

16:31 KapTeacherEli I'm Eli, and I'm a Kaplan teacher in Cambridge, MA. I've been lurking around the boards since about October, posting here and there.

16:32 KapTeacherEli Kaplan has recently started to be a lot more proactive on the GMATclub forums, so you'll be seeing a lot more of me.

16:32 taniwolff I'm Tani - I'm in St. Louis and I'm new to this site although I blog elsewhere

16:33 KapTeacherEli Both of our PM boxes are always open, so if there are any threads that you think could benefit from expert advice, you're always welcome to PM us.

16:33 KapTeacherEli So, I think it makes sense to dive right in. I'll answer one or two questions from the forums, then open the floor up to questions.

16:34 KapTeacherEli Nonameeee, mind sharing your question again?

16:35 nonameeee Could you please list and exhaustive list of math topics/concepts that are covered by the GMAT? The GmatClub forum has the categories that I copied below. But I'm not sure whether the list is exhaustive or not.

16:36 KapTeacherEli Nonameeee: No I can't

16:36 KapTeacherEli By which I mean, the GMAT is a hugely diverse test.

16:37 KapTeacherEli If I try to list every single concept that will show up, the GMAT will surprise me; either something I listed will have been phased out, or something minor will have slipped by me.

16:37 nonameeee ok, but what do you think of the list that's been put together on this forum?

16:37 KapTeacherEli Plus, many problems have multiple approaches. For instance, the Math section of the OG12 has a problem involving walking routes from point A to point B.

16:38 KapTeacherEli Most people will reason it out without even REALIZING that it can also be solved using combinatorics formulas.

16:38 KapTeacherEli That being said, your list is pretty solid. And, importantly, ordered roughly by order of importance.

16:38 KapTeacherEli Although I'm not sure what 'Resources' meant, on your list.

16:38 nonameeee it's just copy paste

16:38 KapTeacherEli Or 'modules'

16:39 KapTeacherEli From where?

16:39 nonameeee from the main forum page

16:39 KapTeacherEli Huh. Well, color me puzzled.

16:39 nonameeee it's on the right side of the page

16:39 nonameeee they have the question categorized by various types

16:40 nonameeee like geometry, probability, remainders etc

16:40 KapTeacherEli OOOOHHH, I see.

16:40 KapTeacherEli The 'poor quality' is the tag for postin a question that you consider poor quality.

16:40 KapTeacherEli It's not something to study

16:41 nonameeee i have a few more questions

16:41 KapTeacherEli Anyway, here are the Kaplan content lessons: Algebra, Arithmetic, Geometry, Number Properties, Formulas, Geometry, Proportions, and Statistics.

16:41 nonameeee regarding mock tests

16:41 KapTeacherEli That should cover all your bases.

16:44 KapTeacherEli Is anyone else here whose asked a question on the forums?

16:44 Praetorian ann0308 had one

16:45 KapTeacherEli Hi ann, you with us?

16:45 Ann0308 yeah

16:45 KapTeacherEli Okay, could you summarize your question?

16:45 KapTeacherEli Sorry, questions...looks like two?

16:46 *** mib_issy13 joined #gmatclub

16:46 Ann0308 I have questions about Reading Comprehension

16:46 KapTeacherEli Sure. I looks like you were specifically asking about Inference?

16:46 Ann0308 question about inference

16:47 KapTeacherEli Okay, I'm happy to address that.

16:47 Ann0308 thanks

16:47 KapTeacherEli First, a little background (though I'm sure most of you GMAT student know this)

16:47 KapTeacherEli Inference questions ask about things not explicitly stated in your Reading Comprehension passage.

16:47 KapTeacherEli They use language such as "Most probably," "suggests," and "implies" to indicate the question type.

16:48 KapTeacherEli However, despite the vagueness of the questions, the answers MUST be true--based on the information you're given.

16:49 KapTeacherEli For strategy with inference questions, however, you need to split them into two categories: Referent and non-referent.

16:49 KapTeacherEli Referent will be "The author implies which about XXXXXX" or "XXXXXX is suggested to be."

16:49 KapTeacherEli These ones, the answer is predictable--and predicting the answer, by drawing a natural conclusion from the information presented about XXXXXXXX, will help you avoid traps.

16:50 KapTeacherEli You should base your prediction on the passage--Always Research!--and you should be focusing your re-reading based on your notes.

16:50 KapTeacherEli Ann, do you take notes when you are working on RC passages?

16:50 Ann0308 not really

16:51 KapTeacherEli Then that's something that can help. Most test prep companies advice note-taking during passages, and the Kaplan Method for reading comprehension can really help you get it to a science.

16:51 taniwolff notes are life-savers! and time-savers

16:51 KapTeacherEli That too

16:52 KapTeacherEli So anyway, you use your notes, locate the relevant lines, read those lines, and predict a conclusion that can be drawn from that information

16:52 KapTeacherEli IF there is a reference.

16:52 KapTeacherEli The real doozies are the non-referent questions: "The author implies which of the following?" with nothing else to go on.

16:52 KapTeacherEli These can be some of the hardest Qs on the GMAT verbal.

16:53 KapTeacherEli For these, there are a few tips to make it easier, however.

16:53 KapTeacherEli First, always ask yourself the author's main purpose. Again, it will take practice, and Kaplan's RC method will help you.

16:54 KapTeacherEli But one way or another, you need to be able to say at the end of the passage: "The author is describing two alternatives to the US election system" or "The author is advocating a new health treatment"

16:54 KapTeacherEli Ann, to finish my answer to you: Incorrect answers will often contradict the author's main purpose.

16:55 KapTeacherEli Finally, for all inference questions: When in doubt, go vague!

16:55 taniwolff And..stay close to the material in the passage

16:55 KapTeacherEli "Some" "Sometimes....." "a few....." are all MUCH more likely to be right than ".....never" "....all....", etc.

16:55	KapTeacherEli	The latter can, sometimes, be correct, but you should always double-check before picking them.
16:56	KapTeacherEli	All right, I think that covers that.
16:56	Praetorian	KapTeacherEli: is there a list available for RC "tone" questions and what they are asking? for example guarded optimism vs. unwavering support and stuff like that (those are just two examples)
16:56	KapTeacherEli	List?
16:57	KapTeacherEli	As in, of possible answer choices?
16:57	GoMannschaftGo	well what "key words" to look for
16:57	GoMannschaftGo	in the answer choices
16:58	KapTeacherEli	I dunno about a comprehensive list, but tone questions generally have five answer choices: "Totally positive," "mostly positive," "neutral," "mostly negative," and "entirely negative"
16:58	KapTeacherEli	Albeit, as you pointed out, occasionally masked by more complicated vocabulary.
16:58	KapTeacherEli	But this isn't the GRE (thankfully), so you shouldn't be dealing with words like 'saturnine' and 'piquant'.
16:58	whiplash2411	Hallo
16:59	nonameee	Eli, would you mind if I ask you a quick question regarding mock tests? It's quite late in Europe now...
16:59	KapTeacherEli	Generally, ask yourself, 'how positive is the author? How positive is this answer?' And that should get you the correct answer.
16:59	KapTeacherEli	Sure, nonameee. I'd be happy to.
16:59	nonameee	How many tests one should reasonably take? Do you see any correlation between the number of mock tests and score improvement?
16:59	KapTeacherEli	The answer is highly dependant on how long you're studying.
16:59	GoMannschaftGo	i see, how do you well a mostly positive vs a totally pos and a mostly neg vs , totally neg
16:59	GoMannschaftGo	any words to look for?
17:00	KapTeacherEli	'Absolute' versus 'conditional', etc.
17:00	nonameee	let's say 2 months
17:00	KapTeacherEli	Same keywords you use to analyze the passage itself.
17:00	taniwolff	Keep an eye out for your own reaction - are you feeling as though you're learning or are you feeling burned out - when you hit burnout take a rest - when you feel you're progressing keep on
17:00	KapTeacherEli	nonameee, you definitely want to be taking 2-3 tests the week before the test. More than that exhausts you, less than that may leave you unprepared.
17:01	KapTeacherEli	However, the most common study mistakes I see are the one Tani mentioned of not respecting your limits, and the common mistake of just grinding tests.
17:01	KapTeacherEli	A good test-taker will spend more time REVIEWING tests than actually taking them.
17:01	taniwolff	Great point Eli!
17:01	KapTeacherEli	Jsut grinding questions without learning or making an error log is pointless.
17:01	GoMannschaftGo	that is a good point, knowing your limits
17:02	nonameee	absolutely agree. 2-3 tests the week before the tests? really? i thought 1 is more than enough
17:02	taniwolff	review your right answers as well as the wrong ones - it's important to know what you are doing right
17:02	KapTeacherEli	So nonameee: one-two a week, depending on how much time you have--but never take a test just to take a test.
17:02	KapTeacherEli	We say 3 before the test for full time students.
17:02	taniwolff	and don't try to take a bunch the day before - you'll just stress out
17:02	KapTeacherEli	Naturally, if you're working a full time job, three is a bit much.
17:02	nonameee	i got it
17:03	KapTeacherEli	tani, thanks; forgot to mention nothing the day before/day of the test.
17:03	KapTeacherEli	That's key.
17:03	taniwolff	Doesn't mean you shouldn't take short quizzes focused on specific areas you are struggling with
17:04	taniwolff	just remember - don't try to learn a bunch of new stuff at the last minute - it doesn't happen
17:04	KapTeacherEli	GoMannschaftGo, did I answer your question all the way?
17:04	nonameee	yes, i understand.
17:04	GoMannschaftGo	yeah you did
17:04	nonameee	all right. thanks a lot, Eli, for joining us and answering my questions.
17:05	Praetorian	KapTeacherEli: What are some great time saving strategies or shortcuts - any you recommend to your own students?
17:05	Praetorian	Taniwolff, for you too
17:06	KapTeacherEli	Praetorian: For Quant, always ask yourself what you are solving for before doing ANY math.
17:07	KapTeacherEli	The most common time-waster on the GMAT is solving for the wrong thing.
17:07	taniwolff	Actually, the note-taking Eli describes is a real timesaver ---if you practice it. It may slow you down at first - just as if you changed your grip at Tennis or you foul shot in basketball, but once you practice it you will be much faster - less re-reading, more accuracy, more confidence
17:07	mib_issy13	thank you eli .. i'm learning by watching what you type to others. have to go now.
17:07	KapTeacherEli	For CR, recognize the three most common argument structures: Cause vs. Correlation, Representativeness, and Effectiveness of a Plan.
17:08	KapTeacherEli	They will show up again and again.
17:08	KapTeacherEli	Similarly, for Sentence Correction, recognize the warning signs of common traps.
17:08	taniwolff	Also - don't solve the data sufficiency - just determine whether you have enough information to do so
17:09	KapTeacherEli	For instance, the INSTANT you see "Like" or "Unlike," you know that the GMAT will be testing the validity of a comparison.
17:09	KapTeacherEli	Finally, for reading comp, take notes.
17:09	KapTeacherEli	Tani nailed it--many people are put off note-taking because their first few efforts are failures--just like a tennis game with a new tennis grip
17:10	KapTeacherEli	But once you've mastered taking efficient, useful notes, they will prove invaluable for answering questions.
17:10	taniwolff	we say if you are running out of time, you are reading too often, not too slowly
17:10	Praetorian	Example of good notes -- a summary of a paragraph in your own words?
17:10	Praetorian	CR: summary of argument in your own words?
17:11	KapTeacherEli	For RC, you need to evaluate on a case by case basis, based on the author's tone and keywords, how much detail to include. Rapid changes in tone, signified by "however's," "therefore's," etc. require detailed notes.
17:12	KapTeacherEli	Long lists of the same thing, signified by "furthermore's" and "for examples" can often be summarized in one or two words.
17:12	KapTeacherEli	For CR, break the argument down. Conclusion, then Evidence.
17:12	KapTeacherEli	Assuming there is an argument--that doesn't apply to Explain and Inference questions.
17:13	Praetorian	This goes back to what you mentioned about solving the wrong question. I tutor students - often they forget what they are doing with DS questions
17:13	Praetorian	get caught in the statements
17:14	taniwolff	it's so tempting to "prove" you are right by solving, but a time waster

17:14	KapTeacherEli	Absolutely. And this goes back even further to what I said about error logs.
17:14	KapTeacherEli	If you make a mistake during practice, that's fine.
17:14	KapTeacherEli	If you make a mistake during practice, don't learn from it, and repeat that test...
17:14	KapTeacherEli	Well, you're in trouble.
17:14	KapTeacherEli	repeat that ON the test, rather.
17:16	Praetorian	KapTeacherEli: last question - Use of error logs: Most people find them cumbersome to maintain. Are they really valuable?
17:16	KapTeacherEli	Praetorian, if you're literally re-writing every error you ever make, yes.
17:17	KapTeacherEli	It's more important to get a sense of perspective.
17:17	KapTeacherEli	You don't need to know exactly what you forgot to simplify every time you forgot to simplify a DS question stem.
17:18	KapTeacherEli	You DO, however, need to know that you forgot to simplify four different DS stems on one test.
17:18	KapTeacherEli	Be self aware, but don't grind yourself down with minutae.
17:19	KapTeacherEli	One of the great things about the Kaplan course is the Smart Reports, which will handle a lot of the error logging (by content, at least) for you.
17:19	taniwolff	GMG: my questions is, what should i look for in a b-school? Im looking to work in the energy field and it seems as if companies that recruit from b-schools are scattered all around the country, for example rice in the southwest,michigan state in the mid-west, how important is it to find a school that actively recruits among companies within an industry or a
17:19	taniwolff	GMG: company you want to work for...say exxon recruiting at one school....is it still possible to get recruited even though they don't recruit from there
17:20	taniwolff	With the right credentials it is always possible to get recruited from a firm with which you fit. The reason we check "recruiting" stats is that once a firm regularly goes to a school it is much easier to end up on their radar. You can always contact schools on your own. One technique is to ask someone in HR at your target company what schools they
17:20	KapTeacherEli	Huh. I didn't know that companies specifically recruited from specific schools. Learn something every day!
17:20	taniwolff	regularly hire from - if possible find out why. IF the reason is that they have had success with the graduates, that's nice, but not controlling. If the reason is that those schools have a curriculum that feeds what they need in their recruits then that is key
17:21	taniwolff	gm: they are willing to share that info?
17:21	taniwolff	gm: they are willing to share that info?
17:21	taniwolff	NOT all of them, but if you explain that you are looking at schools and are interested in the industry you may be able to get someone to talk to you. You can also ask schools for lists of who recruits there and to what companies their graduates go.
17:21	taniwolff	If you know someone who works at a company, that person may be able to tell you where his/her colleagues come from. Many schools publish really detailed information on placement. Also summer internship placement is important - see which schools regularly place summer jobs with the companies you are targeting
17:21	GoMannschaftGo	yeah eli, i know for example dowjones chemical only accepts students from chicago and hbs into their rotational program
17:22	taniwolff	GMG: also, how important of a factor do you think the gmat is? seems like a crap shoot in the application process..for example high scorers get "dinged" and low scorers get "admits"..it seems very difficult to gauge your probability of admissions to a certain school beyond a "maybe" or an "unlikely"
17:22	taniwolff	I really don't buy that high scorers get dinged. The only way I see that happening is if everything else in the application is weak so that they may wonder whether you actually took the test yourself. Think about it - why would an admissions officer say - "don't take him, he's too smart!"
17:22	taniwolff	However, if you take seven tries to get your score up, they will think you are focusing on the wrong issues.
17:23	taniwolff	remember - these guys are rated based on the average GMAT score in their accepted group - they want high scores
17:23	KapTeacherEli	In terms of GMAT scores and admission, I had a student on the waitlist at Sloan go from 640 to 720 after my course.
17:23	KapTeacherEli	They bumped him off the waitlist and accepted him; he starts in September.
17:23	KapTeacherEli	So scores DO matter.
17:24	taniwolff	I had one go from 550 - to 750 - ended up at Chicago
17:24	KapTeacherEli	Huh, really? My record increase from my class is only 180
17:24	Praetorian	wow. 550 to 750? what did the student do the first time?
17:24	Praetorian	only 180 hahaha
17:24	GoMannschaftGo	200 points that's amazing
17:24	taniwolff	I also have had applicants be told that they will be accepted as soon as they raise their GMAT to a certain level
17:25	taniwolff	the excuse given is that they don't want to lower their average - if a school only takes 100 students and your score is 200 points low, that lowers their average by 2 points - that hurts their ranking
17:26	taniwolff	but again - retaking 5 times gives the wrong message so be sure you are ready before you sit down to take the test
17:27	GoMannschaftGo	what the max you want to try for? 3?
17:27	taniwolff	TRuly, 100 point plus increases are not at all uncommon - IF the student really works
17:27	taniwolff	three isn't a problem - four would make me worry. If you are going for three, you should be confident that you can raise your score by more than 10-20 points
17:28	GoMannschaftGo	ahh that's a good point
17:28	taniwolff	statistically, 40 points is significant - nevertheless, there is something magical about that 700 - rightly or wrongly
17:28	KapTeacherEli	Note that the Kaplan Higher Score Guarantee does NOT require you to take the test and mark your record with a mediocre score; you can qualify for it if you don't feel ready to take the test, even without an official score.
17:29	Praetorian	When should I choose a live online course over a classroom course?
17:30	KapTeacherEli	First: when scheduling is an issue. Our Live-Online classes are great, using expert teachers and our expert material..
17:30	KapTeacherEli	but it's still nice to be able to shake hands with your teacher after a class.
17:30	billyjeans	getting off work here
17:31	taniwolff	online versus classroom depends on your personal learning style and commitment. Personally, I am ADD enough that I would just drift in an online situation - other people find it works much better for them and is less distracting. Kaplan has exceptional teachers in both
17:31	KapTeacherEli	But really, that's just gravy on the Turkey--for anyone with a busy schedule, or who would require travel, you're still getting, as Tani says, exceptional teachers.
17:32	Praetorian	so busy schedule is the only reason that is reported?
17:32	Praetorian	and learning style
17:32	KapTeacherEli	Travel time. Learning style.
17:32	KapTeacherEli	As a classroom teacher, I'm naturally biased towards classroom classes
17:32	KapTeacherEli	Tani is probably giving a more balanced answer
17:33	taniwolff	One of the beauties of Kaplan is that with lessons on demand you can repeat a class in which you were confused - whether classroom or live online - even hearing a second presentation style can be very helpful.
17:33	KapTeacherEli	I do need to run soon--I'm teaching in 25 minutes.

