**WHAT DOES YOUR GMAT PERCENTILE MEAN?**

Meta Description:

Exploring the behind-the-scenes of your GMAT percentile ranking report.

Keywords:

GMAT percentile, understanding your GMAT percentile, GMAT score

The basics of GMAT:

GMAT, abbreviated from Graduate Management Admission Test, is a computer-adaptive test (CAT) that is utilized as a tool to assess a candidate’s verbal, quantitative, reading, and analytical writing skills in English.

The test is an important certification for students that would like to pursue business and management courses, or very specialized master’s programs in various colleges around the world as well.

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.

Understanding your GMAT percentile:

Apart from a separate score provided post-examination, GMAT is also accompanied by a percentile ranking report. This provides a base to compare the final scores, and is an indication of how well you have performed in your GMAT.

Simple rule of thumb: higher your percentile, better your ranking. Percentile is fundamentally different from percentage – a 75 percentage implies you obtained 75 points out of every 100, while a 75th percentile implies that you outperformed 75% of the candidates that took up the examination.

The percentiles are calculated in comparison to a posse of test takers from the recent batch of GMAT candidates. This may lead to the question of comparisons with all of the test takers until that point of time; This is because the examination changes every few years, irrespective of how much, so it would be an unfair comparison.

Another factoid to take into consideration is that any GMAT score is only valid for five years. Hence, comparisons that go beyond that deadline becomes a dead weight to pull around for GMAC, while being unfair to the current batch of test takers.

What percentile should I aim for?:

Ideally, it is always the 100th percentile you should aim for.

On an average, the 88th percentile on a GMAT is around a score of 700 – on a 200 to 800 scale, that is impressive. Top-tier business schools tend to pick students that have around a ranking of 75th to 80th percentiles, while exclusive top 10 schools require you to be in the top 10% of GMAT test candidates.

You can see your unofficial scores immediately after completing your examination, and have an offer to accept or cancel the scores. Apart from the official GMAT score report, all self-canceled scores appear as a C on future score reports received by you.

The official GMAT score report is sent to schools, and includes the scores of all four sections of the examination from any and every reported examination taken and/or completed in the past five years. It also includes the most recent essay response in the Analytical Writing Assessment section, and the background information contained in your GMAT profile that was provided by you during the creation of the profile.