**AN INTRODUCTION TO GMAT**

Meta Description:

An outline of everything to know about GMAT.

Keywords:

what is GMAT, know about GMAT, introduction to GMAT

What is GMAT?:

GMAT is an abbreviation for the Graduate Management Admission Test. It is a globally standardized test, and is used widely during admissions processing in business schools and/or other specialized master’s programs in various universities.

The examination is specific about certain skills and how they are measured, and all of them are related to business and management in one way or another. This is why business schools care about obtaining a certificate in this exam, albeit it does not test specified business knowledge.

When can I take up GMAT?:

That is, apart from getting into a business school, is the best part about this examination – you can take it up almost any day of the week. The exam is usually given on a computer, and is called a Computer-Adaptive Test, or CAT.

The only limitation in this very flexible schedule is that there can only be five attempts within the period of a year. Every attempt requires a gap of 31 days in between as well.

Taking up a CAT is an impressive experience in and of itself. Aptly termed a Computer Adaptive Test, the system adapts itself while you are in the process of attending your examination! This is very prominent in two of the four sections of a GMAT – the Verbal, and Quantitative sections respectively.

The first question of both of these sections are relatively moderate in difficulty. Depending upon how you perform in the previous question(s), the algorithm chooses the next question for you, progressively increasing in difficulty.

This means one of two things – first, that every candidate and exam-taker has a high probability of facing two completely different sets of questions by the end of the examination, although the test remains at the same level of relative difficulty for everyone; second, the scoring. The GMAT is scored in a very peculiar way.

How does the GMAT scoring work?:

Unlike regular testing, where your score depends upon the percentage of correct answers you deliver, scoring a GMAT is completely different.

The regular ol’ “correct answers equal more marks” tactic does not work when it comes to GMAT, especially during the CAT. The entire examination depends upon how good your decision making and resource management skills are!

It has been found that most GMAT takers answer a similar percentage of right answers, usually in the fifty to seventy percentage range. So, how do you distinguish between similar percentage of marks in a GMAT?

Remember how the algorithm gradually dials the difficulty of the question to eleven? Well, the scoring depends on that – it looks for the 60% level.

What is the 60% level?:

The 60% level is the level of difficulty at which the candidate answers 60% of the questions correctly. Depending upon the difficulty of correct answers versus incorrect answers, you are scored.

The entire exam lasts for three to four hours, depending upon the optional breaks – recommendation: take the optional breaks. The exam is split into four parts: Analytical Writing, Integrated Reasoning, Quantitative, and Verbal.

This is a basic introduction to GMAT, and the behind-the-scenes workings of the test.