



Answers to Score User Questions about the Shorter GRE

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What has changed?

Effective September 22, 2023, the testing time for the GRE General Test is reduced by half, from nearly 4 hours to just under 2 hours. The test still measures students' 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, test takers will receive their official GRE scores faster, within 8–10 calendar days (previously 10–15 calendar days).

2. Why did you change the test?

We understand that graduate and professional programs want to expedite and streamline their application and admissions processes so they can efficiently admit qualified applicants who will be successful in their programs. Shortening the GRE test and reducing the score turnaround time lessens applicant fatigue and enables them to complete the test and submit their scores more quickly.

The changes we made to the GRE General Test have been prioritized based on test taker and score user feedback and are the result of analysis by, and discussions with, our assessment development and psychometrics teams about how we could introduce a better experience for test takers while retaining the strong validity and reliability schools need for confident decision-making.

At ETS, we have a renewed and focused effort to ensure that learners and educators are at the center of all we do. In fact, this is the latest in a series of exciting product innovations, including the [TOEFL iBT enhancements](#) that launched in July and the move this month of the [GRE Subject Tests](#) to online delivery.

3. Is the shorter test still valid?

Yes. The changes are the result of analysis and discussions with our assessment development and psychometrics teams about how to introduce a better experience for test takers while retaining the strong validity and reliability schools need for confident decision-making. The shorter GRE retains an appropriate level of reliability for high-stakes decisions that ensures comparability between the tests. It covers the same content that it always has, and therefore continue to assess the applicant's reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills that are so critical for success in graduate and professional programs, including business and law.

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

Yes.

5. How much does the shorter GRE test cost?

The [GRE test fee](#) remains the same. While we are giving students a better testing experience, the GRE Test continues to be a reliable, valid and secure measure of graduate-level readiness. The shorter GRE Test offers the same measure of verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills in less time.

6. How many times can students take the shorter GRE?

The retake policy for the shorter GRE is the same as for the current test: once every 21 days, up to five times within any continuous rolling 12-month period (365 days).

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

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

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

8. What is the structure of the shorter GRE?

The test structure of the shorter GRE is as follows:

Sections	Number of Questions	Total Time
Quantitative Reasoning	27 questions	47 minutes
Verbal Reasoning	27 questions	41 minutes
Analytical Writing	1 essay task	30 minutes
Total		1 hour, 58 mins

9. Do test takers 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.

10. 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.

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

No. The shorter test is less than two hours. If a test taker needs a break at the test center, they can still opt to take one, however, the clock will not stop unless they'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.

12. Is the shorter test section-level adaptive?

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

13. How does the shorter GRE compare with the GMAT Focus?

The tests have similarities and differences. Key differences include:

- **Length:** The shorter GRE is 17 minutes shorter than the GMAT Focus. See the chart below.
- **Cost:** The GRE is up to \$80 cheaper than the GMAT Focus.
- **Format:** Because the GRE Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections are section-level adaptive, within each of these sections test takers can answer questions in any order they want and change their answers as often as time allows. This enables test takers to use their own test-taking strategies, such as going through the exam to answer the questions they feel are easier or quicker first, and then going back to tackle the questions they feel are more difficult or time consuming. GMAT Focus is question-level adaptive, so questions must be answered in the order in which they are administered, though according to [GMAC](#), the test will introduce the ability for test takers to change up to three responses per section.
- **Calculator:** On the GRE, test takers can use an onscreen calculator on the Quantitative Reasoning section, which isn't allowed on the GMAT.
- **Content:** The shorter GRE retains the Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing sections. We've heard from schools that receiving Analytical Writing scores and accessing applicants' writing samples through the ETS Data Manager is important, as it may be the only writing sample they receive that isn't coached or edited by others.

The GMAT is changing from four sections (Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Analytical Writing and Integrated Reasoning) to three sections in the GMAT Focus (Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Data Insights). According to the [GMAC website](#), the Quantitative Reasoning section will no longer have data sufficiency questions, and the new

Data Insights section “leverages Integrated Reasoning and Data Sufficiency question types,” which are question types from the current GMAT.

Sections	Shorter GRE® Number of questions	Shorter GRE® Total Time	GMAT Focus Number of Questions	GMAT Focus Total Time
Analytical Writing	1 essay task	30 minutes	—	—
Verbal Reasoning	27 questions	41 minutes	23 questions	45 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning	27 questions	47 minutes	21 questions	45 minutes
Data Insights	—	—	20 questions	45 minutes
Total		1 hour, 58 mins		2 hours, 15 mins

All information about GMAT Focus was accessed from the [GMAC website](#) on May 26, 2023.

When advising students which test to take, please share our [Shorter GRE / GMAT Focus comparison chart](#).

14. Does the shorter GRE measure the skills that the GMAT Focus “Data Insights” section will measure?

Yes, both tests measure candidates’ ability to analyze and interpret data and apply it to real-world business scenarios.

According to the [GMAC website](#) (accessed on May 26, 2023), the Data Insights section includes five question types, which they are moving from the Quantitative Reasoning and Integrated Reasoning sections and repackaging as Data Insights.

SCORES

15. Are the score scales changing?

No, the score scales remain the same to ensure there is no interruption for institutions in their admissions processes. See the [score conversion tables](#).

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

The scoring processes for all three measures have not changed. However, test takers’ Analytical Writing scores will be based on their performance on one essay task instead of two essay tasks.

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

No.

18. Should schools use scores from the shorter GRE any differently?

No. Graduate and professional programs should 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.

19. Within each measure, does each question count more toward the final score?

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

20. 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 you 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. [Learn more.](#)

21. Are schools getting scores faster?

We've reduced the score delivery timeframe for test takers from 10–15 days to 8–10 days. The delivery timeframe to schools will depend upon which delivery method they have chosen. Electronic scores will be delivered to schools twice a week.

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

Yes, test takers have free access to the GRE Diagnostic Service so they can gain insight into their performance on the test questions in the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections approximately two weeks after their test date.

23. How long are GRE scores reportable?

GRE scores are reportable for five years following a test taker's test date, so they could apply to another graduate program within five years and not have to take another test.

TEST PREP

24. Is official test 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.

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 also use existing Official GRE Prep, which can be found at ets.org/gre/prepare.

25. 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 in the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections, and no longer includes the “Analyze an Argument” essay task in the Analytical Writing section.

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