

The GRE Fact Sheet

General Test

- I. What is the GRE?
 - A. Admittance into graduate or professional school
 - B. Analyzes your verbal, math, and writing skills

- II. How is the GRE General Test Structured
 - A. It is a Computer-Based “Adaptive” test – CBT (no paper tests are given in the US).
 - B. The CBT consists of a total of 5 sections.
 - C. Only the first 4 sections are computer-based, and just 3 sections will count toward your score.
 - D. The CBT is adaptive toward your performance.
 - i. If you get a question right, the next question is more difficult.
 - ii. If you get a question wrong, the next question is a little easier.
 - E. Verbal
 - i. 30 questions/30 minutes.
 - ii. You must answer at least 24 questions in order to receive a score (scores range 200-800, 10pt increments).
 - iii. 4 subcategories: Analogies, Antonyms, Sentence Completion, and Reading Comprehension.
 - F. Quantitative
 - i. 28 questions/45 minutes.
 - ii. You must answer at least 23 questions in order to receive a score (scores range 200-800, 10pt. increments).
 - iii. 3 Subcategories: Quantitative Comparison, Problem Solving, and Data Interpretation.
 - G. Analytical Writing
 - i. 2 Essays/75 minutes
 - ii. Essay #1 (45 minutes) – Issues Task: Present your perspective on an issue.
 1. You will need to construct your own argument by taking a particular position on an issue (students will be able to choose one of two issue topics).
 - iii. Essay #2 (30 minutes) – Argument Task: Critique another person’s argument (only one argument will be provided).
 - iv. Each Essay will be scored from 0-6, though students will only receive a single score for both essays (on half-point increments – 4.5, 5.5); Essay score will be received 10-15 days following the test.
 - H. Experimental
 - i. The Experimental Section will look like one of the other three sections and will not be scored.
 - ii. You will not know which section is the “Experimental” section, so treat every section as if they are scored.
 - I. Research
 - i. This section is not CBT and is NOT scored (it’s optional).
 - ii. You will know which section is the “Research” section.

- III. Questions on the GRE
 - A. You will only see 1 question at a time, and the 1st question will be of medium difficulty (500).
 - B. You cannot return to a question once you have answered it.
 - C. There is no time limit per question, but you will need to answer the minimum number of questions in each section in the allocated time in order to receive an official score.

- IV. Scores
 - A. National Average is a 500 Verbal, a 500 Quantitative, and a 4.0 on Analytical Writing.
 - B. Your score is not determined by how many questions you get right, but how hard the questions you get right are.
 - C. Harder questions earn more points.
 - D. When you finish the CBT you will be given a prompt asking you whether or not you want to cancel your scores. If you don’t cancel them at that time, you will never be able to.

Subject Test

- V. Types: Biochemistry; Biology; Chemistry; Computer Science; Literature; Mathematics; Physics; and Psychology.
- VI. Subject tests are given at paper-based test centers 3 times a year: October, November, April.
- VII. Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology: The test consists of approximately 180 multiple-choice questions, and based on descriptions of laboratory situations, diagrams or experimental results. The content of the test is organized into three major areas: biochemistry, cell biology and molecular biology and genetics.
- VIII. Biology: The test consists of approximately 200 five-choice questions, and are based on descriptions of laboratory and field situations, diagrams, or experimental results. The content of the test is organized into three major areas: cellular and molecular biology, organismal biology, and ecology and evolution.

Tips

- IX. Register Early – try and take the test by January if you plan to apply by March
- X. Prepare by taking at least 4 full-length tests (at least 2 CBT) before the actual exam

Who Takes It and Why?

Prospective graduate applicants take the General Test. GRE® test scores are used by admissions or fellowship panels to supplement undergraduate records and other qualifications for graduate study. The scores provide common measures for comparing the qualifications of applicants and aid in evaluating grades and recommendations.

Where Do People Take It?

The General Test is offered year-round at computer-based test centers in the U.S., Canada, and many other countries. It is offered at paper-based test centers in areas of the world where computer-based testing is not available. See which format is available [in your area](#).

University of Minnesota (Eddy Hall): 612-624-5520
Prometric Testing Center, Edina, MN: 952-831-1499
Prometric Testing Center, Woodbury, MN: 651-731-9195
St. Cloud State University (Atwood Testing Center, Room A218): 320-308-5456

Who Accepts It?

Any accredited graduate, business or professional school, or any department or division within a school, may require or recommend that its applicants take the General Test, a Subject Test, or both. If approved by the GRE® Board, an institution seeking accreditation can also receive test takers' scores.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009

- \$140 General Test—U.S., U.S. Territories, and Puerto Rico**
- \$195 General Test—China (including Hong Kong), Korea, and Taiwan. See [Bulletin Supplement \(PDF\)](#).**
- \$170 General Test—All Other Locations**
- \$ 25 Late Registration Fee**
- \$ 50 Standby Testing (paper-based test only)**
- \$ 50 Rescheduling Fee**
- \$ 50 Changing Your Test Center**
- \$ 12 Scores by phone**
- \$ 20 Additional score report (ASR) requests—per recipient**
- \$ 50 Question-and-Answer Review Service—Verbal & Quantitative Sections**
- \$ 55 Score Review for Analytical Writing Measure**
- \$ 30 Paper-Based Test Hand Scoring**
- \$ 30 Score Reinstatement Fee**

Fees are subject to change without notice. The above amounts are exclusive of any Value Added or similar taxes. Any tax is payable in addition to the amounts quoted.

Registration

<http://www.ets.org/bin/getprogram.cgi?test=gre>

Test Prep Materials

[GRE Powerprep® Software](#) — Includes two computer-based GRE General Tests, sample Analytical Writing topics, scored sample essays and reader commentary, test-taking strategies, a math review, and test tutorials. It is sent to individuals who register for the computer-based General Test, or may be downloaded at www.gre.org.

Kaplan GRE Exam 2009 (w/ CD Rom) – Amazon.com; Barnes and Noble, Borders