

The GRE® General Test

Content and Structure

At a Glance

Graduate schools, including business and law, want to be sure that you have the skills you need to succeed in their demanding programs. The GRE® General Test measures your verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills — skills that are not related to a specific field of study, but are important for all.

The test is available worldwide at a test center or at home on a continuous basis throughout the year. Total testing time is about three hours and 45 minutes with a 10-minute break after the third section of the test.

Section	Section Length # of Questions	Question Types	Measures Your Ability to:	Score Scale
Analytical Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One section • Two separately timed 30-minute tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze an Issue • Analyze an Argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support ideas with relevant reasons and examples and examine claims and accompanying evidence • Articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively • Provide focused responses to questions 	0–6, reported in half-point increments
Verbal Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two 30-minute sections • 20 questions in each section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Comprehension • Text Completion • Sentence Equivalence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it • Analyze relationships among component parts of sentences • Recognize relationships among words and concepts 	130–170, reported in one-point increments
Quantitative Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two 35-minute sections • 20 questions in each section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative Comparison • Multiple choice • Numeric Entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret and analyze quantitative information • Solve problems using mathematical models • Apply basic mathematical skills and elementary mathematical concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, data analysis 	130–170, reported in one-point increments
Unscored†	Varies	Varies	N/A	Unscored
Research††	Varies	Varies	N/A	Unscored

Learn more about each test section at ets.org/gre/structure.

† An unidentified unscored section that does not count toward your score may be included and may appear in any order after the Analytical Writing section.

†† An identified Research section may be included in place of the unidentified unscored section. The Research section will always appear at the end of the test. Questions in this section are included for the purpose of ETS research and will not count toward your score.



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