**HOW THE GMAT ALGORITHM WORKS**

Meta Description:

An article explaining the working of the GMAT scoring algorithm.

Keywords:

The basics of GMAT:

Before we jump into how the GMAT algorithm works, here is a brief introduction to GMAT.

The Graduate Management Admissions Test, popularly known as GMAT, is a global examination taken by candidates who are wishing to pursue a career in business and management studies. They are a useful tool taken into account by major universities for admissions into business schools, or specialized master’s programs.

The GMAT is a 210-minute long test (including optional breaks, since 2018) that can be taken almost any day of the year. While there is a limit of taking the examination once a month and five times annually, there is no upper limit on the number of times it can be attempted.

GMAT is an exam that is open for candidates of all ages 18 and above, with special permission requirements for ages 13 to 17.

The GMAT Algorithm:

Your high school exam was probably percentage-based – this means that the more correct answers you get, the higher your percentage of marks get. But GMAT is no high school exam – and that includes their scoring pattern.

The first thing to know – GMAT is given on a computer, called a CAT. It stands for Computer-Adaptive Testing, where the system increases or decreases the difficulty of questions depending on the collective answers of previous questions. If you answer it right, the next question is more likely to be tougher.

The algorithm splits the questions into levels of difficulty, and tries to determine your 60% level. This level is compared with the same of others, and your scoring is relatively graded.

The 60% level:

The 60% level is the level of difficulty at which you answer 60% of the questions. Similar to how a regular exam would mandate obtaining 60% to pass it, the GMAT algorithm tries to find your 60% level.

This is the standard which is used to compare your scores with the scores that other candidates obtain – the more right answers, the greater the difficulty; greater the difficulty, higher your 60% level goes.

Why a special algorithm?:

While the regular linear scoring system works great for exams whose core vision is to see how many answers a candidate can get right, GMAT is not about that – rather, it is about how you utilize your decision making and resource management skills.

While there are no negative penalties associated with answering a question wrongly – which, in the context of GMAT, is even more restricted to its meaning – not answering a question is the worst penalty, at the most of losing a point per question left unanswered.

The last important point to remember is that your overall score is not a sum derived from your sectional scores – it is more complicated than a simple addition of parts. The final score of your GMAT also has an error range of 29 points, hence making it comfortable to adjust your percentiles.