

GRE PREPARATION

General Advice

Loken et al (2004) observed the on-line behavior of 100,000 students using a web-based tool (number2.com ... see below) to prepare for standardized entrance tests, specifically the SAT, ACT, and GRE. Some of their observations may help students better prepare.

Start early. A modest percentage of students only began preparing a few weeks before the test, which for many students is too late. Take one or more practice tests months in advance of your expected date to write the GRE and use your results to determine how much you need to study and what. Some faculty recommend that students treat GRE preparation as a 3-credit course; that is, commit the same amount of time to studying for the GRE as you would for a 3-credit course.

Organize what you study. Loken et al. found that students did not study the different types of questions evenly. Many neglected math and science preparation; for example, students generally spent less time on math and in fact fewer than 30% of GRE students attempted any quantitative questions at all. With respect to verbal material, reading passages received less study than vocabulary drills and short answer verbal questions; indeed, only about 20% of students attempted any reading comprehension questions. The researchers also manipulated the order of verbal and mathematical practice materials and found that students spent more time with the material that was presented first. When studying, be sure to balance the amount of time spent on different domains. If study domains (e.g., verbal, quantitative) are presented in a certain order, perhaps start each session with a different section.

Make a plan. Because preparation for the GRE can take a considerable commitment of time, it is important to be methodical about the work involved. Make a schedule of what, when, and how much you plan to study on a weekly and daily basis. Include dates to take practice tests. Above all, you want to prepare well in advance and avoid having to cram for the test. One reason for the modest benefits of GRE coaching may be because it does encourage or even demand a systematic approach to studying. Here's one short article on overall preparation for the GRE.

<http://www.psichi.org/?page=161EyeFall11aGomez#.Wk2n-E2ovKs>

Preparation Sites

There are many on-line resources available for GRE preparation (over 61 million hits for “GRE preparation” in google). Even those offering commercial material include valuable resources that are freely available. So all of the following sites are worth exploring. Most of them are general in nature. As noted above, taking a practice test is a good beginning so that your exploration can have some direction.

Here are some sites worth exploring. The first includes links to other sites on preparing for the GRE.

<https://www.learnpsychology.org/resources/grad-school-gre/>

<https://www.princetonreview.com/grad/gre-test-prep?ceid=hp-bar>

<https://www.kaptest.com/gre>

<https://magoosh.com/>

<https://gre.economist.com/>

<http://barronstestprep.com/gre/#2>

<http://gre.prepscholar.com/>

<http://number2.com/>

<http://freerice.com/#/english-vocabulary/1453>

<https://quizlet.com/5865446/the-ubiquitous-400-flash-cards/>

One very rich site is that by the creators of the GRE. Below is a link to the main site (explore from there) and two areas that focus on math preparation and would be useful to people who have not done much math since high school.

<https://www.ets.org/gre>

https://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_math_review.pdf

https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/khan_academy