



## What is the GMAT?

### The Basics

The GMAT, or the Graduate Management Admissions Test, is the official test designed to measure how successful one will be in Business School. The results of the GMAT are used alongside recommendation letters, essays and sometimes interviews in the application process for an MBA program.

The GMAT can be taken internationally and costs \$250 regardless of where it is taken. It is a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) in North America, but may be paper-based in other parts of the world. Unlike the LSAT or other Graduate Admissions Test, it is available year-round, and in several locations. To find where your local test center is and schedule an appointment visit <http://www.mba.com/>.

### The Three Sections of the GMAT

1. Analytical Writing Assessment – Two essays of 30 minutes each.
  - a) Analysis of Issue
  - b) Analysis of Argument
  
2. Quantitative Section – 37 questions to be completed in 75 minutes. There are two kinds of questions;
  - a) Problem Solving
  - b) Data Sufficiency
  
3. Verbal Section – 41 Multiple Choice questions, 75 minutes. There are three types of questions;
  - a) Sentence Correction
  - b) Critical Reasoning
  - c) Reading Comprehension

That is  $75 + 75 + 30 + 30$  minutes = 3.5 hours, but you should plan for a time period of 4 hours as optional ten minute breaks are offered in between sections. Timing yourself well is incredibly important as you will incur a penalty simply by failing to finish.

The time (as well as the number of questions remaining in the section) is displayed on the screen during the exam. You can turn off this clock if you think it is a distraction.

## Multiple Choice Questions

The difficulty of Multiple Choice Questions ranges from low to high. To begin with, each section will ask a question of moderate difficulty. Answering this question correctly will mean the next question should be more difficult. Answering a question incorrectly will mean that the next question should be easier. This process will continue for the rest of the section. In this way, the computer can accurately assess your ability in that subject. It is important to remember that you cannot go back to change your responses to previous questions.

## Your Score

Your final score will lie somewhere between 200 and 800 points. This score is determined by three factors:

1. How many questions you answer
2. How many of these questions were correct / incorrect
3. The level of difficulty of each question

Keep in mind that the GMAT is not like the SAT, and leaving a question blank will hurt your score more than answering it incorrectly will. However, **always** make an educated guess! Try not to guess randomly: eliminate as many obviously wrong answers as possible, and then choose the most viable option.

## What happens if I am disappointed with my Score?

It's not the end of the world! You may retake the GMAT once per calendar month and no more than five times a year. When it comes to the re-take, you should concentrate on two main things;

1. A more strategic, prioritized study plan that focuses on improving your weaknesses and avoids exposing you to information overflow. Learn from the first test you took and treat it like a practice test – which areas do you need to work on?

Spring 2010  
ver 1.1

## GMAT Overview and Test Schedule

from "30 Day GMAT Success" <http://www.30daygmatsuccess.com>

by Brandon Wu (GMAT Score: 780, 99 percentile)

2. Keeping your spirits up, a positive attitude, determination and good mental and physical health. You are being given a great chance here to learn from your mistakes and try again!

Finally, Best of Luck!

For the best study tips, test-taking strategies, time management techniques and a customizable 30 day study plan, we recommend "30 Day GMAT Success" by Brandon Wu. See how Brandon scored 780 on the test with just 30 days of preparation, which he attributes to studying smart and studying strategically!



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