

Guide to the GREs – Graduate Record Examinations

General GRE

- **Verbal Reasoning**
 - There are two 30-minute sections, each containing approximately 20 questions
 - They assess the ability to understand readings and apply reasoning skills
 - Includes the following types of questions:
 - Text Completion Questions
 - Reading Comprehension Questions
 - Sentence Equivalence Questions
 - Scoring:
 - 130 - 170 score scale, in 1-point increments
 - For doctoral programs, score of 160 (previously a 600) recommended
 - For masters programs, score of 153 (previously a 500) recommended
- **Quantitative Reasoning**
 - There are two 35-minute sections, each containing approximately 20 questions
 - They assess basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis
 - Includes an on-screen calculator and the following types of questions:
 - Multiple-choice questions
 - Numeric Entry questions
 - Quantitative Comparison questions
 - Scoring:
 - 130 - 170 score scale, in 1-point increments
 - For doctoral programs, score of 148 (previously a 600) recommended
 - For masters programs, score of 144 (previously a 500) recommended

Summary of Scores Needed for Program Levels

	Verbal Reasoning Score	Quantitative Reasoning Score
Master's Program	153	144
Doctoral Program	160	148

- **Analytical Writing**
 - There is one section with 2 separately timed tasks (30 minutes each)
 - Assesses critical thinking and analytical writing skills
 - Goal is to articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively
 - Includes 2 timed essays to write
 - *Analyze an Issue*: express your views on a critical issue
 - *Analyze an Argument*: evaluate a logical argument
 - Scoring: 0 – 6 score scale, in half-point increments

Psychology GRE

- 205 multiple-choice questions
- 3 content categories:
 - Experimental or natural science oriented (~40%)
 - learning, language, memory, thinking, sensation and perception, and physiological psychology/behavioral neuroscience
 - Social or social science oriented (~43%)
 - clinical and abnormal, lifespan development, personality, and social psychology
 - General (~17%)
 - history of psychology, research design and statistics, applied psychology, psychometrics

Advice for Students

- For more detailed information about the test and registration go to the Educational Testing Service's (the administrator) website at :
 - http://www.ets.org/gre?WT.ac=grehome_grehome_a_121017
- Take a diagnostic exam NOW so you can plan your preparation strategy. Educational Testing Service's PowerPrep software contains practice exams and it is free when you register for the GRE.
- Other free exams are available through these links:
 - GENERAL TEST: <http://www.princetonreview.com/grad/free-gre-practice-test.aspx>
 - PSYCHOLOGY TEST PRACTICE BOOK: http://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/practice_book_psych.pdf
- Purchase a book (e.g., Kaplan or Princeton Review); available at most bookstores. These books include practice questions and exams with explanations and tips and advice on how to think through the questions.
- <http://number2.com> provides free preparation materials for the GRE