



Answers to Test-Taker Questions about the Shorter GRE

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What has changed?

Effective September 22, 2023, the testing time for the GRE® General Test has been reduced by half, from nearly 4 hours to just under 2 hours. The test still measures your verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills, but each section is shorter. The unscored section and scheduled break have been eliminated. In addition, your official GRE scores will be delivered faster, within 8–10 calendar days (previously 10–15 calendar days).

2. Why did you change the test?

We understand that applying to graduate and professional programs is time consuming, and while you want to show your potential in a comprehensive way, you also want to get through your application checklist ASAP. Shortening the test will help you stay focused and avoid fatigue. We're also delivering your official GRE scores sooner so you can complete your applications faster too.

These changes have been prioritized based on feedback from previous test takers and are the result of expert analysis about how we could introduce a better experience for test takers while retaining the strong validity and reliability schools expect. We also announced other changes this year, such as moving the GRE Subject Tests from paper to computer delivery this fall and shortening the [TOEFL® test](#) starting in July.

3. Does shortening the test mean we have less time to answer each question?

No, the number of questions is reduced, but the average time available to answer each question is about the same.

4. Is the shorter test still valid?

Yes. The GRE test maintains the high quality the test is known for, with valid and reliable scores that help inform graduate and professional program admissions and scholarship decisions.

5. Is the shorter GRE delivered at both test centers and at home?

Yes.

6. How much does the shorter GRE test cost?

The GRE test fee remains the same. [See all fees.](#)

7. How many times can I take the shorter GRE?

You can take the GRE General Test once every 21 days, up to five times within any continuous rolling 12-month period (365 days).

8. Will schools use the shorter GRE any differently?

No. Graduate and professional programs will continue to use GRE General Test scores as they always have. The test provides three scores that help schools assess candidate readiness for their programs. Schools may also use scores in consideration of a candidate’s overall strength compared to other candidates applying to their programs and for scholarship and fellowship purposes.

9. What accommodations are available for the shorter GRE test?

The same accommodations as are available for the current version. [Learn more.](#)

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

10. How many questions are in each section?

The sections are as follows:

Section	Number of Questions	Testing Time
Analytical Writing	1 essay task	30 mins
Verbal Reasoning Section 1	12 questions	18 mins
Verbal Reasoning Section 2	15 questions	23 mins
Quantitative Reasoning Section 1	12 questions	21 mins
Quantitative Reasoning Section 2	15 questions	26 mins
Total		1 hour, 58 mins

11. Which essay task remains in the Analytical Writing section?

The Analytical Writing section includes the “Analyze an Issue” task. The “Analyze an Argument” task has been removed.

12. Does the shorter test have a 10-minute break?

No. The shorter test is less than two hours. If you need a break at the test center, you can still opt to take one, however, the clock will not stop unless you’ve been approved for a [test accommodation](#) due to disability or health-related need. Note that optional breaks are not permitted during the at home test.

13. Is the shorter test section-level adaptive?

Yes, the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures are section-level adaptive. That benefits you because it enables you to move back and forth within each section, mark questions you'd like to come back to and change your answers as many times as you'd like. [Learn more](#) about section-level adaptation.

SCORES

14. Within each measure, does each question count more toward the final scores?

Yes, because there are fewer questions and the score scale is not changing, each counts more toward the final score.

15. Are there any changes to the Official Score Report for the shorter GRE?

No.

16. Are there changes to the way scoring is done?

The scoring processes for all three measures have not changed. However, your Analytical Writing score is based on your performance on one essay task instead of two essay tasks.

17. Did the score scales change?

The score scales for the shorter test have not changed. See the [score scale chart](#).

18. How should schools/programs compare performance across the two different versions of the exam?

Care was taken to maintain the technical properties of the score scales so that schools can continue to use the scores the same ways for those who test before and after September 22, 2023. The GRE team provides schools with specific guidance and information to consider when comparing scores.

19. Will schools get scores faster?

Because we're reducing the score delivery time frame for test takers from 10–15 days to 8–10 days, schools may also receive scores faster depending upon which delivery method they have chosen. Electronic scores are delivered to schools twice a week.

20. Is the GRE Diagnostic Service available for the shorter test?

Yes, you will have free access to the GRE Diagnostic Service so you can gain insight into your performance on the test questions in the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections approximately two weeks after you take the test.

21. How long are GRE scores reportable?

GRE scores are reportable for five years following your test date, so you could apply to another graduate program within five years and not have to take another test.

TEST PREP

22. Is official prep for the shorter GRE available?

GRE test preparation for the shorter GRE is in development and several products/services are expected to be available in September 2023. To be notified when materials for the shorter GRE are available, sign up [here](#).

Because the shorter test has all of the same sections and all of the same question types (except for the removal of the Analytical Writing “Analyze an Argument” task), students can use the existing Official GRE Prep, which can be found at ets.org/gre/prepare.

23. How does the test preparation differ for the shorter GRE?

There are very few changes. Both tests have the same content and question types. The only difference is that the shorter test has fewer questions and no longer has the “Analyze an Argument” essay task as part of the Analytical Writing section.

If you have additional questions, please contact [GRE Services](#).