5) GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION (GRE) – General & Subject Test

The GRE General Test measures critical thinking, analytical writing, verbal reasoning, and quantitative reasoning skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study.

The revised Graduate Record Examinations® (GRE®) General Test will be offered for the first time worldwide in September. The first test dates will be September 10, 15 or 16 (depending upon location), and 29, 2007. The GRE subject tests are not changing.

With the new test, the GRE® Program will introduce a significantly revised and improved GRE General Test. The primary reasoning for the revisions to the test is to (1) address current and potential future security challenges associated with continuous testing, and (2) increase the validity of the test by reducing the possible effects of memorization in the Verbal and Analytical Writing sections of the test. Revisions to the test are also being made to provide faculty with better information on applicants' performance, and measure skills more directly related to graduate study. Revisions to the test include revisions to the Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Critical Thinking and Analytical Writing measures; modifications to test structure and administration, and new Verbal and Quantitative score scales.

Scores from these first administrations will be available in early November after score scales have been established. Scores from subsequent administrations will be available within 15 to 18 business days of testing. Registration for the revised GRE General Test begins on July 1, 2007. The current GRE General Test will no longer be offered after July 31, 2007.

The test center network will include many of the test centers that currently administer the GRE General Test. It will also include many test centers at colleges and universities. The number of test centers is expected to increase from 600 to more than 3,500 by the end of 2007.

Test takers with additional questions or concerns are advised to contact GRE Customer Service via e-mail at gre-info@ets.org, or by telephone at 1-609-771-7670. Test takers in the U.S., U.S. Territories and Canada may call 1-866-473-4373. Chinese test takers can also contact the National Education Examinations Authority (NEEA) at 86-10-6279-9911 or by e-mail at: RRC.PTC@prometric.net.cn.

Changes to the GRE at a Glance

- The new test will be administered as a computer-based, linear exam. The current GRE is a computer-adaptive test (CAT).
• ETS will revise the content of each of the three sections of the test: Verbal, Quantitative, and Critical Thinking and Analytical Writing.

• ETS will offer the GRE on fixed testing dates rather than ongoing test dates throughout the year. It plans to offer the test on 35 dates per year.

• The GRE will be delivered via the Internet to testing centers, and everyone who takes the exam on a given day will receive the same questions.

• The new exam will be about four hours long, a significant increase over the 2½ hour length of the current exam.

• Scoring scales will change. AWA scores will retain the current 0-to-6 scale, but test takers will receive Quantitative and Verbal scores on a scale of 130 to 170.

• ETS intends to increase the number of test centers to ensure that there will be enough spaces for all test takers.

*Students planning to take the exam in September 2007 or later will not be affected by these changes.*

**Comparison Chart of GRE Changes**

If you're planning to take the GRE in September 2007 or later, you may already know that the test format and delivery will be dramatically different. Please check back with us frequently to get the most up-to-date information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current GRE (Through Summer 07)</th>
<th>New GRE (Starting September 07)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What Is The Test Format?</strong></td>
<td>Computer-adaptive: the test adapts to your performance; question pool varies by test taker</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How Long Is It?</strong></td>
<td>2½ hours</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>When Is It Offered?</strong></td>
<td>Most weekdays and weekends, year-round</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How Is It Scored?</strong></td>
<td>Verbal Score 200 to 800 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>What Is The Test Content?</td>
<td>Analytical Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Writing</td>
<td>2 essays: one 30-minute and one 45-minute One Issue essay, one Argument essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>28 multiple-choice questions one 45-minute section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>30 multiple-choice questions one 30-minute section includes analogy and antonym questions</td>
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*One section may be experimental

The **GRE Subject Tests** gauge undergraduate achievement in the eight disciplines listed below. Each Subject Test is intended for students who have majored in or have extensive background in that specific area.

- **Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology**
- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Computer Science**
- **Literature in English**
Each Subject Test is intended for students who have majored in or have extensive background in that specific area. Each Subject Test is intended for students who have majored in or have extensive background in that specific area, including: Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Literature in English, Mathematics, Physics, and Psychology. Some Subject Tests yield subscores that can indicate the strengths and weaknesses of individual students' preparation and may be useful for guidance and placement purposes.

Who Takes Them and Why?

Prospective graduate applicants take the Subject Tests. GRE test scores are used by admissions or fellowship panels to supplement undergraduate records and other qualifications for graduate study.

The scores provide common measures for comparing the qualifications of applicants and aid in the evaluation of grades and recommendations. Some Subject Tests yield subscores that can indicate the strengths and weaknesses of individual students' preparation and may be useful for guidance and placement purposes.

Where Do People Take Them?

The Subject Tests are given at paper-based test centers worldwide three times a year in:

- November
- December
- April

Who Accepts Them?

Any accredited graduate or professional school, or any department or division within a school, may require or recommend that its applicants take the General Test, a Subject Test, or both. A non-accredited institution can receive test takers' scores if approved by the GRE Board.

The Scoring Process

In calculating reported scores for traditional paper-and-pencil tests, the number of questions answered correctly is adjusted according to the difficulty level of the questions on the test form. Thus, the same number of correct responses on different test forms will not necessarily result in the same reported score.

In paper-and-pencil tests, the differences in difficulty among test forms are relatively small and are adjusted through a process known as score equating. The number of questions answered is also figured into the calculation of the reported score because it limits the number that can be answered correctly.

Scoring of the Subject Tests is a two-step process.

First, a raw score is computed. The raw score is the number of questions you answered
correctly minus one-fourth the number of questions you answered incorrectly. The raw score is then converted to a scaled score through a process known as equating that accounts for differences in difficulty among the different test editions. Thus, a given scaled score reflects approximately the same level of ability regardless of the edition of the test that was taken.

**Subject Test Score Scales**

One total score is reported on a 200-990 score scale, in 10-point increments, although the score range for any particular Subject Test is usually smaller.

Subscores are reported for the Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology; Biology; and Psychology Tests on a 20-99 score scale, in 1-point increments, although the range for any particular Subject Test subscore is usually smaller.

**Paper-Based Test Hand Scoring- Fee: $30**

Hand scoring for a Subject Test is available up to 6 months after the administration. Submit the fee with your written request; include your full name, date of birth, test date, registration number, address, and phone number. Mail the request to the “General Inquiries” address. If your scores increase or decrease, the new score(s) will be reported.

**Additional Score Information**

For more details regarding GRE scores and scoring, read the [GRE Guide to the Use of Scores](https://www.ets.org/gre/gre-guide-to-the-use-of-scores) (PDF).

See also:

[ETS Score-Related Test Policies for Test Takers](https://www.ets.org/gre/gre-guide-to-the-use-of-scores), which include information on

- Absence from a Paper-Based Testing Session
- Preventing Unauthorized Release of Your Scores
- ETS Review of Test Questions
- Cancellation of Scores by ETS
- Test Fairness and Score Use