

## Important Information about the GRE Revised General Test

### ➤ **The first revised test administration will take place on August 1, 2011.**

- Registration opens for the revised test on March 15, 2011. Candidates may register at [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre).
- The cost for the new test is \$160.
- As a promotion, ETS is offering the revised exam for \$80 during the months of August and September 2011.
  - PLEASE NOTE: The reduced cost is sure to entice students to take the exam during these months. However, there will be a test score reporting lag (see below) that will negatively affect test-takers who need their scores before mid to late November.

### ➤ **Test Score Reporting Lag**

IMPORTANT: Students who take the revised exam in August and September 2011 will not receive scores until mid-November at the earliest. Students taking the exam from October 2011 on will receive scores beginning in late November.

- Anyone needing scores before November should take the exam prior to August 1.
- Scores for August and September 2011 test-takers will set the “curve” for future scoring.

### ➤ **Changes to Test Content**

The content of each section has been revised to more closely measure and assess the skills needed by candidates to succeed in Graduate School.

#### 1. Verbal Reasoning Section

- This section contains three types of questions: Reading Comprehension, Text Completion, and Sentence Equivalence.
- More detail and examples of questions in each category can be found here: [http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/prepare/verbal\\_reasoning/](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/verbal_reasoning/).
- Greater emphasis is now placed on higher cognitive skills, making it a much sharper assessment of the test taker's ability to understand what they read and how to apply reasoning skills.
- The vocabulary questions on the current exam no longer appear on the revised exam. Instead, there are more text-based materials, such as reading passages.
- More specifically, questions will now measure a candidate's ability to:

- analyze and draw conclusions from discourse, reason from incomplete data, identify author's assumptions and/or perspective, understand multiple levels of meaning such as literal, figurative and author's intent;
- select important points, distinguish major from minor or relevant points, summarize text, understand the structure of a text; and
- understand the meanings of words, sentences and entire texts; and understand relationships among words and among concepts.

## 2. Quantitative Reasoning Section

- This section tests the same basic mathematical concepts, but emphasizes the data interpretation and real-life scenarios a test taker will encounter to better gauge their skills.
- Skills will be tested primarily in the areas of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis.
- More detail and examples of questions can be found here:  
[http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/prepare/quantitative\\_reasoning/](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/quantitative_reasoning/).
- More specifically, questions will now measure a candidate's ability to:
  - exercise basic mathematical skills;
  - apply elementary mathematical concepts;
  - reason quantitatively and to model and solve problems with quantitative methods; and
  - apply basic mathematical skills and elementary mathematical concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics.
- The most notable revision to this section is that many of the questions will now require a numerical answer (multiple choice options will NOT be given).
- An on-screen calculator will be available for use in this section to reduce the emphasis on computation.

## 3. Analytical Writing Section

- This section will require test takers to provide more focused responses to questions, so they can more accurately demonstrate their skill in directly responding to the task presented.
- The basic format of this section is similar to the current exam and will consist of two 30-minute, timed writing tasks: "Analyze an Issue" and "Analyze an Argument."
  - Each will introduce a topic that requires a more focused response, reducing the test taker's reliability on memorized materials.
  - Examples of each, along with a pool of possible topics, can be found here:  
[http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/prepare/analytical\\_writing/](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/analytical_writing/).
- These exercises will continue to measure a candidate's ability to:
  - articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively;
  - support ideas with relevant reasons and examples;
  - examine claims and accompanying evidence;
  - sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion; and
  - control the elements of standard written English.

## ➤ **Changes to Test Design**

The new design for the computer-based test is much more user-friendly, easier to navigate, and allows test takers to edit/change answers.

- New preview and review capabilities have been added to each section, along with a "mark and review" feature allows students to tag questions, so they can skip what they don't know and return later.
- As mentioned before, the Quantitative section now requires numerical responses to some questions (not multiple choice), and an on-screen calculator is now provided.
- For more information on the new design, click here:  
[http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general\\_institutions/about/changing\\_test\\_taker/](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general_institutions/about/changing_test_taker/).

## ➤ **Changes to Score Scale**

The revised test features a new score scale that can make it easier for schools to compare your GRE scores with other candidates.

- Scores on the Analytical Writing section score scale will remain the same.
  - Analytical Writing scores will continue to be reported on the same 0 – 6 score level, in half-point increments.
- Scores will look much different on the new score scale for the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections of the GRE revised General Test.
  - Currently, the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections of the test have a score scale of 200 – 800, reported in 10-point increments.
  - For the revised exam, Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores will be reported on a new 130 – 170 score scale, in 1-point increments (versus 200 – 800 in 10-point increments).
  - This new scale provides a much simpler comparison between candidates. If two candidates have GRE revised General Test scores that differ by one or two score points, for example, then they performed similarly on the revised test. With the current test's broader score scale, that same difference looks like a 10- or 20-point difference in score — which could look like a big difference.
  - In a nutshell, the new scores won't exaggerate small performance differences between examinees. Now small differences in scoring will look like small differences, while bigger differences will continue to stand out.
- Both “new” and “old” scores will appear on scoring reports for the foreseeable future, in an effort to help you make a comparison between the two.

## ➤ **Important Information for You and Your Applicants**

Two very valuable references are available to you and your students online:

1. FREE Test preparation materials are available online.
  - Go to [http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/prepare](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare) for a **full length practice exam**.
  - We highly recommend the FREE PowerPrep software. Go to [http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/prepare/powerprep2](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/powerprep2) to download your FREE software.
  
2. ETS has designed an Advisor Information Kit on their website, armed with plenty of PDFs, graphics, a video and even a poster to help you communicate with colleagues and students about the new exam. To access this kit, go to [http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general\\_institutions/prepare/](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general_institutions/prepare/).