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Cracking The GMAT Premium Edition With 6 Computer-Adaptive Practice Tests, 2017 (Graduate School Test Preparation)



Synopsis

THE ALL-IN-ONE SOLUTION FOR YOUR HIGHEST POSSIBLE SCOREâ€”including 6 computer-adaptive practice tests (the MOST CATs on the market!) for realistic preparation! Techniques That Actually Work.â€¢ Powerful tactics to avoid traps and help beat the GMATâ€¢ Step-by-step problem-solving guides for the toughest question typesâ€¢ Key strategies to help you work smarter, not harderâ€¢ Everything You Need to Know to Help Achieve a High Score.â€¢ Comprehensive subject coverage of all GMAT topicsâ€¢ A thorough review of necessary Math, Verbal, Writing, and Integrated Reasoning skillsâ€¢ Bulleted chapter summaries for quick reference Practice Your Way to Perfection.â€¢ 6 full-length CAT practice exams online with robust score reports and detailed answer explanationsâ€¢ Diagnostic warm-ups that help focus your reviewâ€¢ 180+ additional practice questions, sorted by difficulty, to customize your prepâ€¢ Drills for each test section in the book, plus additional Math, Verbal, and Integrated Reasoning drills online And, with Cracking the GMAT Premium Edition, you'll get online access to our exclusive Premium Portal for an extra competitive edge:â€¢ Online practice exams to hone your test-taking techniquesâ€¢ Video tutorials with expert advice from leading course instructorsâ€¢ Multi-week study plansâ€¢ Examples of successful b-school essays and interviews with admissions officersâ€¢ Special "GMAT Insider" section packed with info on admissions and financial aid, the MBA and your career, writing winning essays, and more

Book Information

Series: Graduate School Test Preparation

Paperback: 768 pages

Publisher: Princeton Review; 2017 ed. edition (May 24, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101919655

ISBN-13: 978-1101919651

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 1.7 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #152,773 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Business School Guides #47 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Education & Reference > GMAT Test #89 inÂ Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Graduate School Guides

Customer Reviews

I am a Harvard grad (class of 02'), professional GMAT tutor and 99% GMAT scorer. I know this complex, intricate test inside-out, but at the same time, I'm always learning, which is why it continues to fascinate me. As I expected when I ordered it, this book is just OK; I would recommend it for basic strategies and low/average GMAT scorers only. Unfortunately, the shiny gold writing on the cover is the most impressive thing about it. Any attempt to write an "all in one" guide to a test as complex as the GMAT is destined to be at least a partial failure, and this new 2017 edition is proof positive that simpler does not always mean better. There is some good news: I can confirm that I was able to register with Princeton Review and access the online content, which includes 6 practice CATs. However, there are thousands of official GMAT questions, 1,500 of which are free via the GMAT Prep software, so I don't see the need for any GMAT student to practice on non-authentic questions. The Official GMAT guides are lacking in strategy, however, and this is where other books such as this one will come into play. Unfortunately, much of this book is filled with basic facts and formulas, rather than GMAT strategies, which is why I can more strongly recommend the books from the Manhattan GMAT Series, as well as the PowerScore Critical Reading Bible and Critical Reasoning Bible. Basically, Princeton Review (full disclosure: my former employer) and Kaplan are the Burger King and McDonald's of the test-prep world. You might leave feeling full of knowledge, but it's mostly empty calories. Any GMAT self-studier can tell you that there is no one book that can prepare you for the GMAT. Yes, you should start with the Official Guides, because you should stick to official questions whenever possible, but for those of us who are self-studying, no one book is enough. Why are the 2017 Official Guides the very best place to start your GMAT preparation, other than the free GMAT Prep software? Because the questions in these books are super-realistic. They are just like the questions on the real GMAT, because the book is written by the test-maker and uses actual, retired GMAT questions. Don't waste your time and money practicing on questions made by any other companies--these are merely inferior imitations of the real thing. If you must use other materials for test strategy, then that's fine, and in most cases necessary, but try your best to stick to official questions whenever possible. Pro tip: You can take each of the 6 GMAT Prep CATs more than once, because the GMAT is an adaptive test (it adjusts the difficulty level of later questions based on your previous responses). There are about 4 to 16 times as many questions in the GMAC's question pool as there are in any given test, which means that every test you take will be different. Tests 1 and 2 draw from a (gigantic!) pool of about 1,500 questions, and tests 3, 4, 5, and 6 draw from a more modest pool of about 400 questions each. To re-take your GMAT Prep tests, click "reset" in the lower-left hand corner of the GMAT Prep software window, but make sure

to take screenshots of your previous test sessions beforehand--frequent screenshots are a good idea anyway because the software is prone to crashing and losing your data. For your screenshots, use either the "Print Screen" (Windows Key + PrtScn) button on a PC or (Shift + Command + 3) on a Mac. For those of you who are just getting started, here is the overall structure of the GMAT:

- 1) Analysis of an Argument Essay (AWA or Analytical Writing Assessment): 30 minutes, 1 question.
- 2) Integrated Reasoning (Multi-Source Reasoning, Table Analysis, Graphics Interpretation, Two Part Analysis): 30 minutes, 12 questions. Please note: unlike the Verbal and Quantitative sections, the IR section is not adaptive.
- 3) Optional 8-minute break
- 4) Quantitative Section (Problem Solving, Data Sufficiency): 75 minutes, 37 questions (2 minutes per question)
- 5) Optional 8-minute break
- 6) Verbal Section (Reading Comprehension, Critical Reasoning, Sentence Correction): 75 minutes, 41 questions (1.8 minutes per question)

Keep in mind that on the GMAT you cannot go back or skip any questions, and that the first 12-15 questions of the Verbal and Quantitative sections have the most impact on your score due to the adaptive scoring algorithm. A correct answer will yield a slightly harder question in most cases, and vice versa, and the GMAT will gradually determine your score as you go. The largest adjustments are made at the beginning of the test, which is why the first 1/3 of questions are so essential. Also, approximately 10 to 25% of the questions on the actual GMAT are experimental--you don't know which ones they are, and they don't count toward your score.

Here are my most essential GMAT Resources, ranked from most important to least:

- 1) Free GMATPrep Software - 2 diagnostic CATs (Exams 1 and 2: 180 questions total) and 90 practice questions out of 1,500 possible questions
- 2) GMAT 2016 Official Guide Bundle - 1 diagnostic test and over 1,500 practice questions and answer explanations
- 3) GMAT 2016 Official Guide Bundle - about \$45
- 4) GMATPrep Exam Pack 1 - 2 diagnostic CATs (Exams 3 and 4: 180 questions total) out of 400 possible questions - \$50
- 5) GMATPrep Exam Pack 1 [Online Code] \$50
- 6) GMAT Prep Exam Pack 2 (New Release with 2 New Tests -- not yet available on) - 2 more diagnostic CATs (Exams 5 and 6: 180 questions total) out of 400 possible questions - \$50

Please note: you can save \$10 by buying #3 and #4 together as an Exam Pack Bundle from the GMAT website for \$90.

- 5) GMATPrep Question Pack 1 - 404 questions with answer explanations and ability to sort questions by type and difficulty - \$30
- 6) The Official Guide for GMAT Review 2016 Mobile App - \$5 for 50 questions and \$30 upgrade for an additional 800 questions
- 7) GMAT Focus Quizzes - 24 questions per quiz (math only) - \$30 per quiz and 4 total
- 8) GMAT Focus Online Quantitative Diagnostic Tool: Single Use [Online Code]
- 8) IR Prep Tool - 48 Integrated Reasoning Questions
- 9) GMAT IR Prep Tool [Online Code] - \$20
- 9) GMAT Write - 4 Auto-Graded Essays for

\$3010) GMAT Enhanced Score Report - Technically this is not a practice tool, but it provides an in-depth look at your score, including overall rankings, rankings by question type, time management information and a summary of your strengths and weaknesses, which can be helpful if you plan to take the test more than once. - \$25

Strategy: 1) GMAT Club Forum - Free explanations to nearly every official GMAT question, as well as questions written by other companies (I do not recommend practicing on non-official questions). 2) GMAT Quantum - Free video explanations to nearly every official GMAT quantitative question. 3) Manhattan Prep GMAT Series: \$144 for the entire series - Complete GMAT Strategy Guide Set (Manhattan Prep GMAT Strategy Guides) - or about \$16 for one book which gives you access to 6 online CATs - GMAT Sentence Correction (Manhattan Prep GMAT Strategy Guides). 4) LSAT Pretests for Extra Critical Reasoning and Critical Reading Practice: \$20 for 10 tests - 10 More, Actual Official LSAT PrepTests: (PrepTests 19 through 28) (Lsat Series) 5) Magoosh Free Online Materials 6) Powerprep Critical Reasoning Bible: \$21 - The PowerScore GMAT Critical Reasoning Bible 7) Powerprep Reading Comprehension Bible: \$35 - The PowerScore GMAT Reading Comprehension Bible

Finally, you can google "GMAT Action Plan - McElroy Tutoring" to read my personal, frequently updated recommendations for GMAT Prep. Please feel free to leave comments and/or ask questions below--I enjoy analyzing the intricacies of this challenging test, and will always try to respond in a timely fashion.

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