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2011–2012 Interpreting Your GRE® Scores

This publication can be downloaded at www.ets.org/gre/revised/scores/understand.

This publication is intended to assist you in interpreting your Graduate Record Examinations® (GRE®) test scores. These data are revised annually and can be downloaded at **www.ets.org/gre/revised/scores/understand.** *Guidelines for the Use of GRE Scores*, which is also available on the GRE website, encourages institutions to use the scores appropriately.

On August 1, 2011, the GRE revised General Test is being introduced. If you test on or after August 1, refer to the "Revised General Test Score Interpretive Information" section. If you test prior to August, refer to the "General Test Score Interpretive Information" section.

Revised General Test Score Interpretive Information

(For tests taken in August 2011 or later)

- The range of scores for the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures of the GRE revised General Test is 130 to 170, in 1-point increments. The range of scores for the Analytical Writing measure is 0 to 6, in half-point increments. If you haven't answered at least one question within a measure, an NS (no score) is reported for that measure.
- Scores from the different revised 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 examinees who tested within the most recent three-year period.
- For the computer-based GRE revised 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 paper-based GRE revised General Test Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures, your score is based on the number of questions you answered correctly.
- Both the computer-based and paper-based GRE revised General Test use similar procedures for scoring the Analytical Writing section. 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 Analytical Writing score is the average of the ratings given to the two essays.
- If you have also previously taken the GRE General Test in the five-year period prior to August 2011, the information reported for that test will include Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores on the prior 200–800 scale, estimated Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores on the new 130–170 scale, an Analytical Writing score on the 0–6 scale and corresponding percentile rank information based on scores of all examinees who tested within the most recent three-year period.

General Test Score Interpretive Information

(For tests taken prior to August 2011)

- The range of scores for the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures of the GRE General Test is 200 to 800, in 10-point increments. The range of scores for the Analytical Writing measure is 0 to 6, in half-point increments. If you haven't 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 examinees who tested within the most recent three-year period.
- For the computer-based GRE General Test Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures, your score reflects the number of questions you answered, as well as your performance on those questions. The factors that influence which questions were presented include (1) the statistical characteristics of the questions already answered (including the difficulty level), (2) question types and (3) appropriate content coverage. For the Analytical Writing measure of the computer-based General Test, each essay receives a score from a trained reader. The essay is then reviewed by e-rater®, a computerized program developed by ETS, which is being used to monitor the human reader. If the e-rater evaluation and the human score agree, the human score is the final score. If they disagree by a certain amount, a second human score is obtained and the final score is the average of the two human readers. The Analytical Writing score is the average of the ratings given to the two essays.
- For the paper-based GRE General Test Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures, your score is based on the number of questions you answered correctly. For the Analytical Writing measure of the paper-based General Test, 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 Analytical Writing score is the average of the ratings given to the two essays.
- If you request additional score reports (ASRs) prior to November 2011, your scores for the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures will be reported on the 200-800 scale. The GRE revised General Test is being introduced in August 2011. The score scale for the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures in the revised General Test is 130-170, in 1-point increments. Beginning in early November 2011, if you request ASRs, the information reported will also include estimated Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores on the new 130-170 scale.
- In early November 2011, concordance tables that show the relationship between the scores on the prior and new Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning score scales will be available at **www.ets.org/gre/revised/scores/understand.**

General Test Statistical Tables

For interpretive information about the GRE revised General Test or GRE General Test, visit **www.ets.org/gre/revised/scores/understand.**

Note that interpretive information for the revised General Test will be available in November 2011 when score reporting begins.

Computer-based revised General Test and General Test examinees: Visit the GRE Diagnostic Service at **www.ets.org/gre/revised/diagnostic** to view information about your performance on the test you took.

Subject Test Score Interpretive Information

- The range of scores for each Subject Test is from 200 to 990, although the actual range for any particular Subject Test is usually smaller. The possible range of subscores is from 20 to 99.
- The Subject Test score is based on the number of correct answers minus one-fourth the number of incorrect answers.
- Because scores are calculated independently for each test, GRE Subject Test scores should be compared only with other scores on the same GRE Subject Test. A score of 680 on the Computer Science 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 650 in 2011, for example, should be considered equivalent to a Chemistry Test score of 650 earned in 2010.

Subject Test Statistical Tables

Table 1 shows Subject Test mean scores for the total test and for subscores, where available. These data are based on the scores of all examinees who took a Subject Test between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2010. 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 examinees who tested within the most recent three-year period. Note that although a given score represents 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, an examinee who obtains a score of 600 on the GRE Biology Test is likely to have subscores of 60, assuming the examinee is similarly able in the content areas measured by each subscore. For that examinee, scores much above or below 60 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.

For interpretive information about the GRE Subject Tests, visit **www.ets.org/gre/subject/scores/understand.**

Table 1: Subject Test Mean Scores

(Based on the performance of all examinees who tested between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2010)

Subject Test	Number of Examinees	Mean	Standard Deviation
Biochemistry, Cell & Molecular Biology	5,650	525	97
1. Biochemistry		53	10
2. Cell Biology		53	10
3. Molecular Biology & Genetics		52	9
Biology	9,037	651	121
1. Cellular & Molecular Biology		65	12
2. Organismal Biology		65	12
3. Ecology & Evolution		65	12
Chemistry	9,041	700	115
Computer Science	3,364	702	96
Literature in English	9,697	542	98
Mathematics	11,769	650	134
Physics	14,395	692	157
Psychology	21,047	609	103
1. Experimental Psychology		61	10
2. Social Psychology		61	10

Glossary of Statistical Terms

Concordance—the relationship of two tests built to different specifications. A concordance table is developed by matching scores that correspond to the same percentile rank for a group of examinees who took both tests.

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

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

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

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