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8433&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252Fofficial-guide-for-gmat-review-gmac%252F1103120578) 12 and [OG Verbal](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780470449752), so you must have those two books to practice and preferably should not have covered it in the past. On the positive note - all [Manhattan books](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780984178049) come with access to 6 online CAT tests, so you should buy at least one [Manhattan GMAT](http://www.manhattangmat.com/) book (any one of them).   + Note2: This approach of specialized prep takes closer to 2 months for verbal * *Critical Reasoning Optional Step:* If you need additional help with Critical Reasoning - Do not get both [PowerScore CR](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780972129633) and [Manhattan GMAT CR](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781935707615) - the books are virtually identical (not really but kind of). Instead you can again use the [PR 1012](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780375428340) book for targeted practice with Assumption or Conclusion questions or you can go very heavy weight and use LSAT books, but that's a tad too hardcore and usually unnecessary. * Reading Comprehension is often the hardest areas to conquer - there are no clear rules and it is all about understanding of the passage. Unless you strongly feel that Reading is your forte, I would recommend you pick up a reading habit for the time being. I have written a large post on what I call [GMAT Fiction](http://gmatclub.com/forum/books-to-read-improve-verbal-score-and-enjoy-a-good-read-76079.html) and its benefits - take a look. I felt that reading books was a big contributor to my SC and RC abilities. There are no downsides to this really - worst thing possible is that you would have read some great books. And yes - make sure you read them during your low productivity time (at night, during transit, etc). * [Verbal forum](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-verbal-section-11/) should be your hobby by now :) * Take the verbal-only portion of the tests to evaluate your progress (compare to how you did in the diagnostic test).   **Month 3**   * This month should be spent on 2 things: taking full length tests (polishing your test taking techniques, timing, stamina) and Reviewing your [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) (going through your weaknesses, making sure you understand why you keep making mistakes and how to solve every problem you encountered). You can start using [Error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) earlier than this by the way - the earlier the better. * Schedule your test if you have not done so already. * Start taking full length tests (including AWA) - this is important for your test stamina. Plan to spend a Saturday on this and then subsequent test review. * Spend a few weeks taking tests and drilling down into your areas of weakness. Create a "black list of questions" that you continue to struggle with and find a way to solve them with minimal mental effort.  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **!** | **Common Mistakes with GMAT preparation** 1: Rushing to take tests before learning anything - waste of tests 2: Starting with [the Official Guide](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8433&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252Fofficial-guide-for-gmat-review-gmac%252F1103120578) - waste of official GMAT questions 3: Giving GMAT the worst time of the day - studying after a long day 4: Skipping basics and rushing to advanced topics 5: Starting to prepare with poor English proficiency |   **Other thoughts/suggestions:** A recommendation which seems to be working for me... SUDOKU and RUBIK's CUBE...! Bit abstract just like your recommendation to read [GMAT fiction](http://gmatclub.com/forum/books-to-read-improve-verbal-score-and-enjoy-a-good-read-76079.html)... these to me have been working as priming tools... by DestinyChild  **How long should you prep really?**  The study plan above suggests 3 months, and that's probably 10-15 hours per week (2 hrs/work day and 5 hours on the weekend). Over 3 months, that's about 120 - 180 hours, which includes reading some books, so the true study time is probably 80 - 120 hrs.  **Here is some useful information from about 8,000 users GMAC surveyed earlier this year - you can see a general relationship though of course there is no guarantee since we don't know the study habits or the starting level.** Image *There is a typo in the label for the second bar from the right; it should be 600-690*    **There is not enough data to do a detailed analysis but here is the distribution of the amount of time the 8,000 test takers used**   |  | | --- | | Image |   Image \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Founder of GMAT Club   Just starting out with GMAT? [Start here...](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-for-gmat-novices-start-your-gmat-journey-80727.html) | Want to know your GMAT Score? [Try GMAT Score Estimator](http://gmatclub.com/gmat-score-estimate) **Need GMAT Book Recommendations?** [Best GMAT Books](http://gmatclub.com/forum/best-gmat-books-118706.html)  Last edited by [bb](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-3.html) on Thu Nov 01, 2012 12:59 pm, edited 22 times in total.  Adding more links | |  |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | [Kaplan GMAT Prep Discount Codes](http://gmatclub.com/blog/courses/kaplan-discount/) | [Knewton GMAT Discount Codes](http://gmatclub.com/blog/courses/knewton-discount/) | [GMAT Pill GMAT Discount Codes](http://gmatclub.com/blog/courses/gmat-pill-discount/) | | | |  | | | 15 KUDOS received  **[bb](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-3.html)**  Founder  Founder  User avatar  **Status:** 30K Feet Above  **Affiliations:** UA1K, SPG & HH Gold  **Joined:** 04 Dec 2002  **Posts:** 9821  **Location:** United States (WA)  **GMAT 1**: 750 Q49 V42  **GPA:** 3.5  **WE:** Information Technology (Hospitality and Tourism)  **Followers:** 1095  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 3350 [[15](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/bb/608957)] , given: 2907  [GMAT ToolKit User](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-toolkit-iphone-ipod-application-82830.html)[GMAT Tests User](http://gmatclub.com/tests-old/)[CAT Tests](http://gmatclub.com/tests) | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p608957)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p608957) Mon Jul 20, 2009 5:14 pm  15  This post received KUDOS  **How long should you prep really?**  The study plan above suggests 3 months, and that's probably 10-15 hours per week (2 hrs/work day and 5 hours on the weekend). Over 3 months, that's about 120 - 180 hours, which includes reading some books, so the true study time is probably 80 - 120 hrs.  **Here is some useful information from about 8,000 users GMAC surveyed earlier this year - you can see a general relationship though of course there is no guarantee since we don't know the study habits or the starting level.**  Attachment:  AvgNumStudyHours.png AvgNumStudyHours.png [ 6.85 KiB | Viewed 728731 times ]  *There is a typo in the label for the second bar from the right; it should be 600-690*    **There is not enough data to do a detailed analysis but here is the distribution of the amount of time the 8,000 test takers used**   |  | | --- | | Attachment:  HoursOfPrep.png HoursOfPrep.png [ 8.89 KiB | Viewed 687983 times ] |   Attachment:  WeeksOfPrep.png WeeksOfPrep.png [ 10.14 KiB | Viewed 728851 times ]  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Founder of GMAT Club   Just starting out with GMAT? [Start here...](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-for-gmat-novices-start-your-gmat-journey-80727.html) | Want to know your GMAT Score? [Try GMAT Score Estimator](http://gmatclub.com/gmat-score-estimate) **Need GMAT Book Recommendations?** [Best GMAT Books](http://gmatclub.com/forum/best-gmat-books-118706.html)  Last edited by [bb](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-3.html) on Fri Aug 20, 2010 8:57 pm, edited 1 time in total.  added graphs | |  |  | |  | | | 5 KUDOS received  **[bipolarbear](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-59599.html)**  Senior Manager  Senior Manager  User avatar  **Joined:** 10 Dec 2008  **Posts:** 476  **Schools:** [HBS '15](http://gmatclub.com/forum/hbs-2013-calling-all-applicants-134055.html), [Stanford '15](http://gmatclub.com/forum/stanford-gsb-2013-calling-all-applicants-134191.html)  **GMAT 1**: 760 Q49 V44  **GPA:** 3.9  **Followers:** 11  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 68 [[5](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/bipolarbear/608969)] , given: 8  [GMAT Tests User](http://gmatclub.com/tests-old/) | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p608969)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p608969) Mon Jul 20, 2009 5:49 pm  5  This post received KUDOS  excellent post bb.  One thing I would emphasize is how quickly procrastination time goes by. It is way too easy to begin studying with 3 months left, take a short break, and resume studying with only weeks left. On the one hand, it seems like one month is plenty of time to study for just a single test, but after really starting, you realize that you have a LOT to cover and begin panicking. I know that's the case with me. 2 months ago I thought I had an eternity to study, but a couple of days ago I realized I am screwed and wish I had more time. :( | |  |  | |  | | | 8 KUDOS received  **[bb](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-3.html)**  Founder  Founder  User avatar  **Status:** 30K Feet Above  **Affiliations:** UA1K, SPG & HH Gold  **Joined:** 04 Dec 2002  **Posts:** 9821  **Location:** United States (WA)  **GMAT 1**: 750 Q49 V42  **GPA:** 3.5  **WE:** Information Technology (Hospitality and Tourism)  **Followers:** 1095  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 3350 [[8](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/bb/608984)] , given: 2907  [GMAT ToolKit User](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-toolkit-iphone-ipod-application-82830.html)[GMAT Tests User](http://gmatclub.com/tests-old/)[CAT Tests](http://gmatclub.com/tests) | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p608984)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p608984) Mon Jul 20, 2009 6:56 pm  8  This post received KUDOS  bipolarbear wrote:  excellent post bb.  One thing I would emphasize is how quickly procrastination time goes by. It is way too easy to begin studying with 3 months left, take a short break, and resume studying with only weeks left. On the one hand, it seems like one month is plenty of time to study for just a single test, but after really starting, you realize that you have a LOT to cover and begin panicking. I know that's the case with me. 2 months ago I thought I had an eternity to study, but a couple of days ago I realized I am screwed and wish I had more time. :(  Thank you! Great point - the message should be clear: If you only have 3 months left and need 700+ score - you are already late!  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Founder of GMAT Club   Just starting out with GMAT? [Start here...](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-for-gmat-novices-start-your-gmat-journey-80727.html) | Want to know your GMAT Score? [Try GMAT Score Estimator](http://gmatclub.com/gmat-score-estimate) **Need GMAT Book Recommendations?** [Best GMAT Books](http://gmatclub.com/forum/best-gmat-books-118706.html) | |  |  | |  | | | 3 KUDOS received  **[bb](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-3.html)**  Founder  Founder  User avatar  **Status:** 30K Feet Above  **Affiliations:** UA1K, SPG & HH Gold  **Joined:** 04 Dec 2002  **Posts:** 9821  **Location:** United States (WA)  **GMAT 1**: 750 Q49 V42  **GPA:** 3.5  **WE:** Information Technology (Hospitality and Tourism)  **Followers:** 1095  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 3350 [[3](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/bb/609862)] , given: 2907  [GMAT ToolKit User](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-toolkit-iphone-ipod-application-82830.html)[GMAT Tests User](http://gmatclub.com/tests-old/)[CAT Tests](http://gmatclub.com/tests) | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p609862)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p609862) Wed Jul 22, 2009 11:16 pm  3  This post received KUDOS  gmanjesh wrote:  BB you might want to edit the following sentence  "Note1: [MGMAT CR](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781935707615) and [MGMAT SC](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780982423868) come without any practice questions. Instead they refer to questions in [the Official Guide](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8433&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252Fofficial-guide-for-gmat-review-gmac%252F1103120578) 12 and [OG Verbal](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780470449752), so you must buy that book to practice and preferably should not have covered it in the past. On the positive note - all [Manhattan books](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780984178049) come with access to 6 online CAT tests, so you should buy at least one [Manhattan GMAT](http://www.manhattangmat.com/) book (any one of them)."   [MGMAT CR](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781935707615) and RC needs both OG and the Verbal Review books. that was the case with MGMAT 3rd ed not sure about the 4th, but I assume its the same  Thank You! I believe the 4th edition of the [MGMAT RC](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781935707660) does not rely on [the Official Guide](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8433&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252Fofficial-guide-for-gmat-review-gmac%252F1103120578) anymore but that book is packed and I can't get to it to confirm...  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Founder of GMAT Club   Just starting out with GMAT? [Start here...](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-for-gmat-novices-start-your-gmat-journey-80727.html) | Want to know your GMAT Score? [Try GMAT Score Estimator](http://gmatclub.com/gmat-score-estimate) **Need GMAT Book Recommendations?** [Best GMAT Books](http://gmatclub.com/forum/best-gmat-books-118706.html) | |  |  | |  | | | 1 KUDOS received  **[superman](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-68027.html)**  Current Student  User avatar  **Joined:** 18 Jun 2009  **Posts:** 363  **Location:** San Francisco  **Schools:** Duke,Oxford,IMD,INSEAD  **Followers:** 6  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 51 [[1](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/superman/610302)] , given: 15  [GMAT Tests User](http://gmatclub.com/tests-old/) | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p610302)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p610302) Fri Jul 24, 2009 6:42 am  1  This post received KUDOS  My friend has the book, will get it confirmed by tonight. | |  |  | |  | | | **[whatthehell](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-68146.html)**  Manager  Manager  **Joined:** 21 Jun 2009  **Posts:** 159  **Followers:** 1  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 3 [[0](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/whatthehell/610971)], given: 1 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p610971)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p610971) Sun Jul 26, 2009 6:10 am  Thank You!  **Quote:**  I believe the 4th edition of the [MGMAT RC](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9781935707660) does not rely on [the Official Guide](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8433&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252Fofficial-guide-for-gmat-review-gmac%252F1103120578) anymore but that book is packed and I can't get to it to confirm...  That's good to know, especially since I am preparing OG and fundamentals in parallel. | |  |  | |  | | | 1 KUDOS received  **[rookieR](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-70587.html)**  Intern  Intern  **Joined:** 29 Jul 2009  **Posts:** 16  **Schools:** Sauder,Cornell,McGill  **Followers:** 0  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 2 [[1](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/rookieR/612323)] , given: 4 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p612323)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p612323) Wed Jul 29, 2009 10:20 pm  1  This post received KUDOS  Hello All,  I have started preparing for GMAT from this week.  I plan to follow the 3 month approach suggested by BB. However need some advice from all of you on finalising my study schedule.  month 1 - math. I plan to use [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) for brushing up fundamentals and then doing section tests for practice.  month 2 - verbal. I will use [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) and section tests here as well. Reading fiction is a regular add-on to this.  month 3 - full length tests. I plan to give 3 tests in a week followed with a detailed analysis and [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html). The tests from OG, [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) (advanced), mba, etc will be used in this phase.  I have a full time job as a Manager in a Research firm with a 50 hour/week schedule. I will try to take out 15-18 hours in a week for this preparation. ( Majorly on weekends)  Please help me tweak this schedule. I am pretty unsure about how to start. Also, if 15-18 hours a week for the next 3 months would be enough to get a 700+ score.  Looking forward to all your suggestions :) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **~~RookieR~~**   Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there | |  |  | |  | | | 2 KUDOS received  **[jallenmorris](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-49305.html)**  SVP  SVP  User avatar  **Joined:** 30 Apr 2008  **Posts:** 1899  **Location:** Oklahoma City  **Schools:** Hard Knocks  **Followers:** 23  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 318 [[2](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/jallenmorris/612332)] , given: 31  [GMAT Tests User](http://gmatclub.com/tests-old/) | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p612332)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p612332) Wed Jul 29, 2009 10:57 pm  2  This post received KUDOS  I got a 720 after 3 months of studying, but I started "truly" studying after I got a 650 on the first real GMAT I took. When I took the GMAT the first time, I didn't really study much for it and told myself "If I get anything over a 650, then I retake and really study for it. So I got the 650 and studied for 3 months like crazy (I mean truly like crazy, I think I posted over 700 posts on here in that 3 month time).  My 3 month experience can't be compared to someone starting from scratch. I had already experienced one real test day which is a huge advantage.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ------------------------------------ J Allen Morris \*\*I'm pretty sure I'm right, but then again, I'm just a guy with his head up his a$$. | |  |  | |  | | | **[rhett](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-70489.html)**  Intern  Intern  **Joined:** 28 Jul 2009  **Posts:** 2  **Followers:** 0  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 0 [[0](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/rhett/612417)], given: 1 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p612417)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p612417) Thu Jul 30, 2009 4:14 am  This looks like a solid study plan; I look forward to trying it out. At which point do you recommend working through the OG? | |  |  | |  | | | **[rookieR](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-70587.html)**  Intern  Intern  **Joined:** 29 Jul 2009  **Posts:** 16  **Schools:** Sauder,Cornell,McGill  **Followers:** 0  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 2 [[0](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/rookieR/612651)], given: 4 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p612651)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p612651) Thu Jul 30, 2009 10:04 pm  Hey BB - need your comments on the schedule I have decided below....please :)  rookieR wrote:  Hello All,  I have started preparing for GMAT from this week.  I plan to follow the 3 month approach suggested by BB. However need some advice from all of you on finalising my study schedule.  month 1 - math. I plan to use [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) for brushing up fundamentals and then doing section tests for practice.  month 2 - verbal. I will use [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) and section tests here as well. Reading fiction is a regular add-on to this.  month 3 - full length tests. I plan to give 3 tests in a week followed with a detailed analysis and [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html). The tests from OG, [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) (advanced), mba, etc will be used in this phase.  I have a full time job as a Manager in a Research firm with a 50 hour/week schedule. I will try to take out 15-18 hours in a week for this preparation. ( Majorly on weekends)  Please help me tweak this schedule. I am pretty unsure about how to start. Also, if 15-18 hours a week for the next 3 months would be enough to get a 700+ score.  Looking forward to all your suggestions :)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **~~RookieR~~**   Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there | |  |  | |  | | | **[MontrealLady](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-70638.html)**  Manager  Manager  **Joined:** 29 Jul 2009  **Posts:** 180  **Followers:** 1  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 34 [[0](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/MontrealLady/613507)], given: 2 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p613507)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p613507) Sun Aug 02, 2009 12:41 pm  bb wrote:  GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - [work-in-progress - suggestions welcome]   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **!** | **Common Mistakes with GMAT preparation** 2: Starting with [the Official Guide](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8433&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252Fofficial-guide-for-gmat-review-gmac%252F1103120578) - waste of official GMAT questions so by which books do I have to start?  3: Giving GMAT the worst time of the day - studying after a long day i work from 8 am - 5 pm. by the time i get home and have supper, it's 7 pm...no other time to study but after a long day of work. any suggestions? |   what's the [Error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html)? do you have a template? thanks | |  |  | |  | | | **[rookieR](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-70587.html)**  Intern  Intern  **Joined:** 29 Jul 2009  **Posts:** 16  **Schools:** Sauder,Cornell,McGill  **Followers:** 0  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 2 [[0](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/rookieR/613980)], given: 4 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p613980)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p613980) Mon Aug 03, 2009 9:48 pm  MontrealLady wrote:  bb wrote:  GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - [work-in-progress - suggestions welcome]   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **!** | **Common Mistakes with GMAT preparation** 2: Starting with [the Official Guide](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8433&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252Fofficial-guide-for-gmat-review-gmac%252F1103120578) - waste of official GMAT questions so by which books do I have to start?  3: Giving GMAT the worst time of the day - studying after a long day i work from 8 am - 5 pm. by the time i get home and have supper, it's 7 pm...no other time to study but after a long day of work. any suggestions? |   what's the [Error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html)? do you have a template? thanks  Hey there,  I have the same problem having to study after a long day of work...but I guess there is no option. One way is to decide the number of hours per week you want to spend on prep and divide majority of it on weekends. It works well because you are relaxed on weekends and have better focus and retention capability.  It works for me .... do try it out :)  [Error Log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) - It need not be a set format/templatized. I have a small notepad wherein I am writing down the questions from topics that are particularly difficult for me. YOu can make a note of explanations, formula, short-cuts that you learnt from such questions. At the end of say 2-3 sections it serves as a revision note.  Hope this helps....  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **~~RookieR~~**   Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there | |  |  | |  | | | **[MontrealLady](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-70638.html)**  Manager  Manager  **Joined:** 29 Jul 2009  **Posts:** 180  **Followers:** 1  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 34 [[0](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/MontrealLady/614331)], given: 2 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p614331)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p614331) Tue Aug 04, 2009 3:50 pm  rookieR wrote:  MontrealLady wrote:  bb wrote:  GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - [work-in-progress - suggestions welcome]   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **!** | **Common Mistakes with GMAT preparation** 2: Starting with [the Official Guide](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8433&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252Fofficial-guide-for-gmat-review-gmac%252F1103120578) - waste of official GMAT questions so by which books do I have to start?  3: Giving GMAT the worst time of the day - studying after a long day i work from 8 am - 5 pm. by the time i get home and have supper, it's 7 pm...no other time to study but after a long day of work. any suggestions? |   what's the [Error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html)? do you have a template? thanks  Hey there,  I have the same problem having to study after a long day of work...but I guess there is no option. One way is to decide the number of hours per week you want to spend on prep and divide majority of it on weekends. It works well because you are relaxed on weekends and have better focus and retention capability.  It works for me .... do try it out :)  [Error Log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) - It need not be a set format/templatized. I have a small notepad wherein I am writing down the questions from topics that are particularly difficult for me. YOu can make a note of explanations, formula, short-cuts that you learnt from such questions. At the end of say 2-3 sections it serves as a revision note.  Hope this helps....  Thanks Rookie!  actually i dont study very much in the weekends...i dont know why!!! Ill try your way this week and im sure it will be much better than mind especially that i wake up earlly in the weekends, so i can stuy in the morning and go out in the evening.  Thanks for the [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) link...it's a very helpful tool | |  |  | |  | | | 1 KUDOS received  **[bb](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-3.html)**  Founder  Founder  User avatar  **Status:** 30K Feet Above  **Affiliations:** UA1K, SPG & HH Gold  **Joined:** 04 Dec 2002  **Posts:** 9821  **Location:** United States (WA)  **GMAT 1**: 750 Q49 V42  **GPA:** 3.5  **WE:** Information Technology (Hospitality and Tourism)  **Followers:** 1095  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 3350 [[1](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/bb/615316)] , given: 2907  [GMAT ToolKit User](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-toolkit-iphone-ipod-application-82830.html)[GMAT Tests User](http://gmatclub.com/tests-old/)[CAT Tests](http://gmatclub.com/tests) | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p615316)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p615316) Thu Aug 06, 2009 10:49 pm  1  This post received KUDOS  rookieR wrote:  Hey BB - need your comments on the schedule I have decided below....please :)  rookieR wrote:  Hello All,  I have started preparing for GMAT from this week.  I plan to follow the 3 month approach suggested by BB. However need some advice from all of you on finalising my study schedule.  month 1 - math. I plan to use [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) for brushing up fundamentals and then doing section tests for practice.  month 2 - verbal. I will use [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) and section tests here as well. Reading fiction is a regular add-on to this.  month 3 - full length tests. I plan to give 3 tests in a week followed with a detailed analysis and [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html). The tests from OG, [Kaplan](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&offerid=192868.10002032&type=3&subid=2&u1=forum5) (advanced), mba, etc will be used in this phase.  I have a full time job as a Manager in a Research firm with a 50 hour/week schedule. I will try to take out 15-18 hours in a week for this preparation. ( Majorly on weekends)  Please help me tweak this schedule. I am pretty unsure about how to start. Also, if 15-18 hours a week for the next 3 months would be enough to get a 700+ score.  Looking forward to all your suggestions :)  Looks pretty good. I would not push for 3 tests in a week - you will hate life and yourself :wink: Do 1 or 2 on the weekends and then spend the week going through errors and possibly still taking just the quant or just the verbal portion.  Spend the "good" time on GMAT (mornings) rather than the "leftover" time (nights and lunch breaks).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Founder of GMAT Club   Just starting out with GMAT? [Start here...](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-for-gmat-novices-start-your-gmat-journey-80727.html) | Want to know your GMAT Score? [Try GMAT Score Estimator](http://gmatclub.com/gmat-score-estimate) **Need GMAT Book Recommendations?** [Best GMAT Books](http://gmatclub.com/forum/best-gmat-books-118706.html) | |  |  | |  | | | **[rookieR](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-70587.html)**  Intern  Intern  **Joined:** 29 Jul 2009  **Posts:** 16  **Schools:** Sauder,Cornell,McGill  **Followers:** 0  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 2 [[0](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/rookieR/615319)], given: 4 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p615319)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p615319) Thu Aug 06, 2009 11:10 pm  Thanks BB....for the great advice!  :) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **~~RookieR~~**   Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there | |  |  | |  | | | **[jpatel](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-70863.html)**  Intern  Intern  **Joined:** 01 Aug 2009  **Posts:** 1  **Followers:** 0  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 0 [[0](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/jpatel/616279)], given: 0 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p616279)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p616279) Mon Aug 10, 2009 1:24 am  Hi  I gave GMAT Prep test recently and scored 640 (Quant - 46 and Verbal - 32). My aim is 700 + and am planning to take GMAT in Oct.  I did best in RC followed by Problem solving. Data sufficiency was worst and i did average in SC and CR.  Any tips on how I can score better?  Regards Jigna | |  |  | |  | | | 1 KUDOS received  **[bb](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-3.html)**  Founder  Founder  User avatar  **Status:** 30K Feet Above  **Affiliations:** UA1K, SPG & HH Gold  **Joined:** 04 Dec 2002  **Posts:** 9821  **Location:** United States (WA)  **GMAT 1**: 750 Q49 V42  **GPA:** 3.5  **WE:** Information Technology (Hospitality and Tourism)  **Followers:** 1095  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 3350 [[1](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/bb/616430)] , given: 2907  [GMAT ToolKit User](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-toolkit-iphone-ipod-application-82830.html)[GMAT Tests User](http://gmatclub.com/tests-old/)[CAT Tests](http://gmatclub.com/tests) | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p616430)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p616430) Mon Aug 10, 2009 9:13 am  1  This post received KUDOS  Try here: [gmat-study-plan-go-from-650-to-80235.html](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-go-from-650-to-80235.html)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Founder of GMAT Club   Just starting out with GMAT? [Start here...](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-for-gmat-novices-start-your-gmat-journey-80727.html) | Want to know your GMAT Score? [Try GMAT Score Estimator](http://gmatclub.com/gmat-score-estimate) **Need GMAT Book Recommendations?** [Best GMAT Books](http://gmatclub.com/forum/best-gmat-books-118706.html) | |  |  | |  | | | **[gulatin2](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-70682.html)**  Intern  Intern  **Joined:** 30 Jul 2009  **Posts:** 17  **Location:** Danbury CT  **Schools:** Wharton, Columbia , Cornell, CMU , Yale  **Followers:** 0  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 0 [[0](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/gulatin2/616552)], given: 4 | Re: GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p616552)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p616552) Mon Aug 10, 2009 12:30 pm  BB   Thanks for posting such a wonderful plan layout. As like other people here, I am aspirant for MBA targeting around 700 for my GMAT. I know its going to be quiet a bumpy ride though.  Based on my understanding of GMAT I guess it is extremely important to brush up the basic concepts. Your plan is definitely a good starting point for me. However I would think if I maintain an [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) from your first day of prep you can utilize it earlier then your practical tests.   Here's what I am planning to do   **1. First Section : Quantitative Section ( First Month): Real Basics for Number Systems , Inequalities, Equations, Percents, Geometery, Word problems, Permutation & Combination , Probability.**  Maintain an [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) from the practice questions when you cover each section. After 1 month - give 2 GMAT CLUB Quantitative tests. Get a broad understanding of where you stand, compare it with your [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) and work on corresponding topics **( Take 2-3 weeks for it)**. Give 3 GMAT CLUB Quantitative tests after [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) review.  2. **Second Section : Verbal ( SC,CR,RC):** Since I am an international I plan to give review the basics for grammar and then tackle SC. Review the guides for Verbal Sections available. Maintain an [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html). After 1 month of time with Verbal, take 2 practice tests for Verbal Section. Analyze your practice tests, your mistakes, weakness and review those thing again for another 2-3 weeks.  3. Computer Adaptive tests : Practice as much as tests I can . review the results, [error log](http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-error-log-129501.html) . Tackle your weakness accordingly.  This type of concerte approach should help us reach where we want to in our GMAT SCORE .   THIS ALL IS COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON OUR DEDICATION TOWARDS THIS TEST / CAREER  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [b*]Make your dream a reality*[/b] | |  |  | |  | | | 1 KUDOS received  **[thescrappyone](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-17035.html)**  Intern  Intern  **Joined:** 25 Feb 2006  **Posts:** 20  **Followers:** 0  **Kudos [**[**?**](http://gmatclub.com/forum/kudos-points-on-gmatclub-forum-79704.html)**]:** 1 [[1](http://gmatclub.com/static/kudos-details/thescrappyone/616566)] , given: 0 | GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p616566)] [New post](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p616566) Mon Aug 10, 2009 1:12 pm  1  This post received KUDOS  BB,  Just wondering, why do you recommend tackling SC first? I'm actually debating right now whether to go through the Powersore CR or the [Manhattan SC](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=PJTlq5NYqfE&subid=&offerid=239662.1&type=10&tmpid=8432&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.barnesandnoble.com%252Fw%252F%253Fean%253D9780982423868) book first, since both will cover the last half of my prep. I was planning on tackling SC last so that the rules will be fresher in my memory. Thanks! | |  |  | |  | | | gmatclubot  http://gmatclub.com/forum/styles/gmatclub_light/theme/images/viewtopic/posts_bot.png | GMAT Study Plan for GMAT Novices - Start your GMAT Journey   [[#permalink](http://gmatclub.com/forum/gmat-study-plan-how-to-start-your-gmat-prep-80727.html#p616566)] Mon Aug 10, 2009 1:12 pm | |  |  | |  | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  | **http://gmatclub.com/forum/styles/gmatclub_light/theme/images/viewtopic/icon_cudos.png** | **http://gmatclub.com/forum/styles/gmatclub_light/theme/images/viewtopic/icon_expert_reply.png** | **Similar topics** | **Author** | **Replies** | **Last post** | | Similar Topics: | New posts | 1 |  | [Have started GMAT Prep...need your suggestions](http://gmatclub.com/forum/have-started-gmat-prep-need-your-suggestions-13720.html?fl=similar) | [hanu](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-8420.html) | 1 | Mon Jan 31, 2005 2:54 am | | New posts |  |  | [Mid-way prep : GMAT study plan](http://gmatclub.com/forum/mid-way-prep-gmat-study-plan-17761.html?fl=similar) | [karthikmeda](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-12080.html) | 2 | Mon Jul 04, 2005 7:52 pm | | New posts |  |  | [How GMAT Prep helped you in your Career?](http://gmatclub.com/forum/how-gmat-prep-helped-you-in-your-career-45442.html?fl=similar) | [akannan](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-8350.html) | 1 | Fri May 11, 2007 5:28 pm | | New posts |  |  | [Starting to Study for GMAT](http://gmatclub.com/forum/starting-to-study-for-gmat-100902.html?fl=similar) | [Samwong](http://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-111241.html) | 6 | Sun Sep 12, 2010 11:33 am | | New posts |  | EXPERTS_POSTS_IN_THIS_TOPIC | [Study Plan Options - 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