GRE - Graduate Record Examinations Format

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ORGANIZED

By

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The overall test time is about 1 hour and 58 minutes. There are five sections.

Measure	Number of Questions	Allotted Time
Analytical Writing (One section)	One "Analyze an Issue" task	30 minutes
Verbal Reasoning (Two sections)	Section 1: 12 questions Section 2: 15 questions	Section 1: 18 minutes 90 sec per question Section 2: 23 minutes 92 sec per question
Quantitative Reasoning (Two sections)	Section 1: 12 questions Section 2: 15 questions	Section 1: 21 minutes 105 sec per question Section 2: 26 minutes 104 sec per question

Verbal

What Are the GRE Types of Verbal Questions?

The Verbal questions that appear on the GRE are of the following four main types:

- Text Completion
    1. One blank
    2. Two blank
    3. Three blank

- Sentence Equivalence

    Each question consists of a single sentence with one blank and six answer choices.Select two of the answer choices.There is no credit for partially correct answers.

- Reading Comprehension
    1. select a single answer
    2. select multiple correct answers
    3. select a sentence from a passage

Detailed overview of the Verbal Reasoning Measure

The Verbal Reasoning measure of the GRE General Test assesses your ability to:

- analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it
- analyze relationships among component parts of sentences
- recognize relationships among words and concepts

Verbal Reasoning questions appear in several formats, each of which is discussed in detail in the corresponding sections linked to below. About half of the measure requires you to read passages and answer questions on those passages. The other half requires you to read, interpret and complete existing sentences, groups of sentences or paragraphs.

The Verbal Reasoning measure contains three types of questions: Reading Comprehension, Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence.

View sample questions

Become more familiar with the Verbal Reasoning measure of the GRE General Test. Review sample questions, answers and explanations.

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Reading Comprehension

Introduction

Reading Comprehension questions are designed to test the wide range of abilities required to read and understand the kinds of prose commonly encountered in graduate school. Those abilities include:

- understanding the meaning of individual words and sentences
- understanding the meaning of paragraphs and larger bodies of text
- distinguishing between minor and major points
- summarizing a passage
- drawing conclusions from the information provided
- reasoning from incomplete data to infer missing information
- understanding the structure of a text in terms of how the parts relate to one another
- identifying the author's assumptions and perspective
- analyzing a text and reaching conclusions about it
- identifying strengths and weaknesses of a position
- developing and considering alternative explanations

Reading and understanding a piece of text requires far more than a passive understanding of the words and sentences it contains; it requires:

- active engagement with the text
- asking questions
- formulating and evaluating hypotheses

- reflecting on the relationship of the particular text to other texts and information

Typically, about half of the questions on the test are based on passages; each passage has anywhere from one to six questions associated with it. Most passages are one paragraph long, and one or two are several paragraphs long. Passages are based on material found in books and periodicals, both academic and nonacademic, and drawn from:

- physical sciences
- biological sciences
- social sciences
- business
- arts and humanities
- everyday topics

Questions can cover any of the topics listed above, from the meaning of a particular word to assessing evidence that might support or weaken points made in the passage. There are three question types:

- select a single answer
- select multiple correct answers
- select a sentence from a passage

General advice

- Reading passages are drawn from many different disciplines and sources, so you may encounter unfamiliar material. Don't be discouraged; all the questions can be answered on the basis of the information provided in the passage and no specialized knowledge is assumed. You don't need to try to familiarize yourself with every conceivable topic that might be included. If you encounter a passage that seems particularly hard or unfamiliar, you may want to save it for last.
- Read and analyze the passage carefully before trying to answer any of the questions.
- Pay attention to clues that help you understand less explicit aspects of the passage. Try to:

  - distinguish main ideas from supporting ideas or evidence
  - distinguish ideas that the author is advancing from those they're merely reporting
  - distinguish ideas that the author is strongly committed to from those they advance as hypothetical or speculative
  - identify the main transitions from one idea to the next
  - identify the relationship between different ideas, for example:

    - Are they contrasting? Are they consistent?
    - Does one support the other?
    - Does one spell out the other in greater detail?

- ■ Does one apply the other to a particular circumstance?

- Read each question carefully and make sure you understand exactly what's being asked.

- Answer each question based on the information provided in the passage and don't rely on outside knowledge. Sometimes your own views or opinions may conflict with those presented in a passage. If this happens, take special care to work within the context provided by the passage. You shouldn't expect to agree with everything you encounter in the reading passages.

Finding GRE-level reading materials

GRE reading comprehension questions seek to assess critical reading skills by using texts that exhibit a level of complexity comparable to that encountered in graduate school. Passages exhibiting this kind of graduate-level prose are adapted from material found in books and periodicals, both academic and nonacademic.

To gain more exposure to GRE-level reading material, the most fruitful approach would be to become familiar with the kinds of graduate-level prose, logical reasoning and rhetorical patterns typically found in GRE reading passages. The best way to do this is to read a wide variety of texts with similar features on a regular basis or at least for a sustained period of time before your test.

Where can you find these texts? The good news is that the graduate-level prose sampled by GRE passages is not just in highly specialized academic journals. There are many excellent sites for developing the habit of reading challenging prose, many of which are readily accessible. Some of these include:

- feature articles in newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* or *The Wall Street Journal*
- periodicals such as *The Economist*, *Scientific American* and *London Review of Books*
- trade books by experts and journalists for general audiences

If you're interested in sampling academic prose in more specialized journals, online services for journal content (e.g., IOPscience2 and The Royal Society) provide links to interesting articles, some of which are open access.

You should also cultivate the habit of reading closely and critically. Focus on paragraphs that seem particularly dense in meaning and engage actively with the text:

- How would you sum up the author's larger point?
- What does a phrase used by the author mean in this specific context?
- What is not said but implied?
- Why does the author highlight this particular detail?
- Where is the argument most vulnerable to criticism?

Ultimately, to succeed at GRE reading comprehension, how you read is just as important as what you read.

Question types

Multiple-choice — Select One Answer Choice

Description
These are traditional multiple-choice questions; you'll select one answer from among five answer choices.

Tips for answering

- Read all the answer choices before making your selection, even if you think you know the correct answer in advance.
- The correct answer is the one that most accurately and most completely answers the question. Don't be misled by answer choices that are only partially true or only partially answer the question. Also, be careful not to pick an answer choice simply because it's a true statement.
- When the question asks about the meaning of a word in the passage, be sure the answer choice you select correctly represents the way the word is being used in the passage. Many words have different meanings when used in different contexts.

Multiple-choice — Select One or More Answer Choices

Description
Each question has three answer choices with one to three correct answers. Select all that are correct to gain credit for these questions, you must select all the correct answers; there is no credit for partially correct answers.

Tips for answering

- Evaluate each answer choice separately on its own merits; when evaluating one answer choice, do not take the others into account.
- A correct answer choice accurately and completely answers the question; don't be misled by answer choices that are only partially true or that only partially answer the question. Also, be careful not to pick an answer choice simply because it's a true statement.
- Do not be disturbed if you think all three answer choices are correct, since questions of this type can have up to three correct answer choices.

Select-in-Passage

Description
In these questions, you'll select the sentence in the passage that meets a certain description. To do this, click on any word in the sentence or select the sentence with the keyboard. In longer passages, the question will

usually apply to only one or two specified paragraphs; you won't be able to select a sentence elsewhere in the passage.

Note: Because these questions depend on the use of the computer, they don't appear on the paper-delivered test. Instead, you'll find equivalent multiple-choice questions in their place.

Tips for answering

- Evaluate each of the relevant sentences in the passage separately before selecting your answer. Do not evaluate any sentences that are outside the paragraphs under consideration.
- A correct answer choice must accurately match the description given in the question; don't select a sentence if any part of the description doesn't apply to it. However, it's important to note that the question may not fully describe all aspects of the sentence.

Text Completion

Skilled readers do not simply absorb the information presented on the page; instead, they maintain a constant attitude of interpretation and evaluation, reasoning from what they have read so far to create a picture of the whole and revising that picture as they go. Text Completion questions test this ability by omitting crucial words from short passages and ask you to use the remaining information in the passage as a basis for selecting words or short phrases to fill the blanks and create a coherent, meaningful whole.

Question structure

- Each passage is composed of one to five sentences, with one to three blanks per sentence.

    - If there are two or three blanks, each blank has three answer choices.
    - If there is only one blank, there are five answer choices.

- Each blank has a single correct answer.
- The answer choices for different blanks function independently, i.e., selecting one answer choice for one blank doesn't affect the answer choices you can select for another blank.
- There's no credit for partially correct answers.

Tips for answering

Don't try to consider each possible combination of answers; that takes too long and is open to error. Instead, analyze the passage in the following way:

- Read through the passage to get an overall sense of it.
- Identify words or phrases that seem particularly significant, either because they emphasize the structure of the passage (words like

although or *moreover*) or because they're central to understanding what the passage is about.

- Try to fill in the blanks with words or phrases that seem to complete the sentence, then see if similar words are among the answer choices.
- Don't assume that you need to fill in the first blank first; perhaps it's easier to start with one of the other blanks. Select your choice for that blank, and then see if you can complete another blank. If none of the choices for the other blank seem to make sense, go back and reconsider your first selection.
- When you've made your selection for each blank, check to make sure the passage is logically, grammatically and stylistically coherent.

Sentence Equivalence

Like Text Completion questions, Sentence Equivalence questions test your ability to reach a conclusion about how a passage should be completed based on partial information, but to a greater extent they focus on the meaning of the completed whole. Sentence Equivalence questions consist of a single sentence with just one blank, and they ask you to identify the two choices that lead to a complete, coherent sentence while producing sentences that mean the same thing.

Question structure

- Each question consists of a single sentence with one blank and six answer choices.
- Select two of the answer choices.
- There is no credit for partially correct answers.

Tips for answering

- Don't simply look among the answer choices for two words that mean the same thing. This can be misleading for two reasons.

  - First, the answer choices may contain pairs of words that mean the same thing but do not fit coherently into the sentence.
  - Second, the correct pair of words may not mean exactly the same thing, since all that matters is that the resultant sentences mean the same thing.

- Read the sentence to get an overall sense of it.
- Identify words or phrases that seem particularly significant, either because they emphasize the structure of the sentence (words like *although* or *moreover*) or because they're central to understanding what the sentence is about.
- Try to fill in the blank with a word that seems appropriate to you and then see if two similar words are offered among the answer choices. If you find a word that's similar to what you're expecting but can't find a second one, don't become fixated on your interpretation; instead, see

whether there are other words among the answer choices that can be used to fill the blank coherently.

- When you've selected your pair of answer choices, check to make sure that each one produces a sentence that is logically, grammatically and stylistically coherent, and that the two sentences mean the same thing.

Quant

Overview of the Quantitative Reasoning Measure

The Quantitative Reasoning measure of the GRE General Test assesses your:

- basic mathematical skills
- understanding of elementary mathematical concepts
- ability to reason quantitatively and to model and solve problems with quantitative methods.

View Sample Questions

Become more familiar with the Quantitative Reasoning measure of the GRE General Test. Review sample questions, answers and explanations.

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Content areas covered

Some of the Quantitative Reasoning questions are posed in real-life settings, while others are posed in purely mathematical settings. Many of the questions are "word problems," which must be translated and modeled mathematically. The skills, concepts and abilities are assessed in the four content areas below.

- Arithmetic topics, including:

- ○ properties and types of integers, such as divisibility, factorization, prime numbers, remainders and odd and even integers
- ○ arithmetic operations, exponents and roots
- ○ concepts such as estimation, percent, ratio, rate, absolute value, the number line, decimal representation and sequences of numbers
- Algebra topics, including:
  - ○ operations with exponents
  - ○ factoring and simplifying algebraic expressions
  - ○ relations, functions, equations and inequalities
  - ○ solving linear and quadratic equations and inequalities
  - ○ solving simultaneous equations and inequalities
  - ○ setting up equations to solve word problems
  - ○ coordinate geometry, including graphs of functions, equations and inequalities, intercepts and slopes of lines
- Geometry topics, including:
  - ○ parallel and perpendicular lines
  - ○ circles
  - ○ triangles, including isosceles, equilateral and 30°-60°-90° triangles
  - ○ quadrilaterals
  - ○ other polygons
  - ○ congruent and similar figures
  - ○ 3-dimensional figures

- area
  - perimeter
  - volume
  - the Pythagorean theorem
  - angle measurement in degrees

The ability to construct proofs is not tested.

- Data analysis topics, including:
  - basic descriptive statistics, such as mean, median, mode, range, standard deviation, interquartile range, quartiles and percentiles
  - interpretation of data in tables and graphs, such as line graphs, bar graphs, circle graphs, box plots, scatter plots and frequency distributions
  - elementary probability, such as probabilities of compound events and independent events
  - conditional probability
  - random variables and probability distributions, including normal distributions
  - counting methods, such as combinations, permutations and Venn diagrams

These topics are typically taught in high school algebra courses or introductory statistics courses.
Inferential statistics are not tested.

The content in these areas includes high school mathematics and statistics at a level that is generally no higher than a second course in algebra. It doesn't include trigonometry, calculus or other higher-level mathematics. The Math Review (PDF) provides detailed information about the content of the Quantitative Reasoning measure.

Khan Academy® Instructional Videos: Free Preparation for the GRE Quantitative Reasoning Measure

For more explanations about the concepts covered in the Math Review, view free Khan Academy instructional videos.

Learn More

Symbols, terminology, conventions and assumptions

The mathematical symbols, terminology and conventions used in the Quantitative Reasoning measure are standard at the high school level. For example, the positive direction of a number line is to the right, distances are nonnegative and prime numbers are greater than 1. Whenever nonstandard notation is used in a question, it is explicitly introduced in the question.

In addition to conventions, there are some important assumptions about numbers and figures that are listed in the Quantitative Reasoning section directions:

- All numbers used are real numbers.
- All figures are assumed to lie in a plane unless otherwise indicated.
- Geometric figures, such as lines, circles, triangles, and quadrilaterals, are not necessarily drawn to scale. Don't assume quantities such as

lengths and angle measures are as they appear in a figure. You should assume, however, that:

- lines shown as straight are actually straight
- points on a line are in the order shown
- all geometric objects are in the relative positions shown

For questions with geometric figures, you should base your answers on geometric reasoning, not on estimating or comparing quantities by sight or by measurement.

- The following are drawn to scale. You can read, estimate or compare quantities and data values by sight or by measurement:
  - coordinate systems, such as *xy*-planes and number lines
  - graphical data presentations such as bar graphs, circle graphs and line graphs

To learn more about conventions and assumptions, download Mathematical Conventions (PDF).

Question types and Data Interpretation sets

The Quantitative Reasoning measure has four types of questions:

- Quantitative Comparison Questions
- Multiple-choice Questions — Select One Answer Choice
- Multiple-choice Questions — Select One or More Answer Choices
- Numeric Entry Questions

Each question appears either independently as a discrete question or as part of a set of questions called a Data Interpretation set. All questions in a Data Interpretation set are based on the same data presented in tables, graphs or other displays of data.

Quantitative Comparison

These questions ask you to compare two quantities — Quantity A and Quantity B — and then determine which of the following statements describes the comparison.

- Quantity A is greater.
- Quantity B is greater.
- The two quantities are equal.
- The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Tips for answering

1. Become familiar with the answer choices. Quantitative Comparison questions always have the same answer choices, so get to know them, especially the last choice, "The relationship cannot be determined from the information given." Never select this last choice if it's clear the values of the two quantities can be determined by computation. Also, if you determine that one quantity is greater than the other,

make sure you carefully select the corresponding choice and don't reverse the first two choices.

2. Avoid unnecessary computations. Don't waste time performing needless computations to compare the two quantities. Simplify, transform or estimate one or both of the given quantities only as needed to compare them.

3. Remember that geometric figures aren't necessarily drawn to scale. If any aspect of a given geometric figure is not fully determined, try to redraw the figure, keeping those aspects that are completely determined by the given information fixed but changing the aspects of the figure that are not determined. Examine the results. What variations are possible in the relative lengths of line segments or measures of angles?

4. Plug in numbers. If one or both quantities are algebraic expressions, you can substitute easy numbers for the variables and compare the resulting quantities in your analysis. Consider all kinds of appropriate numbers before you give an answer: e.g., zero, positive and negative numbers, small and large numbers, fractions and decimals. If you see that Quantity A is greater than Quantity B in one case and Quantity B is greater than Quantity A in another case, choose "The relationship cannot be determined from the information given."

5. Simplify the comparison. If both quantities are algebraic or arithmetic expressions and you can't easily see a relationship between them, try to simplify the comparison. Try a step-by-step simplification that is similar to the steps involved when you solve the equation $5 = 4x + 3$ for

x, or similar to the steps involved when you determine that the inequality $\frac{3y+2}{5} < y$ is equivalent to the simpler inequality $1 < y$. Begin by setting up a comparison involving the two quantities:

Quantity A ? Quantity B

where ? is a placeholder that could represent the relationship greater than (>), less than (<), or equal to (=), or could represent the fact that the relationship can't be determined from the information given. Then try to simplify the comparison, step by step, until you can determine a relationship between simplified quantities. For example, you may conclude after the last step that ? represents equal to (=). Based on this conclusion, you may be able to compare Quantities A and B. To understand this strategy more fully, see sample questions 6 to 9.

Multiple-choice Questions — Select One Answer Choice

These multiple-choice questions ask you to select only one answer choice from a list of five choices.

Tips for answering

1. Use the fact that the answer is there. If your answer is not one of the five answer choices given, assume that your answer is incorrect and do the following:

   ○ Reread the question carefully — you may have missed an important detail or misinterpreted some information.
   ○ Check your computations — you may have made a mistake, such as mis-keying a number on the calculator.
   ○ Reevaluate your solution method — you may have a flaw in your reasoning.

2. Examine the answer choices. In some questions you're asked explicitly which of the choices has a certain property. You may have to consider each choice separately or you may be able to see a relationship between the choices that will help you find the answer more quickly. In other questions, it may be helpful to work backward from the choices, for example, by substituting the choices in an equation or inequality to see which one works. However, be careful, as that method may take more time than using reasoning.

3. For questions that require approximations, scan the answer choices to see how close an approximation is needed. (This may be helpful for other questions too, as it can help you get a better sense of what the question is asking.) For some questions, you may have to carry out all computations exactly and round only your final answer in order to get the required degree of accuracy. In others, estimation is sufficient and will help you avoid spending time on long computations.

Multiple-choice Questions — Select One or More Answer Choices

These multiple-choice questions ask you to select one or more answer choices from a list of choices. The question may or may not specify the number of choices to select.

Tips for answering

1. Note whether you're asked to indicate a specific number of answer choices or all choices that apply. In the latter case, be sure to consider all of the choices, determine which ones are correct, and select all of those and only those choices. Note that there may be only one correct choice.
2. In some questions that involve conditions that limit the possible values of the numerical answer choices, it may be efficient to determine the least and/or the greatest possible value. Knowing the least and/or greatest possible value may enable you to quickly determine all the correct choices.
3. Avoid lengthy calculations by recognizing and continuing numerical patterns.

Numeric Entry

These questions ask you either to enter your answer as an integer or a decimal in a single answer box or as a fraction in two separate boxes — one

for the numerator and one for the denominator. You'll use the computer mouse and keyboard to enter your answer.

Tips for answering

1. Make sure you answer the question that's asked. Since there are no answer choices to guide you, read the question carefully and make sure you provide the type of answer required. Sometimes there will be labels before or after the answer box to indicate the appropriate type of answer. Pay special attention to units such as feet or miles, to orders of magnitude such as millions or billions, and to percents as compared with decimals.
2. If you're asked to round your answer, make sure you round to the required degree of accuracy. For example, if an answer of 46.7 is to be rounded to the nearest integer, you need to enter the number 47. If your solution strategy involves intermediate computations, carry out all computations exactly and round only your final answer in order to get the required degree of accuracy. If no rounding instructions are given, enter the exact answer.
3. Examine your answer to see if it's reasonable with respect to the information given. You may want to use estimation or another solution path to double-check your answer.

Data Interpretation sets

Data Interpretation questions are grouped together and refer to the same table, graph or other data presentation. These questions ask you to interpret or analyze the given data. The types of questions may be Multiple-choice (both types) or Numeric Entry.

Tips for answering

1. Scan the data presentation briefly to see what it's about, but don't spend time studying all of the information in detail. Focus on those data aspects that are necessary to answer the questions. Pay attention to:

    o   the axes and scales of graphs
    o   the units of measurement or orders of magnitude (such as billions) that are given in the titles, labels and legends
    o   any notes that clarify the data

2. When graphical data presentations such as bar graphs and line graphs are shown with scales, you should read, estimate, or compare quantities by sight or by measurement, according to the corresponding scales. For example, use the relative sizes of bars or sectors to compare the quantities they represent, but be aware of broken scales and of bars that don't start at 0.

3. Answer questions only on the basis of the data presented, everyday facts (such as the number of days in a year) and your knowledge of mathematics. Don't make use of specialized information you may recall from other sources about the particular context on which the

questions are based unless the information can be derived from the data presented.

Problem-solving steps

In addition to the tips for answering in the question type sections above, there are also some general problem-solving steps and strategies you can employ. Questions in the Quantitative Reasoning measure ask you to model and solve problems using quantitative, or mathematical, methods. Generally, there are three basic steps in solving a mathematics problem:

Step 1: Understand the problem

Read the statement of the problem carefully to make sure you understand the information given and the problem you are being asked to solve.

- Some information may describe certain quantities.
- Quantitative information may be given in words or mathematical expressions, or a combination of both.
- You may need to read and understand quantitative information in data presentations, geometric figures or coordinate systems.
- Other information may take the form of formulas, definitions or conditions that must be satisfied by the quantities. For example, the conditions may be equations or inequalities, or may be words that can be translated into equations or inequalities.

In addition to understanding the information you are given, make sure you understand what you need to accomplish in order to solve the problem. For example, what unknown quantities must be found? In what form must they be expressed?

Step 2: Carry out a strategy for solving the problem

Solving a mathematics problem requires more than understanding a description of the problem (the quantities, the data, the conditions, the unknowns and all other mathematical facts related to the problem). It also requires determining what mathematical facts to use and when and how to use those facts to develop a solution to the problem. It requires a strategy.

Mathematics problems are solved by using a wide variety of strategies, and there may be different ways to solve a given problem. Develop a repertoire of problem-solving strategies and a sense of which strategies are likely to work best in solving particular problems. Attempting to solve a problem without a strategy may lead to a lot of work without producing a correct solution.

After you determine a strategy, carry it out. If you get stuck, check your work to see if you made an error in your solution. Maintain a flexible, open mindset. If you check your solution and can't find an error, or if your solution strategy is simply not working, look for a different strategy.

Step 3: Check your answer

When you arrive at an answer, check that it's reasonable and computationally correct.

- Have you answered the question that was asked?
- Is your answer reasonable in the context of the question? Checking that an answer is reasonable can be as simple as recalling a basic mathematical fact and checking whether your answer is consistent with that fact. For example, the probability of an event must be between 0 and 1, inclusive, and the area of a geometric figure must be positive. You may be able to use estimation to check that your answer is reasonable. For example, if your solution involves adding three numbers, each of which is between 100 and 200, estimating the sum tells you that the sum must be between 300 and 600.
- Did you make a computational mistake in arriving at your answer or a key-entry error using the calculator? Check for errors in each step in your solution. Or you may be able to check directly that your solution is correct. For example, if you solve an equation for x, substitute your answer into the equation to make sure it's correct.

Strategies

There are no set rules — applicable to all mathematics problems — to determine the best strategy. The ability to determine a strategy that will work grows as you solve more and more problems. Download the Sample Questions for a list of 14 useful strategies you can employ, along with one or two sample questions that illustrate how to use each strategy.

Download PDF

Calculator use

You're provided with a basic on-screen calculator on the Quantitative Reasoning measure. Sometimes the computations you need to do to answer a question in the Quantitative Reasoning measure are somewhat time-consuming, like long division, or they involve square roots. Although the calculator can shorten the time it takes to perform computations, keep in mind that the calculator provides results that supplement, but don't replace, your knowledge of mathematics. You'll need to use your mathematical knowledge to determine whether the calculator's results are reasonable and how the results can be used to answer a question.
Here are some general guidelines for calculator use in the Quantitative Reasoning measure:

- Most of the questions don't require difficult computations, so don't use the calculator just because it's available.
- Use it for calculations that you know are tedious, such as long division, square roots, and addition, subtraction, or multiplication of numbers that have several digits.
- Avoid using it for simple computations that are quicker to do mentally, such as $10 - 490$, $(4)(70)$, $\frac{4,300}{10}$, $\sqrt{25}$, and 30^2.
- Avoid using it to introduce decimals if you're asked to give an answer as a fraction.
- You may be able to answer some questions more quickly by reasoning and estimating than by using the calculator.

- If you use the calculator, estimate the answer beforehand so you can determine whether the calculator's answer is "in the ballpark." This may help you avoid key-entry errors.

For more information, download <u>Guidelines Specific to the On-Screen Calculator (PDF)</u>.

Analytical

Overview of the Analytical Writing Measure

Analytical Writing Measure (beginning September 22, 2023)

The Analytical Writing measure of the GRE General Test administered beginning September 22, 2023, assesses your critical thinking and analytical writing skills by assessing your ability to:

- articulate and support complex ideas
- construct arguments
- sustain a focused and coherent discussion

It doesn't assess specific content knowledge.

The Analytical Writing measure consists of a 30-minute "Analyze an Issue" task. This task presents an opinion on an issue and instructions on how to respond. You're required to evaluate the issue, consider its complexities and develop an argument with reasons and examples to support your views.

You'll use a basic word processor developed by ETS to type your essay responses. The word processor contains the following functionalities: insert text, delete text, cut-and-paste and undo the previous action. Tools such as a spell checker and grammar checker are not available.

Analytical Writing Measure before September 22, 2023

The Analytical Writing measure of the GRE General Test administered before September 22, 2023, assesses your critical thinking and analytical writing skills by assessing your ability to:

- articulate and support complex ideas

- construct and evaluate arguments
- sustain a focused and coherent discussion

It doesn't assess specific content knowledge.

The Analytical Writing measure consists of two separately timed analytical writing tasks:

- The "Analyze an Issue" task presents an opinion on an issue and instructions on how to respond. You're required to evaluate the issue, consider its complexities and develop an argument with reasons and examples to support your views.
- The "Analyze an Argument" task requires you to evaluate an argument according to specific instructions. You'll need to consider the logical soundness of the argument rather than agree or disagree with the position it presents.

The two 30-minute tasks are complementary. The Issue task requires you to construct your own argument, while the Argument task requires you to evaluate someone else's argument.

You'll use a basic word processor developed by ETS to type your essay responses. The word processor contains the following functionalities: insert text, delete text, cut-and-paste and undo the previous action. Tools such as a spell checker and grammar checker are not available.

Preparing for the Analytical Writing measure

Everyone — even the most practiced and confident of writers — should spend time preparing for the Analytical Writing measure to understand the

skills measured and how the tasks are scored. It may also be useful to review the scoring guides, sample topics, scored sample essay responses and rater commentary for each task.

The tasks in the Analytical Writing measure relate to a broad range of subjects — from the fine arts and humanities to the social and physical sciences — but don't require specific content knowledge. Each task has been tested by actual GRE test takers to ensure that it possesses several important characteristics, including the following:

- GRE test takers, regardless of their field of study or special interests, understood the task and could easily respond to it.
- The task elicited the kinds of complex thinking and persuasive writing that university faculty consider important for success in graduate school.
- The responses were varied in content and in the way the writers developed their ideas.

Published topic pools for the Analytical Writing measure

To help you prepare for the Analytical Writing measure, the GRE Program has published the entire pool of tasks from which your test tasks will be selected. You might find it helpful to review the Issue and Argument pools:

- Issue Topic Pool (PDF)
- Argument Topic Pool (PDF) (the Argument task was removed from the General Test beginning September 22, 2023)

Test-taking strategies for the Analytical Writing measure (in the General Test beginning September 22, 2023)

- Before taking the GRE General Test, review the strategies, sample topics, sample essay responses with rater commentary, and scoring guide for the task. This will give you a deeper understanding of how raters evaluate essays and the elements they're looking for in an essay.

- It is important to budget your time. Within the 30-minute time limit, allow sufficient time to consider the issue and the specific instructions, plan a response, and compose your essay. You want your essay response to be the best possible example of your writing that you can produce under the testing conditions.

- Save a few minutes at the end of the timed task to check for obvious errors. An occasional spelling or grammatical error won't affect your score, but serious and persistent errors detract from the overall effectiveness of your writing and lower your score accordingly.