The GRE® revised General Test —
Helping you make the best admissions decisions for your program

Assess Ability. Predict Performance.
A growing *GRE®* program — focused on meeting the needs of today’s global graduate and business school community
For more than 60 years, the graduate and business school community has trusted GRE scores as a proven measure of an applicant’s readiness for graduate-level work — and of their potential for success. And, that relationship deepens today as the GRE program continues to grow. In 2011, the number of schools using GRE scores reached an all-time high, and 700,000+ GRE® tests were taken by more people around the world, including more women, more people from underrepresented minority groups and from more academic disciplines — making it the broadest, most diverse applicant pool in GRE history. It is all great news — for you and for the record-breaking number of people who decided to take a decisive step toward pursuing graduate or business school.

Like any vibrant, growing program, the GRE team is committed to providing even more value for you. In 2011, the GRE® revised General Test was introduced — making the most trusted assessment of graduate-level skills even better. The GRE revised General Test includes test content that is now even more closely aligned with the skills needed to succeed in today’s graduate and business school programs. It features new score scales that provide more simplicity in distinguishing performance differences between candidates. And it delivers a more test-taker friendly design for an enhanced test experience. In July 2012, GRE tests will include the new ScoreSelect™ option, designed to help test takers approach test day with more confidence so they can do their best. We are also providing more free test preparation materials and other test preparation opportunities, too, so test takers can feel ready.

The GRE revised General Test plays a vital role in the admissions process for graduate and business school programs around the world. The GRE Program will continue to grow, providing you with even more value and helping you make the best admissions decisions for your program.

As the most widely administered admissions test used by graduate and business school programs worldwide, the GRE revised General Test helps:

• assess the skills that graduate and business schools value — verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing
• provide a common measure for comparing applicants with differing educational and cultural backgrounds
• furnish independent information to supplement the evaluation of grades and recommendations
• attract a broad, diverse applicant pool of highly qualified candidates interested in pursuing an advanced degree

Total 2011 GRE test volumes were 800,000. More than 700,000 GRE General or revised General Tests were taken in 2011.
Assessing the skills needed to succeed in graduate and business school

To succeed in graduate or business school, applicants must have the skills that are essential at the graduate level: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing. These skills are not limited to any specific field of study, but are important for all. When the GRE® revised General Test was launched in 2011, the content was changed to be more aligned with the skills needed in today’s graduate and business school programs.

The Verbal Reasoning Measure
The Verbal Reasoning measure focuses on a test taker’s ability to understand what they read and how they apply their reasoning skills — with an emphasis on how they analyze and evaluate written material. Plus, antonyms and analogies are no longer part of the test. Vocabulary is still important, but it is used in the context of a reading passage.

This measure demonstrates an applicant’s ability to:
• analyze and draw conclusions from discourse;
• reason from incomplete data; identify author’s assumptions and/or perspective; understand multiple levels of meaning such as literal, figurative and author’s intent
• select important points; distinguish major from minor or relevant points; summarize text; understand the structure of a text
• understand the meanings of words, sentences and entire texts; understand relationships among words and among concepts

Question types include:
• Reading Comprehension questions
• Text Completion questions
• Sentence Equivalence questions

The Quantitative Reasoning Measure
The Quantitative Reasoning measure focuses on a test taker’s ability to apply basic mathematical skills and concepts (arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data analysis), with an emphasis on data interpretation and real-life scenarios that test takers will encounter in graduate or business school.

This measure demonstrates an applicant’s ability to:
• understand quantitative information
• interpret and analyze quantitative information
• solve problems using mathematical models
• apply basic mathematical skills and elementary mathematical concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics

Question types include:
• Multiple-choice questions
• Numeric Entry questions
• Quantitative Comparison questions
• Data Interpretation sets

“[It is] so important to look for new ways in which you attract but also select students who come from faraway places you may not ever have heard about.”
- Jo Ritzen, President, Maastricht University (The Netherlands), 2003-2011
The Analytical Writing Measure

The Analytical Writing measure focuses on a test taker’s critical thinking and analytical writing skills — specifically their ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively. Test takers are asked to provide focused responses to questions so they can accurately demonstrate their skill in directly responding to the task presented.

This measure demonstrates an applicant’s ability to:
- articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively
- examine claims and accompanying evidence
- support ideas with relevant reasons and examples
- sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion
- control the elements of Standard Written English

Tasks include:
- Analyze an Issue
- Analyze an Argument

“The GRE revised General Test and the GRE Subject Tests have undergone decades of rigorous research which has resulted in tests that are valid for selecting people who are likely to be successful in graduate and business programs.”

- James Wimbush, Dean of the University Graduate School and Professor of Business Administration, Indiana University (USA), 2011-2012 GRE Board Chair

Learn more about the GRE® revised General Test now at ets.org/gre/institutions
Providing a common measure for comparing applicants

As institutions continue to expand their recruitment efforts around the world, creating highly diverse applicant pools that reflect a mosaic of people from different academic disciplines and educational backgrounds, various cultures and ethnicities, and assorted professional backgrounds, it is now more important than ever to use the GRE® revised General Test to provide a common measure for comparing applicants in the admissions process.

**GRE® score scales are designed to help you make meaningful comparisons between applicants:**

- Verbal Reasoning scores are reported on a 130–170 score scale, in one-point increments
- Quantitative Reasoning scores are reported on a 130–170 score scale, in one-point increments
- Analytical Writing scores are reported on a 0–6 score scale, in half-point increments

Prior to the introduction of the GRE revised General Test in 2011, Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores were reported on a 200–800 score scale, in 10-point increments. Now, with the 130–170 score scales, reported in one-point increments, small score differences are less likely to be interpreted as meaningful, and larger score differences stand out more clearly.

**Percentile ranks provide a valuable source of information**

In addition to scores, each score report provides percentile ranks. Percentile ranks are very helpful when comparing scores on the prior and revised tests because they are indicative of how well the test taker performed in relation to other test takers.

- A percentile rank for a score indicates the percentage of test takers who took the test and received a lower score
- Percentile ranks are based on the performance of the current reference group from a recent period
- The reference group is updated every year, which means the percentile rank for any score may vary slightly across years
“It [GRE] provides a common benchmark/standard that is increasingly useful within an increasingly complex and diverse academic world.”
- Douglas Peers, Dean of Arts, University of Waterloo (Canada)
GRE Board Member

GRE scores are available in three convenient ways

• Paper reports, featuring the ETS® Security Guard — a special heat-sensitive ink that, when activated, verifies the report’s authenticity
• Electronic score files via secure SCORELINK® Internet Delivery Service, the fastest method of score reporting
• Electronic score files on CD-ROM

No matter which method you use to receive official GRE scores, they come directly from ETS, which guarantees the integrity and security of the score information.

More information and tools to help you compare applicants

Concordance information for tests taken prior to August 1, 2011 — Since scores are valid for five years, you may see score reports from candidates who took the prior test. Those score reports will show the scores originally earned on the prior 200–800 score scales — and will also feature estimated scores on the 130–170 score scales, using the appropriate concordance tables. This information is provided to help you transition to the new score scales more easily, while still comparing candidates. For more information about the concordance tables, read The New Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning score scales: A helpful overview of what you need to know, available at the GRE Information Center: ets.org/gre/infocenter.

For Business Schools: The GRE Comparison Tool — The easy-to-use online tool was designed to help newer GRE score users understand GRE scores in the context of GMAT Total scores. It calculates a predicted GMAT Total score based on an applicant’s GRE Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores. For more information or to start using the tool, visit ets.org/gre/comparison.

The GRE® Guide to the Use of Scores

A must-have for any program using GRE scores, this helpful guide provides great insight into best practices. Updated annually each July, the GRE Guide to the Use of Scores also provides GRE score interpretation data and statistical information, including percentiles, concordance information, reliability coefficients and standard errors of measurement. Available at ets.org/gre/guide.

Learn more about the GRE® revised General Test now at ets.org/gre/institutions
The best admissions decisions are based on multiple sources of information to ensure fairness and balance the limitations of any single measure of knowledge, skills or abilities. These sources can include important criteria such as undergraduate grade-point average, letters of recommendation, personal statements, samples of academic or professional work and more. GRE® revised General Test scores provide independent information about your applicants that you can use to supplement the other pieces of information you receive.

GRE tests are backed by decades of validity research, so you can feel good knowing the data are coming from a reliable source — ETS, the world’s leading educational measurement and research organization. Because of this intense commitment to validity and fairness — ETS will continue efforts to provide ongoing validity research and insight for the graduate and business school community. All of this means that GRE scores provide you with an independent source of information that you can trust to help you make even more informed admissions decisions.

“The GRE is an excellent independent source of data about the quality of your student applicants…The GRE provides a common and comparable element to all graduate applications.”

- Andrew Comrie, Dean Graduate College, University of Arizona (USA), GRE Board Member
While most test takers act honestly, we all know test security continues to be a growing threat—with new technologies, expanded mobility and some individuals willing to try to “game the system.” As such, we must remain vigilant in protecting the integrity and validity of GRE test scores and their role in your admissions process.

Over our 60-year history as the world’s largest educational measurement and research organization, ETS has continued to develop and expand our approach to security to ensure the validity of our test scores. Many of the test security practices pioneered by ETS have become the industry standard and have been adopted by other testing companies and organizations around the globe.

With the launch of the GRE revised General Test in 2011, ETS incorporated security measures right into the test design, to further intensify our already strong security measures. This means that there are classified security features actually built in to the very way the content is rotated and delivered worldwide. This type of dynamic, ever-changing security feature isn’t used by any other large-scale testing company. And, in addition to rigorous new design and delivery techniques that have been incorporated into the actual test development, we have added an unprecedented number of internal and external dynamic controls to further enhance the security, making the GRE revised General Test the most state-of-the-art, securely designed large-scale assessment today.

Even with these great strides, we must constantly be diligent and innovative, continuing to explore new security measures and intensify our practices to protect the validity of GRE scores for graduate and business school decision makers and honest test takers — worldwide.

Learn more about the GRE® revised General Test now at ets.org/gre/institutions
ETS is committed to helping students get closer to achieving their goals — and is continuously enhancing the GRE program. Here are some of the reasons why taking the GRE® revised General Test is good news for your prospective students:

- It has the widest test center network of any graduate-level admissions test, making it available in 700 locations worldwide, in more than 160 countries
- It now* has one global fee to provide more opportunities for all, and continues to be less expensive than any other graduate admissions test that measures the same skills. Fee reduction vouchers are also available for qualified individuals
- It is accepted by thousands of graduate and business schools around the world, so test takers considering getting an advanced degree, or even more than one, only have to take one test
- Scores are good for five years, so test takers can test when they feel it is a good time for them, while still exploring their options

However, the biggest news for test takers includes changes designed to make them feel even better about taking the next step toward achieving graduate or business school success.

Test-taker friendly design — The GRE revised General Test, introduced in 2011, features a more test-taker friendly design, so test takers can use more of their own personal test-taking style and strategies.

“Being able to flag questions and go back to them in the review section was really, really cool because I was able to go back and work on the questions that I wasn’t sure about. And, I used the on-screen calculator a lot, it was really helpful.”

- Lindsey Todd, GRE test taker, Philadelphia (USA)

* Effective July 2012

More people than ever before from about 200 countries/regions — and with a variety of demographic, cultural and academic backgrounds — took a GRE® test in 2011, producing the broadest, most diverse applicant pool in GRE history. It’s exciting to see a growing number of people take a decisive step toward graduate and business school, which leads to more opportunity for so many individuals. And, as a graduate or business school, it means even more highly qualified candidates for your program.
This technically advanced design gives test takers the following:

- Preview and review capabilities within a section
- "Mark and review" feature to tag questions, so they can skip and return later within a section
- Ability to change or edit answers within a section
- On-screen calculator for the Quantitative Reasoning section†

More confidence on test day — The new ScoreSelect℠ option, available in July 2012, helps test takers approach test day with more confidence, knowing they can decide to send the scores they feel reflect their personal best. This option lets test takers decide which scores to send to the institutions of their choice. On test day, when viewing their scores at the test center, they can send scores from their Most Recent test administration or scores for All of their test administrations as part of their four FREE score reports. After test day, they can send scores from their Most Recent, All or Any specific test administration(s) for a fee when ordering Additional Score Reports. While test takers have the ability to select specific administration dates, scores for each test administration will be reported in their entirety.

Test preparation to get ready — The GRE Program provides free and low-cost test preparation materials so that all individuals regardless of background or situation can be ready. As part of our commitment to creating opportunities for all individuals, ETS continues to provide these official test preparation materials††, available at ets.org/gre.

- POWERPREP® II software, version 2.0 — For the only practice experience that’s as close to the actual test as you can get, test takers can download this comprehensive test prep software, which includes two full-length practice tests, to prepare for the computer-based GRE revised General Test, as well as strategies, sample questions and more. Available July 2012. Download Free.

- The Practice Book for the Paper-based GRE® revised General Test — This 100+ page book includes one full-length paper-based practice test as well as strategies, sample questions and more. Written specifically for those taking the paper-based GRE revised General Test. Download Free.

- The Official Guide to the GRE® revised General Test, Second edition — This comprehensive book includes four real practice tests (two in the book and two in the POWERPREP II CD-ROM), detailed explanations for hundreds of authentic GRE questions, essay responses with reader commentary, success strategies and more. Available August 2012 in most bookstores and online.

Coming soon: New mini test preparation workshops for students. Available for your campus or online.

All of these enhancements can encourage more potential graduate and business school students to move one step closer to their goals of graduate education — helping you attract a broad range of applicants with diverse backgrounds from around the world who have the proven skills to succeed in your program.

† For those taking the paper-based GRE revised General Test in areas of the world where the computer-based test is not available, the test design and question types have been modified to be appropriate for a paper-based, linear test. In addition, calculators are provided at the test center for use during the paper-based test.

†† POWERPREP II software, version 1.0, and The Official Guide to the GRE revised General Test, 1st edition, are available on ets.org until the new releases listed are issued.

I used the POWERPREP to give me a good idea of the test. The simulation is almost the same as the real thing.”

- Jennifer Gonsalves, GRE test taker, Mumbai (India)
Learn more about how the GRE® revised General Test can help you make the best admissions decisions for your program.

Visit us online at ets.org/gre/institutions
Email us at GREhelpline@ets.org
Call the GRE Helpline at +1-609-683-2002

About ETS
At ETS, we advance quality and equity in education for people worldwide by creating assessments based on rigorous research. ETS serves individuals, educational institutions and government agencies by providing customized solutions for teacher certification, English language learning, and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, as well as conducting education research, analysis and policy studies. Founded as a nonprofit in 1947, ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually — including the TOEFL® and TOEIC® tests, the GRE® tests and The Praxis Series™ assessments — in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide.

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