

GRE/TOEFL

“General GRE” and TOEFL examinations are required for applying to engineering divisions in a University. If a person plans to apply for basic sciences division, then she has to write the subject GRE also. For example, a person applying for Mathematics/Physics/Chemistry has to give the respective subject GRE. Generally, person should try to give GRE before end of September. End of August to mid of September is quite suited for GRE. It takes around three weeks for the original score report including the analytical writing score to reach the applicant.

For beginners, following is the breakup for GRE

1. Essay Writing(two – One Descriptive, one argumentative) – 45min + 30 min
The cumulative score is given on a scale of 6
2. Verbal ability test – 30 min, 30 questions: 800 Marks
3. Quantitative ability test – 45 min, 28 questions, 800 Marks

GRE Test Booking – 140\$, www.ets.com/gre

Generally, one should start preparing for GRE four months before her examination. The quantitative test does not need any preparation and one or two practice tests are enough for that. The verbal ability tests require major preparation and one has to go through the word lists to score well. A lot of practice tests are available (Kaplan and other online tests) apart from the CD available from ETS (PowerPrep). It is advisable that one should do enough practice for the verbal ability test.

Mostly people use the Barron’s book for GRE preparation. Apart from that various books are available like Princeton Review but Barron’s is the usual standard.

The universities now accept the score of novel pattern for TOEFL, i.e. TOEFL iBT. It has four sections:

1. Reading : 30 Marks
2. Listening: 30 Marks
3. Speaking: 30 Marks
4. Writing: 30 Marks

1. Reading: It contains three passages each followed by some questions to be answered. One get around 30-40 minutes to complete this section. This session is quite easy and should not be of any problem.
2. Listening - This session contains some audio lessons each followed by some 6-7 questions. One will have to listen to one audio file which can be a documentary or some conversation and then it will be followed by some questions based on that conversation. It is allowed to make notes while listening to the conversation. Each conversation nearly lasts 3 minutes. Usually, this section contains 6-9 audio conversations.
3. Speaking: This session contains around six speaking assignments. In two assignments, one has to speak for one minute on some general topics. Examples of topics are:
 - “Your hometown”
 - “Research Interests”

- “One big achievement in life”

In Next 4 assignments, there might be a small conversation or some passage and a summary or your viewpoints will have to be presented on the same. Each assignment involves speaking for approximately one minute.

4. Writing: This last session involve some writing assignments. In one assignment, one will have to present one’s views on some general topic like excessive traffic etc and in other assignment there will be a passage and a documentary on one topic and the two the two or to summarize the both. This session lasts around 1hr and 15min.

Whole exam usually takes around 4 and half hours to be completed. A practice of two-three exams on practice CD is enough for TOEFL

Day of Exam

Applicant is required to show his passport as identity proof at the GRE Test Centre. It is usually written on websites that the GRE test centres may not have the place for storing the belongings, but the test centres near Delhi have the facility (e.g. Green Park, Gurgaon have proper storing facilities). After the GRE one will have to provide a list of four institutions where one would like to send his/her GRE score. So, it is better to prepare the list of institutions before going to the GRE examination. In case of TOEFL, the list of institutions has to be provided online before going to the examination. Generally, one should mention the list atleast two-three days before the examination (Please confirm this on ETS website).

Extra Score Report

Each university requires an official GRE/TOEFL score report sent through ETS. For extra GRE score report, one should call at following number:

GRE score report: 001-888-473-7267

The IVRS asks for the university GRE code and the departmental code which are available on the university websites. It charges 6\$ for using the system each time you call and 15\$ each for report to single university.

For TOEFL, the extra scores can be reported through the website itself. The cost is 17\$ per university.