

GRE Info Night!

the GRE for Dummies



For More Information...

Visit the **GRE website** at

www.ets.org/gre

What is the GRE?

- **Graduate Record Examinations® - (GRE®)**
- a **multiple-choice** and **standardized test**
- intended to **test general abilities**

- the SATs for graduate school

www.ets.org/gre

What is the GRE?

- Consists of two tests:
 - General Test
 - Subject Test

General Test

Measures:

Verbal Reasoning	Quantitative Reasoning
Critical Thinking	Analytical Writing

General Test

SECTION	Total amount of time allotted	Number of questions	Time to answer each question
Analytical Writing I Issue Task	45 min	1	45 min
Analytical Writing II Argument Task	30 min	1	30 min
Verbal	30 min	30	1 min
Quantitative	45 min	28	1.6 min
Verbal / Quantitative*	30 – 45 min.	N/A	N/A
Research**	N/A	N/A	N/A

Subject Test

- Subject areas:
 - Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Computer Science
 - Literature in English
 - Mathematics
 - Physics
 - **Psychology**

Subject Test

- **Psychology**
- Measures understanding of:

Experimental Psychology

Social Psychology

General (history, research design, etc...)

Subject Test - Psychology

- 215 Multiple choice questions
- Questions drawn from commonly offered undergrad psych courses

Section	Percent
Experimental	40%
Social	43%
General	17%

Why take the GRE?

- *Some* universities use scores as a basis for selecting graduate students

Schools Requiring a GRE

University	General test	Subject test	Notes
University of Alberta	x		
University of British Columbia	x	x	Recommended, especially for Clinical Psychology
Brock University	x	x	
Carleton University			
Dalhousie University	x	*	
University of Guelph	x	x*	*All except Neuroscience and Applied Cognitive Science
Lakehead University	x	x	
Laurentian University			
University of Manitoba	x*		*Only quantitative and verbal scores required
McGill University	x	x	*All except Neuroscience
McMaster University	x*		
University of New Brunswick	x	x	
University of Ottawa			
Queen's University	x		
Ryerson Polytechnic University	x	*	*Recommended, especially for Clinical Psychology
University of Saskatchewan	x	x	
University of Toronto	x		
University of Waterloo	x		
University of Western Ontario	x		*See specific program
Wilfrid Laurier University	x*	x*	
University of Windsor	x	x	
York University	x	x*	*Only for Clinical and Clinical Developmental

Schools Requiring a GRE

Requirements differ from university to university...

- More information

<http://careers.mcmaster.ca/students>

and follow the links...

- Verify with your school to confirm

Taking the GRE

Register online

[http://www.ets.org.bin.getprogram.cgi?test=gre](http://www.ets.org/bin/getprogram.cgi?test=gre)

Registration available all year

Taking the GRE

- Fees:
 - General Test - \$170
 - Subject Test - \$150

Results can take 4 to 6 *weeks*, so...

Book Early!

The million dollar question...

...what's on the test?!

Test Breakdown: Verbal

4 Sections...

Sentence Completion

Analogies

Antonyms

Reading Comprehension

Verbal

- **Sentence Completion:**

Each sentence below has one or two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted.

Beneath the sentence are five lettered words or sets of words. Choose the word or set of words for each blank that *best* fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

Sample Question

Sentence Completion

Early _____ of hearing loss is _____ by the fact that the other senses are able to compensate for moderate amounts of loss, so that people frequently do not know that their hearing is imperfect.

- (A) discovery . . . indicated
- (B) development . . . prevented
- (C) detection . . . complicated
- (D) treatment . . . facilitated
- (E) incidence . . . corrected

Test Time Tips

Sentence Completion

Before looking at the answers, try to complete the sentence with words that make sense to you.

If you're really stuck for the meaning of a word, try to think of other words that have similar prefixes, roots, or suffixes.

A Good Response

Sentence Completion

The statement that the other senses compensate for partial loss of hearing indicates that the hearing loss is not *prevented* or *corrected*; therefore, choices (B) and (E) can be eliminated. Furthermore, the ability to compensate for hearing loss certainly does not facilitate the early *treatment* (D) or the early *discovery* (A) of hearing loss. It is reasonable, however, that early *detection* of hearing loss is *complicated* by the ability to compensate for it. The best answer is (C).

Verbal

- **Analogies:**

In each of the following questions, a related pair of words or phrases is followed by five lettered pairs of words or phrases. Select the lettered pair that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed in the original pair.

Sample Question

Analogies

COLOR : SPECTRUM :

- (A) tone : scale
- (B) sound : waves
- (C) verse : poem
- (D) dimension : space
- (E) cell : organism

Test Time Tips

Analogies

First: create a sentence in your mind that uses the two capitalized words.

Beware of possibly correct answers that appear in reverse order.

A Good Response

The relationship between *color* and *spectrum* is not merely that of part to whole, in which case (E) or even (C) might be defended as correct. A *spectrum* is made up of a progressive, graduated series of *colors*, as

a *scale* is of a progressive, graduated sequence of *tones*.

Thus, (A) is the correct answer choice. In this instance, the best answer must be selected from a group of fairly close choices.

Verbal

- **Antonyms:**

- Each question below consists of a word printed in capital letters followed by five lettered words or phrases. Choose the lettered word or phrase that is most nearly *opposite* in meaning to the word in capital letters. Since some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

Sample Question:

Antonyms

DIFFUSE:

(A) concentrate

(B) contend

(C) imply

(D) pretend

(E) rebel

Test Time Tips

Antonyms

Use word parts (prefixes, roots, suffixes) to figure out the probable meaning of unknown words.

Think of an opposite meaning for the capitalized word, even before you look at the actual choices.

A Good Response

- The best answer is (A). *Diffuse* means to permit or
- cause to spread out; only (A) presents an idea that is in any way opposite to *diffuse*.

Verbal

•Reading Comprehension:

The passage is followed by questions based on its content. After reading the passage, choose the best answer to each question. Answer all questions following the passage on the basis of what is *stated* or *implied in the passage*.

Test Time Tips

Reading Comprehension

First and last sentences of each paragraph are critical.

Answer questions on familiar topics before unfamiliar topics.

Test Breakdown: Math

- 2 Sections ...
 - **Standard Multiple Choice**
 - **Quantitative Comparisons**

Math

- **Standard Multiple Choice:**

Each of the sample questions consists of two quantities, one in Column A and one in Column B. There may be additional information, centered above the two columns, that concerns one or both of the quantities. A symbol that appears in both columns represents the same thing in Column A as it does in Column B.

Sample Question

Standard Multiple Choice

You are to compare the quantity in Column A with the quantity in Column B and decide whether:

- (A) The quantity in Column A is greater.
- (B) The quantity in Column B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Test Time Tips

Standard Multiple Choice

Early questions in this section are easier. Spend less time on them.

Learn in advance all of the critical definitions, formulas, and concepts that appear in common questions.

The correct answer was A)

Math

Quantitative Comparison:

Each of the following questions has five answer choices. For each of these questions, select the best of the answer choices given.

Sample Question

Quantitative Comparison

When walking, a certain person takes 16 complete steps in 10 seconds. At this rate, how many complete steps does the person take in 72 seconds?

- (A) 45
- (B) 78
- (C) 86
- (D) 90
- (E) 115

Test Time Tips

Quantitative Comparisons

Always consider values that are fractional (between 0 and 1), zero, negative, or non-integer.

Questions are simpler and should take less time than the Standard Multiple Choice. Look closely. The answer is often apparent without any calculations.

The correct answer was E).

Test Breakdown

Analytical Writing

- 1 Section ...

Essay Question

Test Time Tips

Analytic

- **Essay:**

In trying to use the process of elimination, you should consider dropping from consideration an answer choice if it goes beyond the contents (ie. scope) of the argument.

You should also consider eliminating choices that are more extreme (ie. using absolute terms).

Subject Test Breakdown

- **Areas covered include...**
 - Physiological and Comparative Psychology
 - Sensation and perception
 - Developmental psychology
 - Learning and motivation
 - Cognition and human learning
 - Abnormal psychology
 - Clinical psychology
 - Psychopathology
 - Personality psychology
 - Social psychology
 - Applied psychology
 - Methodology

- It's all the fun of every psych midterm you've ever taken in one test!

...the lesson is...

STUDY well in advance!

Test Preparation!

- Kaplan
 - www.kaplan.com/
- GRE Study Guides
- Practice Tests

Question and Answer

- That GRE website again is...

www.ets.org/gre

Thanks for coming!

Good luck on your GRE