

University of Pittsburgh
PSYCHOLOGY ADVISING OFFICE

GRE General Exam Information

WHY TAKE IT?	Most graduate schools require it
HOW LONG IS IT?	2½ hours
HOW TO REGISTER?	www.gre.org
HOW IS IT SCORED?	Scoring is based on your: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal Score (200 to 800 points) • Math Score (200 to 800 points) • Analytical Writing Assessment (0 to 6 points)
WHEN ARE THE SCORES REPORTED?	Computer-based General Test: you can view your unofficial verbal and quantitative scores at the test center; however, because of the essay scoring process, you will not be able to view your analytical writing scores at that time. Verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing scores on the computer-based General Test will be sent to you and the institutions you designate within 10 to 15 days of your test administration.
VERBAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 multiple-choice questions • 30 minute section <p>The skills measured include the test taker's ability to analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it, analyze relationships among component parts of sentences, and recognize relationships between words and concepts.</p>
QUANTITATIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 multiple-choice questions • 45 minute section <p>The skills measured include the test taker's ability to understand basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis, reason quantitatively, and solve problems in a quantitative setting.</p>
ANALYTICAL WRITING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 essays • 30 minutes for one essay and 45 minutes for the other <p>The skills measured include the test taker's ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively, examine claims and accompanying evidence, support ideas with relevant reasons and examples, sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion, and control the elements of standard written English.</p> <p>The analytical writing section consists of two analytical writing tasks: a 45-minute "Present Your Perspective on an Issue" task and a 30-minute "Analyze an Argument" task. The "Issue" task states an opinion on an issue of general interest and asks you to address the issue from any perspective(s) you wish, as long as you provide relevant reasons and examples to explain and support your views. The "Argument" task requires you to critique an argument by discussing how well-reasoned you find it. You are asked to consider the logical soundness of the argument rather than to agree or disagree with the position it presents. The "Issue and Argument" are complementary in that the "issue" requires you to construct a personal argument about an issue, and the "Argument" requires you to critique someone else's argument by assessing its claims.</p>

This information has been adapted from www.princetonreview.com and www.ets.org

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Quick facts

- You can only take the GRE general exam once per calendar month.
- You should register at least a month in advance.
- Scores could take at least four weeks to arrive at designated institutions. Make sure to allow enough time for institutions to receive your scores by the application deadlines.
- During your testing, you can choose to send your scores to up to 4 institutions without paying additional fees. If you choose to send your scores to more than 4 schools, you will have to contact ETS (Educational Testing Service www.ets.org) to request additional reports. Each additional score report costs \$15.
- GRE scores are reported for up to five years.

FAQS

Where can I sign up for the exam?

You can sign up online at www.gre.org or visit this site for information about phone, fax, and mail registration.

Where can I take the test?

You can take the both the general and subject exam at a number of sites, including The Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching located in G35 of the Cathedral of Learning is an official testing site. You can choose this site (code 7705) when registering for the exam, or choose a more convenient site when registering.

How much does the GRE exam cost?

The general and subject exams cost \$130 in the U.S.

I've heard there are waivers for the cost of the exam. Is this true?

Yes, fee waivers are available for the cost of the exam to those who qualify. **Note: Fee waivers are not offered for online registration. To learn more, visit:

<http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnextoid=e3f42d3631df4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=398af3d792285010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>

Can I cancel my scores?

Yes, but this option is only available before you view your scores. Canceling your scores will be recorded on your GRE record.

How can I prepare for the General Test?

There are many materials available including private tutoring, courses (classroom and online), books, software, and online materials. These materials can range from \$0-\$4,000. Although some students opt for private tutoring and enrolling in courses, there are just as many students who prepare with books and free online materials.

When you register for the exam, you will receive a CD-ROM containing test prep materials. You can also access the following free resources:

GRE POWERPREP software and other online practice materials:

<http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnextoid=302b66f22c6a5010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=d687e3b5f64f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>

GRE Issue topics pool:

<http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnextoid=b63ce7b9edfb5010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=06c7e3b5f64f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>

GRE Essay topics pool:

<http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnextoid=ef752d3631df4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=06c7e3b5f64f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>

Free online Kaplan GRE services

http://www.kaptest.com/Kaplan/Article/Graduate/GRE/Practice-for-the-GRE/GR_aboutgre_practiceGRE.html

