

Hi, How are you.

My name is Sulaiman AbdulGafar. My friends call me PROFAGAS. I attended Vanguard's Academy for my secondary education. I had my B.Sc and M.Sc from the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, from the University of Lagos. I gave the GRE on the 10th of July, 2019. By the special grace of God, I had 331. Q167 V164. AWA 4.0.

With respect to the barrage of messages concerning getting a 330+ in the GRE I have been receiving, I decided to just make my comments on acing the GRE. Please forgive me for my blunders and grammatical errors. Secondly, these are my views, correct or incorrect as they may seem to you.

1. The GRE is damn **EASY**. I am not trying to sound like a motivational speaker when I tell u to "Please have this in your mind, know this and even say this". The GRE is a standardized test meaning they are restricted. They have a standard. They have a particular number of tricks up their sleeves. The goal is to be able to discern as much tricks as possible before test day. Once you are able to do this. You are good to go. On test day, I saw some questions and smiled because I already knew what the traps were in the questions and how ETS were expecting me to think, so I think in the other way and defeat them.
2. For Quant, Acing the GRE requires three things. 1. Concept 2. Speed 3. Discernment.
Concept is the actual knowledge you need to know, the actual rules, theories, laws and formulas you should know, the Maths. **Speed** is actually doing this maths during a specific time period, Of course the GRE is a timed test, while **Discernment** is the ability to quickly see the answer by inspection, ability to quickly know you're solving in the wrong way, ability to quickly strike off wrong answers, ability to be able to make correct guesses. This is the most important and the gist, if u know all the concepts and you're fast and can't discern you will keep falling into traps laid down by ETS, finish with 10 minutes to spare and get and 142/170.
3. ETS mentions and I quote "the GRE aims to measure verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, analytical writing, and critical thinking skills that have been acquired over a long period of learning". So they want to measure your thinking skills not your maths skill. More reason they call it "Quants" and not just maths. Maths is just a means of measuring your thinking skills, there are several other ways. For one, all those diagrams made up of triangles and circles that we see in dragnet and NNPC tests are also a way to test reasoning and discernment. The GRE maths is actually lesser than our WAEC SS3 syllabus, and we all passed WAEC. So the problem is never the maths. Of course we

Engineering students have an edge in Maths that y'all don't have, but that does not "exclusively" means we are better at thinking but our years long experience with Maths has sharpen our Maths concept and Speed. So we rely on those two things, our experience has negated some answers already by inspection. Even when we make mistakes, we are quicker to know most times midway before continuing solving in the wrong direction, and we turn back and find another route. So while an engineer has a better background of several concepts for a particular question and knew the most appropriate one and when to abandon a method, his speed made him to quickly abandon one way and choose another, the non-mathy person doesn't have that and would have to solve till the end before knowing the answer is wrong. Then he tries another way and spends time on that again and go all the way till the end, the engineer guy has moved on. This is not to say engineers aren't critical thinkers, Of course we are THE BEST at critical thinking, like who else can it be, but just to show that other non-mathy person can ace Quants too. So remember, the end is critical thinking, the means is Maths. So if the GRE used those dragnet diagram as the means of testing critical reasoning, the engineers might also be at a disadvantage, while some other guys would be favored. That doesn't mean we still won't score highest.

4. QUANTS

So to the brass tacks, you need to know the concepts and maths, that's why we have the Manhattan 6 books (Algebra, Word Problems, Numbers, Fraction-Decimal-Percentage, Geometry, Quantitative Comparison-Data Interpretations) and the 5 pounds' book of practice problems. To get 165+, You should and MUST finish those books. I did. Once you read the concepts in the 6 books, you go ahead to solve questions from the book of practice problems.

Please study in one particular place. Don't use a jotter or souvenir. Get a new higher education. And solve. Sit down and solve. Don't skim. Keep reading from the Manhattan 6 books and solving from the 5 lb. You need to study in a particular book for reference purposes. And you need to jot down points and formulas.

For Speed, you can start working on your speed, through your reading. In Manhattan, there are practice problems. The actual GRE is 35 minutes for 20 questions, giving average 105 seconds for one question. You can aim to solve questions in 75, 80, 85 seconds. So if for example you have a practice set that has 17 questions. You attempt them in 17×80 seconds. There are questions that would take just 20 seconds while some would take 90 seconds. so they balance out. You can also work with 90s, if you're slow, but never ever more than 100s. With that you're working on your speed also.

For Discernment, you need to solve a wide variety of questions, AND NOTE DOWN YOUR MISTAKES. note down the wrong line of thoughts you've taken before or wrong assumptions you've made before. You don't need to only look at the solutions to questions you missed, even the solutions of questions you got. Because there are several correct ways to a question and there is only ONE ETS way. And that is the fastest, smartest ways. You can see all these from Magoosh videos.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B6XyuTPyOvE_VnEyMU1SbURQc2M

You need to note your errors, so you don't fall into them again. Points like this, so you always remember.

- If solving isn't possible, try values
- There's a difference between integer and number
- Median of percentiles is not median of values
- Zero can be a quotient
- Always compare don't calculate

5. VERBAL

No offence, but the verbal section is tougher than the quants. My opinion though, you have to cram vocabs, watch out for traps, read essays about how a painting in 1876 by an artist affected the civil war in 1895 or how phytoplanktons on the ocean floors help curb global warming and led to the enactment of a law. Why?!!!!. What concerns us with that. How about reading about the good old Mr Akpan and his fine daughters. The verbal section doesn't have a formula, or no fixed pattern like quants. Just there to frustrate good people. But it's the GRE. So it can be aced also.

6. PACING

As far as pacing goes in Verbal GRE, the cheapest sets of questions are SE, then TC. Then the almighty RCs. The GRE is a STANDARDIZED TEST, so we know, there are 6 TC questions, 4 SE questions and 10 RC questions per section. One better again, we know the numbering.

1-6-----TC

7-11----RC

12-15—SE

16-20---RC

As regards pacing, there are some TCs that are tougher than RCs, especially the three blank passages and all. But on a general Rcs are crazier than TCs. So for pacing, I complete my SE and TCs in the first 10 minutes, then the remaining 20 minutes for RC. You have a little control over SEs and TC than RCs. So after my 1-6, I move to 12-15, then I continue till 20. Then to number 7. Also the short passages before long passages. The most important thing in RC is comprehension and you tend to spend more time comprehending long passages than short ones.

P.S. Please don't think of starting RC and going back to TC or SE questions, once you start RCs, you'll be lost in those questions because you'll be spending times looking out for subtle differences between option A and B, take it from someone who's had 10 GRE mocks.

7. VOCABS

You need to memorize vocabs. A lot of them. To help with this, that's why we're grateful for the Magoosh Flash cards. It contains a little over 1000 words. That's the first step. you need to memorize them. Then you have the Manhattan 1000 and Barrons 1000. You need to memorize those also. That should be enough. That doesn't mean 3000 words oo. Some words are in all three lists. If you have like 600+ intersecting words, and you've known like 600+ words already from your 6-3-3-4 schooling. That leaves like 1500+ NEW words. If you take 30 words per days, that's 50 days. Less than 2 months. The flashcard is an app on your phone, the word list is also a PDF file on your phone. 30+ minutes during journey to work, 30+ minutes during journey back from work. That's 1+ hour already. That's enough. Even some of us spend more than 30 minutes in transit. So just keep tapping, instead of just looking at the Lagoon from the 3MB. Even better, the brain is fresher and ready to assimilate in the early mornings.

Of course you would forget some memorized words, that's why u have mnemonics. Mnemonics are things that assist in your memory. Like the good old MR NIGERD for the characteristics of living things. There's a mnemonics app called "Mnemonics dictionary offline". I don't think it's on playstore. But it's on apkpure.com. They have mnemonics that would make words stick. I tell you. Very creative ones. although It was developed by some Indians, they have mnemonics in English language also. No wonder those guys ace the GRE. You will come across new words while practicing. write them down.

<https://apkpure.com/mnemonic-dictionary-offline/com.phuongdroidstudio.mnemonicdictionaryoffline>

It's an offline dictionary, so if your data is on, it might be misbehaving by trying to connect to the internet for more mnemonics option from people. So, you might have to switch off your data.

INIMICAL word of the day

INIMICAL - Dictionary definition and meaning for word **INIMICAL**

Definition
(adj) not friendly

Synonyms : unfriendly

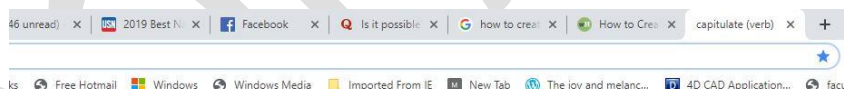
Example Sentence

- an unfriendly act of aggression
- an inimical critic

Mnemonics (Memory Aids) for INIMICAL

inimi=enemy, and enemies cause damage. So inimical means something damaging.	Powered by Mnemonic Dictionary INIMICAL ~ inimi (sounds like ENEMY) + cal; Enemies are HOSTILE and of-course UNFRIENDLY.	amicable another GRE word meaning "FRIENDLY" and ini(NOT) aMICABLE meaning "UNFRIENDLY" or "NOT FRIENDLY" ..
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This is their site. They have a mobile app that is usually updated with mnemonics that people come up with every day. You can also install the **chrome Magoosh extension**. It gives you words for every new tab you open or when you refresh your browser.



capitulate

verb: to surrender (usually under agreed conditions)

Paul, losing 19-0 in a ping-pong match against his nimble friend, basically **capitulated** when he played the last two points with his eyes closed.

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Prep smart, go far. Enjoy the ride.
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8. SE

The questions I love the most, easy. you can spend just 20 seconds on some sef. Remember u are looking for 2 words that can make sense. Not necessarily synonyms, although most times they are synonyms. There is really nothing difficult with SE if u know your vocabularies. You just need to avoid traps, there are several traps. the most common is theme traps, where they put incorrect words that are wrong but go well with the theme of the sentence. For SE Know your vocabularies and watch out for traps.

9. TC

Can be one-blank, 2 blank or 3 blank. You should watch Magoosh videos for this. It has just a couple steps to follow. There are basically two steps. Read the entire paragraph and Start with the easiest. However,

- Don't ever look at the option. Don't ever. That's the recipe for disaster. I'll usually use my fingers to cover the screen, choose a word in my head to fill the blanks. Then look at the options for words that are synonymous to my choice.
- Don't be scared to choose a word you don't know, if you are sure the words you know there are wrong.
- Opposite is key. Opposite is very important and frequent. Opposite can be Time shift or comparison.

In summary, one textbook but tough way of acing SE and TC is vocabulary. Imagine this that you have a dictionary beside you to solve these questions. You would hardly miss a question, because you would know the meaning of each word. So a very large database of GRE vocabularies is very helpful, if you don't know the meaning of the word that's the answer, you know the meaning of words that are not the answer.

There are four reasons people fail TCs and SEs,

- **Vocabulary:** You understand the paragraph and what should be in the blanks but You don't know the meaning of most of the words in the options, so you can't choose a word that's synonymous.

- **Out of Scope:** You thought in a different way entirely and chose words in that particular line of thought and went ahead to choose words that suits such. You might even know most of the words in the option.
- **No Understanding:** You don't even understand the paragraph maybe because its too long, or there are modifiers, clauses and phrases that just scatters everything.
- **Extent:** You understand the paragraph, know the words that'll fill the blanks and know most of the vocabularies in the options but you chose the words that's too strong or too weak.

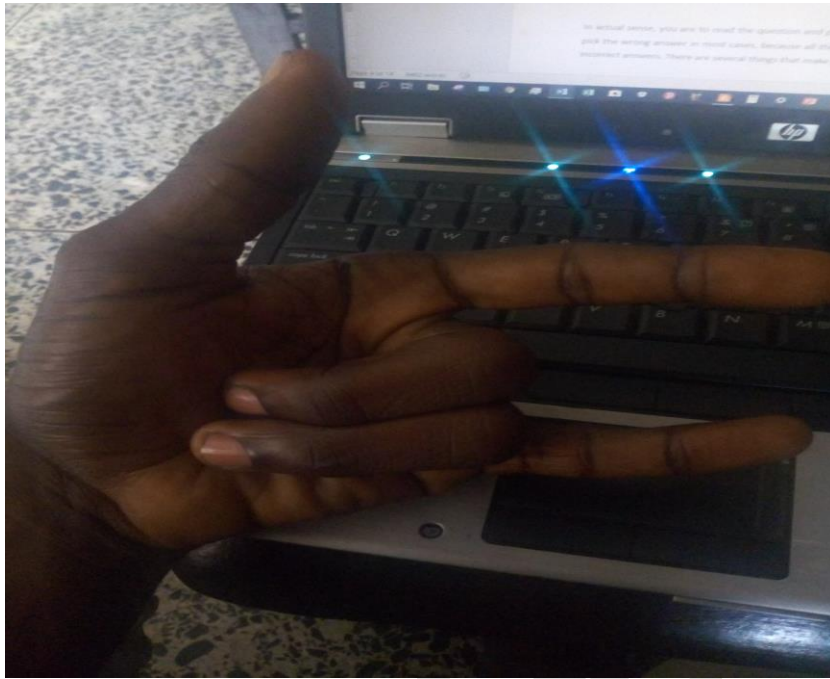
NB: Sometimes, on a bad day or in some clueless questions, you can even have two of these reasons. where for example, you don't even understand the paragraph and know the vocabularies sef. Just find your nemesis or nemeses and find a solution.

10. RC

This is by all means the toughest of them all. Gosh. There are essays, I tell you. Scary essays. some might give you a headache just after two paragraphs. Another thing, all the answers are almost right. For RC, you should read Kaplan chapter 7. That is the best. They have a five step approach. Please stick to it. In the frenzy of the exam, you might actually be tensed and skip steps or abandon it altogether, that's why you need to use the approach as practice so you get accustomed to it. It works. Believe me.

In actual sense, you are to read the question and pick the answer, but if you should try doing that, you will pick the wrong answer in most cases, because all the answers are similar. So what do you do. You look for incorrect answers. There are several things that make an answer incorrect, depending on the answer stem. You will see all those in Magoosh and Kaplan. some include Too Specific, Too broad, Direct Contradiction, Rotten Apple, Out of Scope, etc. There are quite a number. For each of the question stems, there are several specific incorrect options. You need to know them.

Use your fingers. Your thumb is option A through your middle finger (option C) till your little finger option E.



In this pic, I have cancelled option C and D. Meaning they have been condemned. I'll do this till I've condemn 4 options and left with just one. Please don't condemn any option that you arent sure its incorrect.

- So when I start and I read from option A to E and I can confidently cancel C and D. With my hands like that, I start again from A then B then E. If I condemn B. Then I look at A and E, and condemn one of them. Of course this your cycle of sweeping from A to E is time bound, you don't want to spends minutes on one questions. More reason you have to get familiarised during practise.
- Don't look at option you've condemned. it's virus. That's why u need to be sure before condemning. Continue like that till you are left with one. of course in difficult questions, youre left with two options and youre thinking theyre both correct or youre stressed already, just look for the one you feel is most appropriate. Pick and go.
- Another thing you can do is Divide and Rule. What is Divide and Rule. RC is a wide variety of questions. There are seven question types in RC. Inference, Global, Detail, Logic..etc. You'll see all this in KAPLAN. So do an xray of those questions from the mocks. So after like 4 mocks, Do the analysis of these question stem.

MIMS EDUCATIONA

ETS		Manhattan		Princeton Review	
V1	V2	V1	V2	V1	V2
7 Reasoning ✓	Global ✓	Reasoning ✓	Inference ✓	Global ✓	Reasoning ✓
8 Detail ✓	Logic ✓	Global ✓	Detail ✓	Inference ✓	Global ✓
9 Global ✓	Inference ✓	Inference ✓	Global ✓	Inference ✓	Inference ✓
10 Detail ✓	Inference ✓	Inference ✓	Global ✓	VIC ✓	Global ✓
11 Inference ✓	Inference ✓	Detail ✓	Inference ✓	Reasoning ✓	Detail ✓
16 SIP ✓	VIC ✓	SIP ✓	Reasoning ✓	Inference ✓	Logic ✓
17 Detail ✓	Inference ✓	Detail ✓	Inference ✓	Logic ✓	Inference ✓
18 VIC ✓	Reasoning ✓	Inference ✓	VIC ✓	Inference ✓	Detail ✓
19 Logic ✓	Detail ✓	Global ✓	SIP ✓	Inference ✓	Detail ✓
20 Logic ✓	Reasoning ✓	Reasoning ✓	Logic ✓	SIP ✓	SIP ✓

Princeton		Exp	
V1	V2	V1	V2
7 Reasoning ✓	Inference ✓	Reasoning ✓	Reasoning ✓
8 Inference ✓	Global ✓	Global ✓	Global ✓
9 Detail ✓	Detail ✓	Inference ✓	Inference ✓
10 Reasoning ✓	Inference ✓	Reasoning ✓	Reasoning ✓
11 Inference ✓	Global ✓	SIP ✓	SIP ✓
16 Detail ✓	Reasoning ✓	Reasoning ✓	Reasoning ✓
17 Detail ✓	Logic ✓	Detail ✓	Detail ✓
18 Inference ✓	Inference ✓	Inference ✓	Inference ✓
19 Detail ✓	Detail ✓	Detail ✓	Detail ✓
20 Detail ✓	Inference ✓	Detail ✓	Detail ✓

	total	GOT	MISSED	% GOT	% MISSED
Inference	27	12	15	44	56
Global	12	8	4	67	33
Detail	19	12	7	63	37
Logic	8	6	2	75	25
Vocabulary in	4	2	2	50	50
Reasoning	14	6	8	43	57
Select in Passage	6	4	2	67	33
	90	50	40		

This is my analysis of my RC questions from 4 mocks. From this, I knew that out of RC questions, Inference and Reasoning are my weakest point. So, I practice more and focus on them and whenever, I see an Inference and Reasoning Question, I am challenged to want to get it right. They became special in my heart, lol. So find out that trouble question stem of yours, and take a special case with them. The

saying that “Anything would give up its secrets if you love it enough” doesn’t only apply to humans but everything.

- Please note, that It’s not very easy to see improvements in your RC. It’s a quite wide variety of questions, and this can be discouraging. But you are actually improving, u just can’t see it. It’s a slow and steady improvement. So you can start with 20 Rc questions, solve them. No pressure. whatever u get over 20. record that. then go and check the solutions and explanation. **STUDY THE EXPLANATIONS.** Then take another set of twenty, try to get at least one more than your previous score. Then another twenty, try to get at least one more. Like that and like that and like that. You’ll notice a 1pt, 2 pt, 0 pt, -1 pt, 3pt, 2 pt or even 0 pt increase. A slow but steady increase. And that’s quite good for you. Because its only with time you’ll be reaching 15-18/20.

Also,

1. Do not reread a paragraph. if you try that, you will go back again, to try to understand it and again and again, and again, till you’re confused. You are meant to skim the passage to get points.
2. You can visit this link, to know more about active reading.
3. <https://crunchprep.com/gre-reading-comprehension-guide>
4. Please find proof for every word in your selected answer choice. Once one word isn’t evidenced from the passage, it is wrong.

I am putting these two pictures here to pass a message. RC can be aced too. Believe me. Just take it as a problem. Dismantle it. Follow these steps. You will get it. It’s an open book test, in that, the answers are in the passage. Just look for it. I once had a problem with it, always getting 3/10.

■ https://greidiagnostic.ets.org/GKEDWeb/gred/gre_nome.jsp

11

But with Kaplan and some other materials, I got all the RCs in my section 1 correct. **ALL OF IT**. You can. **USE KAPLAN**. I missed just three in my section 2 RC questions. In fact, my RC performance was better than my TC and SE. I failed more TC and SE questions than RC. Obviously I had devoted love to RC, and neglected my first love. So beware, your “strong point” can fail you on exam day and if only you had given attention to that other topics or that other section of Verbal or Quants.

11. AWA

AWA. AWA. The other verbal friend. I didn't really practice for AWA as there were over 250 topics u can write from. I had no control rather, I focused on Quants and Verbal that I had control over. They had limited scope. I'm a maths guy also, so writing isn't my thing. I just found a template from Magoosh and Princeton. And I am certain Princeton is the best material for AWA. Believe me.

The following argument is flawed for numerous reasons. Primarily, the argument is based on the unwarranted assumption that **the city of Littleville and Bigsбург are the same**, rendering its main conclusion, **that the Littleville mall will follow the success of Bigsбург's mall**, invalid.

The argument fails to provide any justification **that the two cities are similar in terms of their respective populations**. For one, **the residents of Bigsбург may be wealthier than those of Littleville**. This important difference could explain the success of Bigsбург's mall. More significantly, the argument states that the Littleville's mall hopes to attract wealthy clientele. If Littleville is a middle or lower- class city, then the assumption that wealthy customers will patronize the store is without basis. Had the argument provided information regarding the **similarity in the income levels of the two cities' residents**. Even then, the argument would have to further prove that, like the citizens of Bigsбург, those of Littleville are likely to spend money at a mall.

The argument also leaves many other unanswered questions. **Even if the residents of Littleville are wealthy enough to patronize boutique stores, they are not necessarily likely to travel to a newly constructed zone**. Nonetheless, the argument assumes that because residents of Bigsбург frequented a mall in a fashionable central location area that the residents of Littleville, even if they are as likely to spend, will make a trip to a **zone outside the city**.

Finally, the argument claims without warrant **that what held true ten years ago will hold true today**. So even **if we assume that the residents of Littleville are similar to those of Bigsбург**, the argument is still lacking because it does not provide information **to show that the general economic climate has not changed**.

Because the argument makes several unwarranted assumptions, it fails to make a convincing case **that Littleville's mall will mirror the success of the one in Bigsбург**.

That is my Argument essay template. The text in black are the column of the templates while those in Red are to be edited. So whatever the topic, I just looked for three points and fit it as possible to replace the red texts. Then one paragraph to conclude.

The issue essay is quite tricky. I start with a definition of any key term I see in the topic. say “some would argue” but other would state

Find two points then one concession point. Then conclude. Just pray that points come to your head on exam day and you’re given familiar topics u can relate with not some topics in art or humanities.

I was quite lucky, I got one of those secondary school debate topics. You might not be lucky. so please prep for AWA. 340/340 and 2.0 AWA is bad and might affect you.

Ensure you write all the essays in your mocks. if they don’t grade it. Visit www.testbig.com. They allow you grade one essay per day. And they are quite a good indicator of your actual AWA score. Write as much as you can. You really need the AWA also, especially for Ph.D.

For more on concession points and the rest, you should read Princeton AWA and Magoosh videos AWA and also the official guide. Please don’t read essays that are scored 4 or below. Read only 5 and 6. PLEASE. don’t input what you don’t want into your brain, because those score 4 essays would also sound nice.

Beauty, by definition, is that which moves us or impacts us significantly. Some would argue that beauty is found everywhere, from the flowers to the stars. But others would state that true beauty is found only in rare, special instances. After weighing the evidence, it is certain that beauty is the province of the exceptional, not the commonplace. People are moved most by things that they rarely experience, not the things they experience every day.

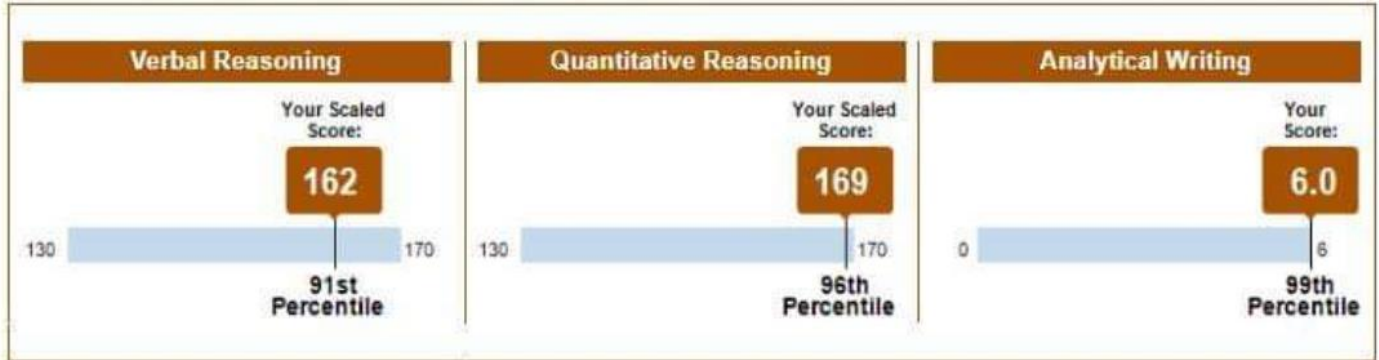
Those who would argue that true beauty is everywhere might point to the beauty of a flower, or the starlit night. These experiences are certainly common, but do they show that true beauty is commonplace? Flowers might be considered beautiful, but how often does a person stop to look at or appreciate every flower? Flowers are so common that in many cases, they are ignored or viewed as nothing special. However, on those rare occasions—exceptional occasions, one might say—when we want to commemorate an event or express emotion, we notice the beauty of flowers. Thus, it is not the commonplace flower that strikes us as beautiful, but the exceptional situations themselves that move us to appreciate the flower.

Now consider the exceptional. Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa is surely one of the most exceptional, and beautiful, paintings ever created. Few people who view the painting are not moved by the sheer beauty of it, and the Mona Lisa is instantly recognized as a masterpiece of art. And yet, there have been literally millions of paintings produced in human history. Is every single one of them beautiful? Does every one of those paintings have the impact that da Vinci's does? Of course not. In order to find beauty, we must separate the exceptional cases from the common ones. True beauty is such because it stands out from the masses of the average and pedestrian.

Like da Vinci's Mona Lisa, the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris is an exceptional, and exceptionally beautiful, object. Churches and cathedrals line the streets of most major cities in Western Europe, but few possess the renown of Notre Dame, one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the world. Compared to a common church or cathedral, Notre Dame is truly awe-inspiring; Victor Hugo used the building as the backdrop for his magnificent book The Hunchback of Notre Dame and thousands of tourists travel untold miles to view the cathedral. That sort of beauty is not possessed by just any church on the corner.

In conclusion, it's clear that true beauty is found not in the commonplace, but in the exceptional. The Mona Lisa and Notre Dame Cathedral are both exceptional examples of fairly commonplace things and it is these exceptions that are noted as truly beautiful. If anything, the commonplace serves only as a contrast so that we can understand what true beauty really is

Your Scores for the General Test Taken on May 13, 2019



Your Test Score History

General Test Scores

Test Date	Verbal Reasoning		Quantitative Reasoning		Analytical Writing	
	Scaled Score	Percentile	Scaled Score	Percentile	Score	Percentile
May 13, 2019	162	91	169	96	6.0	99
March 25, 2019	161	88	163	83	4.5	82

Please ensure you prepare for your AWA. It's also important, especially for Ph.D, and it can also be an edge or some sort of distinction. Write as much as you can and grade it on www.testbig.com. The score above is also 331. Same as mine, but that AWA is from heaven. He has an edge over me already.

12. QUALITY MATERIALS

There are several prepping companies with different books. a lot of them. They all have their weak points and strong points. So number 1 is the official GRE materials. the trio of the Official guide, official quants practice questions and the official verbal practice questions. You should be over familiar with the content of these books. you should've solved all the questions there. All of it. they are the most trustworthy guys. You also need the GRE Maths review and GRE Maths convention documents they are also by ETS.

For quants, it's a worldwide concession, Manhattan 6 books and the 5 lb book of practice question are the best for the concepts. Then you need to watch Magoosh lecture videos. They are some repetitive things here, so u can set the playback speed to 2x so u can finish in time. That should be enough.

It's not really about reading, it's about solving questions. So u should pay attention to questions and HOW THEY ARE SOLVED. this is very important. HOW THEY ARE SOLVED. You should watch the

Magoosh practice questions videos for this and please don't set speed to 2x. there are different ways to solve a question and only one ETS way of solving.

For Verbal, Manhattan is quite weak, but you should try to read them (books 7 and 8). The best for this is almighty Kaplan. Kaplan is goooooood. It actually saved me. For RC, Kaplan is the god.

For AWA, the best is Princeton and Magoosh.

The point is You don't need plenty materials. You don't. In fact, some materials are point blank bad. Like bad for u. they don't set ETS like questions. Don't use anyhow material you see or mock test u see. Whatever it is you are looking for is in Manhattan, Magoosh, Kaplan and Princeton. That is all. THAT IS ALL. Others are just repetition or bad for you. Here's a link of ETS materials and the select materials I compiled. This is more than enough. Don't spend time going through several sources, reading same thing over and over. Especially if you're short on time or have a tight schedule.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bwM-qGH9kijlo_dJz3Az71mOJCzP2WoD/view?usp=sharing

Here's the link of essential materials and a plethora of practice questions from Magoosh and trusted guys that I compiled. This source is more than enough. Knock yourself out.

13. SECTION ADAPTIVE

The GRE is section adaptive meaning your performance in section 1 is very consequential. You try very well in section 1 and u get a difficult section 2, score medium in section 1 and you get a medium section 2. Score low in section 1 and you get an easy section 2. But different sections carry different marks. If u get 4/20 in section 1 and the 20/20 in section 2, your mark can never be like someone that had 16/20 in section 1 and 8/20 in section 2. Even though you both got 24/40. You got the easy section and while he got the hard section. So try your best in your section 1. Challenge your brain, by whatever means possible. In my verbal section 1, I failed just two questions, while in section two I missed a whole 7, and I still had 164/170. So section 1 is consequential. start well, that doesn't mean you should relax in section 2. Go at every section like your life depends on it.

For you to get a difficult section 2, there is a minimum number of correct answer you should have in question 1. Visit this link for more info about section adaptive.

<http://www.brightlinkprep.com/gre-scoring-algorithm-deciphered/>

14. PRACTICE! PRACTICE!! PRACTICE!!!

This can't be over-emphasized. You need to take practice tests for the tests. There are several practice tests online. Some are quite harder than the actual GRE, some are cheaper than the actual GRE. So you don't just take any practice test. More so, a mock takes about four hours, why would you want to spend hours doing the wrong tests. So these are tests, I will advise. Ten in number

- a. The two tests on Powerprep. (Online).
- b. The two tests in the Official Guide to the GRE
- c. Manhattan
- d. Kaplan
- e. Princeton (4)

When you sign up on the websites of the last three prep companies you get one free test. Follow the steps below to get three more tests by Princeton.

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So please ensure you take the test under conditions that are as close as possible to exam day conditions. Don't used 1.5x time setting. Don't talk to anybody. You can't pause on test day so don't use the pause button. (Of course, you should pause if for example your house is on fire). Don't pause for every insignificant thing. Use the onscreen calculator, not windows calculator or fx991. You should get the message by now. You should also space your tests. Don't just be doing tests and tests. Study, test, study, test and like that. And after every mock test, check your mistakes and write points of your

mistakes. The second online powerprep should be the last and should be taken at most two days to ur test not later.

15. FEEL YOURSELF

You need to feel yourself while writing the test. You need to feel good. That's why you are allowed to move around in a section. Every question in a segment carries equal mark. So start from number 1. and move around. Don't be sequential. Leave tough questions for later. If your first five questions are tough ones and youre solving sequentially. You spend 3 minutes on question 1, guess an answer, go to question 2 and spend another 2 minutes, you might get that. Go to question 3, you're frowning already. But u want to solve it, so u choose an answer. By the time you reach question 5. Your frustrated. time is running. And you're just moving ploddingly through the section. And just can't wait to end this really bad section while praying it is the experimental section. But how many experimental sections can u have. Your last section was also same.

So use the review tool. Once you are spending time on a question and no head way, leave it and come back. keep moving. sweep from one to 20. You could've solved 10,11,12 questions by the time u got to no. 20. You still have time. You're happy at least I've secured something. Then you go again and start with the questions u jumped, if no head way, leave and move and continue like that till you reach n0. 20 again. maybe you've solved 3 or 4 more. Now you have solved about 13, 14, 15 questions. go back and sweep again. Keep sweeping like that. that way you are in control. That doesn't mean you should be complacent, or think "at least I've had 16 questions done, I can relax", remember there is a difference between number of questions done and number of correct answers. However, during my tests I was already sure of 165+ in Q and 160+ in V by the questions I attempted. Continue till you are left with about 1 minutes and guess the remaining questions. Yes. guess. Everybody guesses. I did. ETS has some really tough questions, accept it. Just try to make an educated guess. And don't you ever leave questions unsolved. NEVER EVER. Devote like 40 seconds to ensure all questions are attempted. Leaving a question unsolved means you can't get 340, and why would you want that.

PS. Keep moving doesn't actually means you should be a coward and keep running around, running away from tough questions. Nope. Don't ever do that. You need to face the tough questions. You must face them. So after like two sweeps from 1-20 and then again to 20. You need to look at questions

more thoroughly. And face them. You have to. Infact you can sacrifice a question that is coming out blank in your head, for a question that's tough but more familiar. For example, I have three questions, with like 5 minutes left. One Combinatorics, one algebra and one geometry. I hate permutation and combination. I make a guess in that question. With that sacrifice, I now have 2+ minutes each for the algebra and geometry questions. Instead of running around, jumping between the three questions and dumping them halfway or waiting till the end of time and finally just guessing in all three questions. I hope you get the point.

Reading Comprehension - Shorter Passage: Description and Sample Questions				
Reference #	Question Type	Right/Wrong	Difficulty Level	Time Spent
1	Multiple-choice – Select One	Wrong	3	02:55
2	Multiple-choice – Select One	Wrong	3	02:05
3	Multiple-choice – Select One or More	Wrong	4	01:31
4	Multiple-choice – Select One	Right	4	02:00

https://grediagnostic.ets.org/GREDWeb/gred/gre_home.jsp 1/2

7/21/2019 ETS GRE Diagnostic Service: Verbal Reasoning

Reference #	Question Type	Right/Wrong	Difficulty Level	Time Spent
5	Multiple-choice – Select One	Right	4	00:39
6	Multiple-choice – Select One	Right	5	01:44
7	Multiple-choice – Select One or More	Right	5	00:40

Text Completion: [Description and Sample Questions](#)

This was my test diagnostic sent to me by ETS. Difficulty is from 1(Easy) to 5(Difficult). Difficult questions means u're to spend more time. I spent close to three minutes and over 2 minutes on two questions that I failed of level 3 difficulty. And just eighty seconds in total on two questions of level 4 and 5 difficulties. Obviously I guessed and I was lucky. So, everybody guesses. Try to guess smartly. And more time spent on a question doesn't mean you'll get it. Keep Moving!! I spent more time on cheaper questions that I failed and less time on harder questions that I got.

16. WEAK POINT

Please don't have a strong point in mind. Of course we all have what we loved the most in Quant and Verbal but don't have in mind that, this is your strong point going into the exam hall, because your strong point might mess u up on test day. Prepare for both. Aim for 170 on both. Don't sit down and be getting all the maths, feeling happy and complacent, while your verbal is suffering and vice versa. My maths have always been 169-170. I had to use the bathroom on test day which costs me about four minutes and affected my maths score. Because it was quite funny that my quants score was just a mere three points over my verbal. I'm grateful all the same. So If I had calculated 170 on my 'Strong point'

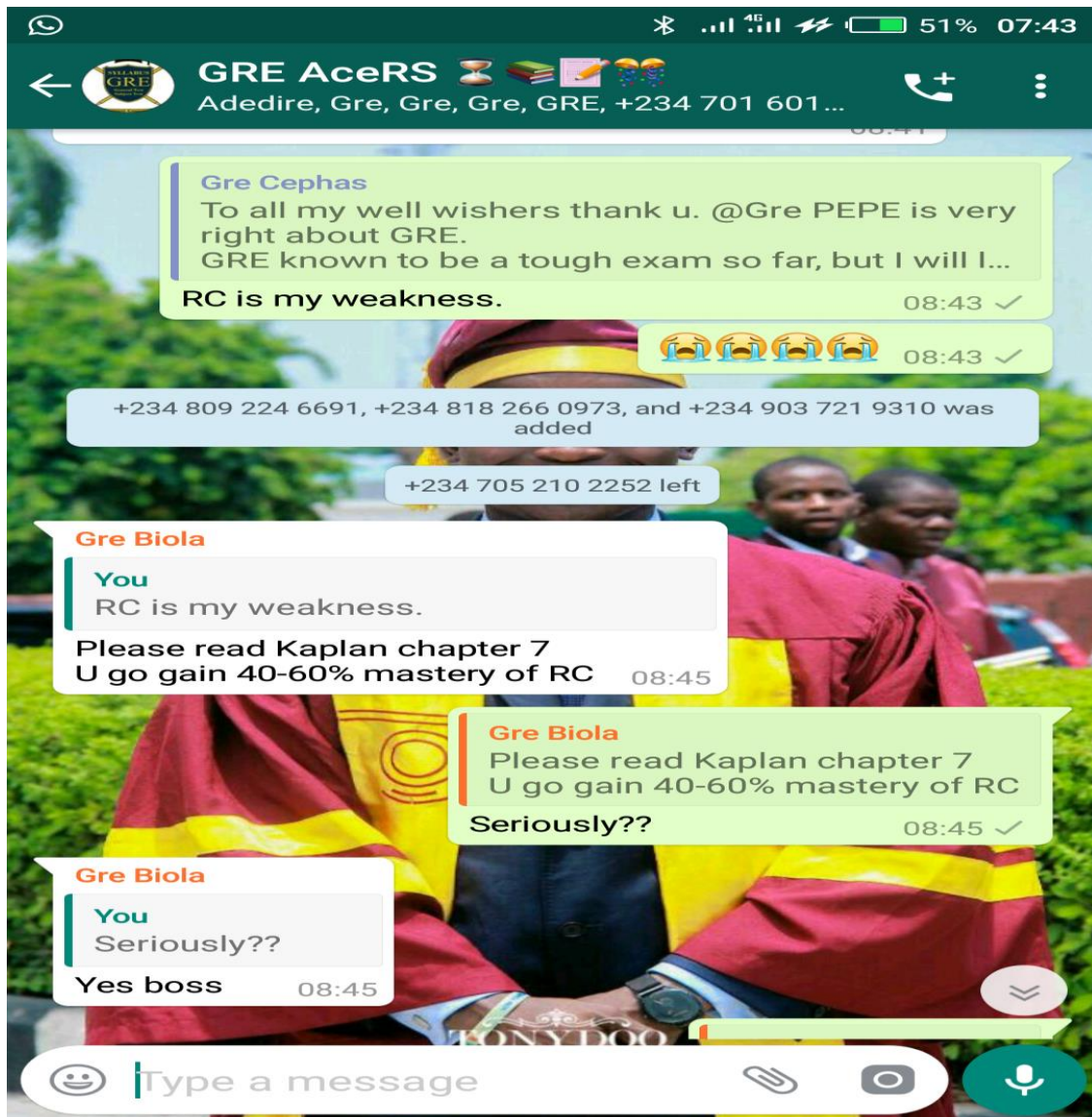
and plan to just get a mere 150 on verbal and end up with a 320. Nice plan you'll think but what if something happened. What if you were so unlucky to get really hard quants or verbal questions. What if u have to use the bathroom. What if u don't start well. What if the quants sections comes lasts, and your efficiency is already reducing. All these can reduce your 'planned 170' to 161 or even 157. Work on both Q and V.

17. MORALE

Not tryna be a motivational speaker. But you will need to score that your 330+ in your head first. After you are done with the concept stage and you in the speed and trap stage and you have to spend time solving questions. And you are taking mocks and you are not seeing improvements. Your score is not improving. You need morale. What would give you morale, is the reason you want to go for graduate studies. I am no person to mention or classify a noble or degraded reason. But you will need these reasons to give u a boost. Especially when you're making some sacrifices for this particular cause. So, your reason would console you when you would miss that Manchester City or Barcelona match (why are u watching them anyways). Some of us want to 'jaapa', and try and get better lives for ourselves. Use that to motivate yourself. A lady, I studied with, wanted to escape an arranged marriage with a guy she didn't like in India. She'd almost secure admission prior the GRE as she had impressed her prospective supervisor, and he mentioned she needs to write the GRE and pass a cut-off. She went 9 points above. Motivate yourself. This really works and I am speaking from experience.

18. PEOPLE

You need people. We're social animals. For one, you need to discuss with people who have had good GRE scores, people that scored above the scores you want. You'd get several tricks and skills from them. You get to ask specific questions. At least also, You'd also believe that normal human beings and even Nigerians get great scores, not just some crazy Indians and Asians. People like me and you.



Two, you can get on GRE groups on facebook, WhatsApp and telegram, there you can get a plethora of questions and people can solve them. You get to see questions solved by different methods by different people. Of course you want to attempt some also. With that u can even be prepping on the go, in the bus. The final straw that broke RC for me, KAPLAN was mentioned to me by Biola, infact he mentioned that my RC would increase by 40 - 60%, and it worked. I got the links to ALL the Magoosh premium videos from Tejas, an india guy from Facebook. All these were vital to my prep. More reason, I feel so obliged to write all this. So we all can ace it. So, you need people. Just to get another perspective.

Another thing, it's the people you practice GRE with that can also give you some hints when it gets to application, scholarships and all other non-GRE but graduate study issues. Don't be a lone wolf.

19. BE CONFIDENT

Don't aim for 320, or 315 or even 325. Aim for 340. Be confident. You can get it. If you notice a section that's challenging, take it as an issue and dissect it. Don't go to the test hall, already handicapped. You might not meet what you are planning for. If one section is your problem, try other approaches by other people or other materials, solve more questions on that topic. If you go in with a mediocre mind, you will get a mediocre score, because when u see those questions, you will know they are actually cheap.

Aim for 340 and you'd be surprised at what you can get. Believe me. Prepare, Pray and be confident. You'll get the score you want, and you'll be happy. YOU WILL BE HAPPY. I know the GRE is just one little step, and there are other criteria to be assessed, and then admission, then visa, etc, etc but believe me, I was elated when I saw my score. You should've seen me in the test hall. IT FELT GOOD.

Have a checklist of things to be done during Prepping, do them. Actually write them down, and tick them off as you are doing that. It gives you boost that you are heading somewhere. Pray to God. Quit study like two days before, so you're relaxed. Arrive test center early, so you're balanced. When you're sited and about to begin, you are ready and confident. "I've done all that's to be done", so you're just cracking your knuckles, waiting for ETS to do it's worst.

20. TEST DAY

Test Day is very important. Of course it's the day you've been spending days and hours preparing for. First you want to have do your last reading or prepping, like 2 days before so you won't be stressed on test day. You want to abstain from fluid on Test day. You would be allowed to use the bathroom but it would be at the expense of your time. You can't pause the test.

Please take snacks along, not food. You would have a ten-minute break after the third section. It's about 4 hours of test. your eyes might be turning, remember mental stress consumes more energy than 'gymming'. So stuff your face during the break. EAT. During break you want to stay of liquid as much as possible also. I had to use the bathroom during my test, during my first verbal, I was pressed, the officer came round and I told him specifically I would like to use the bathroom. After the verbal, and the sixty seconds break commenced, I asked if I could go and he said I need to start my next section before going. I was grateful my next section was Quants (we'll talk about prayer next). He said, that he had to log me off before I left the hall, I had to run to the bathroom, when I came back he scanned me again, saying show me your front pocket, back pocket, raise your collar and all that stuff. Even

used the scanner. Went to check my system before inviting me in. When I got back my timer was around 31:18 from 35:00. My bathroom trip cost me close to four minutes, if that was in Verbal. My score would be greatly affected. So stay off liquid.

Also, try as much as possible to go as early as possible, you don't want to be tensed by running all the way to the center, and having to beg the administrators. Also the test administrator might give you attitude, you know how people can be when they have little power. They might be exacting rules that ETS didn't send them. They're the god in those centers, just give them that day. No need to react to their actions there (we'll block him at the busstop). Don't let them put you in a bad mood.

21. PRAY

Of course you want to pray about it. Believe me it works. You'll want to be assured that the Almighty has your back, not even just for the GRE or even graduate studies as a whole.

A lot of things can go wrong. For one you need to fight your village people. They might be filling your bowels with liquid and food that will make you visit the bathroom up to five times during your tests. You can suddenly have "wiklo", you might fall sick. A lot of things can happen.

I for one, never had a 330 or above during any of my mocks. My highest mock score was 328 and I averaged 325 over 10 mocks. So I was actually expecting 320-325 on test day. But on test day, I had 331. In fact, I had to drop two of the schools I was thinking of before and pick some more top tier schools. I wasn't expecting the score at all. Believe me when I tell you, I was quite lucky also. I was. When I got home, my mum said the whole family prayed for me during Tahajjud for 2 days before the exam (I actually have 11 younger siblings, a higher chance of acceptance of prayer, lol). I really believe that worked, though they later charged me for that. So pray, in whatever means you deem fit. There's so little we can do by ourselves. So little.

22. BE HAPPY

You need to be happy. Whatever the scores you get. Of course you could've done better, still you could've done worse. A score is a score, there are several other things that make your profile.

For my people that want to use Education and graduate studies as a means to 'japa' from this our country. Actually, I am no more one of you guys. My score has made me one of the elite, lol. I am now actually intending to go to study so I can come back to develop my home nation (if I hear), those lies that commonwealth wants to hear. So for y'all unpatriotic people, there are 157 American

Universities in the top 1000 universities according to QS ranking. 26 canadian universities. That's about 200. Plenty schools in Europe, Singapore, Asia. So no matter your score, as long as u score considerably well. There are schools u can apply to. People have gotten full funding with 299. Let me put this in perspective, according to July 2018 edition from webometric.info there are "exactly 28077 universities" in the whole world.

The fact that a school is 897 or 986 on the QS ranking doesn't mean it's a bad school. That a school even enter top 1000 out of about 28000 means its in the top 3.5% schools. It is a good school. A very good school at that. At least its several several times better than UNILAG, not to talk of Covenant (I really don't understand how people conclude that covenant is better than UNILAG. Covenant!!!. Yes we know and agree covenant is moving at a very fast pace and UNILAG is just there moving sluggishly and its only a matter of time before they overtake UNILAG, but for now, today, it's nowhere close. It's like comparing that short dwarf to Ronaldo. A whole Ronaldo, the zeus of football. University of Brunei wasn't in the 2018 QS ranking at all, and they became 323 in the 2019 QS ranking, out of no where. Brunei has money. They can get the best of everything, Profs, facilities name it. Not trying to hate, but you should get the point by now. Just like Manchester City. It doesn't mean it's better than United. Just a bunch of money gropers and spoilt footballers. Don't worry we'll send y'all a memo when they finally overtake UNILAG).

For Muslims, there are schools in the Middle east, Saudi, Brunei, Bahrain, Dubai, (oil money schools). They are aplenty. There is King Fahd University in Saudi. schooling there is on default scholarship. Like there is nothing like tuition. Your housing is taken care of. you will be paid per month also. There are plenty other schools like that.

Why am I saying all these? Some might say they want to write the test again. Except you did excessively poor and you can identify THE SPECIFIC causes of the poor results. I see no reason why you wanna waste time prepping again. That's why you need to ensure you have done your prep well and be satisfied within yourself that you have done your best. If you get a decent score, there are several universities across the globe. Remember that writing the GRE again costs 220\$, while sending mails to Professors in schools or searching for suitable schools costs 0 Naira. Compare 220\$ to 0 Naira. 0\$ sef is expensive that 0 naira.

Mail all of them Profs, find a sweet message to toast them, tell them how u used their research. tell them how they can do better, tell them research problems they can solve. Mail the doctoral students in research group. You can tell him to advocate your case with the prof. Mail any Nigerian student you see. Mail any black man you see, its no doubt, Chinese profs are biased to Chinese students. Mail all the emails you see on the school website. Bomb all of them, of course you want to do it with sense. Don't put all of them in a CC, or BCC. Find his name and be more specific. Mail them your CV, transcript, result and all. Once he responds lasan, he has entered it. He might not have funding then and tell you to apply during the next admission session. He might forward your mail to his friend in another school that has funding. he might find u partial funding for 1st year and full funding for next years. Anything can happen. Why would u wanna waste your time jacking again, when u can bomb all of them. Saves time and saves money. Your 220\$ for GRE can pay the 75\$ application fee, send your GRE and toefl scores, transcript to a school and a lot more. think about it.

For all of us that actually want to study, and want to apply to the MIT- where the civil engineering department are no more doing concrete and are now studying the blood flow in humans and how the smallest photosynthetic cell affects our biodiversity (imagine), you can actually write the test again. Fine.

23. LIFE IS FOR LIVING

Of course, all these points make the GRE seems like some rocket science with so many things to do. Please don't let it affect your life. It's just an exam. Don't be reading and reading and become a misfit. You should still have time to be 'alive'. You should have time for your family. You can still see Money Heist or Designated Survivors.

Don't kill yourself. You don't need overnight. Don't let it affect your job. Plan your time very well. It'd be a terrible thing to be sacked because of GRE overnights. It's just a test. Yes, you can still watch Manchester United matches. We have Harry Maguire and AWB. Dan James. Ole is still at the wheel. So the future can't be brighter for us. Don't worry about that Wolves match. Wolves are nocturnal animals, hyper-active at night, that's why. Crystal Palace was just a bad day at the office. At least you saw what we did to those Londoners.

24. FINALLY

The GRE isn't about First Class or 3rd class, or "I know book or not". Not at all. If you don't prepare for the GRE, you will bang. That is the truth. It has its ways. All you have to do is ensure you "see ETS finish" I know plenty first class and "strong 2.1" that *lana*. Don't underestimate it.

The GRE is just a test but it's a consequential one. Your score can determine a lot. It can limit or vary your options. It's valid for 5 years. That's why you need to do a thorough job, and be satisfied with yourself. The worst thing that can happen to you is having that "I could have done better" feeling after your exam or even in the test hall. It can even affect you during your applications. You're not really confident. So please don't limit yourself. Aim for 340.

One more thing, the GRE is one "kinda sure" way to getting admission, I signed up for school search when registering for GRE and as a results I've been receiving mails from Universities. I've received 8 mails already including top schools like New York University, Rensselaer, etc. with some even offering to waive application fee and giving me links to apply for funding and scholarship. What usually bust my head is the "Dear AbdulGafar, based on your GRE profile, you may be interested in our", like me o, *Emi na*. Local man just wants to live and be happy. Some schools or professors are GRE-centric. They love "high scores". You'll give them the high scores they want. So the GRE is one way. I'm wishing you the very best of Luck.

***PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NO GRE HABIT WOULD BE DEVELOPED ON
EXAM DAY, NEVER, EVER.***

***YOU NEED TO INCORPORATE ALL THESE IN YOUR PRACTICE, IN YOUR
MOCKS. SO IT BECOMES EMBEDDED IN YOU. IN THE FRENZY OF THE
EXAM, YOU MIGHT BECOME FLUSTERED, BUT ONCE IT BECOMES YOUR
HABIT, YOU WOULD BE QUITE ACCUSTOMED TO IT.***

25. I am looking at applying for a Ph.D in structural engineering and specialize in Concrete Materials or Structural Health Monitoring. Please contact me if you have any useful information for me. Also contact me if you have more specific questions about the GRE, or like to get the memo when covenant University finally becomes better.

Facebook: Profagas Omo-IyaOnirice Tobi

Twitter: @iamprofagas

WhatsApp: +2347082196839.

I'll be more than willing to help. We all need to follow our dreams.

And if you're more belligerent and blasphemous to believe City is better than United, or that Messi is the GOAT (such blasphemy). Just text me the time and place. We need to fight this fight once and for all.

Cheers.

PROFAGAS.