

RC Notes

RC – Reading Comprehension Questions appear in Verbal section of GMAT.

The main purpose of this document is to outline the types of RC questions and to give an overview of the content from both Manhattan guide and eGMAT RC section together in a sequential order.

Where ever content is extracted from Manhattan **MH** is used, where ever Egmat content is used **eGMAT** is used. RC Question types:

MH:

I. General Questions:

- a. Primary purpose questions
- b. Paragraph questions

eGMAT:

- 1. Main Point questions

II. Specific Questions:

- 2. Detail questions
- 3. Inference questions
- 4. Specific purpose questions
- 5. EXCEPT questions

The main strategy to answer RC questions is by elimination. Continue to answer by eliminating.

I. General Questions:

a. Primary purpose Questions - Primary Purpose Question, to pick up the point of the whole passage. Most of the time, these questions will ask to identify the primary purpose of the passage.

b. Paragraph Questions - These questions will ask you two things.

- 1. The purpose of a particular paragraph in the context of the whole passage.
- 2. The purpose of a particular paragraph in relation to another particular paragraph.

Note: These general questions are explained as a part of main point Q's in egmat.

1. Main Point Questions:

eGMAT:

To give a high level over view of the given passage discussed by the author.

Main Point is the overall high level summary of all the passages.

It is derived from summaries of paragraphs or sections of passage.

MH:

The main point is the thesis statement. It is the single most important message of the passage and the heart of the simple story of the passage. The author has written the passage in order to convey the point.

Language clues:

1. Big picture
2. Foreshadowing
3. Changes of Direction
4. Detail

1. **Big picture** - introduces or summarizes some kind of main idea.

2. **Foreshadowing** - the author can drop a clue about something that he plans to say later in the passage.

3. **Changes of Direction** - can signal some kind of twist - a contrast or a qualification that could make.

4. **Detail** - Certain clues will signal that you should pay less attention on your first read though. Understand why the information is there, but don't try to understand every last detail given.

II. Specific Questions:

2. Detail Questions:

eGMAT:

Details questions tests the ability to comprehend and reproduce the detail information. Key question type. 30% of RC questions which may be 3-4 questions per test.

Two Types of Detail questions:

1. **Specific Questions** about specific entity. We know where in the passage this detail is present. The correct answer is typically a reword of this information.

2. **Open Ended Questions** asks about entity discussed in significant portion of the passage. We may not know where exactly to focus our attention. We may need to use POE to find correct answer.

MH:

Detail Questions: These questions ask you to find a specific detail explicitly stated in the passage. These questions always include the language 'according to the passage'.

3. Inference Questions:

eGMAT:

To derive by reasoning, conclude or judge from premises.

MH:

The answer will not be stated explicitly in the passage, but the correct answer can't be proven to be true using information stated in the passage.

These Questions ask you to find an answer that must be true based on the information presented in the passage but the information in the answer choice will not be explicitly presented in the passage.

4. Specific Purpose Questions / Structure - on Purpose of entity

eGMAT:

Structure questions asks why author has mentioned a certain entity in the passage. Purpose of an entity in the passage. Key question type.

10% of RC questions. At least 1 such question will appear in the exam.

Typical verbiage of purpose of entity questions.

Key indicators: Describes, function of, refers, in order to, cites, mentions to...

MH:

Specific purpose questions: These questions ask you why the author mentions a specific piece of information or employs a particular example.

5. Except Questions:

MH:

Any question type can be written as an EXCEPT question; most of the time, when you see an EXCEPT question, you'll be dealing with a detail question or an inference question.

Characteristics of Incorrect choices:

eGMAT

1. Out of Scope
2. Only Partial Scope/Out of Context
3. Opposite
4. Inconsistent

Extraction of Inputs from:

1. MH: Manhattan Guide
2. eGMAT Guide

Legend:

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