

Graduate Record Examination (General Test)

What is the GRE general test?

The GRE® General Test measures critical thinking, analytical writing, verbal reasoning, and quantitative reasoning skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study.

What scores are reported?

Three scores are reported on the General Test:

- a verbal reasoning score reported on a 200-800 score scale, in 10-point increments
- a quantitative reasoning score reported on a 200-800 score scale, in 10-point increments, and
- an analytical writing score reported on a 0-6 score scale, in half-point increments.

Where can I take it?

The GRE general test is not available in Grand Forks. The Prometric Testing Center in Fargo, and Bemidji State University are the closest test centers.

How much does it cost?

Effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, the computer and paper based testing fees are \$140.

When is it offered?

It is offered any time the testing centers are open.

How do I register?

You may register by web, phone, or mail, with a minimum lead time to your desired test date of anywhere from 2 days to 4 weeks (depending on how you register). It is also possible to take the test on a standby basis.

What is the test like?

Section	Number of Questions	Time	
Analytical Writing 1 Issue Task*		45 minutes	* For the Issue task, two essay topics are presented and you choose one. The Argument task does not present a choice of topics; instead one topic is presented.
Analytical Writing 1 Argument Task*		30 minutes	
Verbal	30	30 minutes	
Quantitative	28	45 minutes	
Unscored	Varies	Varies	
Research	Varies	Varies	

Revisions to the Computer-based GRE® General Test

Reformatted Reading Passages in Reading Comprehension Questions

The reformatted question types are part of the first phase of the General Test improvements that are being introduced gradually over time. During this time, test takers may encounter both formats in their tests. The GRE Program believes that the new format will help students more easily find the pertinent information in reading passages. The GRE Program will begin counting these question types toward examinee scores as soon as an adequate sample of data from the operational testing environment is available.

New Question Types

In November 2007, the GRE Program began including two new question types in the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections of the computer-based GRE® General Test. Test takers may see ONE new Verbal question or ONE new Quantitative question or no new questions at all. No test taker will receive more than ONE new question. The new question types are part of the first phase of the General Test improvements that are being introduced gradually over time.

The new question types have been through extensive field trials, and the results indicate that they are functioning as intended. The GRE Program will begin counting these question types toward examinee scores as soon as an adequate sample of data from the operational testing environment is available.

When will I get my scores?

You will learn your verbal and quantitative scores the day of the test. All scores will be mailed to you and the institutions you select within 10-15 days of the date of the test.

How can I prepare for the GRE general test?

Self Study – purchasing a book (Kaplan, ETS, Princeton Review, Barron’s) and start studying now!!!

Or you can go to www.gre.org and get free downloads:

GRE POWERPREP Software — Includes two computer-based GRE General Tests, sample analytical writing topics, scored sample essays and reader commentary, test-taking strategies, a math review, and test tutorials. It is sent to individuals who register for the computer-based General Test.

GRE Practice General Test — Contains one full-length paper-based GRE General Test, test-taking strategies, sample Verbal and Quantitative questions with explanations, sample Analytical Writing topics, and scored sample essays and reader commentary.

An Introduction to the Analytical Writing Section of the GRE General Test — Contains a description of the analytical writing section, strategies for each task, directions, scoring information, scoring guides, score level descriptions, a sample test, and scored essay responses with reader commentary.

Math Review — Contains information on the mathematical skills and concepts likely to be tested on the GRE General Test.

Preparing for the Verbal and Quantitative Sections of the General Test - Contains sample questions with explanations.

If the GRE general test is supposed to measure what I’ve acquired over a long period of time, do I need to study?

YES!!! According to a study by Miller (1996), self studying for the GRE from 66 hours to 105 hours did improve scores. However, studying for up to 9 hours did not improve scores.

- The mean total scores improved by 96 points!
- The mean verbal scores improved by 39 points!
- The mean quantitative scores improved by 56.5 points!

The effects of intensive, structured study on GRE verbal and quantitative scores. Jan Marie Miller; Dissertation Abstracts International Section A: Humanities & Social Sciences; May 1996; 56(11-A); p. 4327