

## **GMAT - Graduate Management Admission Test**

### ***General Information***

The GMAT is usually required for graduate programs in business and management. The test contains verbal, quantitative, analytical, and essay sections. It is a computer-adaptive test (CAT) that is available, year-round, at test centers throughout the world. The Graduate Management Admissions Test, better known by the acronym GMAT (pronounced G-mat), is a standardized test for determining aptitude to succeed academically in graduate business studies. The test is used as one of the selection criteria by most business schools globally, most commonly for admission into an MBA program.

The Graduate Management Admissions Test is one of many factors schools use when reviewing applications for admission; it is typically balanced with work experience, grades in previous schools, recommendation letters and other admissions criteria.

### ***Description of the Test***

Scores are valid for five years from the date the test taker sits for the exam.

**Analytical Writing Assessment:** The Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) section of the test consists of two essays. In the first, the student must analyze an argument and in the second the student must analyze an issue.

**Quantitative and Verbal Sections:** The quantitative section consists of 37 multiple choice questions, which must be answered within 75 minutes. There are two types of questions: problem solving and data sufficiency.

### ***Scoring***

Each essay must be written within 30 minutes and is scored on a scale of 0-6. The essay is read by two readers who each mark the essay with a grade from 0-6, in 0.5 point increments with a mean score of 4.1. If the two scores are within one point of each other, they are averaged. If there is more than one point difference, the essays are read by a third reader. The first reader is Intellimetric, a proprietary computer program developed by Vantage Learning, which analyzes creative writing and syntax. The second and third readers are humans, who generally look at the overall impact rather than spelling and grammar. Although spelling does not formally count against your total score, it can bring the score down if the reader has a hard time reading the essay due to misspelled words. There are many factors involved when deciding the score. There are no length requirements and the readers mainly look for a well structured essay that flows smoothly.

The quantitative section is scored from 0 to 60 points and the current mean score is 35.0/60. The verbal section consists of 41 multiple choice questions, which must be answered within 75 minutes. There are three types of questions: sentence correction, critical reasoning and reading comprehension. The verbal

section is scored from 0 to 60 points with a current mean of 27.3/60. The "Total Score", comprising the quantitative and verbal sections, is exclusive of the analytical writing assessment (AWA), and ranges from 200 to 800. The score distribution resembles a Bell curve with a standard deviation of approximately 100 points, meaning that the test is designed for 68% of examinees to score between 500 and 600, while the median score was originally designed to be near 500. The current median score is 546. The current mean score is 526.6/800.

The quantitative and verbal sections comprise a computer-adaptive test. The first question may be difficult. The next few questions in each section may be around the 500 level. If the examinee answers correctly, the next questions are harder. If the examinee answers incorrectly, the next questions are easier. Also, questions left blank (that is, those not reached) hurt the examinee more than questions answered incorrectly. This is a major contrast to the SAT, which has a wrong-answer penalty. Each test section also includes several experimental questions, which do not count toward the examinee's score, but are included to judge the appropriateness of the item for future administrations.

### ***Test Fee and Registration***

As of 2006, the fee to take the test is US \$250 worldwide.

The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) is available, year-round, at test centers throughout the world.

In the United States, U.S. territories, Canada, and Puerto Rico, it may be possible to schedule your test within a few days of taking it, but popular dates (especially weekends) book quickly. International test takers should note that in some countries (ie. Burma/Myanmar) the GMAT may be offered only once per year, so planning is essential.

In the US, Canada, and US territories, you can register online at [www.gmat.org](http://www.gmat.org) Or call: 1-800-GMAT-NOW. You can also call the test center nearest you, which you can find on the website. Whether registering online or by phone, you will need a credit card (AmEx, Visa, MasterCard) to pay the registration fee.

You can also register by mail at:

GMAT Educational Testing Service  
PO Box 6103  
Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6103

You will need to complete the **Voucher Request Form** for the GMAT, found in the GMAT Information Bulletin and mail it with your check or money order payable to "ETS-GMAT"

If you live outside the United States, Canada, or Puerto Rico, you may make an appointment for the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) by phone, fax, or mail. Contact the regional registration centers listed under the TOEFL registration section.

### ***How to Prepare:***

The following sites have practice tests for no charge:

[http://www.testprepreview.com/gmat\\_practice.htm](http://www.testprepreview.com/gmat_practice.htm)

GMAT Prep from Syvum

<http://www.syvum.com/s.pl/gmat/>

Go to <http://www.mba.com/mba> for:

Actual test questions that have been used previously are published in the Sample GMAT Questions and GMAT Mini-Test areas and in The Official Guide for GMAT Review and the GMAT: POWERPREP 3.0 Software - all available on the GMAT website.

Complete information on the test, including a downloadable version of the GMAT Bulletin of Information, can be found on the GMAT website at [www.gmat.org](http://www.gmat.org). This location also includes links to many of the schools that require GMAT scores for admission.

The website also contains a wealth of information on business schools, careers for MBAs, and financial aid.

### ***More Information***

You can also request information by contacting:

The Educational Testing Service  
P.O. Box 6101,  
Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6101,  
U.S.A.