Score Architect

FREE GUIDE

The 8-Week GRE® Study Plan

What to study each week, when to take each practice test, how to review it, and what to do in the final seven days.

- Eight week cards with the course sections to cover, by code
- A practice test calendar for one, five or ten tests
- A review routine and an error log you can copy
- Final week, test day and after-the-test checklists, with ETS sources



www.scorearchitect.com/gre | Test facts checked against ets.org on November 13, 2026

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC). GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service). Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

How this plan works

Eight weeks is enough time to cover every content area of the GRE® General Test once, take a full set of timed practice tests and still leave a final week for rehearsal.

This guide is a study plan, so almost all of it is advice. It is the view of Score Architect, an independent preparation service; it is not an ETS recommendation and ETS has not reviewed it. Where the plan depends on a fact about the test (a time limit, a fee, a deadline), the fact carries a small number that points to the ETS source at the end. We read every source on November 13, 2026.

The plan is built on the Score Architect courses, which follow the content areas and question types that ETS describes.[1, 2, 3] Each course has a short code, and each week card lists the sections to cover by code. If you study from other material, the topic names still tell you what to cover and in what order.

Contents

1 The test you are preparing for 2
2 Before week 1 3
3 The eight weeks at a glance 4
4 How to run a study session 5
5 The week cards 6
6 Practice tests and how to review them 9
7 Pacing 10
8 Adapting the plan 10
9 Final week, test day and after 11
10 Sources 12

THE PLAN IN FIVE LINES

- **Day 1:** take the diagnostic, so that the plan starts from your level and not from a guess.
- **Weeks 1 to 6:** cover every course section once, at the tier the diagnostic opens for you.
- **Every week from week 2:** one full timed practice test, then a review that takes about as long as the test.
- **Weeks 7 and 8:** no new lessons. Repair what the error log shows, and rehearse.
- **Planning assumption:** about 12 to 15 hours a week, on six days. This is our assumption for scheduling, not a research finding and not a promise of any score.

1 The test you are preparing for

A plan has to fit the test as it is. These are the fixed points, all from ETS.

MEASURE	SECTION	QUESTIONS	TIME
Analytical Writing	One section, always first	1 "Analyze an Issue" task	30 minutes
Verbal Reasoning	Section 1	12	18 minutes
	Section 2	15	23 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning	Section 1	12	21 minutes
	Section 2	15	26 minutes

Source: ETS test structure page.[4] The Verbal and Quantitative sections may appear in any order after Analytical Writing.[4]

- **About 1 hour 58 minutes, with no breaks.** If you take an unscheduled break, the testing time does not stop.[4, 5]
- **Section-level adaptive.** The first section of each measure is of average difficulty; the difficulty of the second depends on your performance on the first.[4]

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

- **Free movement inside a section.** You can mark questions, skip them, return, and change answers while time remains in that section.[4]
- **No penalty for a wrong answer.** Nothing is subtracted for incorrect answers, and ETS says it is best to answer every question.[6]
- **Scores.** Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning are each reported from 130 to 170 in 1-point steps, and Analytical Writing from 0 to 6 in half-point steps.[7]

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE PLAN (OUR VIEW)

Three consequences shape everything that follows. The test is short and has no break, so practice tests are taken in one sitting. The first section of each measure matters for what comes next, so accuracy on medium-level questions is trained before speed on the hardest ones. And because skipping and returning is allowed, pacing is practiced as a skill of its own from week 3. These are our conclusions from the ETS facts above, not ETS statements.

2 Before week 1

Take the diagnostic

The Score Architect diagnostic has 40 questions, is untimed and is free. It gives each course a rating from 1 to 5 and opens a tier for that course: Beginner for a rating of 1 or 2, Intermediate for 3, Advanced for 4 or 5. Each course section has a lesson page at each tier, and you study the page at your tier. A rating that rests on a handful of questions is provisional; the course level checks, available on paid plans, refine it.

The diagnostic does not produce a GRE score. The scores shown on our practice tests are our own estimates as well; only ETS reports GRE scores.

Set two targets, one per measure

There is no passing score. Look up what each program on your list says about scores, or ask its admissions office, and write down a target for Verbal Reasoning and a target for Quantitative Reasoning. ETS scales each measure separately and says scores on different measures should not be compared directly,[8] so one combined number hides what you need to know.

Choose the test date first, then count back

CONSTRAINT	WHAT ETS SAYS
Scores take time	Official scores are available in your ETS account 8 to 10 days after the test date, and reports go to the recipients you named on test day at that time.[7]
A retake takes longer	You can take the test once every 21 days, up to five times in any continuous rolling 12-month period.[9]
Registration closes early	Register at least two calendar days before your preferred test date.[10]
Changing the date costs money	The rescheduling fee is $55,[11] and you must reschedule no later than four days before the appointment (10 days in Mainland China) or the test fee is forfeited.[10]
The fee	$249 in all areas of the world except China, which has its own fee.[11]
Your name	The name you register with must exactly match (excluding accents) the name on the ID you will present.[12]

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

OUR ADVICE (NOT AN ETS RULE)

Book a date about six weeks before your first deadline, and start this plan eight weeks before that date. Six weeks covers the 8 to 10 days for scores plus the 21-day wait and a second sitting if you want one. Check each program's own instructions too; some ask for scores earlier than their application deadline.

Book before you start, not when you feel ready. A fixed date turns eight weeks into a schedule. If testing at home, run the ETS Equipment Check before you pay.[13]

3 The eight weeks at a glance

WEEK	QUANTITATIVE	VERBAL	WRITING	TEST MASTERY	PRACTICE TESTS
1	QR-T1 S1 to S5 QR-T5 S1	VR-T1 S1 to S3	AW-T1 S1	tm-c1, tm-c5	Diagnostic POWERPREP 1
2	QR-T1 S6 to S9 QR-T2 S1, S2 QR-T5 S2	VR-T1 S4 VR-T2 S1	AW-T1 S2 3 outlines	tm-c6	Test 1
3	QR-T2 S3 to S8 QR-T5 S3	VR-T2 S2 VR-T3 S1	AW-T1 S3 1 timed essay	tm-c3	Test 2
4	QR-T3 S1 to S5	VR-T3 S2 to S4	AW-T1 S4 1 timed essay	tm-c7	Test 3 Midpoint review
5	QR-T3 S6, S7 QR-T4 S1 to S3	VR-T3 S5, S6 VR-T4 S1	1 timed essay	tm-c4	Test 4
6	QR-T4 S4 to S8	VR-T4 S2, S3	1 timed essay	tm-c3 again	Tests 5 and 6
7	Repair and mixed sets	Repair and mixed sets	2 timed essays	tm-c8	Tests 7 and 8
8	Error log only	Error log only	1 timed essay	tm-c2	Test 9 POWERPREP 2 Test 10 in reserve

Course codes: QR-T1 Arithmetic, QR-T2 Algebra, QR-T3 Geometry, QR-T4 Data Analysis, QR-T5 Quantitative Question Formats, VR-T1 Text Completion, VR-T2 Sentence Equivalence, VR-T3 Reading Comprehension, VR-T4 Argument-Based Reading, AW-T1 Analyze an Issue. "S" is a section of a course; "tm-c" is a Test Mastery module. "Test 1" to "Test 10" are the Score Architect practice tests. POWERPREP Online tests are free practice tests from ETS.[14]

Why this order

- **Arithmetic and algebra come first** because geometry and data analysis questions lean on them: a similar-triangles question needs ratios, and a graph question needs percent change.
- **The question-format course runs alongside the content** (one section a week for three weeks) so that Quantitative Comparison logic is practiced on every topic from the start.
- **Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence come before reading** so that vocabulary work starts in week 1 and has eight weeks to accumulate.
- **Argument-Based Reading comes last in Verbal.** ETS treats these questions as part of Reading Comprehension;[2] they build on the reading skills of weeks 3 to 5.
- **Writing gets a small, steady share.** The measure is one 30-minute task,[3] so one timed essay a week from week 3 is enough to make the format routine.

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

4 How to run a study session

The week cards say what to cover. This is how we suggest covering it. The plan carries about ten lesson pages a week in weeks 1 to 3 and fewer after that, as the practice tests take a larger share.

A study session, about two hours

MINUTES	WHAT YOU DO
10	**Reattempt.** Redo, without looking at the solution, two or three error-log questions that are at least three days old.
60 to 70	**Lesson.** The lesson pages for the day at your tier, usually two or three, with the Knowledge Check and Guided Practice questions on each page. Work them on paper, not in your head.
30	**Practice.** Practice-bank questions on the sections you just studied, timed as a block (section 7).
10	**Log.** Enter every miss and every lucky guess in the error log.

A sample week

DAY	WORK
Mon	Quant session
Tue	Verbal session, then the writing lesson or timed essay
Wed	Quant session
Thu	Remaining lesson pages, then the Test Mastery module
Fri	Free
Sat	Practice test in one sitting
Sun	Test review and error log

Vocabulary flashcards run separately: about 15 minutes every day, including the free day. New words first, then the words you missed the day before. In a week with two practice tests, the second test replaces the Wednesday session and is reviewed on Thursday. If a session runs past two hours, stop and carry the unfinished page to Thursday.

The error log

The error log is the single most useful document you will produce in eight weeks, because it replaces “I am bad at geometry” with a count. One row per question:

DATE, SOURCE	SECTION CODE	CAUSE	WHAT I DID	RULE FOR NEXT TIME
Wk 2, Test 1	QR-T5 S2	Tested positive integers only	Chose “A is greater” after trying 2 and 3	Before choosing A or B in a comparison, try 0, a negative and a fraction if the conditions allow them.
Wk 3, practice	VR-T1 S2	Missed a contrast signal	Read past “although”	Underline the signal word before looking at the choices.

Use a fixed list of causes so that you can count them: **concept gap** (did not know it), **misread** (answered a different question), **trap** (fell for a built-in wrong answer), **computation**, **vocabulary**, **time** (rushed or never reached it), and **guess** (right for no good reason). Our free guide on Quant and Verbal traps gives twenty named traps that you can use as codes in the “trap” column.

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

5 The week cards

Each card lists the lesson sections for the week, the Test Mastery module, the writing task and the practice test. “At your tier” applies throughout: study each section on the page the diagnostic or the course level check opened for you.

Week 1: Baseline and number foundations

Find your level, learn the format

Day 1	Take the 40-question diagnostic before any lesson. It is untimed. Note the tier it opens for each course.
Quant	`QR-T1` S1 to S5: integers, odd and even, fractions and decimals, exponents and roots, percent. `QR-T5` S1: Quantitative Comparison answer logic. Download the free ETS Math Review and Math Conventions and keep them open as references.[15, 16]
Verbal	`VR-T1` S1 to S3: the clue-and-predict method, signal words, two- and three-blank completions. Start vocabulary flashcards, 15 minutes a day, every day of the plan.
Writing	`AW-T1` S1: the Issue task and how it is scored. Read the ETS scoring guide for the Issue task once.[17]
Test Mastery	`tm-c1` GRE Fundamentals and `tm-c5` Cognitive Performance (how to set up the week and the error log).
Practice test	POWERPREP Online Test 1 from ETS. It is untimed and gives no Verbal or Quantitative scores,[14] so use it to learn the screens, Mark and Review, and the on-screen calculator.

Checkpoint before you move on. You can give the section order, question counts and times from memory. Your test date is booked or chosen. Your error log exists and has its first entries.

Week 2: Arithmetic complete, algebra begins

First timed test

Quant	`QR-T1` S6 to S9: ratio, rates, absolute value, sequences. `QR-T2` S1 and S2: expressions, linear and simultaneous equations. `QR-T5` S2: Quantitative Comparison, testing cases.
Verbal	`VR-T1` S4: decoding complex sentences. `VR-T2` S1: finding the equivalent pair.
Writing	`AW-T1` S2: position, thesis and complexity. Outline three topics from the published ETS pool,[18] 10 minutes each. No full essay yet.
Test Mastery	`tm-c6` Mental Math and the On-Screen Calculator.
Practice test	Practice Test 1, timed, in one sitting, at the end of the week. Review it the next day (section 6).

Checkpoint before you move on. You finished a full timed test without stopping the clock. You know which section ran out of time, if any.

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

Week 3: Algebra complete, reading begins

Build the pacing habit

Quant	QR-T2 S3 to S8: quadratics, inequalities, functions, word problems, coordinate geometry, graphs. QR-T5 S3: multiple-choice and Numeric Entry strategies.
Verbal	VR-T2 S2: vocabulary in context. VR-T3 S1: active reading and passage mapping.
Writing	AW-T1 S3: reasons, examples and paragraph development. Write your first timed 30-minute essay.
Test Mastery	tm-c3 Time and Pacing Mastery.
Practice test	Practice Test 2. Use Mark and Review deliberately: mark, guess, move on, return.

Checkpoint before you move on. You answered every question in every section of Practice Test 2, including the ones you guessed.

Week 4: Geometry begins, reading for detail and inference

Midpoint review

Quant	QR-T3 S1 to S5: lines and angles, triangles, right triangles, congruent and similar figures, quadrilaterals and other polygons.
Verbal	VR-T3 S2 to S4: main idea and primary purpose, detail and multiple-answer questions, inference.
Writing	AW-T1 S4: structure, timing and language control. One timed essay. Compare it with the annotated sample essays level by level.
Test Mastery	tm-c7 Psychology of the Exam: How Wrong Answers Are Built.
Practice test	Practice Test 3. Then do the midpoint review: reread the error log from weeks 1 to 4 and list your three most frequent causes of error.

Checkpoint before you move on. You have a written list of three priorities for the second half, taken from your own error log and not from a general impression.

Week 5: Geometry complete, data analysis and arguments begin

Read every display before the questions

Quant	QR-T3 S6 and S7: circles, three-dimensional figures. QR-T4 S1 to S3: mean, median and mode; spread and position; tables and graphs.
Verbal	VR-T3 S5 and S6: function, structure and select-in-passage; author's perspective and tone. VR-T4 S1: argument structure and assumptions.
Writing	One timed essay on a topic whose instructions differ from the ones you have practiced so far.
Test Mastery	tm-c4 Stress and Focus Management.
Practice test	Practice Test 4, at the time of day of your real appointment.

Checkpoint before you move on. In the Data Interpretation questions of Practice Test 4, you read the title, axes, units and notes of each display before the first question.

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

Week 6: Data analysis and arguments complete

Two tests this week

Quant	QR-T4 S4 to S8: scatterplots and frequency distributions, counting methods, sets and Venn diagrams, probability, random variables and distributions.
Verbal	VR-T4 S2 and S3: strengthen and weaken; discrepancies, alternative explanations and sentence roles.
Writing	One timed essay. Reread your week 3 essay and rewrite its weakest paragraph.
Test Mastery	Return to tm-c3 : set your own time checkpoints for the 12- and 15-question sections (section 7).
Practice tests	Practice Tests 5 and 6, at least two days apart, each followed by a full review.

Checkpoint before you move on. Every course section has been studied once at your tier. Nothing new is left for the last two weeks.

Week 7: Mixed practice and repair

No new lessons

Quant	Go back to the three sections with the most error-log entries. Retake the course level check for your weakest course and move up a tier if it opens. Mixed sets from the practice bank, timed with the section limits.
Verbal	Same method: the three weakest sections, then mixed timed sets. Keep the daily flashcards; review missed words first.
Writing	Two timed essays on different instruction types. Check each against your own list of recurring errors.
Test Mastery	tm-c8 Scores, ScoreSelect and the Retake Plan. Decide on your score recipients.
Practice tests	Practice Tests 7 and 8.

Checkpoint before you move on. Your last two practice tests show the same errors less often than the first two did. If they do not, read section 8 before going on.

Week 8: Rehearsal and taper

Protect what you have built

Quant and Verbal	Short daily sessions from the error log. Reread the ETS Math Conventions.[16] No new material in the last two days.
Writing	One timed essay early in the week. After that, only reread your outlines.
Test Mastery	tm-c2 Registration and Test-Day Operations: the final week and test morning checklist.
Practice tests	Practice Test 9 at the start of the week. POWERPREP Online Test 2 from ETS, timed,[14] four or five days before the test as the final rehearsal. Practice Test 10 stays in reserve.
Logistics	Work through the checklists in section 9.

Checkpoint before you move on. ID checked, route or room prepared, recipients chosen. You have rehearsed the full length of the test under timed conditions more than once.

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

6 Practice tests and how to review them

The calendar

The plan above uses all ten Score Architect practice tests and both free ETS tests. If your plan includes fewer practice tests, spread them like this:

WEEK	TEN TESTS	FIVE TESTS	ONE TEST
1	POWERPREP 1 (untimed)	POWERPREP 1 (untimed)	POWERPREP 1 (untimed)
2	Test 1	Test 1	Timed sets by section
3	Test 2	Timed sets by section	Timed sets by section
4	Test 3	Test 2	Test 1
5	Test 4	Test 3	Timed sets by section
6	Tests 5 and 6	Test 4	Timed sets by section
7	Tests 7 and 8	Test 5	Timed sets by section
8	Test 9, POWERPREP 2	POWERPREP 2	POWERPREP 2

"Timed sets by section" means 12 or 15 practice-bank questions of one measure, done against the ETS time limit for a section of that size.[4] The number of practice tests in each Score Architect plan is shown on www.scorearchitect.com/pricing. ETS also sells POWERPREP PLUS Online tests at $44.95 per test.[14]

Taking the test

- One sitting, no pause, no break: the real test has none.[5]
- Start with the 30-minute essay, as on the real test.[4] Do not skip it to save time.
- Use only an on-screen calculator in Quant, and none in Verbal. Personal calculators are not permitted in the testing room.[10]
- Take notes the way you will on the day: scratch paper at a test center,[10] a small whiteboard or a sheet protector with an erasable marker at home.[13]
- From week 5, start at the hour of your appointment.
- Answer every question before time runs out in each section.

Reviewing the test

1. **Same day:** note how each section felt and where the clock hurt. Nothing else.
2. **Next day, before reading any explanation:** redo every question you missed or marked, untimed.
3. **Sort each one:** if you get it right now, the cause was time, misreading or a trap. If you still miss it, the cause is a concept gap.
4. **Read the explanation** and write the error-log row with a rule for next time.
5. **Count the causes.** The largest count decides next week's extra practice.
6. **Essay:** reread it against the ETS score level descriptions[17] and name one thing to change.

A CAUTION ABOUT PRACTICE SCORES

A score on any practice test that ETS did not write, ours included, is an estimate produced by that provider's own method. ETS converts the number of correct answers to the 130 to 170 scale through equating, which accounts for the difficulty of the sections you were given.[19] Use practice scores to see a trend across several tests, and use the error counts to decide what to study.

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

7 Pacing

ETS advises working as rapidly as you can without being careless and, because no question carries greater weight than any other, not spending time on questions you find extremely difficult or unfamiliar.[6] The table turns the ETS section limits into working numbers. The limits are from ETS;[4] the divisions and checkpoints are our arithmetic.

SECTION	QUESTIONS	MINUTES	AVERAGE PER QUESTION	A CHECKPOINT TO PRACTICE WITH
Verbal, section 1	12	18	1 min 30 s	After question 6, about 9 minutes left
Verbal, section 2	15	23	1 min 32 s	After question 8, about 11 minutes left
Quantitative, section 1	12	21	1 min 45 s	After question 6, about 10 and a half minutes left
Quantitative, section 2	15	26	1 min 44 s	After question 8, about 12 minutes left
Analytical Writing	1 task	30	not applicable	Plan by minute 4, stop writing new ideas at minute 26

OUR ADVICE (NOT AN ETS RULE)

An average is not a target for each question. A one-blank Text Completion can take 40 seconds and a long passage several minutes. Check the clock at the checkpoint, not after every question.

Two passes. On the first pass, answer what you can do, and for anything that stalls you, choose your best guess, mark it and move on. On the second pass, return to the marked questions with the time that is left. A marked question already has an answer, so nothing is lost if time runs out.

Keep the last minute for blanks. With one minute left, make sure every question in the section has an answer selected. ETS says nothing is subtracted for incorrect answers.[6]

Do not live on the review screen. ETS itself warns against spending too much time there.[6] Open it once, at the end of the first pass.

8 Adapting the plan

YOUR SITUATION	WHAT TO CHANGE
You have 4 weeks	Pair the weeks (1 with 2, 3 with 4, 5 with 6, 7 with 8). That doubles the weekly load, so cut instead of rushing: study only the sections in courses where the diagnostic gave a rating of 3 or lower, and keep one practice test a week.
You have 12 weeks	Spread weeks 1 to 6 over nine weeks and keep weeks 7 and 8 as the last three. Use the extra time for a second pass through your two weakest courses at the next tier, not for more practice tests.
Quant is strong, Verbal is weak (or the reverse)	Keep the order of the cards, but move one of the five weekly sessions from the strong measure to the weak one. Do not drop the strong measure completely; take its level checks to confirm the rating.
The diagnostic opens the Advanced tier in a course	Study that course at the Advanced tier and expect it to take less time. Spend the time saved on the course with your lowest rating.

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

YOUR SITUATION	WHAT TO CHANGE
You work full time	Four weekday sessions of 75 to 90 minutes and a longer weekend session, with the practice test on the other weekend day. If a week slips, repeat the week; do not compress two weeks into the next one.
Practice scores stop moving after week 6	Look at the error log, not the score. If one cause dominates (for example time, or misreading), train that cause directly for a week. If causes are spread evenly, return to lesson pages one tier up.
You are retaking the test	Read your free GRE Diagnostic Service report first. ETS makes it available about 15 days after the test; it shows the types of questions you answered right and wrong, their difficulty level and the time spent on each.[10] Then start the plan at week 5 with a new diagnostic.

OUR ADVICE (NOT AN ETS RULE)

Change the load, not the method. Whatever you cut, keep four things: the diagnostic at the start, a timed test at regular intervals, a review after every test, and the error log. They are what make the plan respond to you.

9 Final week, test day and after

Seven days before

- [ ] Check that the name on your ETS account matches your ID exactly and that the ID is original, physical and not expired.[12]
- [ ] Last day to reschedule is four days before the test (10 days in Mainland China).[10]
- [ ] Decide on your score recipients. Up to four are included in the test fee if you name them on test day.[20]
- [ ] Find out whether any of your programs requires all of your scores.[20]
- [ ] At home: verify your identity in the IDVaaS app at least 72 hours before the test, and run the Equipment Check again.[13, 21]
- [ ] Test center: plan the trip so that you arrive at least 30 minutes early.[5]

The last two days

- [ ] No new material and no full practice test.
- [ ] Reread your error-log rules and your essay outlines.
- [ ] Sleep and eat as you normally do. This is plain advice, not a claim about scores.

During the test

- [ ] Answer every question in every section.[6]
- [ ] Leave each section behind when the next one starts. Review and answer changes work within a section only,[4] so thinking about a finished section only costs attention.

Test day at a test center

- [ ] Bring your valid ID.[5] Leave your watch at home, and jewelry other than wedding and engagement rings.[10]
- [ ] Only your ID, and a mask if you choose to wear one, go into the testing room.[5]
- [ ] Scratch paper is provided; you return all of it at the end.[10]

Test day at home

- [ ] Close all browsers and applications you do not need, and make sure other devices in your home are not using the internet.[21]
- [ ] Clear the tabletop. No food or drink during the test.[13]
- [ ] Have ready your ID, your whiteboard or sheet protector, and a handheld mirror or phone to show your screen at check-in.[21]
- [ ] Start check-in 15 minutes before your appointment.[21]

- [ ] At the end, you choose to report or cancel before you see your scores; once you view them, you cannot cancel them.[10] If you report, your unofficial Verbal and Quantitative scores appear on screen.[5]

GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).
GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service).
Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them.

After the test

- [ ] Official scores, with the Analytical Writing score, arrive in your ETS account 8 to 10 days after the test date.[7]
- [ ] If you are thinking about a retake, the earliest date is 21 days after this one.[9] Read the GRE Diagnostic Service report before you decide.[10]
- [ ] Additional score reports cost $40 per recipient.[20]

ONE LAST REMINDER

The fees and deadlines in this guide are the ones ETS published for the testing year from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.[10] If you are reading this later, open the pages in the source list and check them again before you register.

Sources

Every numbered statement in this guide was checked against the ETS page or document listed here on November 13, 2026. ETS changes fees and policies from time to time, so confirm anything that affects your registration on ets.org before you pay.

1. Overview of the Quantitative Reasoning Measure. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/content/quantitative-reasoning.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
2. Overview of the Verbal Reasoning Measure. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/content/verbal-reasoning.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
3. Overview of the Analytical Writing Measure. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/content/analytical-writing.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
4. GRE General Test Structure. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/test-structure.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
5. Test Center Testing. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/test-day/test-center-test-day.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
6. Strategies and Tips for the GRE General Test. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/strategies-tips.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
7. Getting Your GRE General Test Scores. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/scores/get-scores.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
8. Interpreting Your GRE Scores: 2026 to 2027 (PDF). ETS. https://www.ets.org/pdfs/gre/interpreting-gre-scores.pdf. Accessed November 13, 2026.
9. Register for the GRE: Frequently Asked Questions. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/schedule.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
10. GRE Information Bulletin, policies in effect July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 (PDF). ETS. https://www.ets.org/pdfs/gre/gre-info-bulletin.pdf. Accessed November 13, 2026.
11. Fees for GRE Tests and Related Services (effective August 1, 2026). ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/register/fees.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
12. Identification Requirements for the GRE General Test. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/register/id-requirements.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
13. Your At Home Testing: equipment and environment requirements. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/register/at-home-testing.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
14. POWERPREP Practice Tests. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/powerprep.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
15. Math Review for the GRE General Test Quantitative Reasoning Measure (PDF). ETS. https://www.ets.org/pdfs/gre/gre-math-review.pdf. Accessed November 13, 2026.
16. Math Conventions for the GRE General Test Quantitative Reasoning Measure (PDF). ETS. https://www.ets.org/pdfs/gre/gre-math-conventions.pdf. Accessed November 13, 2026.
17. Analytical Writing Measure Scoring. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/content/analytical-writing/scoring.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
18. "Analyze an Issue" Topic Pool for the GRE General Test (PDF). ETS. https://www.ets.org/pdfs/gre/issue-pool.pdf. Accessed November 13, 2026.
19. Understanding Your GRE General Test Scores. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/scores/understand-scores.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
20. Sending Your GRE General Test Scores. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/scores/send-scores.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.
21. Your At Home Test Day. ETS. https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/test-day/at-home-test-day.html. Accessed November 13, 2026.

Notice. GMAT™ and GMAC™ are trademarks of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC). GRE® is a registered trademark of ETS (Educational Testing Service). Score Architect is not endorsed or approved by GMAC or ETS, and is not affiliated with them. Score Architect is an independent test preparation service operated by Becket & Partners LLC. All practice questions and worked examples in this guide are original Score Architect material and are not taken from any ETS test or publication. This guide is general information, not a promise of any score. Questions: support@scorearchitect.com, www.scorearchitect.com/gre.