greSystem

sg

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GRE Systematic Approach

This packet is designed to help you tackle each GRE question type using a systematic approach.

Structure & Content

Verbal Reasoning

- Analyze & evaluable written material
- Synthesize info from writing
- Understand meanings of words, sentences & texts
- Understand relationships in writing

Quantitative Reasoning

- Assess math skills & concepts
    a. algebra
    b. geometry
    c. data analysis
- Understand, interpret & analyze quantitative information to solve problems

Analytical Writing

- Articulate & support complex ideas
- Examine claims & evidence
- Sustain focused discussion
- Control elements of written english

Reading Comprehension

- Save hard or unfamiliar questions for last
- Read & analyze the passage before trying to answer questions

The Approach

1. What is the **main** idea?
2. Is this advancing or reporting ideas?
3. Are the ideas committed or are they speculative?
4. Identify *transitions* from one idea to the next.
5. Check for the following **relationships** between ideas:
    - Contrasting vs. consistent
    - One supports another
    - One spells out another in greater detail
    - An application of an idea in a particular circumstance
6. Additional Mining:
    - Are there any key words or words you do not understand?
    - Identify major vs. minor points.
    - Briefly summarize the passage.
    - What conclusions can you draw?
    - Is there any missing information that can be inferred?
    - Can any parts of the text be related to another?
    - What is the author's perspective? What assumptions does he make?
    - Reach a conclusion about the text.
    - Consider alternative expectations.

Reading Multiple Choice: Select 1

1. Read **all** answers before selecting.
2. Are any of the choices *partially* true or correct answers?
3. Pay attention to context.
    - *Example:* If the question asks for a definition, does the answer choice correctly represent the word **in the passage**?

Reading Multiple Choice: Select 1 *or more*

- All answers correct? No problem!

1. Evaluate **each** answer separately on its own merit.
2. Does each answer accurately answer the question posed?

- *Do not be mislead by partial truths*

Reading Comprehension: Select-in-Passage

1. Evaluate **each** relevant sentence before selecting.
2. Mark down the sections under consideration.
    - Do **not** evaluate outside sections
3. Eliminate if the description only *partially* applies.

Text Completion Questions

- Do **not** assume the first blank should be filled first

1. Read the entire passage.
2. Compose a one sentence summary.
3. Identify significant words & phrases.
4. Identify any structure words
    - **Addition:** also, and, besides, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly, too
    - **Contrast:** although, but, despite, even though, however, in contrast, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the other hand, rather, regardless, still, though, yet
    - **Cause and Effect:** accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, due to, hence, if. . . then, since, therefore, thus
    - **Exemplification**: for example, for instance, in particular, specifically, such as
    - **Generalization:** as a rule, generally, in general, ordinarily, usually
    - **Time and Sequence:** after, afterward, before, currently, eventually, finally, first, in the meantime, initially, later, meanwhile, next, now, subsequently, then
5. Think up your own words for the blanks.
6. Double check

Sentence Equivalence Questions

1. Read sentence to get an overall sense.
2. Identify key words and phrases
3. Think up your own words for the blanks.
4. Double check

Quantitative Reasoning

Assumptions

- All numbers used are real numbers
- All figures are assumed to lie in a plane unless otherwise indicated
- Geometric figures, are **not necessarily** drawn to scale.
- Coordinate systems, such as xy-planes and number lines, **are** drawn to scale
- Graphical data presentations **are** drawn to scale

General Problem-solving Steps

1. Understand the problem
    - Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, data analysis
    - Identify quantitative information
    - Identify formulas, definitions or conditions
    - What do you need to accomplish in order to solve the problem?
2. Carry out a strategy
    - *repertoire...*
3. Check answer
    - Have you answered the quetion that was asked?
    - Is the answer reasonable in the context of the question?
    - Are there any computational mistakes?

Strategies

1. Translate Words to an Arithmetic or Algebraic Representation
2. Translate from Words to a Figure or Diagram
3. Translate from an Algebraic to a Graphical Representation
4. Translate from a Figure to an Arithmetic or Algebraic Representation
5. Simplify an Arithmetic or Algebraic Representation
6. Add to a Geometric Figure
7. Find a Pattern
8. Search for a Mathematical Relationship
9. Estimate
10. Trial & Error
11. Divide into Cases
12. Adapt Solutions to Related Problems
13. Determine Whether a Conclusion Follows from the Information Given

Quantity Comparison Questions

1. Become familiar with the answer choices
   - *Do not "Relationship cannot be determined" if the values of the two quantities can be computed*
2. Avoid unnecessary computations
3. Geometric figures are **not** necessarily drawn to scale
4. Plug in numbers
   - *Consider all appropriate numbers: eg., zero, positive & negative*
5. Simplify the comparison
   - Quantity A [?] Quantity B