

The GRE[®] revised General Test

eUPDATE



APRIL
2011

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TOP STORY

The GRE[®] revised General Test: Common Questions Answered

The GRE[®] Client Relations Team has been visiting campuses, hosting conference presentations and conducting webinars to inform the graduate and business school community about the GRE[®] revised General Test — and to answer questions.

We've compiled a list of the most commonly asked questions and provided responses to help you quickly find the information you're looking for in each of these categories: About Test Design and Delivery, About the New Score Scale and Score Report, About Test Registration and About Resources.

About Test Design and Delivery

1. What are the changes coming with the GRE revised General Test?

The GRE revised General Test will provide an even better measure of the skills necessary for success in today's demanding graduate and business school programs:

- **More closely aligned** with skills needed to succeed in graduate and business school
- **More simplicity** in distinguishing performance differences between candidates
- **More test-taker friendly** for an enhanced test experience

For more information about the changes coming with the GRE revised General Test, please visit www.ets.org/gre/revised_general_institutions/about/.

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2. Is the revised test adaptive like the current test?

The current GRE[®] General Test is adaptive at the test-question level, and test takers must answer each question in the order they receive it; they can't omit questions or go back and change their answers. The GRE revised General Test will be adaptive at the section level, and this section-level adaptation combines the benefits of adaptive testing with a more test-taker friendly design that allows for moving freely within a test section. Based on feedback from test takers, we know that the flexibility provided by the section-level adaptive test will be appreciated.

3. Will the split-test administration continue with the GRE revised General Test?

In Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea, the GRE General Test is currently administered as a "split test," meaning the Analytical Writing measure is administered on computer and the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures are administered at a paper-based test location. There are currently two paper-based administrations per year.

With the introduction of the GRE revised General Test, split-test administrations will be discontinued and replaced with more frequent testing in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea. Administrations in these countries will occur one to two times per month. Test takers in these regions will now complete the entire exam on computer, including the Analytical Writing, Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures, within the same session.

4. Do the changes coming with the GRE revised General Test apply to paper-based testing as well?

Candidates who take the paper-based version of the GRE revised General Test will also benefit from some of the important enhancements:

- The paper-based test will continue to be a linear test, but there will be a paper-based equivalent of all the new question types. So, even test takers who take the paper-based test will benefit from the new questions like text completions and numeric entry; the only new question type not included in the paper-based test is Highlighting an Answer Within a Reading Passage.
- Test takers will now enter their answers in a test book, rather than a separate answer sheet.
- Candidates will be provided an ETS calculator to use during the Quantitative Reasoning section; they may not use their own calculator.

5. Is the math harder now that the calculator is included?

No. The calculator was added to the Quantitative Reasoning measure to reduce the emphasis on computation and to focus more attention on reasoning skills. The mathematical knowledge expected of test takers remains unchanged: arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data analysis.

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About the New Score Scale and Score Report

6. How can I compare Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores from both the current GRE General Test and the GRE revised General Test?

Since GRE scores are valid for five years, it's likely you'll receive applications with one of three score scenarios: scores based on the new score scale, scores based on the prior GRE scale and scores based on both scales. This mix of score reporting will be most prevalent in the first year of the revised test, but can continue for the next several years until prior scores are no longer valid.

To assist you in understanding the relationship of scores on the 200 – 800 scale and scores on the new 130 – 170 scale, GRE General Test scores administered prior to August 2011 will be provided with their estimated scores on the new scale on GRE score reports beginning in November 2011. In addition, concordance information will be available on the GRE website at that time.

7. Our program currently looks at percentiles. Are you going to be providing this information on the new score reports?

Percentiles will be reported on the new score report and will be based on a recent 3-year period. Scores on both tests will use the same set of percentiles, so institutions will be able to compare applicants by looking at either the percentiles or the concordance information.

8. Can I see a copy of the new score report?

You can view a sample of the GRE score report and also watch a video about this topic in the GRE Information Center at www.ets.org/gre/infocenter.

9. Why did you move from a 61-point scale to a 41-point scale?

The 41-point scale was selected to balance the changes in content, new question types, the new psychometric model and test length. The new 41-point scale will help institutions make more meaningful and appropriate comparisons between candidates. While at first glance the fewer points available on the 41-point scale appear to provide less differentiation among candidates, we will be making more effective use of the entire score scale than occurs with the current 61-point scale.

10. What is the anticipated mean and standard deviation (SD) for the new Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning score scales?

The scale mean and standard deviation (SD) for the new Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning score scales will be defined on test taker performance on the GRE revised General Test in the Fall of 2011. The scale mean will be defined at 150 and the SD will be defined to be some value between seven and 10. The exact value of the SD will be empirically based and therefore will not be available until the Fall of 2011.

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11. What is the special score reporting schedule for those testing in August through November?

You can view the detailed score reporting schedule at www.ets.org/gre/scoreschedule.

12. Will scores for tests taken prior to August 1, 2011, but requested to be sent to schools before November, still be sent within 10 – 15 days?

Yes, scores for computer-based tests taken prior to August 1st will be sent within 10 – 15 days of the test administration. In addition, between August and November 2011, Additional Score Reports (ASRs) that are ordered for reportable scores for any tests taken prior to August 1 will be sent approximately 5 days after the order is placed.

13. Will the GRE[®] Comparison Tool for Business Schools, which helps us compare GRE and GMAT[®] scores, be updated after the revised test launches?

Yes, the Comparison Tool will be updated.

14. How can I make sure my graduate or business school program receives official score reports from ETS?

If your institution received a GRE Designated Institution (DI) code, please instruct your applicants to use the code number when indicating your institution as a score recipient. If you do not have a DI code, you can apply for one now at www.ets.org/gre/institutions/scores/use/.

About Test Registration

15. How far in advance should candidates register for the test?

You should encourage candidates to register now to guarantee the test date and location of their choice since seats fill up quickly — especially during popular peak times.

However, before they register, your applicants will need to decide which test to take based on when they need score reports. If candidates need score reports *before* November, they should take the current GRE General Test *before* August.

If applicants don't need their GRE scores until *after* November, they should take the GRE revised General Test when it begins in August. This way, they'll be able to experience the new test-taker friendly design and can save 50% on their test fee if they take the revised test between August 1st and September 30th, 2011.

Scores for tests taken in August and September will be reported by mid-November. Scores for tests taken in October and November will be reported according to our detailed score reporting schedule at www.ets.org/gre/scoreschedule. Normal score reporting, 10 – 15 days after test date, resumes in December.

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16. When will the current GRE General Test be discontinued?

The current GRE General Test will be administered through July 2011; however, dates and times will vary by location and availability. Seats will fill up quickly, so applicants are encouraged to register early. The first administration of the GRE revised General Test will be August 1st, 2011. Prospective test takers can get the most up-to-date information on test center availability through the GRE online registration system.

17. What if a candidate has already registered for the test before August and would like to reschedule to test within the discount period of August and September 2011. Would there be any test refund?

If someone has already registered for the current test and wants to reschedule to take the revised test during August or September 2011, they can. They will receive a full refund for their original test date and the 50% discounted registration fee if they reschedule to test in August or September 2011. Details are on our website at www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/change.

18. What is the price of the GRE revised General Test?

For a full list of fees for the GRE revised General Test and Related Services, visit our website at www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about/fees.

About Resources

19. What is in the GRE[®] Information Center?

The GRE Information Center is a special section of our website created especially for institutions to help you get ready for the launch of the GRE revised General Test.

Here you'll find the tools to become familiar with the revised test — whether your area of interest is the new test content, test design, score scale, score report or advising applicants. These resources include our monthly *eUpdate* newsletters, our video series, PDFs such as a sample score report you can share with colleagues, plus links to sample questions, FAQs and many other helpful pages on our site. The GRE Information Center is located at www.ets.org/gre/infocenter.

20. I attended the “Getting Ready for the GRE revised General Test” webinar recently but would like to share your presentation with my colleagues. How can I get a copy?

You and your colleagues can view the pre-recorded portion of our “Getting Ready for the GRE revised General Test” webinar at www.ets.org/gre/webinar/getready. You can also sign up for an upcoming webinar, including a live Q & A session, at www.ets.org/gre/webinar.

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21. Where can my students and prospective applicants get more information about the revised test?

There are some resources designed specifically for test takers, including www.TakeTheGRE.com and our new Facebook page “I’m Taking the GRE revised General Test.” In addition, www.ets.org/gre contains all of the official details about the GRE General Test and GRE revised General Test.

From any of these locations, test takers can access information about the GRE revised General Test, access free test preparation materials and sign up to receive test-taker news and reminders. In addition, they can review the *2011-12 GRE Information and Registration Bulletin* at www.ets.org/gre/revised/bulletinandforms.

22. Is there a cost for POWERPREP[®] II software? Is it available to license for use in a computer lab or in campus-based test preparation workshops?

POWERPREP[®] II software is available for downloading from our website at www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare, free of charge. There is no fee for a site license either and we encourage you to make it available to prospective test takers. Likewise, the free practice booklet for the paper-based test is also available on our website.

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50% discount offer applies to the GRE revised General Test administration fee only for tests taken from August 1, 2011 – September 30, 2011. Examinees who take the test during this testing period will be sent their scores by mid-November 2011. Fee and discount does not include all applicable fees, Value Added or similar taxes. Cannot be applied to previous registrations or combined with any other offers. Examinees who register within the promotional period may reschedule during such promotional period, subject to applicable fees; however, any and all other cancellations and rescheduled exams are non-refundable. Not valid for cash or cash equivalent. There are no guarantees of seat availability, so examinees must register to reserve a seat. All other GRE terms and conditions are in effect. ETS may modify or discontinue this offer at any time without notice.

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