

GRE Syllabus

GRE Syllabus for General Test

The GRE syllabus for the General test has been designed to measure the test takers' verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills—skills that are developed over a long period of time and aren't related to a specific field of study but are important for all. The GRE syllabus is broadly divided into three sections

1. GRE Analytical Writing
2. GRE Quantitative Reasoning
3. GRE Verbal Reasoning

The first two components of the GRE test syllabus, GRE Verbal Reasoning, and GRE Analytical Writing, are well-defined. However, the GRE Quantitative Reasoning syllabus can be confusing. Let's examine what each segment includes to gain a better understanding of the material covered.

GRE Analytical Writing (AWA) Syllabus

The [GRE Analytical Writing](#) section measures your ability to articulate and support complex ideas clearly and effectively, construct arguments, and your ability to sustain a well-focused and coherent discussion and control the elements of standard written English. This section comes first when taking the GRE, before any quantitative or verbal sections.

The syllabus of GRE Analytical writing includes a 30 minute “**Analyze an Issue**” task. It requires you to present an opinion on the issue of general interest according to specific instructions on how to respond to that issue. You need to evaluate the issue, consider its complexities, and develop an argument with reasons and examples to support your views.

The task is related to a wide range of subjects — from fine arts and humanities to social and physical sciences. You do not need knowledge of a specific topic. You will be able to understand this issue task regardless of your field of study or interests.

Refer to the [best books for GRE Analytical Writing](#) that offer useful tips and techniques to master your analytical writing and critical thinking skills.

GRE Verbal Reasoning Syllabus

The [GRE Verbal Reasoning](#) section tests your ability to understand the meaning of words, entire texts, and sentences. It measures your understanding of relationships among words and concepts and your ability to analyze relationships among component parts of sentences.

You need to analyse and draw conclusions from discourse, have the ability to reason behind incomplete data, identify the author's assumptions/ perspective, and understand multiple

levels of meaning like literal, figurative, and author's intent. Then, select the important and relevant points, summarise them, and write them.

List of topics covered in GRE Verbal syllabus includes:

- Idioms & Idiomatic Expressions
- Pronoun Agreement
- Subject-Verb Agreement
- Modifiers
- Parallelism
- Verb Tense
- Basic Sentence Structure: Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives and Adverbs

The questions in the GRE Verbal Reasoning Section are broken down into three parts:

1. Reading Comprehension: It requires you to answer questions from four to five passages based on three different subject areas - humanities, natural science, and social science (Business). Reading comprehension tests your ability to understand what you are reading. The exam contains approximately 10 passages (academic & non-academic) and three question types. You must read and analyse the passage carefully before answering the questions. If you encounter an unfamiliar passage, don't be discouraged. Do not rely on outside knowledge, but answer the questions based on the information given in the passage. All questions can be answered based on the information provided in the passage.

2. Sentence Equivalence: It assesses your ability to conclude a passage based on incomplete information. You need to choose two ways to complete the sentence that has the same meaning and is grammatically correct. When you select your pair of answer choices, ensure that each one produces a logically, grammatically, and stylistically coherent sentence.

3. Text Completion: It tests your ability to derive a complete picture from the text represented. To ace this section, you need to know the words and be well aware of their meaning. Both Sentence equivalence and text completion assess the candidate's grasp of vocabulary. Read through the passage to get an overall sense of it.

About half of the questions are from Reading comprehension, and the other half are Test Completion and Sentence Equivalence. Consistent timed practice with reliable materials and taking full-length tests are effective strategies for improving your scores. Check out the [best books for GRE Verbal](#) to improve your vocabulary and ability to read and comprehend.

GRE Quantitative Reasoning Syllabus

The [GRE Quantitative Reasoning](#) section assesses your ability to solve problems using mathematical models. You need to understand, analyze, and interpret quantitative information. To perform well in this section, you need to apply basic elementary mathematical concepts and skills like arithmetic, geometry, algebra, probability, and data analysis. You can use an on-screen calculator for this GRE math section, however, all the questions will not require you to use the calculator.

The list of topics covered in the GRE quant syllabus is as follows.

Arithmetic

- Property and types of integers such as divisibility,
- Powers and roots
- Statistics
- Estimation
- Number properties
- Percentage
- Exponents and Roots
- Ratio and proportions
- Simple and Compound Interest
- Arithmetic Operations
- Decimal representation
- Sequences of numbers

Geometry

- Lines and angles
- Circles
- Triangles (including isosceles, equilateral and 30° - 60° - 90° triangles)
- Quadrilaterals
- Polygon
- Three-dimensional figures
- Area, Perimeter, Volume
- Angle Measurement in degrees
- Congruent and similar figures
- Volume
- The Pythagorean theorem

Data Analysis

- Descriptive statistics such as Mean, Median, Range, Mode, Percentiles, etc.
- Interpretation of data based on graphs, circle graphs, scatter plots, and frequency distributions
- Elementary probability, such as probabilities of compound events and independent events
- Conditional probability
- Permutation and Combination
- Venn Diagrams
- Sets Theory

Note: These topics are taught in high school algebra or introductory statistics courses.

Algebra

- Operations with exponents

- Algebraic Expressions – Factoring and Simplifying
- Equations and inequalities
- Linear and Quadratic inequalities
- Linear equations
- Quadratic equations
- Word problems
- Speed, Distance and Time
- Profit and Loss
- Coordinate geometry, including graphs of functions, equations and inequalities, intercepts and slopes of lines.

Amongst the list of topics specified above, Geometry is likely the most difficult subject in the GRE Quants syllabus. Prepare all these topics using the [best books for GRE Quant](#) available in PDF and hard copies.

GRE Exam Pattern

The GRE computer-based test has a time limit of 1 hour and 58 minutes. The exam pattern of the GRE is given in the table below. Learning the GRE exam pattern helps you not only manage your time but also understand the exam format, structure, and types of questions covered in the GRE syllabus.

GRE Exam Pattern				
Sections	Number of Questions	Question Types	Duration	Score range
GRE Analytical Writing Assessment	1	Analyse an Issue	30 minutes	0-6 with 0.5 increment
GRE Verbal Reasoning	Section 1: 12 questions Section 2: 15 questions	Reading comprehension Text completion Sentence Equivalence	Section 1: 18 minutes Section 2: 23 minutes	130-170 with 1 point increment
GRE Quantitative Reasoning	Section 1: 12 questions Section 2: 15 questions	Geometry Algebra Arithmetic Data Analysis	Section 1: 21 minutes Section 2: 26 minutes	130-170 with 1 point increment
Total	54 MCQs 1 Descriptive	-	1 hour 58 minutes	Total score- 260 to 340

Among the three sections in the GRE syllabus, only Quantitative and Verbal reasoning scores will add up to more than your GRE scores.

Did you know: The GRE Analytical Writing section will always be first. The GRE Verbal Reasoning and GRE Quantitative Reasoning sections may be in any order.

GRE Subject Test Syllabus

The GRE Subject Test is offered in a paper-delivered format and conducted thrice a year in September, April, and October worldwide. The test lasts for 2 hours 50 minutes and contains multiple-choice questions. The GRE syllabus for subject test includes the following disciplines that are intended to measure your knowledge in a particular subject:

1. Chemistry
2. Mathematics
3. Physics
4. Psychology

GRE Chemistry Syllabus

Chemistry in the GRE Subject Tests consists of approximately 130 multiple-choice questions. The list of topics are:

- Analytical Chemistry (15% covered)
- Inorganic Chemistry (25% covered)
- Organic Chemistry (30% covered)
- Physical Chemistry (30% covered)

GRE Mathematics Syllabus

This subject test contains approximately 66 multiple-choice questions drawn from undergraduate courses. The list of topics includes:

- Calculus (50% covered)
- Algebra (25% covered)
- Additional Topics (25% covered)

GRE Physics Syllabus

Physics in the GRE Subject Tests' consists of approximately 100 five-choice questions, categorised based on materials such as graphs, diagrams and experimental data. The list of topics includes:

- Classical Mechanics - (20% covered)
- Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics - (10% covered)
- Quantum Mechanics - (12% covered)
- Electromagnetism - (18% covered)
- Special Relativity - (6% covered)
- Laboratory Methods - (6% covered)
- Optics and Wave Phenomena - (9% covered)
- Atomic Physics - (10% covered)
- Other Specialised Topics - (9% covered)

GRE Psychology Syllabus

Psychology is one of the interesting subjects in the GRE Subject Tests. It approximately contains 205 multiple-choice questions. The Psychology topics include:

- Cognitive (It covers 17 - 24%)
- Developmental - (It covers 12 - 14%)
- Measurement/Methodology/Others - (It covers 15 - 19%)
- Biological - (It covers 17 - 21%)
- Clinical - (It covers 15 - 19%)
- Social - (It covers 12 - 14%)