GMAT Strategies, Practice, and Review 2017

We’re glad that you are using Kaplan’s materials to prepare for the GMAT and wish you all the best with your studies. We strive to provide the most up-to-date and error-free materials, but sometimes official testing policies change and inaccuracies slip through. Because we promptly make corrections with each new printing, your copy of this edition may or may not have already incorporated the needed updates.

If you have any questions about your Kaplan materials, please contact us at booksupport@kaplan.com.

The following changes to the GMAT were announced after this book went to print.

The GMAT Is Shorter

Effective April 16, 2018, the Quantitative and Verbal sections have fewer questions. Here is a summary of the changes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Through April 15</th>
<th>Starting April 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of Questions</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quant</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>75 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>75 mins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because of the shorter Quantitative and Verbal sections and because the tutorial is no longer offered in the test center (see below), the testing experience is about 30 minutes shorter than before.

The following aspects of the test are NOT changing:

- The Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) and Integrated Reasoning (IR) sections
- The scoring. GMAC is only cutting unscored, experimental questions. They are keeping the same number of scored questions. Test takers will still get Quant and Verbal subscores and a 200–800 overall score.
- The question types
- The content—the same skills and knowledge are tested.
- The pacing—the timing guidelines per question are the same.
The test maker claims, and Kaplan agrees, that students who feel prepared for the pre-April 16 test should rest assured that they are prepared for the shorter test. Students who have been using timing benchmarks (e.g., “in Quant, I want to be on question 13 with 50 minutes left”) need to adjust these and memorize the new timing.

We suggest that you visit the GMAC’s FAQ to learn more details about the test change.

**The Pretest Tutorial Must Be Taken Online, Before the Test**

Effective April 16, 2018, the tutorial that is an orientation to the test rules and user interface will no longer be offered at the test center as part of the testing experience. Instead, students should take an online tutorial before the test. This tutorial is available at the test maker’s website. Kaplan recommends that students set aside time in their test prep schedule to take this tutorial so there are no surprises on Test Day.

**Select Section Order on the GMAT**

As of July 11, 2017, GMAT test takers have been able to choose the order of the test sections. Test takers choose their section order at the Test Center, just before beginning the test. There are three orders to choose from:

- Analytical Writing Assessment, Integrated Reasoning, Quantitative, Verbal
- Verbal, Quantitative, Integrated Reasoning, Analytical Writing Assessment
- Quantitative, Verbal, Integrated Reasoning, Analytical Writing Assessment

Two optional 8-minute breaks are offered after each major section of the test, and we still recommend that students take these breaks.

Select Section Order provides candidates with more flexibility and control over their test-taking experience. We suggest that you visit the Select Section Order FAQ page at mba.com to learn more about this change.

We recommend that test takers choose the section order with which they feel most comfortable. For many students, this means starting with the section they feel most anxious about to complete this section when they are least fatigued. But for other students, this means starting with their strongest section in order to build confidence for the rest of the test. Statistically, there is no inherent advantage to choosing one section order over another.

**Profile Update Questions**

Effective July 11, 2017, the profile update questions that previously appeared on the computer screen after the test no longer appear. Test takers are able to update their profiles after taking the test at mba.com.