A beginner’s guide to the world’s most powerful management admission test!

Demystifying the GMAT®
A degree that has shaped millions of careers worldwide - ‘MBA’, is undoubtedly the most sought after educational qualification today for those who dream to make it BIG on the world stage! Every year, thousands of MBA aspirants take various management admission tests with an aim to make it to the finest of B-schools. But one such test that stands out from the other management admissions test is the GMAT® – regarded as the most scientifically designed management admission test in the world. No wonder ALL top 100 MBA programs* across the world accept the GMAT!

*as per Financial Times 2017 rankings

About the GMAT®
GMAT® or Graduate Management Admission Test is a computer adaptive test used by over 6000 B-school programs worldwide as a part of admission process for their management programs. The test is administered in 112 countries across the world. GMAT® is held all through the year – there are no specific test dates for which you need to wait. Instead, you can take the exam whenever you are confident.

Note: One thing that you should keep in mind – while GMAT® is held all through the year, it is administered at centres that have fixed slots (seat capacity) available on a first-come-first basis. Therefore, you have to book your test date and time slot well in advance to avoid scenarios where you do not get a slot of your choice. We recommend that you book your GMAT® exam date 2-3 months prior.

GMAT’s History
The history of GMAT is an interesting story in itself. A meeting between a council of deans of top US universities (comprising of Columbia, Harvard, U Chicago, U Michigan and others) and ETS in 1953 led to the launch of ‘The Admission Test for Graduate Study in Business’ (ATGSB) in 1954. ATGSB, an entrance test for graduate business schools changed its name to GMAT in 1976. ETS developed questions and administered the test under the monitoring of GMAC (the governing body of GMAT) from inception in 1954 to 2006. In 2006, ACT Inc and Pearson VUE took over the development and administration of the GMAT test from ETS. Today, ACT Inc develops the content for GMAT and Pearson VUE administers the GMAT across the world through its network of centres.

GMAT® Eligibility Criteria
One can take the GMAT® as long as he is at least 13 years old. However, if the test taker has not attained 18 years, he must submit parent’s / legal guardian’s written consent.

The GMAT® test scores are valid for five years. However, while applying to B-Schools, it is always better if your scores have been obtained within the last 3 years.

Who should take the GMAT®?
There is no qualification-based constraint to take the GMAT® — basically, anyone can take this test as long as he meets the minimum age requirement (mentioned above).

Note: While GMAT has no qualification based eligibility criteria, the admission criteria of B-schools vary. So while anyone can take the GMAT, he needs to check the admission requirements before applying to a B-school. While some of the B-School programs accept only 4-year graduate degree holders (10+2+4), most programs accept any graduate degree (10+2+3 or above).
Inside the GMAT® test
Interestingly, GMAT has been found to share a high correlation with candidates’ performance in the first year of management studies. So the first thing that you need to understand is that the GMAT structure is such that it tests not just your English or Quantitative skills – it tests your ANALYTICAL and LOGICAL capabilities — a necessity for all future managers. All the sections of the test are designed to challenge you on these skills.

In this section we shall be looking at the structure of the GMAT Test and the GMAT’s scoring system.

GMAT® Test Structure
GMAT® is a computer adaptive test. As the name suggests, the test is administered online. It is a general aptitude test that includes the following 4 sections:

As you can see above, the GMAT is a 3.5 hour long test (excluding two optional 8 – minute breaks).

While the test does seem to be long, the good news is that the GMAT is a very well defined test. Unlike many other tests, it does not try to surprise students. This means that if you are well prepared - you are aware of the GMAT structure and all types of GMAT questions, you should be able to sail through the test easily.

The following table shall give you a bird’s eye view of the GMAT sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Duration per Question</th>
<th>Scored on a scale of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWA (Analytical Writing Assessment)</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>1 essay topic</td>
<td>Analysis of Argument</td>
<td>0-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR (Integrated Reasoning)</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>12 Questions</td>
<td>Multi-Source Reasoning</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphics Interpretation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Two-Part Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Understanding the GMAT® sections

Before we take a deeper dive into each of the sections on the GMAT, let’s take a look at a sample GMAT score:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Verbal</th>
<th>Quantitative</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Analytical Writing</th>
<th>Integrated Reasoning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 September 2016</td>
<td>44 / 98%</td>
<td>51 / 97%</td>
<td>770 / 99%</td>
<td>6.0 / 92%</td>
<td>7 / 81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Total score of 800 is calculated from the combination of Verbal and Quantitative scores. Analytical Writing and Integrated Reasoning scores do not form a part of the Total score. However, they appear as a part of the GMAT scorecard (as above) and are therefore also important. Now you must be wondering what a 44 in Verbal or 51 in Quant or 6 in Analytical Writing is. Let's look at each of these sections and understand the score above.

#### A. Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) Section

**Objective of the section:** To measure your ability to apply critical thinking and to communicate your ideas

**Task:** 1 Essay – Analyse an Argument

**Duration:** 30 Minutes

The analytical writing section consists of an Essay Writing task on analysing an argument. Most AWA topics that are administered to students (and therefore ones you can get too on the test) are already available on mba.com. You can check them out here.
The AWA prompt shall consist of an argument. You are supposed to analyse the line of reasoning and present a critique. The argument is often weak and contains logical fallacies, and your responses to such scenarios should be to analyse the flaws in the argument and suggest improvements. There are fixed templates that you need to follow (these will be explained in details in later blogs) while you respond to a GMAT AWA prompt.

**Sample Analytical Writing Assessment Question:**

The following appeared as part of an article in a magazine devoted to regional life:

“Corporations should look to the city of Helios when seeking new business opportunities or a new location. Even in the recent recession, Helios’s unemployment rate was lower than the regional average. It is the industrial center of the region, and historically it has provided more than its share of the region’s manufacturing jobs. In addition, Helios is attempting to expand its economic base by attracting companies that focus on research and development of innovative technologies.”

Discuss how well reasoned you find this argument. In your discussion be sure to analyze the line of reasoning and the use of evidence in the argument. For example, you may need to consider what questionable assumptions underlie the thinking and what alternative explanations or counterexamples might weaken the conclusion.

You can also discuss what sort of evidence would strengthen or refute the argument, what changes in the argument would make it more logically sound, and what, if anything, would help you better evaluate its conclusion.

### AWA Scoring:

The AWA is scored on a scale of 0 to 6 and is not a part of the GMAT total score on a 200-800 scale. Following table shows the possible scores in AWA along with their percentile equivalence. As you can see, roughly 92 percent of test takers score less than 5.5. In other words, 8 percent of GMAT takers score 6 out of 6 in this section. Since 5 in AWA equates to a 60 percentile, we recommend you to score 5 or above out of 6 on AWA. The GMAT AWA is scored by a human grader and an automated essay-scoring engine on the 0-6 scale. The final AWA score is calculated by averaging the two scores (unless the two scores vary beyond 1 point).

*In the sample scorecard, the test taker got a 6.0 out of 6 in AWA section which corresponds to a 92 percentile.*

**Is GMAT AWA important?**

Typically B-schools pay more importance to Verbal, Quantitative and Overall scores when compared to AWA. However, they still expect you to score beyond a certain threshold (at least a 4.5 or 5 in the section).

Another important thing to be noted is that the GMAT sends your AWA responses to your score recipients (B-schools you have sent scores to) who then can use the AWA tone, style and quality to compare with your application essays.
B.  Integrated Reasoning (IR) Section

**Objective of the section:** To measure your ability to interpret information presented in multiple formats from various sources to solve complex problems.

**Number of Questions:** 12

**Duration:** 30 minutes

This is a relatively new section in the GMAT, introduced in 2012. The IR questions involve text heavy, complex, data interpretation questions – it tests verbal and quantitative reasoning skills in conjunction. The questions are related to day-to-day data driven decision making skills that management graduates should demonstrate. Let’s have a look at a sample question:

As you can see from the above question, you need to answer 3-5 sub-parts (3 in the above example) within one IR question.

The IR section includes the following four question types. Out of the 12 questions, you shall see at least 1 question from each topic:

- **Graphics Interpretation** – Interpret information from a graph and choose the right answers from a dropdown list.
• **Two-part Analysis** – A question with two parts in it. You need to choose answers from a table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• **Table Analysis** – Interpret information presented in a table and choose the correct answer – either yes or no, true or false, inferable or inferable. Each question will have 4-5 statements that you need to validate. The tables will be sortable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fruits Area (in ’000 Hectare)</th>
<th>Fruits Production (in ’000 Tonne)</th>
<th>Vegetables Area (in ’000 Hectare)</th>
<th>Vegetables Production (in ’000 Tonne)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>4010</td>
<td>43001</td>
<td>6156</td>
<td>88622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>3788</td>
<td>45203</td>
<td>6092</td>
<td>84815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>4661</td>
<td>45942</td>
<td>6082</td>
<td>88334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>5049</td>
<td>50867</td>
<td>6744</td>
<td>101246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>5324</td>
<td>55356</td>
<td>7213</td>
<td>111399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>5554</td>
<td>59563</td>
<td>7581</td>
<td>114993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>5857</td>
<td>65586</td>
<td>7848</td>
<td>128449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>6101</td>
<td>68465</td>
<td>7981</td>
<td>129077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>6329</td>
<td>71515</td>
<td>7985</td>
<td>133738</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• **Multi-source Reasoning** – Tabs containing data from different sources (say 3 emails) and respond to questions based on the data (yes/no, multiple choice).
IR Scoring: The score on an IR section is on a 1-8 scale and is not a part of the overall score (out of 800). The details of the scoring system will be covered in the next blog.

Tip: IR section allows you to use a basic on-screen calculator. The calculator can be opened by clicking the ‘Calculator’ button on the top, left hand side of the IR question. You can perform +, -, /, X, %, 1/x, √ operations.

In the sample scorecard, the test taker got a 7 out of 8 in IR section which corresponds to a 81 percentile.

Is GMAT IR important? Since IR is a relatively new section, different B-schools treat IR scores differently. While some might treat it as an important factor, other schools might not. However, off-late, B-schools have started assigning more weight to IR scores than earlier. It is believed that the IR section will have a larger role to play in admissions in the coming years.

C. Quantitative Section

Objective of the section: This section tests your ability to analyze quantitative information.

Number of Questions: 37 multiple choice questions

Duration: 75 minutes

GMAT Quantitative section comprises of 37 multiple choice questions. The questions are typically of Grade - 9 and 10 levels. Therefore, every aspirant gets a fair opportunity, regardless of their education background.

Note: GMAT Quantitative is question-wise adaptive – whether you answered a question correctly or incorrectly will determine the difficulty level of next questions.

The following topics are covered on the GMAT Quantitative section:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arithmetic</th>
<th>Algebra</th>
<th>Geometry</th>
<th>Statistics &amp; Probability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number Systems &amp; Number</td>
<td>Permutation &amp; Combination</td>
<td>Lines and angles</td>
<td>Descriptive statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory</td>
<td>Monomials,</td>
<td>Triangles</td>
<td>Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiples and factors</td>
<td>polynomials</td>
<td>Quadrilaterals</td>
<td>Probability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fractions</td>
<td>Algebraic expressions</td>
<td>Circles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decimals</td>
<td>and equations</td>
<td>Rectangular solids and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentages</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cylinders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Broadly, there are 2 question types:

- **Problem Solving**
- **Data Sufficiency**

The 37 Quantitative questions typically have the following break-up:

### Problem Solving Questions:
You are expected to solve numerical problems, interpret graphical data, and evaluate information.

#### Sample Problem Solving question:
A farmer has two hens. In a particular month, one hen laid 40 eggs, 20% of which hatched into chicks. In the same month, the other hen laid 60 eggs, 5% of which hatched into chicks. What percent of total eggs, laid by the two hens, did not hatch into chicks?

A. 90%
B. 11%
C. 25%
D. 89%
E. 75%

In the above example:
Eggs of first that hatched into chicks = 8 (20% of 40)
Eggs of first that hatched into chicks = 3 (5% of 60)
Total eggs that hatched = 8 + 3 = 11
Total eggs in the beginning = 40 + 60 = 100
Percent of eggs that did not hatch = (100 – 11) / 100 = 89 / 100 = 89%
Option (D).
Data Sufficiency Questions:

You are expected to evaluate whether the data presented in 2 statements - labelled (1) and (2) are sufficient to solve a numerical problem.

**Sample Data Sufficiency question:**

X and Y are integers. Is \((X + 1)^2\) less than \((Y + 1)^2\)?

(1) \(X < Y\)
(2) \(Y - X > 100\).

a) Statement (1) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (2) alone is not sufficient.
b) Statement (2) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (1) alone is not sufficient.
c) Both statements TOGETHER are sufficient, but NEITHER statement ALONE is sufficient.
d) EACH statement ALONE is sufficient.
e) Statements (1) and (2) TOGETHER are NOT sufficient.

Here, you have to see if the information in statement (1) i.e. \(X < Y\) and statement (2) i.e. \(Y - X > 100\) are sufficient to answer if \((X + 1)^2\) is less than \((Y + 1)^2\), given that X and Y are integers.

Correct answer to this question is **(E)**. The trick here is to remember that:

- An integer can be either positive, zero or negative
- Square of a negative integer is a positive integer

At different scenarios, even when (1) and (2) are combined, e.g. (X = 0, Y = 105) and (X= -105, Y = 0) it cannot be definitively established whether \((X + 1)^2\) is always less than \((Y + 1)^2\).

**Quantitative scoring:** The quantitative section score ranges from 0 to 60. However, scores above 51 are rare.

In the sample scorecard, the test taker got a 51 out of 60 in Quantitative section which corresponds to a 97 percentile.
D. Verbal Section

Objective of the section: To measure your ability to read and interpret written English passages, to evaluate reasoning arguments and to rectify English written statements.

Task: 41 Questions

Duration: 75 Minutes

Note: GMAT Verbal is question-wise adaptive – whether you answered a question correctly or incorrectly will determine the difficulty level of next questions.

The GMAT Verbal section consists of three broad types of questions:

- Critical Reasoning 11-12
- Reading Comprehension 14-15
- Sentence Correction 15 - 16

Reading Comprehension – Study a passage (approx 350 words) and respond to multiple choice questions asked on the passages. Almost all RC questions fall under well defined categories.

Sample Reading Comprehension Question:

“Redlining” is a code word among banks and savings and loan associations for the withholding of mortgage money from urban areas undergoing racial change. The term derives from the lenders’ figuratively or literally redlining or redpenciling a local map and thus eliminating a neighborhood from consideration for loans. One result of redlining is to lower property values and encourage panic selling and the snapping up of properties by speculators..........
............. The Chicago group undertook a door-to-door campaign to educate residents on redlining and to urge them to transfer their savings to banks that do not practice redlining. These transfers of customer deposits have come to be called - “greenlining”. If other municipalities take comparable action, banks may find it necessary to change their behavior.

The author is primarily concerned with:
A. describing the attitudes of citizens toward redlining.
B. discussing why lending institutions resort to redlining.
C. describing the contribution of the NCADH.
D. questioning the legality of redlining.
E. explaining the effects of redlining and the tactics employed against redlining.
Critical Reasoning – These questions test the reasoning skills that you apply on arguments (an opinion drawn from certain facts or premises). Questions typically ask you to strengthen or weaken arguments, draw inferences, find assumptions, resolve a paradox, etc.

Sample Critical Reasoning Question (resolve a paradox type):
Last year, following Harfour United’s dismal performance in Domestic Championship, their ace footballer Romano received heavy criticism for his poor form. Despite the fact that Harfour United has been winning many more matches this year and that Romano is averaging higher goals per match than last year, critics are still doubting Romano’s form and are demanding his exclusion from the national squad for World Championship.

Which of the following statements most explains the paradox in the above argument?
A. Questions are being raised by critics about the actual nationality of Romano and it is likely that he shall be excluded from the World Championship.
B. It is not true that Harfour United has been playing more number of matches this year.
C. Football critics are mostly biased and their opinions might not be considered seriously.
D. Harfour United’s decision to hire Rivalho has turned out well for the team as he is the leading scorer for the team this year.
E. Following last year’s poor performance, Harfour United has been relegated to a lower league and is currently playing against weaker opponents.

In the above question, a paradox has been presented – Romano is averaging higher goals per match for his team. Yet, critics continue to doubt his form. You have to choose an option, which presents a new information that helps resolve the paradox. Correct answer – (E). Even if Romano is averaging higher goals per match, that might just be because he is facing weaker opponents.

Sentence Correction – Here, a part of a sentence is underlined. This underlined part may or may not be grammatically correct. You need to retain the part if it is grammatically correct or replace it with a grammatically correct part from a given set of options. If the original statement is correct, you should choose option (A) which is the same as the underlined part of the original statement.

Sample Sentence Correction Question:
A deeper understanding of the intellectual currents that have coursed beneath modern conservative ideas are essential.
A. currents that have coursed beneath modern conservative ideas are essential
B. currents that have coursed beneath modern conservative ideas is essential
C. current that has coursed beneath modern conservative ideas are essential
D. currents that has coursed beneath modern conservative ideas are essential
E. currents that has coursed beneath modern conservative ideas is essential

Correct answer is (B). i.e. A deeper understanding of ...something... is essential. “Currents” goes with “have coursed beneath”.

All the three types of verbal questions have defined question types and each type has a defined solution approach.
Verbal scoring: The verbal section score ranges from 0 to 60. However, scores above 47 are rare.

In the sample scorecard, the test taker got a 44 out of 60 in Verbal section which corresponds to a 98 percentile.

Understanding the GMAT total score
As mentioned earlier, the GMAT Total Score out of 800 is based on the combination of Verbal and Quantitative sectional scores. The score ranges from 200 (minimum) to 800 (maximum).

Following table shows the percentile equivalent of the total score.
Calculating GMAT Total score from your Verbal and Quantitative section scores

The following table will help you compute the total score from the Verbal (V – row) and Quantitative (Q – column) section scores.

The data is based on numerous scores we have seen in the past and might have minor variance in certain scenarios.

|   | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Q | %  | 56%| 58%| 61%| 66%| 69%| 71%| 76%| 81%| 83%| 85%| 89%| 90%| 93%| 96%| 96%| 98%| 99%|
| 34| 31%| 530| 540| 550| 560| 560| 570| 580| 580| 590| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690|
| 35| 33%| 540| 550| 560| 560| 570| 580| 580| 590| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700|
| 36| 36%| 550| 560| 560| 570| 580| 580| 590| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710|
| 37| 40%| 560| 560| 570| 580| 580| 590| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720|
| 38| 41%| 560| 570| 580| 580| 590| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720|
| 39| 43%| 570| 580| 580| 590| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 730|
| 40| 47%| 580| 580| 590| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 730| 740| 740|
| 41| 49%| 580| 590| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 720| 730| 740| 750|
| 42| 51%| 590| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 710| 720| 720| 730| 740| 750| 750|
| 43| 56%| 600| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 720| 730| 740| 750| 750| 760|
| 44| 58%| 610| 610| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 720| 730| 740| 750| 750| 760| 770|
| 45| 63%| 630| 620| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 720| 730| 740| 750| 760| 770| 780|
| 46| 66%| 620| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 720| 730| 740| 750| 750| 760| 770| 780| 780|
| 47| 68%| 630| 640| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 720| 730| 740| 750| 750| 750| 760| 770| 780| 780|
| 48| 74%| 640| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 730| 730| 740| 740| 750| 750| 760| 760| 770| 780| 780| 790|
| 49| 79%| 640| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 730| 740| 740| 750| 750| 750| 760| 770| 780| 780| 790| 790| 800|
| 50| 88%| 650| 660| 670| 680| 690| 710| 710| 720| 720| 730| 730| 740| 740| 750| 750| 760| 770| 780| 780| 790| 790| 800| 800|
| 51| 97%| 660| 670| 670| 680| 690| 700| 710| 720| 720| 730| 740| 740| 750| 750| 760| 770| 780| 780| 790| 800| 800| 800| 800|

As you can see a 51 in Quantitative and a 44 in Verbal should get a total score of 770 on the GMAT.
GMAT – a Computer Adaptive Test

In the previous section, we briefly mentioned that the verbal and quantitative sections on the GMAT are question-wise adaptive. In this section we will explain that. Understanding the adaptive nature of the test is critical since various test specific strategies are based on it.

As the term ‘adaptive’ suggests – the questions adapt based on how you perform. In both verbal and quantitative sections, you will come across questions of varied difficulty levels. When you submit the answer to a particular question, the GMAT test engine will validate whether you got the question correct or incorrect and generate the next question accordingly. Suppose you get a question of a particular difficulty level incorrect, the GMAT test engine will throw easier questions to you. Similarly, if you are able to solve a particular question correctly, the GMAT test engine will start throwing tougher questions to you. Therefore, as you continue to get questions correct, you will typically see a gradual rise in the difficulty level of the questions. Your final score in the section will be based on your accuracy of questions at various difficulty levels.

Experimental questions

Not all questions that you see on GMAT® are scored. In fact, 10-25% of the questions that you encounter in Verbal and Quantitative sections are experimental questions.

Experimental questions are questions marked by GMAC for future use. GMAC benchmarks your performance in the experimental questions against your performance in the questions that are scored. This information is utilized to assess the level and quality of experimental questions so that they can be administered to candidates in future.
Important features of GMAT

Flexibility to book Test Date and Time Slot
GMAT is held all through the year. It offers you flexibility to choose a test date and time slot, based on your convenience. However, since all centres have fixed capacity per slot, it is wise to book the test 2-3 months before the planned test date.

When should I take the GMAT?
While GMAT can be taken all through the year, do remember that the B-schools you are applying to have application deadlines. Therefore, you need to take the GMAT before the deadlines to ensure that the scores get reported to the B-schools on time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission Season</th>
<th>Application deadlines of various B-schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
<td>Round 1 deadline: September – October 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Round 2 deadline: December 2017 – January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Round 3 deadline(few B-schools): February – April 2018</td>
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<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>June – September 2017</td>
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Validity of GMAT score
GMAT scores are valid for 5 years. However, many B-schools prefer recent GMAT scores (e.g. GMAT taken within last 3 years). Therefore, whenever you are sending a GMAT score to a B-school, do check their requirement from the B-school website.

GMAT Retake
You can retake the GMAT just after a 16 days period from the date of test. You can take the GMAT up to 5 times a year with a total of 8 attempts in lifetime.

GMAT Score Reporting
GMAT is a third party test that is considered by B-schools to evaluate the aptitude of candidates. Not all 6000 programs shall receive your GMAT score. In fact, the USD 250 that you pay for the GMAT test includes score reporting to only 5 B-schools. For every additional score report, you shall be charged USD 28.

Tip: Have a list of 5 B-schools ready with you on the GMAT test day since you need to choose 5 B-schools for score reporting for free. Do remember that you need to provide the list of B-schools even before you start the GMAT – i.e. you would not know your score when you enter the B-school names. Regardless of the score that you receive, the scores shall be reported to these B-schools if you accept your score in Score Preview.

Get a FREE profile assessment and 5 B-school shortlist from IMS’s expert consultants now and save USD 140!
A wise B-school shortlist before the GMAT helps you save on 5 score reporting - USD 28 per report.
Share your resume at consulting@imsindia.com

Score Preview
You can preview your unofficial GMAT scores just after you complete the last GMAT section. The scores shall cover Verbal, Quantitative, Total score and IR scores. The preview shall be available for 2 minutes and you shall have an option to accept or cancel the score within the timeframe. If you choose to cancel or if you do not
make a choice, the score will be cancelled and removed from your test record. If you accept your score and later wish to cancel it, you are allowed to do so within 72 hours after your exam by paying a fee of USD 25.

**Cancelled Score Reinstatement**
A cancelled score can be re-instated by paying a fee of USD 50. A GMAT score can be reinstated anytime during the 5 year validity period of GMAT (barring last month - as processing time for reinstatement is 1 month).

**GMAT Preparation**

**GMAT Preparation time**
An ideal GMAT preparation window is 2 – 4 months. Yes! GMAT is a test of strategies – all areas and question types are well defined. So, it is not difficult to ace the test within a short span of time if you maintain a disciplined approach to preparation and stick to a proper study plan.
You might wish to join a test prep such as IMS to take advantages of expert mentoring and peer learning.

**Good books for GMAT**
While there are many good GMAT preparation books available, you must refer to The Official Guide for GMAT Review from GMAC. You can also refer to IMS’s GMAT Basic Reference Material - available to all IMS classroom and correspondence students.

**GMAT Registration Process**
You can register for the GMAT test online, through GMAT website – mba.com. Click http://www.imsindia.com/GMAT/register-for-gmat-exam.html

GMAT® Approved Identity for Non-US Applicants: A Valid Passport with a recent, recognizable photo (mandatory) and Appointment Confirmation Letter / Email sent by Pearson VUE
## Various GMAT services and their Fees

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<th>GMAT services</th>
<th>Fees</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Test Rescheduling</td>
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IMS GMAT Comprehensive Program

GMAT Classroom Prep + Admission Consulting
An End-to-end program so powerful, it comes with a Top 100 B-school Admit Guarantee.

GMAT Coaching  B-school applications  Post admission process

To know more, call us on 1800-1234-467 or visit your nearest IMS centre.