

The One-Stop Guide for GMAT Prep!



INTRODUCTION

Dear readers, In our pursuit of helping students find the best course and institution, we present our next e-book. This e-book is on the GMAT and has lots of tips on preparing for the test, book recommendations, scoring patterns, test structure, fees and much more. Please go through the e-book and find answers to all your questions on the GMAT.

Don't forget to check the [bonus-videos](#) at the end of the e-book and listen to Kevin (GMAT Expert from Magoosh) talking about various aspects of the GMAT. Kevin graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a BA in Politics and a minor in Film. He loves education, grammar, bluegrass, the Sierras and the Pacific.



Please go through the e-book and find answers to all your questions on the GMAT.



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CHAPTER 1

What is the GMAT? What is the cost and duration of the Exam?



The GMAT is an acronym for Graduate Management Admission Test and is a computer-based, standardized test that is used as the criterion for admission for a wide range of international business schools. Over 5,400 programs of over 1,500 Universities across 83 countries worldwide rely on GMAT as the standard selection criteria.

Cost & Duration

The fee for the GMAT is US\$ 250. Free study material is available online besides which private coaching is also offered by many institutes for a fee. The duration of GMAT exam is 3 hours 30 minutes. However there will be some scheduled breaks as well.

CHAPTER 2

GMAT Sections and Score Patterns

The GMAT mainly consists of four sections - namely the analytical writing assessment, integrated reasoning, quantitative and verbal sections. Students have the time slot of four hours for the GMAT inclusive of optional breaks.

Analytical Writing

Basically, the Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) gives out a topic where the students are expected to do analysis of an argument. The time slot for this is 30 minutes. It measures the ability of students' critical thinking skills and how they communicate their ideas. This thirty minute essay usually covers topics about business or related topics.

Integrated Reasoning Section

The Integrated Reasoning section has 12 questions that require students to do multi-source reasoning, graphics interpretation, two-part analysis and table analysis. The time slot given for this section is 30 minutes.

This section has four types of questions that require analyzing and synthesizing of data in various formats and from numerous sources. Most of its question formats have multiple answers and all parts of a question must be answered accurately.

Quantitative Section

The quantitative section has 37 questions that require students to solve problems and know about data-sufficiency. The time slot for this is 75 minutes. This section has two types of questions that are in the form of multiple-choice; data-sufficiency and problem-solving. To solve these problems, students must have knowledge of elementary algebra, arithmetic and common geometry concepts.

Verbal Section

The verbal section has 41 questions that cover reading comprehension, critical reasoning and sentence correction. The time slot for this is also 75 minutes. The verbal section measures students abilities in understanding written materials, evaluation and reasoning of arguments and the standard of their written English.

Section	Number of Questions	Question Type	Duration
Analytical Writing Assessment	1 Topic	Analysis of an Argument	30 minutes
Integrated Reasoning	12 questions	Multi Source Reasoning, Graphics Interpretation, Two Part Analysis, Table Analysis	30 minutes
Quantitative	37 questions	Data Sufficiency, Problem Solving	75 minutes
Verbal	41 questions	Reading Comprehension, Critical Reasoning, Sentence Correction	75 minutes
Total Exam Duration			3 hours 30 mins

Source: [http:// www.bschool.careers360.com/](http://www.bschool.careers360.com/)

Score Patterns

Students get five scores in the GMAT exam from the analytical writing assessment, the integrated reasoning, quantitative, verbal sections and their total score. Students get a percentile rank to indicate how many students have scored less than them. This may change on an annual basis. Unlike the percentile rank, the scaled score will not be subject to any change and will stand valid for five years.

Total Score

The total GMAT score can range between 200 to 800 and it has been found that two thirds of the GMAT takers score in the range of 400-600.

Verbal plus Quantitative

The scores for the verbal and quantitative sections can range from 0 to 60. Generally, the score for the verbal section can range from 9 to 44 and for the quantitative section, it can range from 7 to 50. These are both fixed scores and aren't comparable with each other. These scores depend only on the number of questions answered by students.

Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA)

The AWA essays are scored on the analysis of the argument essay and are graded twice independently and the average is taken. Generally the scores for the analytical section can range from 0 to 6 in half point intervals.

Integrated Reasoning

The newly introduced Integrated Reasoning (IR) section can fetch students scores ranging from 1 to 8 in single digit intervals. The score that students get in the integrated reasoning section don't form a part of the overall GMAT score which is just a total of the verbal and quantitative sections. Like the AWA, the IR scores are computed separately from the Quantitative and Verbal sections and have no effect on the Total score.

The Official GMAT Score Report

When students schedule in their GMAT test, they'll have the option of choosing to get the official online Score Report. The GMAT score report is inclusive of all GMAT scores from tests taken within a period of five years. The unofficial scores from the quantitative and verbal sections will be available on immediate completion of the test. Students who choose to get their Official Score Report Online will get their reports mailed to them in a period of 20 days after they take their test.

CHAPTER 3

7 Tips to prepare for the GMAT Exam

Like every other important examination, preparing for this test can sometimes appear hard. However, a little help from the experts will guide you to go through this test process and also save your precious time. Now, let us talk about how to work it out in a systematic manner.

Understand the computer-adaptive test (CAT) of the GMAT.

Unlike its paper-based predecessor, the computer-adaptive version of the GMAT can better assess your skills while asking you less questions. You start with a question of average difficulty and depending on your answer the computer will adapt the next questions to the level of your capabilities, meaning if you get the correct answer, the next question will be slightly more difficult and if you answered it wrong, your next question will be slightly easier. The software can also mix the question types so they'll appear in a rather unpredictable order. When you answer the questions you can only answer one at a time and once you click the 'answer confirm' box you move on to the next question and you cannot go back and change the previous answers, or skip a question and return to it later, as you could on a regular paper exam.

Learn to manage your time wisely.

The GMAT has three main parts, the analytical writing assessment, the quantitative and the verbal section, each with its own duration rules you must meet. It is very important to answer all questions and finish each part of the exam on time. Therefore, you should take few practice tests before the actual GMAT exam, so you can practice and improve your time management skills and later get the best scores. Do these trial tests in the computer-adaptive format, but also simulate the actual testing environment, which means you don't get to talk on the phone or take a food break until the test is finished.

Answer the first 5 questions with appropriate attention.

In the computer-adaptive version of the GMAT, the first five questions in any section are the most important ones, because the computer weighs your capabilities on the answers you've provided and gives you the other questions to fine tune your final score within that narrowed range you've predetermined with your answers. The way you approach these first five questions has a huge influence over your final section score. That's why you should spend adequate time to answer these questions with extra care, always double-checking and ensuring that what you've marked as incorrect is indeed incorrect. If you aren't certain of the correct answer, make a good educated guess through the process of elimination.

Get ready to finish the test at any cost.

If you can likely get higher scoring based on the answers you've provided so far and fail to answer the last few questions of that section because you've run out of time, your GMAT score will significantly decrease no matter the correct answers from before. You'd be better answering the questions wrong than not answering them at all. That's why it is crucial to practice and train so you'll be able to recognize the last minute or so from the test and use the time to just guess the answers of the remaining questions, because though guessing is like shooting yourself in one leg, leaving even one question unanswered is far worse, like shooting yourself in both legs.

Carefully read all the questions.

When stressed and under the pressure of the clock an unprepared test-taker may misinterpret the questions in his effort to save time, wherever and whenever possible. The GMAT test writers are also aware of this, so they've deliberately included inaccurate answer choices in some of the questions to capitalize on misinterpretations of what the questions are actually asking.

Take an educated guess on the questions you don't know how to answer.

On the computer-adaptive GMAT version you are not allowed to move on to the next question if you don't answer the previous one. If you don't know the correct answer, take an educated guess eliminating the obvious incorrect options rather than guessing the answer randomly. By eliminating even one of the incorrect answers you are significantly improving your odds of guessing the correct answer.

Practice makes it perfect!

You can benefit from reviewing and practicing each section of the GMAT test, but you'll make the most out of your preparation time if you locate your weakest points and study and practice the most in those areas.

CHAPTER 4

Top Ten Books for GMAT Preparation

If you are on the lookout for some excellent GMAT preparation materials, here are the present top ten guide books for the GMAT that you may want to invest in, for a promisingly high score.

1. The Official Guide for GMAT Review

This guidebook has been created by GMAT's official creators and is considered an absolute must-have for GMAT prep. It comprises a general overview of the test, 907 real GMAT questions and a diagnostic review. The Integrated Reasoning Section of its test has an online component with 50 questions for additional practice. Of all the guide books available, this one is the only one that contains actual GMAT questions - making it one of the best possible sources of GMAT prep.

2. Manhattan GMAT Complete Strategy Guide Set

The guidebook, Manhattan GMAT Complete Strategy Guide Set, will provide you with a thorough and complete set of strategies for good GMAT preparation. The set includes 10 well written books, including GMAT Roadmap; Algebra; Fractions, Decimals and Percents; Geometry; Critical Reasoning; Sentence Correction; Integrated Reasoning and Essay; Word Problems. The set also offers many online resources inclusive of 1,000 practice questions with answers. This is one of the best comprehensive GMAT preparation materials available in the market.

3. Complete GMAT Course Set – 12 Books (Veritas Prep GMAT Series)

This GMAT study guide is basically the Veritas prep course without the instructor. It comprises a set of 12 books that includes Arithmetic; Foundations of GMAT Logic; Critical Reasoning; Sentence Correction; Algebra; Data Sufficiency; Advanced Verbal Strategy; Advanced Word Problems; Analytical Writing Assessment and Integrated Reasoning; Statistics and Combinatorics.

4. Kaplan GMAT Premier 2014 with 6 Practice Tests

This guide book will provide you with a good introduction to the GMAT test and helps students familiarize themselves with the structure and the mechanisms of the test. The book offers thorough coverage of the test's Verbal and Math sections and takes you in-depth through Integrated Reasoning. It offers 6 GMAT tests, of which five are online and the other one in the book; video lessons; digital versions of the book to be viewed on iPads, smart phones and computers.

5. The GMAT Roadmap: Expert Advice Through Test Day

This guidebook provides you with an introduction to the GMAT and will give you a thorough knowledge of all that is required for a top score. This is considered to be among the top guides when it comes to GMAT prep. Starting from study tips to timing to even the best kind of diet for GMAT preparation, this book truly gives you the complete preparation experience. It has six computer based tests and also provides advice on how to handle each and every kind of question you will find in the test.

6. The PowerScore GMAT Critical Reasoning Bible

As the name suggests, this guide book is for critical reasoning and is the best possible book for it. This book was written by an ex-LSAT instructor and the kind of explanations this book has are easy to follow. The author has broken down the different varieties of critical reasoning questions and given out specific techniques on how to master each one. It may not have a huge number of practice questions but still it is a fantastic buy for those looking to improve in critical reasoning.

7. Total GMAT Math

Total GMAT Math is the best comprehensive mathematical guide you could possibly find in the market for the GMAT. It takes you in-depth into different sort of mathematical questions and covers various methods and ways of solving each one. This book has over 300 practice problems for you to work on and also more than 500 non-GMAT style exercises which are useful. It offers endless tips, detailed coverage and numerous insightful strategies for different kinds of questions.

8. Advanced GMAT Quant

The Advanced GMAT Quant is an excellent condensed study material that gives you all you need to know to perform excellently in the quantitative section of the GMAT. This is mainly focused on bettering those who score over 70% on an average in this section. Its chapters cover numerous topics including Problem Solving Tactics & Strategies; Problem Solving Principles; Data Sufficiency Strategy & Tactics; Hybrid Problems; Pattern Questions. Its final chapter comprises 150 questions in its “workout sets.” Those looking to score high in quant should definitely get their hands on this book.

9. The PowerScore GMAT Verbal Bible

The PowerScore GMAT Verbal Bible is for those who would like to quickly master the verbal section of the GMAT. It offers detailed explanations and strategies for scoring well in the section and has 125 practice questions and 85 drills. These drills offered are aimed at helping students master various strategies required for the verbal section.

10. Kaplan GMAT Verbal Workbook

The Kaplan GMAT Verbal Workbook is considered an “all-in-one guide” of the GMAT’s verbal section. It gives out effective advice on how to master the GMAT’s verbal component and has a grammar guide and provides numerous practice questions

CHAPTER 5

GMAT – FAQs

1. How Can A Student Sign Up/ Register For the GMAT?

Students can choose to register for the GMAT either through MBA.com online or register through a phone. By registering, students will be assigned a testing centre somewhere close to their present location.

2. How Often Can A Student Take The GMAT?

A person can take a GMAT test every 20 days! Students can take the test only five times within a 12 month cycle.

3. How long are GMAT scores valid for?

GMAT scores are valid for 5 years. Every time you take the test and send your score to a school, the school will be able to see every GMAT score you have attained in the previous 5 years.

4. What is CAT/Computer Adaptive Test?

The CAT is a new intelligent system of testing wherein questions are generated by the computer. Each person is taking a test with a different set of questions from the other. The test starts with a medium-difficulty question. If the user answers it correctly, the next question generated by the computer algorithm is a bit tougher than the first question. Alternatively, if the user is not able to answer the first correctly the computer next generates a slightly easier question. Essentially, each subsequent question that is generated is based if the user answers the previous question correctly or not.

5. Can A Student Cancel or Reschedule the GMAT?

Cancellation of appointment can be done up to seven days prior to the test. You will get a small portion of your money back in this case- \$80. If you are looking to change the date or time or place of the test, however, it will cost you \$50- if it is seven days in advance; \$ 250 if it comes to less than seven days in advance.

6. What is a good GMAT score?

A “good” GMAT score is only relative to the MBA programmes to which you are applying! You will need to do some research on the schools to which you want to send your scores and set yourself realistic goals based on the average scores accepted by those programmes. Top tier schools will usually be looking for a score in the 90th percentile or above (eg Wharton has an average GMAT score of 713; Harvard 708; INSEAD 702; and London Business School 680).

7. What are experimental questions on GMAT?

There are 9 questions on the Quantitative section and 11 questions on the Verbal section that are experimental questions and are unmarked. They are solely for the purpose of research by question framers and they do not contribute to the GMAT score (irrespective of the fact whether they are answered correct or wrong). But unfortunately there is no way to figure out which questions are experimental.



BONUS VIDEOS (by Kevin Rocci from Magoosh.com)

What is GMAT?

[What is GMAT and Why should a Student Attend it?](#)

Is it mandatory for a student to take GMAT test to study MBA abroad?

[Is it Mandatory for a Student to Take the GMAT Test to Study Abroad?](#)

Scoring pattern of GMAT

[The Dummies' Guide to GMAT Scores](#)

Is GMAT easier than the GRE? What is the difference between them?

[Is the GMAT easier than the GRE? What's the Difference between Them?](#)

Important things that you need to know about GMAT!

[Important things that you need to know about the GMAT](#)

Recommended books and online resources for a student to prepare for the GMAT test.

[Recommended Books and Online Resources for a Student to Prepare for the GMAT Test](#)

Steps to prepare for your GMAT test in 6 months

[Steps to Prepare for Your GMAT in 6 Months](#)



USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

- At MBA.com, you can register for an account on this site, free of charge and download GMATPrep software
- BeattheGMAT.com is an online GMAT and MBA_community, that is free of charge
- Ready For A Challenge?- Every week, the Manhattan GMAT site will post a brand new GMAT Q to challenge visitors like you. If you answer it right, you may even get a free GMAT study material! .
- All in one site- Magoosh.com will give you online lessons, homework, instructions suited to your studying pace. And, it's a one-stop place where you can know everything about the GMAT
- AspirantHunt.com will give you one-on-one tutoring through interactive software and Skype with an experienced tutor (with a score of 740 or more!)
- Eduers.com will take you through GMAT test strategies to score the most in your GMAT Verbal, GMAT Analytical and GMAT Verbal.

In recent years some institutions are accepting the GRE score in lieu of the GMAT; but the popularity of the GMAT continues. Some of the world's top banking and business consulting firms ask for GMAT scores while recruiting new employees. The GMAT remains the definitive test to assess the skills and knowledge of students aspiring to study a postgraduate business course.

We hope that you found this book useful and wish you the very best in your attempts to ace the GMAT!

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