

GMAT SYLLABUS AND PREPARATION TIPS



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Introduction

The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), administered by GMAC, is the most widely accepted exam for business school admissions globally. This popular standardized test helps business schools identify candidates with the right traits for succeeding in a graduate management course and thus helps them with the admission process. It assesses the candidate's analytical, writing, quantitative, verbal, and reading skills.

Who can appear for the GMAT?

According to GMAC, there are no explicit GMAT exam eligibility criteria. The candidate must be at least 18 years old, although there is no upper age limit for those who wish to take the test. The GMAT can only be taken five times each year by an applicant. GMAT scores are valid for five years.



Mode
Online and Offline



Duration
3 hours 7 minutes



Score validity
5 years



Registration fee
US\$275



Eligibility
Candidate must be
at least 18 years old



Acceptance
Across 2400+ schools
in 110+ countries

GMAT Format

The following four sections constitute the GMAT exam. The total duration of the exam is 3 hours and 7 minutes.

1. **Integrated Reasoning** - measures the ability to evaluate information presented in multiple formats from multiple sources.
2. **Quantitative** - measures the ability to analyze data and draw conclusions using reasoning skills.
3. **Verbal** - measures ability to read and understand written material in English, evaluate arguments, and correct written material.
4. **Analytical Writing Analysis** - measures the ability to think critically and to communicate those ideas.

GMAT Format at a Glance			
Section	Duration	No. of Questions	Topic
Quantitative	62 minutes (No calculators allowed)	31 MCQ	Tests general knowledge in arithmetic, basic algebra, and basic geometry
Integrated Reasoning	30 minutes (Calculator provided)	12 MCQ	Tests your ability to make inferences based on data presented in various charts, graphs, and tables
Analytical Writing Assessment	30 minutes	1 Essay	Analysis of an argument on business or a topic of general interest
Verbal	65 minutes	36 MCQ	Reading Comprehension, Critical Reasoning, Sentence Correction

The Section Order for the GMAT online exam:

Candidates will have the flexibility to choose from three options for their exam's section order:

- Analytical Writing Assessment, Integrated Reasoning, Quantitative, Verbal
- Verbal, Quantitative, Integrated Reasoning, Analytical Writing Assessment
- Quantitative, Verbal, Integrated Reasoning, Analytical Writing Assessment



GMAT Syllabus

1. Quantitative section

For this section, candidates must have a strong grasp of basic arithmetic concepts. The section comprises two parts - data sufficiency and problem-solving. There will be 18 questions on data sufficiency and 18 questions under the problem-solving part. The questions in quantitative reasoning are completely objective and MCQ-based. There will be no negative marking for the wrong answer. **The topics that need to be studied as part of the GMAT Quant syllabus or the GMAT Math syllabus are:**

Section	Topics to be covered
Arithmetic	Multiples and Factors, Fractions, Integers, Percentages, Average, Number Properties, Decimals, Power and Power Roots, Average, Probability, Set Theory, Ration and Proportions, Statistics, Speed, Time & Distance, Simple and Compounded Interest, Set Theory, Pipes, cisterns, and work time
Algebra	Monomials, Polynomials, Functions Exponents, Permutations and Combinations, Quadratic Equations, Algebraic Expressions and Equations
Geometry	Lines and Angles, Circles, Quadrilaterals, Triangles, Rectangular solids and cylinders, Coordinate geometry

2. Quantitative section

It is a reasoning section where data is given in various forms. The students need to analyze and evaluate the data presented in graphs or a simple table format. The questions can belong to any of the following categories:

a) Graphical Interpretation:

The data will be represented in a pie chart, bar graph, histogram, curve, or a graphical image. It will measure the candidate's ability to analyze and interpret the data from the graphical representations. The information presented in these forms needs to be interpreted in simple language or mathematical form. The interpretation should justify the relationship between the data and state the right conclusion.

b) Table Analysis:

It will be a table formulation with all the data and information provided. A spread-sheet, for example, is a table formulation, and the students need to sort, interpret and analyze the data and information provided in the table. It will help determine the relationship between data, relevant information, and certain conditions.

c) Two-part analysis:

This part will mainly assess the candidate's ability to solve complex problems. There will be trade-offs, equations, and relationships between factors and two entities.

d) Multi-source:

There won't be just one source of data, but various sources like passages, tables, graphical representations, or their combination. The questions will be based on finding inferences and finding the relevance of data. There will also be some tricky questions where the candidates need to find discrepancies among various data sources.

3. Verbal Reasoning

There are mainly three types of questions under this section:

a) Reading comprehension:

Based on the passage, there will be multiple-choice questions. The answers will be checked for the following skills application, inferences, ideas, style, and structure.

b) Critical reasoning:

This part will be based on analyzing the argument. There will be a few argument-based questions. The candidates need to analyze, support, or go against the argument with a valid reason. There will be eight different types of critical reasoning questions, and every question will judge a student on reasoning, argumentation, finding a solution, or evaluation of a plan.

c) Sentence correction:

A certain part of the sentence will be underlined. Students need to rectify issues or problems with underlined portion. The grammatical errors, if any, need to be corrected.

4. Analytical Writing Examination

The analytical writing segment is purely based on brainstorming ideas and writing an essay. A passage, along with questions, can also be the pattern. There will be only one topic. The syllabus is vast and can be anything under the sun. You will not be singularly marked on your opinion or thought process, but it is your writing style that will fetch you a good score. Go for a balanced opinion and focus on your writing style, tone, and structure of the write-up. There are two types of essays in the GMAT syllabus:

i) Argument-based essays:

The viewpoint or reason needs to be analyzed, and then a justified argument needs to be written for this type of essay.

ii) Issue-based essays:

An issue or problem will be given. GMAT aspirants will need to write an essay based on the issue. An individual opinion is welcome too. The length of the essay should be around 600 words and not more than that.

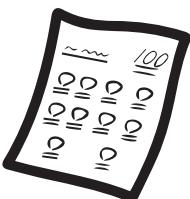
Preparation Tips



1. Start your test prep in advance and develop a plan to cover the full syllabus.



2. Choose the right study material/plan.



3. Towards the end of your preparation, practice as many mock tests as possible.



4. After every mock, do an analysis of your strengths and weaknesses. Focus more on sections where you have difficulty scoring.



5. Time yourself for each section while practising mock papers to keep a tab on your speed.



6. To get a good score on the essay, it is pertinent to have a good command of the English language. Brush up on grammar as well as vocabulary.



7. Develop a reading habit. Read newspapers, magazines, novels, science journals, and other published material to engage with diverse forms of content.

GMAT Scoring

GMAT is scored on a range of 200 to 800. The verbal and quantitative sections of the GMAT are adaptive i.e. answering a certain question correctly produces a subsequent question that is more difficult, while incorrect answers result in easier subsequent questions. Test-takers are rewarded more for correctly answering difficult questions, and are conversely penalized more for incorrect answers to easier questions. Because of this question-by-question adaptation, students who provide incorrect answers to several consecutive questions will receive lower scores than test-takers with the same number of non-consecutive mistakes.

Meanwhile, the integrated reasoning section does not use computer adaptation. Scores for this section are derived almost entirely from the number of correct answers. Analytical writing scores are averaged from the assessments of a qualified human scorer and a computer program.

Penalty for Unanswered and Wrongly Answered Questions

There is no penalty for unanswered questions. However, for a wrong answer, you are penalized a quarter of a point for five-option multiple-choice questions and one-third of a point for four-option questions.

GMAT Report Card

The official GMAT score report includes several ways to interpret your exam results. Each of the five sections - Quantitative Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning, Integrated Reasoning, Analytical Writing Assessment, and Total - is reported on a fixed scale and includes a percentile ranking. Other elements on your scorecard display your GMAT ID, exam date, appointment number, etc.) Your score is valid for five years, giving you the flexibility to send your score to schools when you are ready. The official GMAT report will contain the following 5 sections -

Section	Scoring	How the Section is Scored
Quantitative Reasoning	6-51	Scores are reported in intervals of 1, and the standard error of measurement is 3 points.
Verbal Reasoning	6-51	Scores are reported in intervals of 1, and the standard error of measurement is 3 points.
Integrated Reasoning	1-8	Scores are reported in intervals of 1.
Analytical Writing Assessment	0.0-6.0	Scores are reported in intervals of 0.5.
Total Score	200-800	Scores are reported in intervals of 10. The standard error of measurement is 30-40 points.

Source: GMAC

Accepting scores after the test

On test day, as soon as you've finished taking the GMAT, the testing computer will calculate and display your unofficial results (everything except your essay score). You will have two minutes to decide whether to report your results to business schools or to cancel them. You will be given a printout of unofficial scores if you accept the scores. If you cancel your scores and then change your mind, you will have the opportunity to reinstate those scores.

Check out the average GMAT scores for all test-takers from the three-year period 2017-2019:

Section	Average GMAT Score
Verbal	27.11
Quantitative	40.38
Integrated Reasoning	4.51
Analytical Writing Assessment	4.45
TOTAL SCORE	564.84

Source: Mba.com

What is a good GMAT score

According to GMAC, two-thirds of test takers score between 400 and 600. Generally, a good GMAT score is between 700 and 740, and anything above it is an excellent score. The average GMAT score for the top 50 business schools in the US in 2021 was 703, ranging from 634 to 734.

Similarly, the average score for the top business schools in Europe was 676, ranging between 638 to 709. If we look at the top MBA programs in Canada, the average GMAT score range is between 520-780, and for Australia, it's between 600-695.

Institute	Average GMAT Score for class of 2020	Average GMAT Score for class of 2020	Average GMAT Score for class of 2018
Harvard Business School	730	730	729
Booth School of Business	732	730	731
Yale School of Management	730	720	724
Kellogg School of Management	730	727	728
The Wharton School	733	732	732
UC Berkeley (Haas)	726	725	726

About upGrad Abroad

upGrad is an online education provider that helps individuals to develop their professional potential in the most engaging learning environment. upGrad Abroad, the study abroad division of upGrad, through its collaborations with accredited and highly-ranked institutions has introduced a portfolio of distinctive study abroad programs. These innovative programs provide an invaluable opportunity for international students to leverage initial online learning to pursue their dream to study abroad in a flexible and affordable manner. Students begin their program online with a partner institution in the home country, then transition to on-campus with one of the upGrad destination academic partners. upGrad students also have the support of our student services team to assist with the application processing, visa assistance, as well as support upon arrival to campus.



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