ScoreArchitect

GUIDE

The GMAT™ Focus Edition, explained

Sections, timing, scoring, question review and section order. Everything you need to know about the format before you start preparing.

Free resource from www.scorearchitect.com/gmat

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The exam at a glance

The GMAT Focus Edition is a computer-adaptive exam made of three sections. It lasts 2 hours and 15 minutes, with one optional 10-minute break.

Section	Questions	Time	What it covers
Quantitative Reasoning	21	45 min	Problem Solving in arithmetic and algebra. No geometry. No calculator.
Verbal Reasoning	23	45 min	Critical Reasoning and Reading Comprehension. No Sentence Correction.
Data Insights	20	45 min	Data Sufficiency, Multi-Source Reasoning, Table Analysis, Graphics Interpretation and Two-Part Analysis. On-screen calculator available.

Scoring

- Total score from 205 to 805, in steps of 10.
- Each section is scored from 60 to 90.
- All three sections count equally towards the total.
- Unanswered questions are penalised, so always answer every question, even with an educated guess.

> Each section is adaptive at the question level: your answers influence the difficulty of the next questions. Accuracy on the early questions matters, but no single question decides your score.

Section order

You choose the order of the three sections at the start of the exam. There are six possible orders. Pick the one you have rehearsed. Many candidates start with their strongest section to build confidence; others start with the section that needs the most energy. Test both in simulations.

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Question review and answer edits

- You can bookmark questions while you work through a section.
- If you have time left at the end of a section, you can review any question and change up to three answers per section.
- Plan for it: aim to finish each section with 3 to 5 minutes to spare and use them on your bookmarks.

Pacing benchmarks

Section	Average time per question	Checkpoint at the halfway mark
Quant	About 2 min 8 s	Question 11 at about 22 min
Verbal	About 1 min 57 s	Question 12 at about 23 min
Data Insights	About 2 min 15 s	Question 10 at about 22 min

Five rules for test day

- **Never leave a question blank.** Guess and bookmark if you must.
- **Set a cut-off.** If you are past 3 minutes with no clear path, choose your best answer and move on.
- **Use the break.** Ten minutes to reset is worth it, even if you feel fine.
- **Use edits on the clearest mistakes,** not on questions where you were simply unsure.
- **Rehearse your exact setup** in at least two full simulations: same section order, same break, same time of day.

> **Practise the real format.** Score Architect simulations follow this structure: 21, 23 and 20 questions, 45 minutes each, your choice of section order and up to three edits per section. Start free at mba.scorearchitect.com.

Score Architect, www.scorearchitect.com/gmat, support@scorearchitect.com. This guide is not endorsed or approved by GMAC. Exam details reflect the GMAT Focus Edition as described by GMAC at the time of writing; always confirm on mba.com before booking.

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