



# Welcome to

## *The Official Guide to the GRE<sup>®</sup> revised General Test*

The book you're holding is a one-of-a-kind resource: the only GRE guide created by the ETS team that produces the actual exam. This book is uniquely suited to help you do your best on this challenging test.

Here's what you'll find inside:

- **Official information on the GRE revised General Test.** Get the facts about the revised test format you'll encounter starting in August 2011—straight from ETS.
- **ETS's own test-taking strategies.** Learn valuable hints and tips that can help you get your best score.
- **Authentic GRE questions in the revised test format.** Practice with real test questions created by the test-makers.
- **Real full-length GRE practice test.** Sharpen your skills with an actual test in the revised format.
- **POWERPREP II software:** Experience an actual computer-based GRE revised General Test.

# About ETS

At nonprofit ETS, we advance quality and equity in education for people worldwide by creating assessments based on rigorous research. ETS serves individuals, educational institutions, and government agencies by providing customized solutions for teacher certification, English language learning, and elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education, as well as conducting education research, analysis, and policy studies. Founded in 1947, ETS develops, administers, and scores more than 50 million tests annually — including the TOEFL<sup>®</sup> and TOEIC<sup>®</sup> tests, the GRE<sup>®</sup> tests and *The Praxis Series*<sup>™</sup> assessments—in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)

# IMPORTANT

ETS makes available free test preparation materials for individuals planning to take a GRE test. *POWERPREP II* software is available for individuals planning to take the computer-based GRE revised General Test, and the *Practice Book for the Paper-based GRE revised General Test* is available for individuals planning to take the paper-based test. The information about how to prepare for the revised General Test, test-taking strategies, question strategies, etc., that is included in the free test preparation is also included in this *Guide*. The *Guide* also provides you with additional sets of practice questions and an additional full-length practice test with explanatory materials.

**For more information about the GRE revised General Test, free GRE test preparation materials, and other GRE products and services, please visit the GRE website at**

**[www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)**

**Inquiries concerning the practice test questions in this book should be sent to the GRE testing program at**

**[GRETestQuestionInquiries@ets.org](mailto:GRETestQuestionInquiries@ets.org)**



The OFFICIAL GUIDE to the

**GRE**®

**revised General Test**

**INSIDE LOOK AT THE TEST CHANGES  
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2011**



New York | Chicago | San Francisco | Lisbon | London | Madrid | Mexico City  
Milan | New Delhi | San Juan | Seoul | Singapore | Sydney | Toronto

Copyright © 2010 by Educational Testing Service. All rights reserved. Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

ISBN 978-0-07-170054-2, MHID 0-07-170054-4

The material in this eBook also appears in the print version of this title. ISBN: 978-0-07-170052-8, MHID: 0-07-170052-8.

ETS, the ETS logo, LISTENING. LEARNING. LEADING., E-RATER, GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS, GRE, POWERPREP, TOEFL, and TOEIC are registered trademarks of Educational Testing Service (ETS) in the United States and other countries, and are used under license. THE PRAXIS SERIES is a trademark of ETS.

McGraw-Hill eBooks are available at special quantity discounts to use as premiums and sales promotions, or for use in corporate training programs. To contact a representative please e-mail us at [bulksales@mcgraw-hill.com](mailto:bulksales@mcgraw-hill.com).

#### TERMS OF USE

This is a copyrighted work and The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (“McGraw-Hill”) and its licensors reserve all rights in and to the work. Use of this work is subject to these terms. Except as permitted under the Copyright Act of 1976 and the right to store and retrieve one copy of the work, you may not decompile, disassemble, reverse engineer, reproduce, modify, create derivative works based upon, transmit, distribute, disseminate, sell, publish or sublicense the work or any part of it without McGraw-Hill’s prior consent. You may use the work for your own noncommercial and personal use; any other use of the work is strictly prohibited. Your right to use the work may be terminated if you fail to comply with these terms.

THE WORK IS PROVIDED “AS IS.” MCGRAW-HILL AND ITS LICENSORS MAKE NO GUARANTEES OR WARRANTIES AS TO THE ACCURACY, ADEQUACY OR COMPLETENESS OF OR RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED FROM USING THE WORK, INCLUDING ANY INFORMATION THAT CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH THE WORK VIA HYPERLINK OR OTHERWISE, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. McGraw-Hill and its licensors do not warrant or guarantee that the functions contained in the work will meet your requirements or that its operation will be uninterrupted or error free. Neither McGraw-Hill nor its licensors shall be liable to you or anyone else for any inaccuracy, error or omission, regardless of cause, in the work or for any damages resulting therefrom. McGraw-Hill has no responsibility for the content of any information accessed through the work. Under no circumstances shall McGraw-Hill and/or its licensors be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, punitive, consequential or similar damages that result from the use of or inability to use the work, even if any of them has been advised of the possibility of such damages. This limitation of liability shall apply to any claim or cause whatsoever whether such claim or cause arises in contract, tort or otherwise.

# Contents

## 1

How to Use This Book/CD Package ..... i

### Introducing the GRE® revised General Test 1

What Are the Main Features of the Revised Test? .....	1
Structure of the Test .....	2
Preparing for the Test .....	3
Test-taking Strategies for the Computer-based Test .....	4
Test-taking Strategies for the Paper-based Test .....	5
Understanding GRE Scoring .....	6

## 2

### GRE® Analytical Writing 11

Overview of the Analytical Writing Measure .....	11
Preparing for the Analytical Writing Measure .....	12
General Strategies .....	12
Analyze an Issue Task .....	13
Analyze an Argument Task .....	25
GRE Scoring Guide: Analyze an Issue .....	37
GRE Scoring Guide: Analyze an Argument .....	39
Score Level Descriptions .....	41

## 3

### GRE® Verbal Reasoning 43

Overview of the Verbal Reasoning Measure .....	43
Verbal Reasoning Question Types .....	43

# 4

## **GRE® Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions**

**53**

SET 1. Discrete Questions: Easy .....	54
SET 2. Reading Comprehension Questions: Easy .....	56
SET 3. Discrete Questions: Medium .....	60
SET 4. Reading Comprehension Questions: Medium .....	63
SET 5. Discrete Questions: Hard .....	68
SET 6. Reading Comprehension Questions: Hard .....	71
Answer Keys .....	75
Answers and Explanations .....	77

# 5

## **GRE® Quantitative Reasoning**

**107**

Overview of the Quantitative Reasoning Measure .....	107
Quantitative Reasoning Question Types .....	108
Using the Calculator .....	129
Mathematics Conventions for the Quantitative Reasoning Measure of the GRE revised General Test .....	133

# 6

## **GRE® Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions**

**143**

SET 1. Discrete Questions: Easy .....	145
SET 2. Discrete Questions: Medium .....	150
SET 3. Discrete Questions: Hard .....	155
SET 4. Data Interpretation Sets .....	161
Answer Keys .....	164
Answers and Explanations .....	166

# 7

## GRE® Math Review

207

1. Arithmetic	208
2. Algebra	222
3. Geometry	248
4. Data Analysis	263

# 8

## Authentic GRE® Practice Test

303

Section 1: Analytical Writing	304
Section 2: Analytical Writing	306
Section 3: Verbal Reasoning	309
Section 4: Verbal Reasoning	318
Section 5: Quantitative Reasoning	329
Section 6: Quantitative Reasoning	337
Evaluating Your Performance	345
Answer Key	347
Score Conversion Table	351
Percentile Ranks	353
Analytical Writing Sample Responses and Reader Commentaries	355
Section 1: Analyze an Issue	355
Section 2: Analyze an Argument	362
Answers and Explanations	369
Section 3: Verbal Reasoning	369
Section 4: Verbal Reasoning	383
Section 5: Quantitative Reasoning	398
Section 6: Quantitative Reasoning	415

# How to Use This Book/Software Package

This book/software package provides a large amount of important information about the GRE revised General Test, the kinds of questions it includes, and the knowledge and skills that it measures. The book and software will help you:

- Familiarize yourself with the test format and the test question types
- Identify the test-taking skills you most need to focus on
- Review the math topics you need to know for the test
- Check your progress with Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning practice questions
- Practice your test-taking skills using actual GRE tests

The following six-step program has been designed to help you make the best use of this book and software.

## STEP 1 Learn About the GRE revised General Test Format

Chapter 1 of this book provides official information about the structure of the GRE revised General Test. Read this chapter to learn about the different test sections, the number of questions in each section, and the section time limits. You'll also find valuable test-taking strategies from ETS and important information about how the test is scored.

## STEP 2 Study the Different GRE Question Types

Chapters 2, 3, and 5 of this book describe the types of questions you'll encounter in the three sections of the GRE revised General Test. Chapter 2 describes the Analytical Writing section, which requires you to write essays in response to prompts that you will be given. Chapter 3 describes the Verbal Reasoning question types. Chapter 5 describes the Quantitative Reasoning question types. In each case, you will learn what the questions are designed to measure, and you will get tips for answering each question type. You will also see samples of each question type, with helpful explanations.

## STEP 3 Practice Answering GRE Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning Questions

Chapters 4 and 6 offer sets of practice Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning questions in the format of the GRE revised General Test. The question sets are arranged in order of increasing difficulty, from easy through medium to hard. Answer



the questions in each set, then read through the explanations to see which test topics you found most challenging. Look for patterns. Did specific question formats give you trouble? When did you need to guess at the answer? Use your results to identify your weaknesses and to sharpen your test-taking skills.

#### **STEP 4 Use the Test Preview Tool in the *POWERPREP*<sup>®</sup> II Software**

Use the Test Preview Tool in the a sample of each of the question types formatted as they would be on the actual computer-based test. The Tool also contains the Help screens, the Review screen, the word-processing software for the Analytical Writing section, and the on-screen calculator, so that you can become familiar with all of the features of the computer-based GRE revised General Test.

#### **STEP 5 Review GRE Math Topics**

Chapter 7 provides a review of math topics tested in the GRE revised General Test Quantitative Reasoning sections. You do not necessarily need to tackle every topic in the review, or to work through the review in the order in which it is presented. Skip around if you like, but remember to focus on the topics that you know give you trouble. Each section of the review ends with practice problems that you can use to see how well you have mastered the material. If you get a problem wrong, go back into the review section and re-read the corresponding instructional text.

#### **STEP 6 Take the Practice Tests**

Once you have completed your review, get ready for the real exam by taking the authentic GRE Practice Tests in Chapter 8 of this book and in the *POWERPREP*<sup>®</sup> II software. When you take each test, try to simulate actual testing conditions. If you are taking the test in Chapter 8, sit in a quiet space, time yourself, and work through as much of the test as time allows. If you are taking the test in the software, each test section will be timed for you. You'll gain experience with the test format, and you'll learn to pace yourself so that you can earn your highest score in the time allowed.

#### **Please Note: for users of the software**

If you need screen magnification or selectable colors to take the computer-based GRE revised General Test, you can download a special version of ZoomText software from the GRE website at [www.ets.org/gre/powerprep2](http://www.ets.org/gre/powerprep2).