2018-19 Interpreting Your *GRE*® Scores

This publication is intended to assist you in interpreting your *GRE*® test scores. The interpretive information is updated annually. The *Guidelines for the Use of GRE*® *Scores*, available at www.ets.org/gre/guidelines, encourages institutions to use the scores appropriately.

General Test Score Interpretive Information

- The range of scores for the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures of the *GRE*® General Test is 130 to 170, in one-point increments. The range of scores for the Analytical Writing measure is 0 to 6, in half-point increments. If you have not answered at least one question within a measure, an NS (No Score) is reported for that measure.

- Scores from the different General Test measures should not be directly compared because each measure is scaled separately. You can use the percentile ranks provided on your score report to compare your relative performance among the measures. These percentile ranks are based on the scores of all test takers who tested between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2017. Note that although a given score represents approximately the same level of ability regardless of when the score was earned, its percentile rank may vary, depending on the scores of the group with which it is compared.

- For the computer-delivered GRE General Test Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures, your score reflects the number of questions you answered correctly, as well as the difficulty level of each of the sections. For the computer-delivered GRE General Test Analytical Writing measure, each essay receives a score from one trained reader using a six-point holistic scale. The essay is then scored by the *e-rater*® scoring engine, a computerized program developed by ETS that is capable of identifying essay features related to writing proficiency. If the human score and the e-rater score closely agree, the average of the two scores is used as the final score. If they disagree, a second human score is obtained and the final score is the average of the two human scores. The resulting scores on the two essays are then averaged and scaled to produce the Analytical Writing score.

- For the paper-delivered GRE General Test Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures, your score is based on the number of questions you answered correctly. For the paper-delivered GRE General Test Analytical Writing measure, each essay receives a score from two trained readers. If the two assigned scores differ by more than one point, the discrepancy is adjudicated by a third reader. The resulting scores on the two essays are then averaged and scaled to produce the Analytical Writing score.

- If you took the computer-delivered General Test, select the *GRE*® Diagnostic Service from your ETS Account (www.ets.org/mygre) to view more detailed information about your performance on the test.

- Table 1 presents General Test performance information. (Definitions of statistical terms are presented in the glossary on the back page.)

Table 1: General Test Performance Information
(Based on the performance of all individuals who tested between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2017)

Measure	Number of Test Takers	Mean	SD
Verbal Reasoning	1,727,225	150.05	8.43
Quantitative Reasoning	1,730,288	152.80	9.13
Analytical Writing	1,722,231	3.50	0.87

- Table 2 presents mean scores for the seven broad intended graduate major fields. For additional interpretive information about the GRE General Test, visit www.ets.org/gre/scores/understand.

Table 2: General Test Mean Scores Classified by Intended Broad Graduate Major Field
(Based on the performance of seniors and nonenrolled college graduates who tested between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2017)

Intended Broad Graduate Major Field	Verbal Reasoning	Quantitative Reasoning	Analytical Writing
Business	150	154	3.5
Education	151	148	3.8
Engineering	149	159	3.3
Humanities & Arts	156	150	4.1
Life Sciences	151	151	3.8
Physical Sciences	151	158	3.4
Social & Behavioral Sciences	153	151	3.9

Subject Test Score Interpretive Information

- The range of scores for each *GRE*® Subject Test is from 200 to 990, in 10-point increments, although the actual range for any particular Subject Test is usually smaller. The possible range of subscores is from 20 to 99, in one-point increments.
- Your Subject Test score is based on the number of questions you answered correctly.
- Because scores are calculated independently for each test, Subject Test scores should be compared only with other scores on the same Subject Test. A score of 680 on the Mathematics Test, for example, is not equivalent to a 680 on the Physics Test.
- Scores on the same Subject Test generally are directly comparable across years. A Chemistry Test score of 720 in 2018, for example, should be considered equivalent to a Chemistry Test score of 720 earned in 2017.
- Percentile rank information for your Subject Test total score and subscores, if available, is printed on your score report and is based on the scores of all test takers who tested between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2017. Note that although a given score represents approximately the same level of ability regardless of when the score was earned, its percentile rank may vary, depending on the scores of the group with which it is compared.
- Subscores indicate relative strengths and weaknesses of preparation in subfield areas. Subscore percentile ranks may be used for diagnostic interpretation of the total score. For example, a test taker who obtains a score of 680 on the GRE Biology Test is likely to have subscores of 68, assuming the test taker is similarly able in the content areas measured by each subscore. For that test taker, scores much above or below 68 on a subscore would indicate strength or weakness in the content area associated with that subscore. Note that these strengths or weaknesses may reflect the amount of training that was targeted toward specific content areas.
- Tables 3 and 4 show Subject Test performance information for the total test and for subscores, respectively, where available. Except for the Psychology Test subscores, these data are based on the scores of all individuals who took the Subject Test between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2017. The data for the Psychology Test subscores are based on all individuals who took the Psychology Test between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017. For additional interpretive information about the GRE Subject Tests, visit www.ets.org/gre/subject/scores/understand.

Table 3: Subject Test Total Score Performance Information
(Based on the performance of all individuals who tested between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2017)

Subject Test	Number of Test Takers	Mean	SD
Biology	3,141	667	120
Chemistry	9,079	687	114
Literature in English	4,164	543	100
Mathematics	14,883	661	141
Physics	20,045	712	158
Psychology	12,750	617	104

Table 4: Subject Test Subscore Performance Information
(Based on the performance of all individuals who tested between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2017)

Subject Test	Subscore	Number of Test Takers	Mean	SD
Biology	Cellular & Molecular	3,141	68	12
Biology	Organismal	3,141	67	12
Biology	Ecology & Evolution	3,141	66	12
Psychology*	Biological	8,401	62	10
Psychology*	Cognitive	8,401	62	10
Psychology*	Social	8,401	62	10
Psychology*	Developmental	8,401	62	10
Psychology*	Clinical	8,401	61	10
Psychology*	Measurement/ Methodology/ Other	8,401	62	10

*GRE Psychology Test subscore information is based on the performance of all individuals who tested between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017.

Glossary of Statistical Terms

Mean—an average obtained by adding all the scores from a group of test takers and dividing the sum by the number of test takers in the group.

Percentile rank—the percent of test takers in a group or subgroup who obtained scores below a specified score on a particular test.

Standard deviation (SD)—a measure of the extent to which test takers' scores on a test generally differ from one another.