



# GMAT Verbal Reasoning & Essay Sections

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## Verbal Overview

- ♠ 41 multiple choice questions
- ♠ Comprehension
- ♠ Critical Reasoning
- ♠ Sentence Correction
- ♠ Maximum of 75 minutes
- ♠ The Verbal section of the GMAT measures your ability to:
  - Read and comprehend written material
  - Evaluate arguments
  - Write in standard English
- ♠ Three types of multiple-choice questions are used in the Verbal section of the GMAT®:
  - **Reading Comprehension**
    - Passages up to 350 words
    - Topics contain material from the social sciences, physical or biological sciences, marketing, economics, and human resource management
    - Specific knowledge of the material is not required
    - Interpretive, applied, and inferential questions follow the passages
    - Evaluates:
      - Comprehension of terms and the English language
      - Comprehension of the logical relationships present in arguments
      - Ability to conclude based upon facts and statements in the reading passages
      - Ability to interpret and conclude based upon numerical data
  - **Critical Reasoning**
    - Tests reasoning skills in constructing and evaluating arguments
    - Specific knowledge of the material is not required
    - Evaluates:
      - Ability to reason in three areas:
      - Argument construction
      - Argument evaluation
      - Formulating and evaluating a plan of action
  - **Sentence Correction**
    - Improve incorrect or ineffective expressions
    - Choose which of the five choices best expresses an idea or relationship
    - Be familiar with the stylistic conventions and grammatical rules of standard written English
    - Evaluates:
      - Ability to correct sentences so they are grammatically and structurally sound
      - All grammar rules apply
      - Ability to clearly and concisely express an idea or relationship
      - Includes ability to use denotative meanings of terms

## Analytical Writing Overview



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- ♣ Analysis of an Issue
- ♣ Analysis of an Argument
- ♣ Two separate writing samples
- ♣ 30 minutes to complete each one
- ♣ Specific knowledge of the essay topic is not required
- ♣ Ability to write analytically is assessed
  - **Analysis of an Issue**
    - Analyze the issue presented
    - Consider various perspectives
    - Use relevant reasons or examples drawn from your experience, observations, or reading to develop your own position on the issue.
    - Evaluates:
      - Your ability to explore the complexities of an and take a position that is informed by your understanding
  - **Analysis of an Argument**
    - Analyze the reasoning for an argument and write a critique of that argument
    - You are not presenting your own views on the subject
    - Consider the following when developing your essay:
      - What assumptions inform the argument?
      - What alternatives weaken the conclusion?
      - What evidence can strengthen or refute the argument?
    - Evaluates
      - Your ability to formulate a constructive critique of a specific argument based on a specific reasoning

## Study Suggestions

- ♣ Read about the test [format](#)
- ♣ Download [Test Prep](#)
- ♣ Practice writing essays with [sample topics](#)
- ♣ Purchase *The Official Guide for GMAT® Review 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*
- ♣ Spend at least 4 weeks studying

## Test Taking Strategies

- ♣ Read all directions thoroughly
- ♣ Read all questions thoroughly
- ♣ Eliminate wrong answers and select best choice
- ♣ Confirm answers when you are certain and want to move to the next question
- ♣ Pace yourself