

Graduate Record Examination (Subject Test)

What is the GRE (Psychology) subject test?

- Most editions of the test consist of about 205 multiple-choice questions. Each question in the test has five options from which the examinee is to select the one option that is the correct or best answer to the question.
- Some of the stimulus materials, such as a description of an experiment or a graph, may serve as the basis for several questions.
- The questions in the Psychology Test are drawn from courses of study most commonly offered at the undergraduate level within the broadly defined field of psychology.
- Questions may require recalling factual information, analyzing relationships, applying principles, drawing conclusions from data, evaluating a research design, and/or identifying a psychologist who has made a theoretical or research contribution to the field.

The Psychology Test yields two subscores in addition to the total score. Although the test offers only two subscores, there are questions in three content categories:

1. Experimental or natural science oriented (about 40 percent of the questions), including learning, language, memory, thinking, sensation and perception, physiological psychology, ethology, and comparative psychology. They contribute to the experimental psychology subscore and the total score.
2. Social or social science oriented (about 43 percent of the questions). These questions are distributed among the fields of clinical and abnormal, developmental, personality, and social psychology. They contribute to the social psychology subscore and the total score.
3. General (about 17 percent of the questions), including the history of psychology, applied psychology, measurement, research designs, and statistics. They contribute to the total score only

How is the subject test scored?

In calculating reported scores for traditional paper-and-pencil tests, the number of questions answered correctly is adjusted according to the difficulty level of the questions on the test form. Thus, the same number of correct responses on different test forms will not necessarily result in the same reported score.

In paper-and-pencil tests, the differences in difficulty among test forms are relatively small and are adjusted through a process known as score equating. The number of questions answered is also figured into the calculation of the reported score because it limits the number that can be answered correctly.

Scoring of the Subject Tests is a two-step process.

- First, a raw score is computed. The raw score is the number of questions you answered correctly minus one-fourth the number of questions you answered incorrectly.
- The raw score is then converted to a scaled score through a process known as equating that accounts for differences in difficulty among the different test editions. Thus, a given scaled score reflects approximately the same level of ability regardless of the edition of the test that was taken.

One total score is reported on a 200-990 score scale, in 10-point increments.

How much does it cost?

Effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, the GRE subject test fees are \$130.

Where can I take it?

The subject GRE can be taken at the University of North Dakota.

How can I prepare?

Self study!! You can download practice booklets at **www.gre.org**, or you can purchase a study guide from Kaplan, ETS, Princeton Review, or Barron's!

When is it offered?

It is offered only three times a year: October 18, 2008 (registration receipt deadline September 12, 2008), November 8, 2008 (registration receipt deadline October 3, 2008), and April 4, 2009 (registration receipt deadline February 27, 2009)

When will I know my scores?

Score reports are mailed 4-6 weeks following the test, to you and to the 4 institutions you selected. It's possible to call and learn your score a little earlier but there is a \$12 fee for this service.