The New vs. Old GRE

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Verbal Reasoning

Reading Comprehension Sentence Highlighting questions will ask you to highlight the sentence in the passage that best answers the question or performs a certain function.

Reading Comprehension Multiple Answer questions will ask you to select all the correct answer choices (there may be more than one) from the list of possible answers, based on the given passage

Similar to sentence/text completion, ***Sentence Equivalence*** questions will test your vocabulary and ability to understand the meaning of a sentence by omitting a word from a sentence and requiring you to choose two answer choices that give the sentence the same meaning.

Reading Comprehension Multiple Choice questions measure your ability to read with understanding, insight and discrimination. These questions explore your ability to analyze a written passage from several perspectives, including your ability to recognize explicitly stated elements as well as underlying statements or arguments and their implications.

- Sentence Equivalence
- RC Multiple Answer
- RC Sentence Highlighting

New GRE
2 sections, 30 minutes each
Approx. 20 questions per section

- RC Multiple Choice
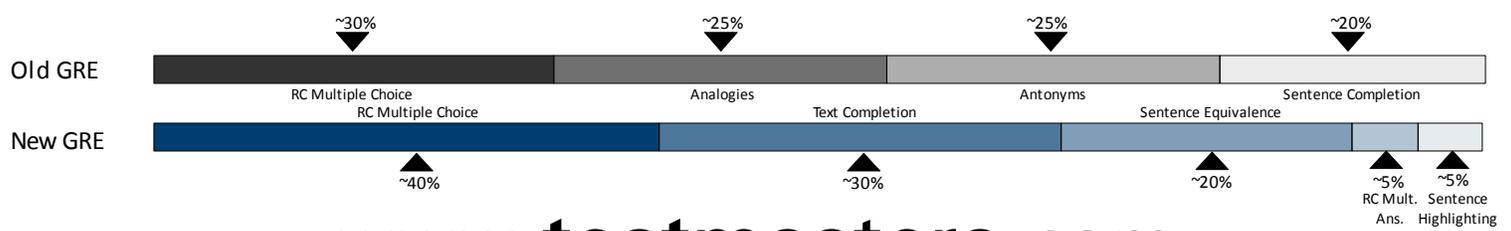- Sentence (Text) Completion

- Analogies
- Antonyms

Old GRE
1 section, 30 minutes
30 questions

Sentence Completion (known as ***Text Completion*** on the new GRE) questions measure your ability to use a variety of context cues provided by syntax and grammar to recognize the overall meaning of a sentence and analyze the relationships among its component parts. You select which of five words or sets of words can best complete a sentence to give it a logically satisfying meaning and allow it to be read as a stylistically integrated whole.

Antonym questions measure the strength of your vocabulary and ability to understand the meaning of a word conceptually by asking you to determine which of the answer choices is the conceptual opposite of the given word or phrase.

Analogy questions test your ability to recognize the relationship between words in a given word pair. You must identify the answer choice containing the word pair that most closely encapsulates the same type of relationship as the given word pair. Some examples are relationships of kind, size, spatial contiguity or degree.

	~30%		~25%		~25%		~20%
Old GRE	RC Multiple Choice		Analogies		Antonyms		Sentence Completion
New GRE	RC Multiple Choice		Text Completion		Sentence Equivalence		RC Mult. Ans. / Sentence Highlighting
	~40%		~30%		~20%		~5% / ~5%

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Multiple Answer questions are very similar to multiple choice questions, but there may be more than one correct answer to the question. Of the five answer choices, one or more may be correct -- you must select ALL correct answer choices. No partial credit is given.

Numeric Entry questions ask you to type your answer into a box rather than select from a list of answer choices. These questions are much like the "grid-in" questions on the SAT.

- Multiple Answer
- Numeric Entry

New GRE
2 sections, 35 minutes each
Approx. 20 questions per section

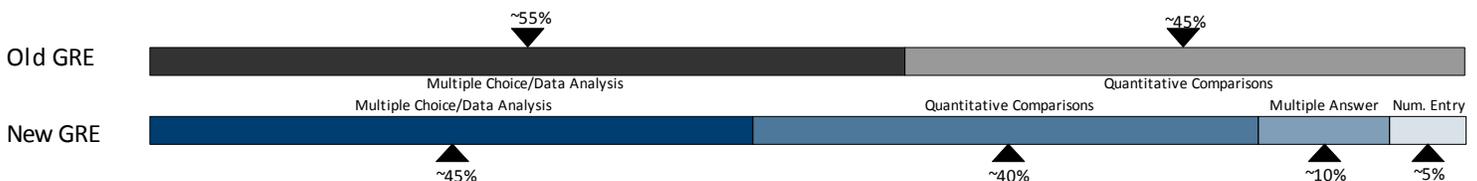- Multiple Choice
- Quantitative Comparison
- Data Analysis

Old GRE
1 section, 45 minutes
28 questions

Data Analysis questions are multiple choice questions that ask questions about a graph, table or chart (or multiple graphs, tables, or charts); they test your ability to read and analyze information presented visually.

Quantitative Comparison questions will present you with two mathematical quantities, A and B. Based on the information given, your task is to determine if: A) A is greater, B) B is greater, C) A and B are equal, or D) there is insufficient information to make such a determination.

Multiple Choice questions present you with a problem and ask you to select the correct answer from a list of five possible choices. You must draw on your knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis.
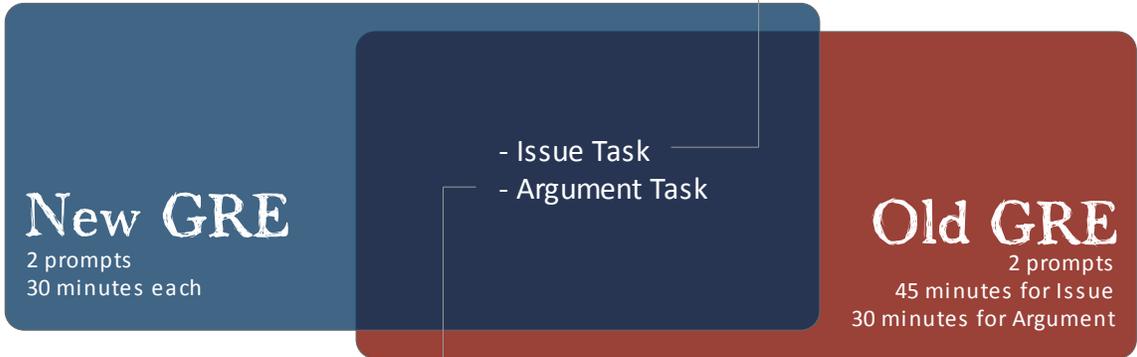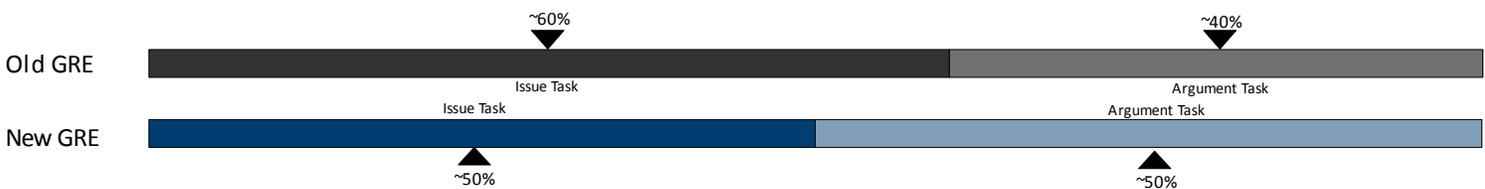
	~55%			~45%	
Old GRE	Multiple Choice/Data Analysis		Quantitative Comparisons		
New GRE	Multiple Choice/Data Analysis	Quantitative Comparisons	Multiple Answer	Num. Entry	
	~45%	~40%	~10%	~5%	

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Analytical Writing

The **Issue Task** presents you with an opinion on an issue of general interest and asks you to provide your perspective on the issue. It tests your ability to support your viewpoint with relevant reasons and examples in an organized, cohesive manner.
*The old GRE gives you two topics from which to choose; the new GRE only gives you one topic.

- Issue Task
- Argument Task

New GRE
2 prompts
30 minutes each

Old GRE
2 prompts
45 minutes for Issue
30 minutes for Argument

The **Argument Task** presents an argument and asks you to critique it. Rather than state your own opinion on the issue, you must discuss the logical soundness and reasoning behind the argument.

Old GRE

~60%
Issue Task

~40%
Argument Task

New GRE

Issue Task

Argument Task

~50%

~50%

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Verbal Examples

Select and indicate a sentence in the passage in which the author provides examples that reinforce an argument against a critical response cited earlier in the passage

You would have to find a sentence in the passage that fits these criteria.

Given the existence of so many factions in the field, it was unrealistic of Anna Freud to expect any ------- of opinion.
(A) freedom
(B) homogeneity
(C) reassessment
(D) uniformity
(E) expression
(F) formation

(B) and (D) are correct. In context, the lend the same meaning to the sentence

It can be inferred from the passage that the author would agree with which of the following statements?
(A) Over time, the impact of human culture on the natural world has been largely benign
(B) It is a mistake to think that the natural world contains many areas of pristine wilderness.
(C) The only substantial effects that human agency has had on ecosystems have been inadvertent

One, two or all three of these choices could be correct, depending on the passage

The author regards the emphasis by island-based writers on the cultural and political dimensions of the assimilation as
(A) ironic
(B) dangerous
(C) fitting but misdirected
(D) peculiar but benign
(E) illuminating but easily misunderstood

Based on the passage, you would pick one of the five choices.

- Sentence Equivalence
- RC Multiple Answer
- RC Sentence Highlighting

New GRE

- RC Multiple Choice
- Sentence (Text) Completion

- Analogies
- Antonyms

Old GRE

The organization remained convinced that the adverse ruling of the state Supreme Court was only a temporary setback – that their progress had merely been _____(i)_____, not halted. The members released a statement criticizing the Court, saying that the reversal of its previous ruling on the issue compromised its reputation for _____(ii)_____.

Blank (I)	Blank(ii)
superseded	consistency
amortized	tradition
interrupted	aplomb

Interrupted and **consistency** are correct. These two words make the most sense in context

STERILIZE : (A) uncover (B) irritate (C) contaminate (D) operate (E) agitate

(C) is correct. Contaminate is the opposite of sterilize; sterilization is meant to undo contamination

ATHLETE : TROPHY :: (A) detective : badge (B) presenter : award (C) soldier : medal (D) bettor : stake (E) musician : instrument

(C) is correct, expressing the relationship between a vocation and its characteristic prize

Quantitative Examples

The lower two angles in the triangle above are congruent.
Indicate <u>all</u> that correctly describe the triangle:
(A) equilateral
(B) obtuse
(C) isosceles
(D) scalene
(E) acute
(F) equiangular

(C) and **(E)** are correct.

If y = 2, what is the value of $\dfrac{(y^3)^3}{y^6}$?

The correct response to type into the box is 8.

- Multiple Answer
- Numeric Entry

New GRE

- Multiple Choice
- Quantitative Comparison
- Data Analysis

Old GRE

Which of the following is the best estimate for the percent increase in population between the years 1981 and 1989?
(A) 20%
(B) 25%)
(C) 35%
(D) 50%
(E) 60%

You would select your answer based on the information presented in the graph.

Column A	Column B
4.24^3	64

The correct answer is (A)

If $(2x-1)^2 = 0$, then x =
(A) -0.25
(B) -0.5
(C) 0
(D) 0.5
(E) 0.25

The correct answer is (D)

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Writing Examples

Present your perspective on the issue below, using relevant reasons and/or examples to support your views.

"Government should not fund any scientific research whose consequences, either medical or ethical, are unclear."

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- Issue Task
- Argument Task

Old GRE

Discuss how well-reasoned you find this argument.

The following appeared in a memo from the chief operating officer of the Presto Manufacturing Company.

"Since orders for our major product increased by over 200 percent last quarter, we should promptly expand production by building a new manufacturing plant in Summit City. Summit City is the ideal location for the new plant because it has low property taxes, extensive blocks of land available for immediate purchase, and a large number of residents who are not currently employed."