**10 COMMON GMAT MISTAKES YOU SHOULD AVOID**

Meta Description:

An article about the ten most common mistakes during GMAT, and ways to mitigate them.

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How to avoid common GMAT mistakes?:

The concept of GMAT is a little finicky in and of itself, considering the varying adaptive testing methods, the algorithm-determined question papers, and not to forget the confusing scoring system. Hence, candidates that are used to regular examinations find it a little daunting to take up the GMAT.

Here are ten common GMAT mistakes you need to avoid while preparing or taking up a GMAT:

* **Unplanned preparation.** This is the most common mistake committed by a lot of people preparing for GMAT. When it comes to this test, more is not more. Preparation for GMAT should not hone your academic knowledge, but rather your skill-set and what lacks in it.
* **Cramming.** Another faulty link of the regular linear examination system is that it rewards candidates that can memorize more, rather than understand more. As like the previous point, you need a plan to improve specific weaknesses instead of overhauling your entire skill system.
* **Refusal to guesstimate.** Remember, the GMAT is not about how many questions you can get right; it is about adjusting your skill level as you go through the test. It is not absurd at all to choose guessing over spending valuable time trying to get a single question right. Unlike the regular examinations, GMAT is not about how right you are – not at all.
* **Wanting to beat the CAT algorithm.** Many candidates have tried and failed to beat the computer-adaptive tests and the algorithm behind it, by trying to guess the question’s difficulty and focusing on the harder ones more. It is better to do moderately on all questions rather than do well in some that you hope to be hard.
* **Relying only on prep books.** There is no reason to limit yourself when it comes to GMAT to arbitrary material when better resources are available out there. There are various helpful sites to personalize your approach to GMAT, and they work simply because GMAT in itself is a personalized examination.
* **Not taking enough time to prep and rest.** The GMAT is about you and your skills, not beating others or an algorithm. Take sufficient rest, prepare according to your needs, and ace the examination.
* **Simple math mistakes.** More often than not, a lot of mistakes committed in any examination will be due to a simple math mistake. Review your answers thoroughly and clearly, making sure you are not blind to your own mistakes.
* **Doing more than required.** GMAT is not about creating an impression on someone; the examination is reviewed and scored by an algorithm; only one of the sections require a human moderator. Do exactly what you are asked to do, and save yourself some precious time.
* **Assuming too much**. Never assume data that is not there, especially when it comes to the Integrated Reasoning section. Derive logically from the data provided, and eliminate answers that assume too much as well.
* **Study effectively**. Keep in mind that no two GMAT examination experiences can be the same. It is all about you and your skill-sets that are in question. So, prepare and perform in a way that fits you best.