

ets official guide to the gre revised general test

The ETS Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test is your indispensable resource for conquering this pivotal graduate school admissions exam. This comprehensive guide offers unparalleled insight into the structure, content, and scoring of the GRE, empowering test-takers with the knowledge and strategies needed for success. Within its pages, you'll discover detailed explanations of each section – Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing – alongside invaluable practice questions and realistic test simulations. Mastering the material presented in this official guide is crucial for anyone serious about achieving their target score and gaining admission to their desired programs. This article will delve deep into the key features and benefits of the ETS Official Guide, exploring its structure, the types of questions you can expect, and effective study strategies.

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Understanding the GRE Revised General Test

The GRE Revised General Test is a standardized exam designed to assess a wide range of academic skills that are important for success in graduate and business school. It is administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the same organization that produces the guide we are discussing. Understanding the fundamental structure of the GRE is the first step towards effective preparation, and the ETS Official Guide breaks this down meticulously.

Key Components of the GRE

The GRE Revised General Test is comprised of three main sections: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. Each section is designed to evaluate different cognitive abilities. The Verbal Reasoning section assesses your ability to analyze and evaluate written material and to synthesize information from multiple sources. The Quantitative Reasoning section measures your ability to understand, interpret, and analyze quantitative information. The Analytical Writing section requires you to articulate complex ideas and support your judgments with relevant reasons and examples.

Test Structure and Timing

The test is adaptive on a section-by-section basis, meaning your performance on the first Verbal Reasoning section influences the difficulty of the second Verbal Reasoning section, and similarly for Quantitative Reasoning. The Analytical Writing section consists of two distinct essays: the "Analyze an Issue" task and the "Analyze an Argument" task. The ETS Official Guide provides precise timings for each section, helping you to pace yourself effectively during the actual exam. Understanding these time constraints is critical for developing efficient test-taking strategies.

Navigating the Verbal Reasoning Section

The Verbal Reasoning section of the GRE tests your command of vocabulary, your ability to comprehend complex texts, and your skill in analyzing relationships between words and concepts. The ETS Official Guide offers extensive coverage of the question types within this section, providing clarity on what is expected from test-takers. Familiarity with these question types, as presented in the guide, is paramount for building confidence and accuracy.

Text Completion Questions

Text Completion questions assess your ability to understand vocabulary in context and to recognize how words relate to each other within a sentence. These questions typically present a sentence or short passage with one, two, or three blanks. You must choose the best word or words to fill the blanks, ensuring the sentence makes logical and grammatical sense. The Official Guide provides numerous examples and strategies for approaching these questions, including techniques for identifying context clues and eliminating incorrect options.

Sentence Equivalence Questions

Sentence Equivalence questions, also known as 'SE' questions, are similar to Text Completion but require you to select two words that, when used to complete the sentence, produce sentences with essentially the same meaning. This necessitates a nuanced understanding of vocabulary and synonyms. The ETS Official Guide offers detailed explanations and practice sets specifically tailored to hone your skills in this area, emphasizing the importance of not just finding synonyms but understanding subtle differences in connotation.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Reading Comprehension questions evaluate your ability to read and understand passages of varying lengths and complexities. You will be asked to answer questions about the main idea, specific details, inferences, and the author's tone or purpose. The Official Guide includes a wide array of practice passages that mirror the difficulty and style of those found on the actual GRE. It also outlines strategies for active reading, identifying key arguments, and distinguishing between factual information and the author's interpretation.

Mastering the Quantitative Reasoning Section

The Quantitative Reasoning section of the GRE tests your mathematical problem-solving skills, your understanding of mathematical concepts, and your ability to interpret data. The ETS Official Guide provides a thorough review of the mathematical topics covered, along with strategies for tackling the diverse question formats. A strong grasp of fundamental mathematical principles is essential for success in this section.

Quantitative Comparison Questions

Quantitative Comparison questions present two quantities, Quantity A and Quantity B, and ask you to determine the relationship between them. The options are always: A is greater, B is greater, A and B are equal, or the relationship cannot be determined. The Official Guide emphasizes efficient strategies for solving these problems, such as substituting values, simplifying expressions, and recognizing patterns, without necessarily calculating exact numerical answers.

Problem-Solving Questions

Problem-Solving questions are the most traditional type of math question, requiring you to calculate a numerical answer. These can range from basic arithmetic and algebra to geometry and data analysis. The ETS Official Guide offers a comprehensive review of the mathematical concepts tested, from arithmetic and algebra to geometry and data analysis. It provides step-by-step solutions to practice problems, highlighting common pitfalls and offering alternative approaches.

Data Interpretation Questions

Data Interpretation questions involve analyzing information presented in tables, graphs, charts, and other visual formats. You will need to extract relevant data, perform calculations, and draw conclusions based on the presented information. The Official Guide

includes extensive practice sets with diverse data sets, helping you to develop proficiency in reading and interpreting various graphical representations and statistical data.

Excelling in the Analytical Writing Section

The Analytical Writing section of the GRE assesses your ability to think critically and express your ideas clearly and persuasively in writing. The ETS Official Guide provides clear guidelines and examples for both the "Analyze an Issue" and "Analyze an Argument" tasks, along with sample essays scored at various levels. Understanding the scoring criteria is key to crafting high-scoring responses.

Analyze an Issue Task

The "Analyze an Issue" task requires you to take a stance on a given issue and support your position with well-reasoned arguments and examples. The ETS Official Guide offers numerous issue topics for practice and emphasizes the importance of developing a clear thesis, providing strong evidence, and organizing your thoughts logically. It also stresses the need for a nuanced discussion that considers multiple perspectives.

Analyze an Argument Task

The "Analyze an Argument" task asks you to critique a given argument, identifying logical flaws, unstated assumptions, and weaknesses in the reasoning. You are not expected to agree or disagree with the argument's conclusion, but rather to evaluate the quality of the evidence and the logical structure. The Official Guide provides a systematic approach to dissecting arguments, including techniques for identifying fallacies and suggesting improvements.

Strategic Study Approaches with the Official Guide

Simply possessing the ETS Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test is not enough; effective study strategies are crucial for maximizing its potential. The guide itself offers valuable advice on how to approach your preparation, emphasizing practice and self-assessment.

Utilizing Practice Tests

One of the most significant benefits of the Official Guide is its inclusion of realistic practice tests. These tests are designed to simulate the actual GRE experience, allowing you to gauge your current performance, identify areas of weakness, and become familiar with the test format and timing. The guide encourages taking these tests under timed conditions to replicate the pressure of the real exam. Analyzing your performance on these practice tests is an essential step for refining your study plan.

Reviewing Explanations and Strategies

Beyond practice questions, the ETS Official Guide provides detailed explanations for correct and incorrect answers. This is invaluable for understanding why certain answers are right and how to avoid common mistakes. The guide also outlines effective strategies for each question type, offering methods that can significantly improve your efficiency and accuracy. Actively engaging with these explanations and strategies is key to learning from your practice.

Creating a Study Schedule

A structured study schedule is vital for covering all the material in the Official Guide. The guide implicitly supports this by presenting the information in a logical, section-by-section manner. Breaking down your preparation into manageable chunks, focusing on specific question types or mathematical concepts each day, and incorporating regular review sessions will help ensure comprehensive coverage and retention of the material. Consistent, focused study is more effective than cramming.

Understanding Scoring and Percentiles

A critical aspect of GRE preparation is understanding how the test is scored and how your performance translates into percentile rankings. The ETS Official Guide provides a clear explanation of the scoring scales for each section and what these scores mean in the context of graduate school admissions.

Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning Scores

Scores for the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections are reported on a scale of 130 to 170, in one-point increments. The guide explains that these scores reflect the number of correct answers and are adjusted based on the difficulty of the questions you encountered. Understanding the scoring algorithm, as outlined in the guide, can help you set realistic score goals.

Analytical Writing Scores

The Analytical Writing section is scored on a scale of 0 to 6, in half-point increments. Scores are based on a holistic review of your essays, considering factors such as the clarity of your ideas, the quality of your reasoning and evidence, and your command of language. The Official Guide provides valuable insights into what constitutes a high-scoring essay for both the Issue and Argument tasks, allowing you to tailor your writing practice accordingly.

Percentile Ranks

Your GRE score report will also include percentile ranks, which indicate the percentage of other test-takers you outperformed. These percentile ranks are crucial for understanding how your scores compare to the applicant pool for your chosen graduate programs. The ETS Official Guide offers updated percentile data, enabling you to contextualize your practice scores and set achievable goals based on the competitiveness of your desired field of study.

Final Thoughts on Utilizing the ETS Official Guide

The ETS Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test stands as the definitive resource for anyone preparing for this crucial examination. Its comprehensive content, realistic practice materials, and insightful explanations offer a clear roadmap to success. By diligently working through its sections, understanding the question formats, implementing the suggested strategies, and engaging with the practice tests, you are equipping yourself with the best possible tools to achieve your target GRE score. Embrace the structured approach it offers, and let it guide your journey towards graduate school aspirations.

FAQ

Q: What is the main purpose of the ETS Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test?

A: The main purpose of the ETS Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test is to provide test-takers with a comprehensive and authoritative resource for preparing for the GRE exam. It offers detailed explanations of the test's structure, content, question types, scoring, and effective strategies for success.

Q: How many practice tests are included in the ETS Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test?

A: The ETS Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test typically includes official paper-delivered practice tests and access to two full-length, computer-delivered practice tests available online through the ETS PowerPrep software.

Q: Does the ETS Official Guide provide actual GRE questions?

A: Yes, the ETS Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test contains real retired GRE questions that have been used on past exams, offering authentic practice material.

Q: What are the key sections of the GRE Revised General Test covered in the Official Guide?

A: The Official Guide covers all three main sections of the GRE Revised General Test: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing, detailing the question types, skills assessed, and scoring for each.

Q: How does the ETS Official Guide help with studying for the Verbal Reasoning section?

A: It helps by providing in-depth explanations of Text Completion, Sentence Equivalence, and Reading Comprehension question types, along with strategies for vocabulary building and text analysis, supported by numerous practice questions.

Q: What mathematical topics are reviewed in the Official Guide for the Quantitative Reasoning section?

A: The Official Guide reviews fundamental math concepts including arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis, essential for Quantitative Comparison, Problem-Solving, and Data Interpretation questions, offering practice problems and explanations.

Q: How does the Official Guide prepare test-takers for the Analytical Writing section?

A: It provides guidance on the "Analyze an Issue" and "Analyze an Argument" tasks, offering sample prompts, strategies for developing well-supported essays, and examples of scored essays to illustrate effective writing techniques.

Q: Is the ETS Official Guide updated regularly to reflect changes in the GRE?

A: Yes, ETS typically updates its official guides to align with any revisions or changes made to the GRE Revised General Test, ensuring the information and practice materials remain current and relevant.

Q: Can the Official Guide help me understand GRE scoring and percentiles?

A: Absolutely. The guide provides detailed explanations of the scoring scales for each section (Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing) and clarifies how percentile ranks are calculated and interpreted, helping you understand your performance relative to other test-takers.

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