GRE BASICS

DEREK L. FINCHAM, MS, CRC

WHY THE GRE?

- The GRE® General Test is the most widely accepted, proven standardized assessment for graduate and professional school
- More than 600,000 people take the GRE General test annually
- The GRE test is taken by people from over 230 countries throughout the world each year
- The GRE test is widely accessible, with availability at nearly 700 test centers in more than 150 countries
- A standardized test that graduate programs in **sciences, social sciences and humanities** use to assess applicants in admission

ETS GRE Exam: https://www.ets.org/gre/

UCLA Graduate Division: https://grad.ucla.edu/

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Cost: $205
- Allow 3.5 hours for the test
- Sign up at www.gre.org or 1-800-GRE-CALL
- Testing Centers and Dates: https://ereg.ets.org/ereg/public/workflowmanager/workflow?workflowItemId=tcAvailability

GRE AREAS

- GRE aims to measure skills of
  - **Analytical writing** (reasoning, critical thinking, formal writing)
  - **Verbal reasoning** (reading comprehension, critical reasoning and vocabulary usage)
  - **Quantitative reasoning** (algebra, geometry, arithmetic, and vocabulary)

UCLA Graduate Division: https://grad.ucla.edu/

STRUCTURE OF THE TEST

- 6 Sections of the test totaling 3hours 45minuts
  - Always begins with writing and then from there sections are mixed treat each section like it is being scored.
- Analytical Writing
- Verbal Reasoning
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Experimental/Research One section
  - Not scored and can be mixed in with the other sections or appear at the end.

SCORING

- Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning
  - - scaled score 130-170 in 1 pt. increments
- Analytical Writing
  - - score levels 0.0-6.0 in 0.5 pt. increments
- Scores are good for 5 years
  - -4 free score reports
  - -additional reports $27 each

SCORE REPORT

- Your official *GRE* score report contains your:
  - Contact information (name, phone number and email)
  - Date of birth
  - Gender
  - Intended graduate major
  - Test date(s)
  - GRE test score(s) and the associated percentile ranks
  - Authorized score recipients or fellowship sponsors and the scores reported to those institutions
  - Cumulative record of scores reported within the last five years

SCORE REPORT

- Official score reports sent to the institutions you designate include your:
  - Contact information (name, address, phone number, email)
  - Intended graduate major
  - GRE test score(s) and the associated percentile ranks

- Sore Availability:
  - About 10–15 days after your test date, your official scores will be available in your ETS Account and sent to the score recipients you designated on test day.

- Sample Score Report:
  - https://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/examinee_score_report.pdf

SCORING SERVICES

- GRE Diagnostic Services
  - If you plan on retaking the test, use the GRE Diagnostic Service to help you understand your performance on questions in the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections of the test you took.
  - The FREE service includes the types of questions you answered correctly and incorrectly organized by skill area, and the difficulty level and time spent on each question.

SCORING SERVICES

- Score Review for Analytical Writing or Verbal and Qualitative Reasoning
  - For a $60 fee you may request a score review of the Analytical Writing measure or for a $50 fee the Verbal and Qualitative Reasoning test that you took up to 90 days after the administration.
  - Allow one to three weeks for the results of the review to be emailed to you.
  - Note that during the review process your GRE General Test scores will be placed on hold; you will not be able to report your scores to designated score recipients until the review process is completed. If the score review process results in a higher or lower score, the new score will be reported.

THE DAY OF THE EXAM

- Eat A Good Breakfast
- Arrive Early
- Remember to Bring Your Authorization voucher, if applicable
- If You Are An Individual With A Disability Taking The Paper Based GRE Exam Bring:
  - Your confirmation email — After your registration has been processed, you will receive a confirmation email from ETS that confirms your test choice, test date, test center and score recipients.
  - Three or four sharpened No. 2 or HB pencils and a good eraser — Pencils and erasers will not be supplied at the test center. Mechanical pencils and pens are not permitted.

THE DAY OF THE EXAM

- Bring Two Forms of Photo Identification

- The following government-issued ID documents are acceptable for admission to a test center within the United States:
  - Passport with name, photograph and signature
  - Passport Card with name, photograph and signature (must be accompanied by an acceptable supplemental ID)
  - National ID with name, photograph and signature
  - Government-issued driver's license with name, photograph and signature (including provisional driver’s license).
  - State or Province ID card, including those issued by motor vehicle agencies with name, photograph and signature
  - Military ID with name, photograph and signature

POLICIES

- View of Cancel Scores
  - At the end of the test, you can report (view) or cancel your scores.
  - Once viewed you cannot cancel scores. **You also cannot cancel scores for one section it is all or nothing.**
- Canceled scores, will NOT be available for your review online or be reported to any score recipients.
- Scores are reported to *GRE* score recipients (Graduate Programs) only at your request.
- If you are absent from a test administration, you will forfeit your test fee.

Extremely Rough Predictions of SAT & ACT Scores to GRE Scores

Note: As people interested in psychology, remember that tests can be used to predict future behavior. Also realize that this information is correlational and not causal. Something could happen and one score could be much higher or lower than the other. Just to make things even murkier, the three exams don't necessarily test the same exact skills or measure them in the same ways; additionally, each testing date has a different sample. Having said that, having a rough idea of where you might stand may calm you down or show you that you do need to take studying seriously.

From https://www.prepscholar.com/gre/blog/sat-to-gre-conversion/:

An SAT math score of 520 is 49th-51st percentile, as is a GRE score of 153.

An SAT English score of 540 is 48th-49th percentile, as is a GRE score of 150.

From https://magoosh.com/hs/act/act-percentiles/

An ACT English score of 19 is 49th percentile.

An ACT Math score of 18 is 49th percentile.

You can also use: https://www.kaptest.com/study/gre/gre-score-predictor-whats-your-gre-score/ and https://www.kaptest.com/study/gre/gre-score-predictor-what-is-your-gre-math-score/ to see what Kaplan, a test prep company, is predicting.

Please remember that some Ph.D. programs in various subfields of psychology will accept students during their senior undergraduate year, without needing a master's degree first. A subgroup of those will pay you to live AND give you free or reduced-price tuition. Before the pandemic, one of the things you needed for those programs was a very high GRE score (at least 300, if not 320 composite). It's still unclear whether high scores will be needed in the future.

Compiled by Nina Slota

Department of Behavioral Sciences

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY

ANALYTICAL WRITING

DEREK L. FINCHAM, MS, CRC

TWO GRE ANALYTICAL WRITING PROMPTS

- Issue (construct an argument, 30 minutes)
- Argument (critique an argument, 30 minutes)

Manage Your Time

You have 30 minutes for each essay.

Allocate time where you need it most:

- Planning
- Writing
- Reviewing
- Proofreading

Manage Your Content

- Holistic scoring on 0-6 scale
- Based on 4 major factors:
  - Focus (on topic, position, and prompt)
  - Substance
  - Structure
  - Control of language
- Two readers, scores averaged
  - If ratings are greater than 1 point apart, a 3rd reader reviews your essays
- Readers expect a solid rough draft

Analyzing an Issue

Topic:

As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate.

Task:

Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

Analyzing an Argument

Topic:

In surveys Mason City residents rank water sports (swimming, boating and fishing) among their favorite recreational activities. The Mason River flowing through the city is rarely used for these pursuits, however, and the city park department devotes little of its budget to maintaining riverside recreational facilities. For years there have been complaints from residents about the quality of the river's water and the river's smell. In response, the state has recently announced plans to clean up Mason River. Use of the river for water sports is therefore sure to increase. The city government should for that reason devote more money in this year's budget to riverside recreational facilities.

Task:

Write a response in which you examine the stated and/or unstated assumptions of the argument. Be sure to explain how the argument depends on the assumptions and what the implications are if the assumptions prove unwarranted.

Scoring Guide

Score Level 0

The examinee's analytical writing skills cannot be evaluated because the responses do not address any part of the assigned tasks, are merely attempts to copy the assignments, are in a foreign language or display only indecipherable text.

Scoring Guide

Scores 1 and 0.5

Displays fundamental deficiencies in analytical writing. The writing is fundamentally flawed in at least one of the following ways: content that is extremely confusing or mostly irrelevant to the assigned tasks; little or no development; severe and pervasive errors that result in incoherence.

Scoring Guide

Scores 2 and 1.5

Displays serious weaknesses in analytical writing. The writing is seriously flawed in at least one of the following ways: serious lack of analysis or development; lack of organization; serious and frequent problems in sentence structure or language usage, with errors that obscure meaning.

Scoring Guide

Scores 3 and 2.5

Displays some competence in analytical writing, although the writing is flawed in at least one of the following ways: limited analysis or development; weak organization; weak control of sentence structure or language usage, with errors that often result in vagueness or lack of clarity.

Scoring Guide

Scores 4 and 3.5

Provides competent analysis of ideas; develops and supports main points with relevant reasons and/or examples; is adequately organized; conveys meaning with reasonable clarity; demonstrates satisfactory control of sentence structure and language usage, but may have some errors that affect clarity.

Scoring Guide

Scores 5 and 4.5

Provides generally thoughtful analysis of complex ideas; develops and supports main points with logically sound reasons and/or well-chosen examples; is generally focused and well organized; uses sentence variety and vocabulary to convey meaning clearly; demonstrates good control of sentence structure and language usage, but may have minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.

Scoring Guide

Scores 6 and 5.5

Sustains insightful, in-depth analysis of complex ideas; develops and supports main points with logically compelling reasons and/or highly persuasive examples; is well focused and well organized; skillfully uses sentence variety and precise vocabulary to convey meaning effectively; demonstrates superior facility with sentence structure and language usage, but may have minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.

UNDERSTANDING QUANTITATIVE REASONING

DEREK L. FINCHAM, MS, CRC

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

- The test is attempting to decipher how well a student can interpret and solve basic math concepts. The questions do not require lengthy calculations, therefore strategy is key when analyzing the given information.
  - Although it contains *basic math concepts*, the test becomes challenging when a student hasn't had much practice or review of these concepts in recent years.
  - Students are not use to approaching mathematical concepts the way the GRE test presents them

Borcherding, Hylton, Gute, (2019) Demystifying the GRE

OVERVIEW

- Questions pertaining to arithmetic, algebra, geometry, statistics, and data interpretation
- Consists of two Quantitative Reasoning sections
  - 20 questions per section
  - Each section lasts 35 minutes
  - Quantitative Comparison
  - Problem Solving
  - Data Interpretation

Borcherding, Hylton, Gute, (2019) Demystifying the GRE

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Multiple Choice Answers
  - –You are presented with multiple answer choices. You are then to pick which of those choices is the correct answers.
    - Multiple choice-one answer
    - Multiple choice-multiple answers

Borcherding, Hylton, Gute, (2019) Demystifying the GRE

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Numeric Entry
  - You are asked to type your answer into a box
- Calculator Usage
  - Those who are taking the test on a computer can use the on-screen calculator on GRE quantitative questions.
  - Using the GRE calculator to solve every question can be very time-consuming.

Borcherding, Hylton, Gute, (2019) Demystifying the GRE

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON QUESTIONS

- **Quantitative Comparisons**
  - Seven to Eight Questions Per Section
  - A grand total of about 15 Quantitative Comparisons appear on the GRE
  - All Quantitative Comparisons consist of two quantities (Quantity A and Quantity B), which are usually accompanied by a description.

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON QUESTIONS

- Such as a diagram, a pair of coordinates, an equation, or a couple of sentences describing a major rule or relationship.
- The task is to compare the two quantities and select one of four possible answer choices:
  - Quantity A is greater.
  - Quantity B is greater.
  - The two quantities are equal.
  - The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON QUESTIONS

EXAMPLE:

Quantity A	Quantity B
The least prime number greater than 24	The greatest prime number less than 28

A) Quantity A is greater.
B) Quantity B is greater.
C) The two quantities are equal.
D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

ETS: www.ets.org/gre

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON QUESTIONS

Explanation:

For the integers greater than 24, note that 25, 26, 27, and 28 are not prime numbers, but 29 is a prime number, as are 31 and many other greater integers. Thus, 29 is the least prime number greater than 24, and Quantity A is 29. For the integers less than 28, note that 27, 26, 25, and 24 are not prime numbers, but 23 is a prime number, as are 19 and several other lesser integers. Thus, 23 is the greatest prime number less than 28, and Quantity B is 23. **The correct answer is Choice A, Quantity A is greater.**

ETS: www.ets.org/gre

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON QUESTIONS

EXAMPLE:

Lionel is younger than Maria.

Quantity A	Quantity B
Twice Lionel's age	Maria's age

A) Quantity A is greater.
B) Quantity B is greater.
C) The two quantities are equal.
D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON QUESTIONS

Explanation:

If Lionel's age is 6 years and Maria's age is 10 years, then Quantity A is greater, but if Lionel's age is 4 years and Maria's age is 10 years, then Quantity B is greater. Thus, the relationship cannot be determined. **The correct answer is Choice D, the relationship cannot be determined from the information given**.

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON QUESTIONS

EXAMPLE:

Quantity A	Quantity B
54% of 360	150

A) Quantity A is greater.
B) Quantity B is greater.
C) The two quantities are equal.
D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

ETS: www.ets.org/gre

QUANTITATIVE COMPARISON QUESTIONS

Explanation:

Without doing the exact computation, you can see that 54 percent of 360 is greater than half of 360, which is 180, and 180 is greater than Quantity B, 150. **Thus the correct answer is Choice A, Quantity A is greater**.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

EXAMPLE:

If "5x+32 = 4-2x" what is the value of *x* ?

A) -4

B) -3

C) 4

D) 7

E) 12

ETS: www.ets.org/gre

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Explanation:

Solving the equation for *x*, you get 7x = -28 so x= -4. **The correct answer is A**

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

EXAMPLE:

A certain jar contains 60 jelly beans — 22 white, 18 green, 11 yellow, 5 red, and 4 purple. If a jelly bean is to be chosen at random, what is the probability that the jelly bean will be neither red nor purple?

A) 0.09

B) 0.15

C) 0.54

D) 0.85

E) 0.91

ETS: www.ets.org/gre

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Explanation:

Since there are 5 red and 4 purple jelly beans in the jar, there are 51 that are neither red nor purple and the probability of selecting one of these is 51/60 Since all of the answer choices are decimals, you must convert the fraction to its decimal equivalent, 0.85. **Thus the correct answer is Choice D, 0.85**.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS MULTIPLE

EXAMPLE:

Which of the following integers are multiples of both 2 and 3?

Indicate all such integers.

A) 8

B) 9

C) 12

D) 18

E) 21

F) 36

ETS: www.ets.org/gre

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS MULTIPLE

Explanation:

You can first identify the multiples of 2, which are 8, 12, 18, and 36, and then among the multiples of 2 identify the multiples of 3, which are 12, 18, and 36. Alternatively, if you realize that every number that is a multiple of 2 and 3 is also a multiple of 6, you can identify the choices that are multiples of 6. **The correct answer consists of Choices C (12), D (18), and F (36)**.

NUMERIC ENTRY SAMPLE QUESTIONS

EXAMPLE:

One pen costs $0.25 and one marker costs $0.35. At those prices, what is the total cost of 18 pens and 100 markers?

$ [ ]

ETS: www.ets.org/gre

NUMERIC ENTRY SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Explanation:

Multiplying $0.25 by 18 yields $4.50, which is the cost of the 18 pens; and multiplying $0.35 by 100 yields $35.00, which is the cost of the 100 markers. The total cost is therefore $4.50 + $35.00 = $39.50 Equivalent decimals, such as $39.5 or $39.500, are considered correct. **Thus the correct answer is $39.50 (or equivalent)**.

Note that the dollar symbol is in front of the answer box, so the symbol $ does not need to be entered in the box. In fact, only numbers, a decimal point and a negative sign can be entered in the answer box.

DATA INTERPRETATION SAMPLE QUESTIONS

EXAMPLE:

Store	Percent Change from 2006 to 2007	Percent Change from 2007 to 2008
P	10	-10
Q	-20	9
R	5	12
S	-7	-15
T	17	-8

If the dollar amount of sales at Store *P* was $800,000 for 2006, what was the dollar amount of sales at that store for 2008?

A) $727,200 B) $792,000 C)$800,000 D) $880,000 E) $968,000

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DATA INTERPRETATION SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Explanation:

According to Figure 8, if the dollar amount of sales at Store *P* was $800,000 for 2006, then it was 10 percent greater for 2007, which is 110 percent of that amount, or $880,000. For 2008 the amount was 90 percent of $880,000, which is $792,000. **The correct answer is Choice B, $792,000**.

Note that an increase of 10 percent for one year and a decrease of 10 percent for the following year does not result in the same dollar amount as the original dollar amount because the base that is used in computing the percents is $800,000 for the first change but $880,000 for the second change.