**Overview** The Graduate Records Exam (GRE) features questions that closely reflect the kind of thinking students will do – and the skills they will need to succeed – in today's demanding graduate programs. The GRE measures students verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills – skills that have been developed over a long period of time and are not related to a specific field of study, but are important for all students pursuing a graduate education.

**Score Distribution**
The verbal and quantitative reasoning sections will each be scored from a low of 130 to a high of 170. The Analytical Writing section is scored from a low of 0 to a high of 6. Composite scores range from 260-340, which include the verbal and quantitative section. The writing section is not factored into the composite score. A competitive score depends on the field and school that students want to enter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantitative Reasoning</th>
<th>Verbal Reasoning</th>
<th>Analytical Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designed to test students ability to reason quantitatively - which include how to read a math problem, understand what it is asking, and solve it. The goal of this section is to test their ability to apply given information, think logically, and draw conclusions</td>
<td>Emphasis on complex reasoning skills and students ability to analyze the relationships between words and sentences as they are used in context. Vocabulary will be tested contextually, and the reading passages are both dense with written with a sophisticated level of diction.</td>
<td>To assess not only how students write, but also the thought process they employ to formulate and articulate a position. Students analytical and critical thinking skills will be tested by questions that asks them to evaluate complex arguments and form an argument of their own.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Types of questions you will see...**
- Quantitative Comparison
- Multiple-choice (single and multiple answer selections)
- Numeric Entry

**Types of questions you will see...**
- Reading Comprehension
- Text Completion
- Sentence Equivalence

**Writing task you will be tested on...**
- Analyze an Issue task
- Analyze an Argument task

**Preparatory Courses:**
- Basic mathematical and quantitative reasoning skills regarding concepts such as arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data interpretation.
- Courses in the humanities and social sciences that require extensive and careful reading.
- English composition, writing intensive and analytical writing courses in English, Philosophy, and other humanities and social sciences.

**Experimental Section:** One of the four verbal/quantitative sections will be unidentified & unscored. The GRE creators use this section to normalize new questions for future examinations. When taking the GRE, students will not be able to identify which section is the experimental section, so take all sections seriously.
**TIPS FOR STUDYING WELL**

✓ Learn as much as you can about the exam. Look on ETS website for official handouts and overviews.

✓ Study material covered on the exams by studying guidebooks, or taking preparatory courses offered by ETS or private companies (e.g., Kaplan and Princeton Review for the GRE).

✓ Take practice exams under realistic, timed conditions. ETS offers POWERPREP® II program which the provides two practice test that resemble the real GRE.

✓ Review the results of your practice exam to identify areas in which you need improvement and spend more time reviewing material in these areas. Identify tactical errors you may have made and begin to develop strategies for answering each type of question.

✓ Start preparing for the exams well in advance. Three-six months is the recommended study time for the GRE. This can vary depending on the student but generally the earlier students study the better the result.

✓ Do your best the first time you take the exam. If you need to improve your scores, you can retake the exam every 21 days or within a 12-month period (365 days).

✓ Take time just before the exam to relax, get a good night’s sleep, and eat a good nutritious breakfast. Scope out the exam location prior to your test day as well just in case you get lost on the day of.

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**BREAKDOWN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Section</th>
<th>Number of Questions</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analytical Writing (One section with two separately timed tasks)</td>
<td>2 writing task</td>
<td>30 mins each essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Reasoning (two sections)</td>
<td>20 each section</td>
<td>30 min per section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning (two sections)</td>
<td>20 each section</td>
<td>35 min per section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental</td>
<td>varies</td>
<td>varies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breaks: There is a 10-min. break after the third section and a 1-min. break between the others.

Total Test Time: 3 hours and 45 mins.

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**MULTI-STAGE TEST**

One of the unique things about the Computer Based GRE is that it is a Multi-stage Test (MST). Meaning that the test will adapt to your proficiency at which you are testing. If you are doing very well in the beginning sections, the questions in the next section will be more difficult.

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**SCORE AVAILABILITY**

For examinees taking the Computer based exam, your scores will be available online on your MyGRE account on [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org) 10-15 days after the test date. For paper based exams, they will be available within 6 weeks. Students’ scores will also be mailed to the student and 4 designated institutions of their choosing.

Students have option the to send the most recent test score, all scores earned during the previous 5 years, or selected GRE scores.

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**RESOURCES**

✦ [The Official Guide to the GRE® revised General Test](http://www.ets.org)
✦ [POWERPREP® II: Sample Computer-based Test](http://www.gre.org)
✦ [ETS GRE Overview: Test Content and Structure](http://www.gre.org)
✦ [Khan Academy®: Preparation for the GRE® Quantitative Reasoning Measure](http://www.gre.org)