

GRE

GRE Test Breakdown

Here are the sections on the GRE test:

SECTION	Total amount of time allotted	Number of questions	Time to answer each question
Analytical Writing I Issue Task	45 min	1	45 min
Analytical Writing II Argument Task	30 min	1	30 min
Verbal	30 min	30	1 min
Quantitative	45 min	28	1.6 min
Verbal / Quantitative*	30 – 45 min.	N/A	N/A
Research**	N/A	N/A	N/A

*This section is unidentified and does not affect your score. It is used to test out possible questions on future GRE tests.

**This section is clearly identified and is always at the end of the test.

The Graduate Record Examination General Test measures basic cognitive skills that are unrelated to any particular course of study. The three skills which the GRE test seeks to measure are verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing. In the analytical writing section, the candidate will be asked to advance an argument in one 45-minute essay and critique an argument in another 30-minute essay. The GRE test is administered around the United States and Canada; though it is most frequently administered via computer, paper copies are also available. The scoring of the GRE test is not directly dependent on the number of questions answered correctly. This is because the GRE test is an adaptive test, in which the difficulty of the questions increases or decreases depending on the candidate's success during the test. Upon completion of the test, a score will be calculated by considering the number of questions answered, the number of questions answered correctly, and the difficulty level of the questions. The candidate will receive three scores: a verbal reasoning score (from 200 to 800); a quantitative reasoning score (from 200 to 800); and an analytical writing score (from 0 to 6). These scores will be sent to the candidate and to institutions within 10 to 15 days after the completion of the exam. The GRE test is composed and administered by the Educational Testing Service at locations around the world; prospective test-takers should visit the ETS website to register.

[GRE Practice Tests](#) / [Graduate Record Exam](#) / [GRE Exam Center](#) / [GRE Test Tips](#) / [GRE Test Score](#) / [GRE Test Vocabulary](#)

1a. What Is the GRE & What Does It Test?

The GRE (Graduate Record Examination) General Exam is a required test for most American graduate schools (except business schools, which require the [GMAT](#), and law schools, which require the [LSAT](#)). The GRE consists of three multiple-choice sections, Quantitative, Analytical and Verbal, and a new essay section called the Writing Assessment, which is taken separately.

Quantitative Section (Math Questions)
28 questions
45 minutes

High-scorers typically spend over 40 hours preparing.

Verbal Section (Sentence Completion, Antonym, Reading Comprehension)
30 questions
30 minutes

Essay Questions (Writing Assessment):

In the Writing Assessment section, you have to answer two essay questions. One essay asks you to present your opinion on an issue in 45 minutes, and the second asks you to analyze the reasoning of an argument in 30 minutes. The [800score](#) GRE Prep Course includes a prep guide on the essay section.

What Skills Does the GRE Test?

The GRE primarily tests four skill sets:

1. Endurance and ability to focus
2. Basic knowledge of word usage, math, inductive and deductive reasoning
3. Test-taking skills: ability to guess, work at an appropriate pace, and make decisions under pressure
4. Problem-solving abilities

The [800score](#) method is to focus on these skills that are necessary for both success on the GRE and in graduate school.

As for endurance, the first skill, you'll have to stare at a screen intensely and focus for over three hours. Keep this in mind when taking practice tests. Get used to working for hours on end. The physical and mental exhaustion is part of the test's challenge. That's why we offer 5 GRE CAT practice tests. You should take as many practice CAT's as possible so as to learn the test and to get used to the grueling experience.

The second skill set, a basic knowledge of reading comprehension, math, inductive and deductive reasoning, is covered in the later chapters of this online prep guide. No calculators are allowed on test day, so you need to practice doing basic math calculations by hand.

General test-taking skills are covered in this chapter and throughout the online guide. Timing is a major part of test taking, particularly for the GRE CAT. Our [Test Pacer](#) system will teach you the pacing interactively.

To improve your problem-solving abilities (the fourth skill set) we have extensive information on reasoning techniques and specific strategies. When you get a question wrong, make sure to review the conceptual error you made by reviewing our explanations for the question. You do not want to repeat the error.

How to Prepare

The GRE is a difficult and unusual test. Budget at least 50 hours to prepare for the GRE so as to get your best possible score.