Overview

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- Application to You
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Current GRE Sections

- **Verbal Reasoning:**
  - Ability to analyze and synthesize written material
  - Analyze relationships among parts of sentences
  - Recognize relationships between words and concepts

- **Quantitative Reasoning:**
  - Basic math skills and understanding of concepts
  - Reason quantitatively to solve problems
  - Requires arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis

- **Analytical Writing:**
  - Critical thinking and analytical writing skills
  - Articulate and support complex ideas
  - Analyze an argument through a focused, coherent discussion

Test Design

- Why make changes to the test design?
  - More real-life scenarios that mirror the kind of thinking you'll do with graduate-level work.
  - A friendlier, more flexible test design that gives you the freedom to use more of your own test-taking style and strategies.
Test Design

- New preview and review capabilities within a section
- New "mark and review" feature to tag questions, so you can skip and return later
- New ability to change/edit answers within a section
- New on-screen calculator for the Quantitative Reasoning section

Test Design

- New questions that better reflect the skills you'll need for graduate and business school
- New answer formats, including tasks such as numeric entry and highlighting a sentence in a passage to answer a question
- Less reliance on vocabulary out of context, more emphasis on reading and comprehension
Ability -- Verbal Reasoning

• Analyze & draw conclusions from discourse; reason from incomplete data; identify author’s assumptions and/or perspective; understand multiple levels of meaning

• Select important points; distinguish major from minor or relevant points; summarize text; understand the structure of a text

• Understand the meaning of words, sentences, and entire texts; understand relationships among words and among concepts

Content -- Verbal Reasoning

• No more antonyms and analogies; more focus on reading

• Greater emphasis on higher-level cognitive skills

• Better measures your ability to understand what you read and how you apply your reasoning skills
Content -- Verbal Reasoning

- Antonyms and analogies have been removed from the test, so there are no questions that test vocabulary out of context.

- New **Text Completion questions** test your ability to interpret, evaluate and reason from what you've read.
  - Omit crucial words from short passages, require you to fill them in by selecting words or phrases.

Content -- Verbal Reasoning

- New **Sentence Equivalence questions** test your ability to reach a conclusion about how a sentence should be completed while focusing on the meaning of the whole sentence.

- More **Reading Comprehension questions**, including new types of questions:
  - Multiple correct answers instead of just one
  - Highlighting a *sentence within a reading passage* to answer the question.
Ability -- Quantitative Reasoning

- Understand, interpret, and analyze quantitative information
- Solve problems using mathematical models
- Apply basic mathematical skills and elementary mathematical concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics

Content -- Quantitative Reasoning

- Still math, but increased emphasis on data interpretation and real-life scenarios
- Reduced emphasis on computation, by providing an on-screen calculator
Content -- Quantitative Reasoning

- New **Multiple-choice questions** which include some that have more than one correct answer, requiring you to select all of the correct answers from the choices provided

- New **Numeric Entry questions** require you to enter your answer in a box instead of selecting an answer from a list

Ability -- Analytical Writing

- Articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively

- Support ideas with relevant reasons and examples

- Examine claims and accompanying evidence

- Sustain a well-focused and cohort discussion

- Control the elements of standard written English
Content -- Analytical Writing

- For each of 2 essay tasks, you will be given one topic rather than a choice of topics
  - “Analyze an Argument”: Evaluate a logical argument
  - “Analyze an Issue”: Express your views on critical issue

- Tasks are now more specific, and responses will be measured to ensure you can integrate critical thinking and analytical writing by fully addressing the tasks you’re presented

- 30 minutes instead of 45 minutes (no spell-check)

Score Scales

- **Verbal Reasoning scores**
  - New 130 – 170 score scale, in 1-point increments
    - Versus 200 – 800 in 10-point increments

- **Quantitative Reasoning scores**
  - New 130 – 170 score scale, in 1-point increments
    - Versus 200 – 800 in 10-point increments

- **Analytical Writing scores**
  - Same 0 – 6 score level, in half-point increments.
Score Scales

- Institutions will find it easier to compare your scores with the scores of other candidates

- For example, if you and another candidate have scores that differ by 1 or 2 score points, then you and the other candidate performed similarly on the test

- With the current broader score scale, that same difference looks like a 10- or 20-point difference in score — which could look like a big difference

Score Scales

- Master’s programs
  - Like to see 500-550 on each section
  - That would be about 150 - 155 on the new scale

- PhD programs
  - Like to see 550-600 on each section
  - That would be about 155 - 160 on the new scale
What does this mean for you?

- Overall...
  - The changes seem to benefit the test-taker
  - You should **not** move your test date based on these changes
    - Most students take the GRE between August-October of their senior year
  - Be sure to purchase the correct study guide
  - Visit [www.GRE.org](http://www.GRE.org) to read more about the changes
  - Schedule an appointment with Celeste if you are still unsure

Which version should I take?

When do you need your scores by?

- **November 2011 or early:** Take the current GRE before August 1\(^{st}\), 2011
- **December 2011 or later:** Take the revised GRE after August 1\(^{st}\), 2011
http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/know

- Read more about the changes
- See examples of the new types of questions
- Tips and general advice about the new format

Questions?