

GRE TEST

- **About GRE**

Developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS) based in the US, the Graduate Record Examination (**GRE**) has been developed to evaluate the verbal, analytical and mathematical skills of the candidates. The scores of this standardized test helps the graduate schools (conducting courses other than business related studies) to assess the advanced study potential of their prospective students.

The GRE® Board oversees **GRE test**, services and research in consultation with its committees. It establishes all policies for the GRE® Program, which ETS® administers.

ETS can send your **GRE scores** to a maximum of four universities chosen by you. The costs of sending these scores are in-built in the fees that you pay for appearing in the test. **GRE test result** comprises:

- Total GRE score – Maximum marks allotted are 1600,
- Sectional scores (for verbal and quantitative sections) – Maximum marks allotted are 800 for each section.
- Analytical writing assessment score: It is scored separately on a scale of 6 based on the overall impact of the essays written by a student.
- % below: This represents the percentage of examinees who appeared in GRE exams in the most recent 3-year period and scored less than you.
- On an average, the scores for the Verbal and Quantitative Sections generally fall in the range of 470 to 570. There are no standard measures for Analytical Writing Assessment.
- Important: The test scores of the test are valid only for five years.

- **GRE Test Versions**

- There are two versions of GRE test:
 - GRE General Test, and
 - GRE Subject Test.
 - GRE General test
- This test is open to all candidates, irrespective of their age or educational background. Generally taken by prospective graduate students, this test measures

verbal reasoning, analytical writing, critical writing and quantitative reasoning skills of a candidate.

- GRE Subject test
- This version of **GRE exam** assesses candidates' knowledge level and accomplishments in a specific field of study. Unlike the GRE General test, this test is available only thrice in a year and can be taken only as the paper-based test.
- **GRE scores** of this test are often required for doctoral programmes in the US, though some universities require the GRE Subject test scores for Masters-level programmes too.
- The eight subjects in which the GRE subject test is presently conducted are:
 - Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology,
 - Biology,
 - Chemistry,
 - Computer Science,
 - English Literature,
 - Mathematics,
 - Physics, and
 - Psychology.
- **GRE Exam Format**
- Total time allotted for:
 - Computer-adaptive test: 3 hours
 - Paper-based test: 3 ³/₄ hours
 - Analytical writing section always appears first in the test, followed by Verbal, Quantitative and Unidentified (if applicable) sections in any order. If there is a Research section, it always appears at the end of the test.

Test format for computer-based test:

Section	No. of Question	Time Allotted
Analytical Writing	Issue Task (You have to choose one of the two essay topics)	45 minutes
Analytical Writing	1 Argument Task	30 minutes
Verbal	30	30

		minutes
Quantitative	28	45 minutes
Unidentified	Variable	Variable
Research	Variable	Variable

- **Test format for paper-based test:**

Section	No. of Question	Time Allotted
Analytical Writing	Issue Task (You have to choose one of the two essay topics)	45 minutes
Analytical Writing	1 Argument Task	30 minutes
Verbal (2 sections)	38 per section	60 minutes per section
Quantitative (2 sections)	30 per section	60 minutes per section
Unidentified	Variable	30 minutes

- **GRE 2011 Exam - Tips & Strategies for improved GRE Score**

- Know the sections of the test, the type of questions asked in each section, how long a section is and the time limit for each section.
- Attempt as many **GRE practice tests** and **GRE sample tests** as possible, as they will familiarize with the general level of the questions that are asked in **GRE exam** and the directions for questions.
- The instructions for attempting a question in the actual test may slightly differ from those given in your study material, so do skim through them quickly.

- In the Analytical Writing assessment section, the Issue task allows you to choose one of the two given topics, analyze the issue and write your views on it. But beware, don't start writing pros and cons of the issue. Since, it is your views that have been asked for, be specific and write only about your viewpoints.
- The second essay in the Writing Assessment section is the Argument task. It does not offer any choice. You will be given a topic, which you have to critically analyze and evaluate and determine whether it is well-reasoned or not.
- Generally, each argument in the pool has three to five major logical fallacies or problems that you need to identify and point out. These may include drawing an analogy without taking difference in two cases into account, generalizing from a particular case or assuming one event caused another just because of the order in which they occurred.
- GRE tries to adjust the test according to the level of the candidate. The first question is of medium level. If you answer it correctly, you will be asked harder questions. The incorrect answer will lead you to easier questions.
- Hard questions have more points than the easier ones. So, irrespective of the number of questions you attempt, you will fetch more scores if you attempting harder questions. Since the answer to the first question often determines the level of the test you will be attempting, it is very important to give right answer to the very first question of the test.
- In computer adaptive test, you cannot return to a question or review it later, so check it thoroughly before you submit it.
- Optimizing time is very important in GRE. You should be aware how much time you can devote on one question. You need to set your pace right. Rushing or sticking to a question for too long will cost you valuable scores.
- Sometimes, you will find a question similar to what has already been asked in the test or in another section of the test. However, often these questions have substantial or subtle modifications and require different answer. So, pay close attention to the wording of each question before you decide on an answer.
- Lastly, you may consider canceling the test scores immediately after taking the **GRE exam** or quit the exam, so that the scores do not get noted in your permanent record. Unfortunately, you have to do it before you can see the test scores and the fees of the exam will not be refunded. This will also mean that you will have to gain register for the exam and pay the fee, to be able to re-take the exam and send the GRE scores to your chosen universities.
- If you do cancel your GRE scores, this will be noted in your official GRE score report.
- It is not allowed to cancel the scores of only one section of the test.

