

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: An Aerial View: Putting the GRE into Perspective</i>	7
Chapter 1: Know Your Enemy: What the GRE Looks Like	9
Chapter 2: Knowledge Is Power: Getting the Advantage.....	17
Chapter 3: Getting Familiar with the Computerized GRE.....	25
Chapter 4: Starting with the Easy Stuff: Analogies.....	29
Chapter 5: The Dirty Dozen: Analogy Practice Questions	37
<i>Part II: A Word to the Wise: Verbal Questions</i>	45
Chapter 6: If Opposites Attract, Why Are Antonyms So Repulsive?	47
Chapter 7: Unattractive Opposites: Antonym Practice Questions	53
Chapter 8: Finishing What You Start: Sentence Completions.....	59
Chapter 9: Reality Check: Sentence Completion Practice Questions.....	69
Chapter 10: Readings That Can Affect Your Future: Blood Pressure, Astrology, and the GRE.....	73
Chapter 11: Words to Help You Score: GRE Vocabulary.....	87
Chapter 12: Practice What We Preach: Reading Comprehension Practice Questions.....	97
<i>Part III: Two Years of Math in a Handful of Pages: The Dreaded Math Review</i>	103
Chapter 13: More Figures than a Beauty Pageant: Geometry Review	105
Chapter 14: Gotta Catch Some (Xs, Ys, and) Zs: Algebra and Other Sleeping Aids.....	127
Chapter 15: Miscellaneous Math You Probably Already Know	143
<i>Part IV: Your Number's Up: Math Questions</i>	169
Chapter 16: The Incomparable Quantitative Comparisons	171
Chapter 17: Putting It All Together: QC Practice Questions	183
Chapter 18: Real Math at Last: Problem Solving	189
Chapter 19: A Chance to Show Off: Problem Solving Practice Questions.....	193
<i>Part V: Getting into Analysis: Analytical Writing</i>	197
Chapter 20: Analytical Writing.....	199
Chapter 21: Do You Have the Write Stuff? Analytical Writing Practice Questions.....	209
<i>Part VI: It All Comes Down to This: Full-Length Practice GREs</i>	217
Chapter 22: How to Ruin a Perfectly Good Day, Part I: Practice Exam 1.....	219
Chapter 23: Practice Exam 1: Answers and Explanations	245
Chapter 24: How to Ruin a Perfectly Good Day, Part II: Practice Exam 2.....	259
Chapter 25: Practice Exam 2: Answers and Explanations	289

<i>Part VII: The Part of Tens</i>	303
Chapter 26: Ten False Rumors about the GRE.....	305
Chapter 27: Ten Stupid Ways to Mess Up Your GRE	309
Chapter 28: Ten Relaxation Techniques to Try before and during the GRE.....	313
<i>Index</i>	317

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

About This Book.....	1
Pardon Me for Having a Life: Who Has Time for This?.....	2
Time required to go through the GRE lectures	3
Time required to go through the practice GREs	3
How This Book Is Organized.....	4
Part I: An Aerial View: Putting the GRE into Perspective	4
Part II: A Word to the Wise: Verbal Questions	4
Part III: Two Years of Math in a Handful of Pages: The Dreaded Math Review	4
Part IV: Your Number's Up: Math Questions.....	4
Part V: Getting into Analysis: Analytical Writing.....	4
Part VI: It All Comes Down to This: Full-Length Practice GREs.....	4
Part VII: The Part of Tens	5
Icons and Conventions Used in This Book	5

Part I: An Aerial View: Putting the GRE into Perspective 7

Chapter 1: Know Your Enemy: What the GRE Looks Like 9

Looking at the Breakdown (To Avoid Having One!).....	10
Scoring 101.....	11
Figuring out your scores	11
Knowing how your scores measure up	12
Playing the guessing game	12
Discovering the number of correct answers you need for specific scores	12
Understanding When Your Answers Don't Count: The Possible Unscored Section.....	13
Gimme a Break! The GRE Intermissions.....	14

Chapter 2: Knowledge Is Power: Getting the Advantage 17

Beating the Clock: Tips on Timing.....	17
Scratching like a Crazy Chicken.....	18
Packing Your Bags on Test Day	18
You Can't Take It with You	19
Déjà Vu: Repeating the Test	20
Experience Counts: Using Older Scores.....	21
Taking Care of Yourself before the Test	21
Staying active.....	21
Eating well	21
Discovering relaxation.....	21
Avoiding artificial study aids (drugs)	22
Approaching a Question with Confidence	22
Anticipating test questions	22
Changing your attitude.....	22
Remembering that this is only a test.....	23

Chapter 3: Getting Familiar with the Computerized GRE	25
Bracing Yourself for the Tutorials.....	25
Knowing the Rules so You Don't Sink Your Score.....	26
What You See Is What You Get: On-Screen Icons.....	26
Blacking In the Bubbles: How to Select Your Answers.....	27
Chapter 4: Starting with the Easy Stuff: Analogies	29
If Only All Relationships Were This Easy: The Format.....	29
Approaching Analogy-Solving Perfection: A Two-Step Program.....	30
They Really Are Out to Get You: Avoiding Traps and Tricks with a Few Good Tips.....	31
Turn a verb into an infinitive.....	31
Determine the part of speech of the question word.....	31
Look for the salient features of a word.....	32
Work backward.....	33
Identify common relationships.....	33
Use roots, prefixes, and suffixes.....	33
The Terminator: Eliminating Idiotic Answers.....	36
Déjà Vu Review.....	36
Chapter 5: The Dirty Dozen: Analogy Practice Questions	37
 <i>Part II: A Word to the Wise: Verbal Questions</i>	 45
Chapter 6: If Opposites Attract, Why Are Antonyms So Repulsive?	47
Is That All There Is? The Format.....	47
Let's Get This Over with Fast: The Approach.....	48
What to Do When You Ain't Got a Clue.....	49
Bad Things Come in Small Packages: Tricks, Traps, and Tips.....	49
Ignore the synonym.....	49
Use roots, prefixes, and suffixes.....	49
Memorize connotation cards.....	50
Don't anticipate and misread.....	50
Peroration (A Summing Up).....	51
Chapter 7: Unattractive Opposites: Antonym Practice Questions	53
Chapter 8: Finishing What You Start: Sentence Completions	59
Recognizing Sentence Completion Questions.....	59
Looking at the Sentence and Drawing a Blank.....	60
Read the entire sentence.....	60
If possible, predict words to fit the blanks.....	60
Insert the answer choices.....	61
Blowing Sentences Away: Dynamite Traps 'n' Tricks.....	62
Remember that connections count.....	62
Use your crystal ball.....	62
Guess and go.....	63
Getting Back to Your Roots.....	64
A Sense of Completion: Review.....	66
Approaches.....	66
Tricks.....	66
Chapter 9: Reality Check: Sentence Completion Practice Questions	69

Chapter 10: Readings That Can Affect Your Future: Blood Pressure, Astrology, and the GRE	73
What Do They Look Like? Reading Comprehension Passages and Their Questions	73
Acing the Three Commonly Tested Reading Comprehension Passages.....	74
Beam me up, Scotty! Biological and physical science passages	74
It's not a disease: The social sciences passage	75
Gimme a break, I'm only human: The humanities passages.....	76
All or Nothing: Questions to Take Seriously; Questions to Laugh Off.....	77
It's the attitude, dude: The attitude or tone question	77
What's the big idea? Main idea or best title questions.....	79
Don't pester me with details: The detail or fact question	80
The power of positive thinking: Negative or exception questions	80
Toga! Toga! Toga! The Roman numeral question.....	81
Journey into the deep: Text-referenced questions	81
The swing vote: Extending the author's reasoning.....	82
Something Up Your Sleeve: Tips for Making GRE Life a Little Easier	83
Be positive or neutral, not negative.....	83
Choose answers containing key words	83
Be wishy-washy, not dramatic	83
The Final Paragraph: Review	84
Approaches	84
Tips	85
Chapter 11: Words to Help You Score: GRE Vocabulary	87
The Long but Easy Journey: Studying Vocabulary	87
The Paramount 300: Memorizing the Most Common Words.....	88
Chapter 12: Practice What We Preach: Reading Comprehension Practice Questions	97
Passage I.....	97
Passage II.....	100
<i>Part III: Two Years of Math in a Handful of Pages: The Dreaded Math Review</i>	<i>103</i>
Chapter 13: More Figures than a Beauty Pageant: Geometry Review.....	105
An Angular Look at Geometry	105
Triangular Tidbits	108
Working with similar figures	110
Calculating a triangle's area and perimeter	111
Understanding the Pythagorean theorem.....	112
Recognizing Pythagorean triples.....	112
Thanks 4 Nothing: Quadrilaterals	114
Quaint quads: Bizarre quadrilaterals.....	115
Leftovers again: Shaded-area problems	115
Missing Parrots and Other Polly-Gones: More Polygons	116
Determining total interior angle measure	117
Finding one interior angle	117
Getting the Total Picture: Volume & Total Surface Area	118
Calculating volume.....	118
Figuring out total surface area.....	119
I'm Too Much of a Klutz for Coordinate Geometry.....	120
Running Around in Circles	120

Chapter 14: Gotta Catch Some (Xs, Ys, and) Zs: Algebra and Other Sleeping Aids	127
The Powers That Be: Bases and Exponents	127
Keepin' It in Proportion: Ratios	130
Things Aren't What They Seem: Symbolism.....	132
Abracadabra: Algebra.....	135
Alphabet soup: Solving for x.....	136
Curses! FOILed again.....	137
Fact or fiction: Factoring	138
Too Hip to Be Square: Roots and Radicals	139
Adding and subtracting	139
Multiplying and dividing.....	139
Working inside out	140
Probably Probability.....	140
Chapter 15: Miscellaneous Math You Probably Already Know	143
DIRTY Math: Distance, Rate, and Time	143
It All Averages Out: Averages	144
Solving missing term average problems	145
Working with weighted averages	147
Percentage Panic.....	148
Ignorance is bliss: Converting percentages to decimals or fractions	149
Life has its ups and downs: Determining percent increase/decrease	149
Ready, Set, Go: Number Sets.....	151
Prime Time: Prime and Composite Numbers	152
I'm All Mixed Up: Mixture Problems	153
Greed Is Great: Interest Problems.....	154
All Work and No Play: Work Problems	155
Reading between the Lines: Absolute Value.....	156
Smooth Operator: Order of Operations	157
Measuring Up: Units of Measurement	157
What's the Point: Decimals.....	159
Adding and subtracting decimals	159
Multiplying decimals.....	160
Dividing decimals	160
Broken Hearts, Broken Numbers: Fractions.....	160
Adding or subtracting fractions	160
Multiplying fractions.....	161
Dividing fractions	162
Playing with mixed numbers	162
The Stats Don't Lie: Statistics.....	162
Median	162
Mode	163
Range	163
A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words: Graphs.....	164
Math Concepts You Absolutely MUST Know.....	166
Angles	166
Circles	166
Common Pythagorean ratios	167
Exponents.....	167
FOIL method of algebra	167
Graphing	167
Linear algebraic equations.....	167
Ratios	168
Square roots.....	168
Symbolism.....	168

***Part IV: Your Number's Up: Math Questions* 169**
Chapter 16: The Incomparable Quantitative Comparisons 171

Where Did All the Answers Go? The QC Format	171
As Easy as π : Approaching QC Questions	172
Gotchas and Other Groaners: Tips, Traps, and Tricks.....	173
Remembering that equal appearances can be deceiving	173
Keeping an eye out for scale	173
Testing your artistic abilities — or not	175
Avoiding distraction from a pretty picture	176
Canceling out identical quantities	177
Weighing the columns.....	177
Plugging in the Sacred Six	178
Throwing down a hundred.....	179
Inserting variety when working with multiple variables.....	180
Familiarity Breeds Content(ment): A Review	181
Approach	181
Tips	181

Chapter 17: Putting It All Together: QC Practice Questions..... 183
Chapter 18: Real Math at Last: Problem Solving..... 189

Strategic Planning: The Attack Strategy.....	189
Three Common-Sense Suggestions for Problem Solving	190
Eliminate illogical (read: stupid) answer choices	190
Don't choose a "close enough" answer	190
Give your pencil a workout	191
I'm Sure I Know You from Somewhere: A Quick Review	191
Approach.....	191
Tricks	191

Chapter 19: A Chance to Show Off: Problem Solving Practice Questions..... 193
***Part V: Getting into Analysis: Analytical Writing* 197**
Chapter 20: Analytical Writing 199

Your Opinion Counts: Present Your Perspective on an Issue	199
Full of Sound and Fury: Analyze an Argument	200
Half a Dozen Is Better than None: Scoring.....	201
Hunting for the next Hemingway: What evaluators look for	201
Providing pointless information: What drives evaluators crazy.....	202
Presenting Your Perspective in a Well-Wrapped Package	203
Paragraph one.....	203
Paragraph two	203
Paragraphs three and four	204
Paragraphs five and six	205
Paragraph seven.....	205
Time's up	205
Analyzing an Argument in Six Paragraphs	205
Paragraph one.....	206
Paragraphs two, three, and four.....	206
Paragraph five.....	206
Paragraph six	207
Time's up	207



Chapter 21: Do You Have the Write Stuff? Analytical Writing Practice Questions	209
Present Your Perspective on an Issue	210
Answer explanations.....	210
Sample answer one: Score 6 (outstanding) or 5 (strong)	210
Reader comments on the 6/5 essay	211
Sample answer two: Score 4 (adequate) or 3 (limited)	211
Reader comments on the 4/3 essay	212
Sample answer three: Score 2 (seriously flawed) or 1 (fundamentally deficient)	212
Reader comments on the 2/1 essay	213
Analyze an Argument.....	213
Answer explanations.....	213
Sample answer one: Score 6 (outstanding) or 5 (strong)	213
Reader comments on the 6/5 essay	214
Sample answer two: Score 4 (adequate) or 3 (limited)	214
Reader comments on the 4/3 essay	215
Sample answer three: Score 2 (seriously flawed) or 1 (fundamentally deficient)	215
Reader comments on the 2/1 essay	215

***Part VI: It All Comes Down to This: Full-Length Practice GREs* 217**

Chapter 22: How to Ruin a Perfectly Good Day, Part I: Practice Exam 1	219
Answer Sheet	221
Analytical Writing: Present Your Perspective on an Issue.....	223
Analytical Writing: Analyze an Argument	228
Verbal Section.....	233
Math Section.....	239
Answer Key for Practice Exam 1	243
Chapter 23: Practice Exam 1: Answers and Explanations	245
Verbal Section.....	245
Math Section.....	250
Analytical Writing Sections.....	257
Chapter 24: How to Ruin a Perfectly Good Day, Part II: Practice Exam 2	259
Answer Sheet	261
Analytical Writing: Present Your Perspective on an Issue.....	263
Analytical Writing: Analyze an Argument	270
Verbal Section.....	277
Math Section.....	283
Answer Key for Practice Exam 2	287
Chapter 25: Practice Exam 2: Answers and Explanations	289
Verbal Section.....	289
Math Section.....	294
Analytical Writing Sections.....	301

Part VII: The Part of Tens	303
Chapter 26: Ten False Rumors about the GRE	305
Missing the First Few Questions Gives You an Easier Test and a Better Score	305
The GRE Has a Passing Score	305
Your Score Won't Improve if You Keep Retaking the GRE	306
You Can't Study for the GRE	306
Your GRE Score Will Be about the Same as Your High School SAT Score	306
The GRE Tests IQ	307
You Must Pass Certain Classes to Take the GRE	307
You Can Take the GRE on Your Own Computer at Home	307
You Can Bring Your Own Laptop to the Testing Center	308
Computer Geniuses Have an Unfair Advantage on the GRE	308
Chapter 27: Ten Stupid Ways to Mess Up Your GRE	309
Cheating	309
Losing Concentration	309
Not Taking Advantage of the Breaks	310
Obsessing about the Previous Sections	310
Panicking over Time	310
Rushing through the Confirm Step	310
Scheduling the Test at the Same Time as Your Best Friend	311
Stressing Out over Your Computer Skills (Or Lack Thereof)	311
Trying to Keep Track of the Question Breakdown	311
Worrying about the Hard Problems	312
Chapter 28: Ten Relaxation Techniques to Try before and during the GRE	313
Breathe Deeply	313
Rotate Your Head	313
Rotate Your Scalp	314
Cross and Roll Your Eyes	314
Cup Your Eyes	314
Hunch and Roll Your Shoulders	314
Shake Out Your Hands	314
Extend and Push Out Your Legs	314
Curtail Negative Thoughts	315
Visualize before the Test or during a Break	315
Index	317

