

2nd Edition

Some Common Questions About GMAT

Specially for the Bangladeshi Test Takers

Asif Mahmood Alam

2015

Background

I have seen a lot of Bangladeshi test takers suffer because of information unavailability. They don't find the right information often. Often get misguided and don't get all their queries answered in a single place. Some questions are often more country specific. Those answers are even harder to find. That's why I tried to make this booklet to try to help those. Please share your comments and suggestions if you have any. I have shared the link of my facebook profile so that you can give your remarks and suggestions to improve this booklet. And forgive me for any mistakes I did unintentionally. The sole purpose of this booklet is to help people. I will be more than glad if even a single person gets help and feel informed after reading this booklet.

You can join this facebook group also: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/gmat.bd>

Who Am I

I am currently an MBA student at the *University of Iowa - Tippie School of Management*. I received 100% tuition funding from the university by means of scholarship and graduate assistantship. I took my GMAT back in 2013 and scored 660 with a 6 out of 6 in AWA. Before joining business school, I completed BBA from the *Institute of Business Administration, Jahangirnagar University* and worked for a couple of years in a US based private equity firm.

DISCLAIMER:

All suggestions and advices are based on personal experience and knowledge gathered from different blogs, forums, and websites. No advice is absolute/ guaranteed. Nothing contained herein is published/ distributed for any commercial use and should only be used for free distribution. The copyright of any contents used anywhere in this document remain to the original copyright holders.

- **What is GMAT?**

- ✓ The letters "G M A T" stand for Graduate Management Admission Test. GMAT is a required part of the admission process for most MBA and MS programs in business related subjects e.g. MS in Finance, MS in Marketing, MS in Accounting etc. in the U.S., Canada and the rest of the world. GMAT is a multiple choice test that is administered in English. Until June 1997 GMAT was a standardized multiple choice test - meaning that all test takers were given the same questions. GMAT is now a Computer Adaptive Test where test takers will not receive the same questions. Because the questions will adjust depending on the test taker's ability to answer harder questions. However, the multiple choice format has been retained.

- **What are the distinctions between GMAT & GRE?**

GMAT vs. GRE: Which One Should I Take?		
	GMAT:	GRE:
Who takes it?	Exclusively for MBA and some economics programs.	Accepted by graduate school and over 250 MBA programs.
Advantages	Shows business schools that you are serious about getting an MBA.	Perfect if you are applying to both MBA and graduate school programs. The GRE is an easier test both in structure and content.
Who should take it?	Students determined to get into a good business school.	Laid back students applying to both business and graduate schools.
Inside scoop	• Investment banks and recruiters will review your GMAT scores for employment. They generally don't view GRE scores seriously. • Business schools like the GMAT more (but they don't openly state this). • The GMAT is the "gold standard." • It is not uncommon for GMAT students to spend hundreds of hours preparing.	• Generally easier for most students than the GMAT. • The GRE has an easier grading curve. Getting into the 99th percentile on the GMAT is close to impossible. • You won't waste months in test preparation.
Challenging sections	• Sentence Correction (grammar) • Excruciatingly difficult math section where many students get close to perfect scores. • Given adequate time and effort, the GMAT can be mastered, just don't expect to have a life. The GMAT favors determined students.	• Hard for international students to master vocabulary on a short term basis. • Two writing sections mean a greater emphasis on writing.

- **Which coaching will be better for GMAT?**

- ✓ Unfortunately, Bangladesh does not have any excellent tuition provider for GMAT which can give you world class direction. It's better if you do self study rather than enroll yourself in a coaching in Bangladesh and waste your valuable money and time. For more information, check here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gmat.bd/950643621619755/>

The best part, however, is that you can now get a full length GMAT course online for completely free from "GMAT Prep Now". They have joined the group of free education providers and now giving away the course for free. Here is the link: <http://www.gmatprepnnow.com/>

Besides, you can try Khan Academy, Thursdays with Ron, Youtube GMAT videos etc. to learn concepts from best tutors world-wide without spending a single penny of your own. So enjoy your GMAT prep!

If you are looking for paid courses online, you can check out e-gmat for verbal, magoosh online etc. Do open a free account and check their contents before you decide to buy.

- **What's the necessary score to get 100% scholarship?**

- ✓ GMAT score never guarantees scholarships. Your overall profile will help you get a funding. That being said, most MBA programs offer very little or no funding (if that's what you are aiming for). Plus, there's no fixed score that will ensure that you receive funding. Business schools have minimum requirements for admission. Nothing specific in regard to funding. You will be judged on the basis of your:

1. Undergrad CGPA
2. GMAT Score
3. Work Experience
4. Letter of Recommendation
5. Statement of Purpose
6. Extra-Curricular Activities
6. TOEFL Score/IELTS Score

Funding opportunity for business degrees is scarce. However, there are some universities which provide good scholarships for MBA. But you have to do your research to find those. You are a good candidate for that business school if your GMAT score and undergrad CGPA are better than the avg. or median GMAT score & undergrad CGPA of that school. You can find the school's avg. / median score on their website. Check "Class Profile" in the "Admissions" section of the respective school's website.

- **What's a better score to carry on?**

- ✓ 700 and onwards will make u very competitive. 650 and above will make you competitive for mid ranked schools. 600 and above will be good enough for the lower segment of top 100 universities.

But remember, GMAT is just one of the criteria to judge. Your profile will be viewed holistically and people have gone to Harvard even with a 550 range GMAT score. But that man must have been outstanding in other areas.

- **Which books shall I study?**

- ✓ **For Sentence Correction:**

Manhattan Sentence Correction is the best one. Consider Aristotle Sentence Correction too for additional need. But Manhattan is comprehensive.

For Critical Reasoning:

Power score CR Bible is the ultimate guide to strengthen your Critical reasoning skills.

For Reading Comprehension:

Please go through the GMAT forums and websites (e.g. gmatclub.com, beatthegmat.com etc). You will find lots of strategies & guidelines. Additionally, don't forget to build up a strong reading habit. Follow "*The Economist*", "*New York Times*" etc. and read the editorials regularly.

For Quant Section:

Manhattan GMAT Quant Strategy Guides are great. If you are a high scorer in quant and have good basics of quant, then you can also try *Manhattan GMAT Advanced Quant Guide*. But buy and use this book only after you master the Quant Strategy Guides of Manhattan. *Veritas Prep Quant Guides* are also good

resources. You can check *Veritas Prep Data Sufficiency, Probability, Combination, Permutation* etc.

For Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA):

The absolute solution to the AWA section is the *Chineseburned Template*. You don't need anything else. Just practice writing using this template. You can search it in GMATCLUB, or google. If you are a member of the Bangladeshi GMAT takers' group, you can find it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gmat.bd/750648114952641/>

Now these are enough to build your concepts. Practice retired original GMAT questions from *Official Guide 2016 ed.* and *13th ed.* Also buy *Verbal Review 2nd ed.* and *Quant Review 2nd ed.* for additional practice. Remember, these questions appeared in the real GMAT previously. So, they are the best representative questions of the real GMAT. For additional practice of Sentence correction, you can buy *Official Guide 10th Ed.* (a green cover book sometimes found as Official Guide 14th ed. in Nilkhet)

Download the free software: *GMATPREP* from mba.com. This software will let you take two full length tests. These tests are the best predictor of your real test expected score if you give full length practice test in a test center alike condition. The gmatprep questions are also official material. So they are representative of the real gmat too. If possible, please avoid practicing from unofficial materials. Those questions do not represent the real GMAT and can confuse you. For additional practice you can buy *GMAT Question Pack 1* (404 questions categorized according to difficulty level only for \$30).

While you practice all these materials, please make sure you know read all the official guide explanations. Make notes why a answer is right, why a answer is wrong. Don't only solve, Do analysis, read Explanations. If you do not understand any explanation, search the question in google and read explanation from Manhattan forum.

P.S. Studying only from these materials extensively has been enough to score 700+ for many test takers. So if you can build a good test taking strategy and learn concepts from the above materials, it will be enough for you too. Learn and rectify your mistakes from OG Questions. They are very important.

- **From where can I buy these books?**

- ✓ Go to Nilkhet. These books are available. Mollick book center, Khan Book center are best to buy the books. Shouldn't cost you more than Tk. 1500 in total.

- **How long shall I prepare for the GMAT?**

- ✓ There's no general rule on how long should you prepare. Every person is different and needs a different study routine. However, to generalize, if you study for 2 or 3 hours daily, a preparation of two to four months is enough for you. Remember studying for very long duration may have counter-productive result and you will burn out as GMAT preparation needs intense attention.

- **Where can I get free mock tests?**

- ✓ In addition to the two official mock tests, many test prep companies offer 1 or 2 free model tests. A complete list of available mock tests is given in the link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/all-gmat-cat-practice-tests-links-prices-reviews-77460.html>

- **Where is GMAT exam held in Dhaka?**

- ✓ The only test center in Bangladesh is "*IT Bangla*".
The address is: 32, Topkhana Road, Chattagram Bhaban (3rd floor), Dhaka-1000.
Phone: 9557053.

- **What is the fee and how can I pay it?**

- ✓ For exam registration, you have to do it online from www.mba.com and the fee is \$250. Firstly, you must open your account at mba.com and use the exact information from your passport.

The payment method has been a headache for many. You can use international credit card of any of your relatives. Otherwise use DBBL Virtual Card. It's just a facility by DBBL to help students pay for online exams. To know more information about virtual card go to this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gmat.bd/1108441239173325/>

The final way is to take help from the test center. They will pay for you charging some extra fee.

- **What shall I take with me in the test Center?**

- ✓ You only need your passport and a photocopy of your GMAT exam confirmation email. If you have other materials with you, you can keep your belongings in the locker of the test center.

- **When can I repeat the GMAT exam if I want to retake?**

- ✓ You can retake the exam after 16 calendar days of your previous exam. Previously, the waiting period was 31 calendar days but Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) has reduced this timeframe from July 19, 2015.¹

- **Can I cancel my score?**

- ✓ After the test, you can preview your score and you can decide instantly to cancel it or report it to business schools. You can't cancel your score after that. Your future score reports will not contain anything about your cancelled score report.

¹ <http://www.mba.com/global/the-gmat-blog-hub/the-official-gmat-blog/2015/june/july-19-new-gmat-exam-features>