

If you're planning to take the GRE in fall 2007 or later, you may already know that the test format and delivery will be dramatically different. ETS, the organization that administers the GRE, is finalizing these changes, so details about the test are still subject to change. ETS has been researching and testing possible changes for the past few years and plans to launch the new version of the exam in fall 2007. Please check back with us frequently to get the most up-to-date information.

Changes to the GRE at a Glance

- The new test will be administered as a computer-based, linear exam.
- ETS will revise the content of each of the three sections of the test: Analytical Writing, Verbal, and Quantitative.
- ETS plans to offer the GRE on 30 dates per year.
- The GRE will be delivered via the Internet to testing centers, and everyone who takes the exam on a given day will receive the same questions.
- The new exam will be about four hours long.
- Scoring scales will change. AWA scores will retain the current 0-to-6 scale, but test takers will receive Quantitative and Verbal scores on a scale of 110 to 150.
- ETS intends to increase the number of test centers to ensure that there will be enough spaces for all test takers.

Frequently Asked Questions

I'm planning to take the GRE before it changes. How will this affect me?

Be assured that if you are taking the exam before fall 2007, you don't need to be concerned about the new test. Focus your energy on preparing for the exam in its current form.

You will likely see a research section that contains new question formats, but this section will NOT be scored. In fact, if it's an identified research section, you will get to choose whether you want to take it at all. If it's an unidentified research section, it won't affect your scores, but you won't be given a choice about whether to complete the section.

What if I am taking the test after Fall 2007?

The best way to prepare for the GRE is to know what's tested, understand how it's tested, develop an approach to the exam, and complete lots of practice. We successfully prepare thousands of students each year for the current exam, and we'll do the same for the new test, complete with our score improvement guarantee. We are investing tremendous resources into creating a new GRE course which will prepare you for this new exam.

How will the test be different?

Both the structure and content of the GRE will change next October. The GRE will still consist of three sections: Analytical Writing, Verbal, and Quantitative; however, the number and timing of these sections will change. Based on information released so far, we expect the new exam to have a 60-minute AWA section (30 minutes each for the Issue and Argument essays), two 40-minute Verbal sections, and two 40-minute Quantitative sections. One of the Verbal or Quantitative sections will be experimental.

According to ETS, the Verbal section will include more emphasis on higher cognitive skills and less on vocabulary. ETS is dropping the analogy and antonym questions that currently appear in the Verbal section, and it will add more critical reading questions and some new question formats.

The new Quantitative section will test a greater depth and breadth of quantitative reasoning skills, claims ETS. Plans call for fewer geometry questions, more “real-life” and data interpretation questions, and new question formats.

Will graduate schools accept test scores from both the old and the new test?

We don't know yet how graduate schools will react to the new exam, though we expect that through at least the 2007-2008 application cycle, they will accept scores on both the old and new exams. ETS will release a conversion scale that compares scores on the old and new versions. If you have specific questions about application requirements, contact the programs to which you plan to apply.

Why is the GRE changing?

While ETS claims they're trying to improve the validity of the GRE, we doubt that their intentions are so altruistic. The new GRE will contain new question types that have never been tested on any standardized exam, will be scored on a new scale, and will be less convenient for students to take. That's a more valid test? We're not so sure. The current computer-adaptive GRE is expensive to develop and deliver, and that's what's really driving the changes to the exam.

If you have further questions about the changes to the GRE, feel free to contact us at (02) 2751-1293.