

MiM-Essay

GRE Diagnostic Sample Paper 1 — 2026

A free full-length diagnostic for students searching for GRE sample papers: one Analytical Writing task and 55 original questions with answers across two Verbal Reasoning and two Quantitative Reasoning sections.

1 Issue Task

27 Verbal

27 Quant

Answer Key Included

Important: This is an unofficial practice resource created by MiM-Essay. It is not an ETS publication and does not reproduce copyrighted GRE questions. The questions are original and are designed only to resemble the reasoning skills and broad question formats tested on the current GRE General Test.

Updated: August 2026

How to Use This Practice PDF

This diagnostic mirrors the shape of the GRE General Test: one Analytical Writing task followed by two Verbal Reasoning sections and two Quantitative Reasoning sections. Attempt the paper in one sitting and do not check answers until you have completed every section.

Section	Content	Time
Section 1: Analytical Writing	One Analyze an Issue task	30 minutes
Section 2: Verbal Reasoning 1	Questions 1–12	18 minutes
Section 3: Quantitative Reasoning 1	Questions 13–24	21 minutes
Section 4: Verbal Reasoning 2	Questions 25–39	23 minutes
Section 5: Quantitative Reasoning 2	Questions 40–55	26 minutes

Suggested timing: The full paper takes about 2 hours. Take a single short break after Section 3, exactly as you would on test day.

Before You Start

- Attempt the questions as you would in the actual GRE, under timed conditions.
- Do not check answers until completing the full paper — the answer key sits at the back for that reason.
- Do not use a calculator unless the question format permits one.
- Track errors by type: concept gap, reasoning error, careless error, or timing issue.

Current exam structure verified against ets.org (GRE General Test), August 2026.

Section 1: Analytical Writing

Analyze an Issue Task. Time: 30 minutes. You will have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay on the issue presented below.

Directions

A successful response should:

- Clearly state your position
- Support your position with relevant reasons and examples
- Address possible counterarguments
- Develop ideas logically and effectively

Issue Prompt

As people rely increasingly on technology to solve problems, the ability to think independently has become less important.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain the reasons for your position. In developing your response, you should consider situations in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

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Section 2: Verbal Reasoning — Section 1

Questions 1–12. Time: 18 minutes. For each question, select the best answer choice based on the information provided. This section includes Text Completion, Sentence Equivalence, and Reading Comprehension.

Text Completion

Q1. Although the researcher's findings initially appeared to challenge established theories, subsequent studies confirmed that her conclusions were not only accurate but also remarkably _____.

- (A) predictable
- (B) insightful
- (C) irrelevant
- (D) conventional
- (E) superficial

Q2. The manager's decision to delay the product launch was not a sign of uncertainty; rather, it demonstrated a _____ approach designed to ensure that all potential problems were addressed.

- (A) careless
- (B) deliberate
- (C) impulsive
- (D) random
- (E) negligent

Q3. Because the author avoided technical terminology and explained complex concepts through simple examples, her book was praised for being both informative and _____.

- (A) accessible
- (B) obscure
- (C) confusing
- (D) complicated
- (E) ambiguous

Q4. The politician's promises were met with _____ because previous campaigns had failed to deliver similar commitments.

- (A) confidence
- (B) skepticism
- (C) admiration
- (D) enthusiasm
- (E) approval

Sentence Equivalence

For Q5–Q7:

Select **two** answer choices that complete the sentence and produce sentences alike in meaning. Both answers must be correct to receive credit.

Q5. The professor's explanation was so _____ that students from different academic backgrounds could easily understand the topic.

- (A) clear
- (B) obscure
- (C) understandable
- (D) complicated
- (E) technical
- (F) confusing

Q6. The company's response to the crisis was considered _____ because it failed to address the main concerns raised by customers.

- (A) effective
- (B) inadequate
- (C) insufficient
- (D) successful
- (E) comprehensive
- (F) satisfactory

Q7. The scientist remained _____ about the discovery, arguing that additional research was necessary before making a final claim.

- (A) cautious
- (B) certain
- (C) dismissive
- (D) convinced
- (E) hesitant
- (F) confident

Verbal Reasoning — Reading Comprehension

Passage 1

For centuries, universities were primarily institutions focused on preserving and transmitting existing knowledge. Professors served as authorities who passed established ideas to students. However, modern universities increasingly emphasize research, innovation, and the creation of new knowledge. This transformation has changed the role of both professors and students.

Professors are no longer viewed only as sources of information but also as researchers contributing to their fields. Similarly, students are encouraged to participate actively in the learning process rather than simply memorize information. While some argue that this shift has weakened traditional academic structures, others believe it has made universities more adaptable and relevant in a rapidly changing world.

Q8. The primary purpose of the passage is to:

- (A) criticize modern universities for abandoning traditional education
- (B) explain how the role of universities has evolved over time
- (C) argue that research is less important than teaching
- (D) describe the history of university buildings
- (E) prove that professors are no longer necessary

Q9. According to the passage, modern universities increasingly emphasize:

- (A) memorization of established information
- (B) preservation of traditional methods only
- (C) research and creation of new knowledge
- (D) reducing student participation
- (E) eliminating professors' authority

Q10. The passage suggests that critics of modern universities believe:

- (A) research should be encouraged more
- (B) traditional academic structures have been weakened
- (C) students should participate actively
- (D) universities should become more adaptable
- (E) innovation is unnecessary

Passage 2

Many organizations assume that competition between employees increases productivity. The reasoning behind this assumption is that individuals will work harder when they attempt to outperform their colleagues. However, some researchers argue that excessive competition can negatively affect collaboration and reduce the sharing of information.

These researchers suggest that organizations achieve better long-term results when they create environments that balance individual achievement with cooperation. Employees who feel supported by their colleagues may be more willing to exchange ideas and contribute to collective goals.

Q11. The passage primarily suggests that:

- (A) competition always improves workplace performance
- (B) cooperation can be important for organizational success
- (C) employees should never compete with one another
- (D) individual achievement is irrelevant
- (E) organizations should eliminate performance evaluations

Q12. According to the passage, excessive competition may:

- (A) increase information sharing
- (B) improve teamwork automatically
- (C) reduce collaboration among employees
- (D) eliminate workplace challenges
- (E) guarantee better results

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Section 3: Quantitative Reasoning — Section 1

Questions 13–24. Time: 21 minutes. This section contains Quantitative Comparison, Multiple Choice, Numeric Entry, and Data Interpretation questions. Do not use a calculator unless permitted.

Quantitative Comparison

For Q13–Q16, compare Quantity A and Quantity B and choose:

- (A) Quantity A is greater
- (B) Quantity B is greater
- (C) The two quantities are equal
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given

Q13. If $x > 0$:

Quantity A

$$x + 1/x$$

Quantity B

$$2$$

A B C D

Q14. A rectangle has length 12 cm and width 8 cm.

Quantity A

The area of the rectangle

Quantity B

The perimeter of the rectangle

A B C D

Q15. If $a + b = 10$ and $a - b = 4$:

Quantity A

The value of a

Quantity B

The value of b

A B C D

Q16. A circle has radius r .

Quantity A

The circumference of the circle

Quantity B

The area of the circle

A B C D

Multiple Choice

Q17. If $3x + 5 = 20$, what is the value of x ?

- (A) 3
- (B) 5
- (C) 7
- (D) 10
- (E) 15

Q18. A store increases the price of a product by 20% and later decreases the new price by 20%. What is the overall percentage change in the original price?

- (A) 0% decrease
- (B) 4% decrease
- (C) 4% increase
- (D) 20% decrease
- (E) 20% increase

Q19. The average of five numbers is 18. Four of the numbers are 12, 16, 20, and 24. What is the fifth number?

- (A) 12
- (B) 16
- (C) 18
- (D) 20
- (E) 24

Q20. A bag contains 5 red balls, 3 blue balls, and 2 green balls. If one ball is selected randomly, what is the probability that it is blue?

- (A) $\frac{1}{10}$
- (B) $\frac{2}{10}$
- (C) $\frac{3}{10}$
- (D) $\frac{1}{3}$
- (E) $\frac{1}{2}$

Q21. A company's revenue increased from ₹80 lakh to ₹100 lakh. What was the percentage increase?

- (A) 20%
- (B) 25%
- (C) 30%
- (D) 40%
- (E) 50%

Numeric Entry

Q22. A number is increased by 15% and becomes 230. What was the original number?

Answer: _____

Q23. The sum of three consecutive integers is 72. What is the largest integer?

Answer: _____

Data Interpretation

Use the table below to answer Question 24. The table shows the number of students enrolled in different courses.

Course	2024 enrollment	2025 enrollment
Business	240	300
Engineering	180	225
Economics	150	180
Computer Science	200	260

Q24. Which course experienced the largest percentage increase in enrollment from 2024 to 2025?

- (A) Business
- (B) Engineering
- (C) Economics
- (D) Computer Science
- (E) All courses increased by the same percentage

Section 4: Verbal Reasoning — Section 2

Questions 25–39. Time: 23 minutes. This section includes Text Completion, Sentence Equivalence, Reading Comprehension, and Critical Reasoning.

Text Completion

Q25. Although the invention was initially considered _____, later developments demonstrated that it had significant practical applications.

- (A) useless
- (B) valuable
- (C) revolutionary
- (D) essential
- (E) beneficial

Q26. The author's argument is convincing because it is based on extensive evidence rather than _____ claims.

- (A) unsupported
- (B) reliable
- (C) verified
- (D) objective
- (E) reasonable

Q27. The manager's leadership style was neither completely strict nor entirely relaxed; instead, it represented a _____ approach that balanced authority with flexibility.

- (A) extreme
- (B) balanced
- (C) moderate
- (D) inconsistent
- (E) reasonable

Q28. The company's rapid expansion was impressive, but analysts warned that such growth could be _____ if proper planning was ignored.

- (A) sustainable
- (B) manageable
- (C) unstable
- (D) temporary
- (E) risky

Sentence Equivalence

For Q29–Q31:

Select **two** answer choices that complete the sentence and produce sentences alike in meaning.

Q29. The scientist's explanation was so _____ that several experts questioned whether it accurately represented the available evidence.

- (A) convincing
- (B) questionable
- (C) doubtful
- (D) reliable
- (E) uncertain
- (F) accurate

Q30. The new regulations were introduced to make the process more _____ by reducing unnecessary steps.

- (A) efficient
- (B) complicated
- (C) streamlined
- (D) difficult
- (E) organized
- (F) confusing

Q31. The speaker's comments were intentionally _____, allowing different audiences to interpret them in different ways.

- (A) ambiguous
- (B) vague
- (C) precise
- (D) clear
- (E) definite
- (F) specific

Verbal Reasoning 2 — Reading and Critical Reasoning

Passage 3

Scientific discoveries often emerge from unexpected observations rather than from researchers following a perfectly planned path. Many important breakthroughs occurred when scientists noticed unusual results and investigated them further. This does not mean that scientific progress is based on chance alone. Successful discoveries usually require extensive preparation, knowledge, and the ability to recognize the importance of unexpected findings.

Therefore, while accidental observations can contribute to scientific advancement, they are most valuable when combined with expertise and careful analysis.

Q32. The main idea of the passage is that:

- (A) scientific discoveries occur only by accident
- (B) preparation and expertise are important even when discoveries are unexpected
- (C) researchers should avoid planned experiments
- (D) chance is the only factor responsible for breakthroughs
- (E) scientific knowledge prevents innovation

Q33. According to the passage, unexpected observations become valuable when scientists:

- (A) ignore them
- (B) immediately publish them
- (C) analyze them using expertise and knowledge
- (D) replace planned research completely
- (E) avoid investigating them

Q34. The author would most likely agree that:

- (A) scientific progress requires both preparation and flexibility
- (B) researchers should rely entirely on luck
- (C) unexpected results are always incorrect
- (D) planned research is unnecessary
- (E) expertise limits creativity

Passage 4

Public parks have traditionally been viewed as spaces for recreation and relaxation. However, researchers increasingly recognize that parks can also contribute to public health by encouraging physical activity and reducing stress. In densely populated cities, access to green spaces may be especially important because residents often have limited opportunities for outdoor activities.

Some urban planners argue that creating parks requires significant financial investment and competing demands for land. Nevertheless, supporters maintain that the long-term benefits to communities justify these costs.

Q35. The passage primarily discusses:

- (A) why cities should eliminate public parks
- (B) the historical design of urban areas
- (C) the benefits and challenges of creating public parks
- (D) why recreation is unimportant
- (E) the cost of maintaining private gardens

Q36. According to the passage, parks may improve public health by:

- (A) increasing urban population density
- (B) encouraging physical activity
- (C) reducing available land
- (D) replacing healthcare systems
- (E) eliminating stress completely

Q37. The passage indicates that critics of urban parks are concerned about:

- (A) lack of public interest
- (B) excessive health benefits
- (C) financial costs and land competition
- (D) limited recreational activities
- (E) reduced city development

Critical Reasoning

Q38. A company claims that employees who work remotely are more productive because remote workers complete more tasks than office workers. Which statement would most weaken the company's conclusion?

- (A) Remote workers report higher job satisfaction.
- (B) Remote workers were already the company's highest-performing employees before working remotely.
- (C) Many companies allow remote work.
- (D) Office workers prefer collaboration.
- (E) Remote work reduces commuting time.

Q39. A university plans to introduce more online courses, arguing that this will increase enrollment because students prefer flexible learning options. Which statement would most strengthen the university's argument?

- (A) Some students prefer traditional classrooms.
- (B) Online courses require technology investment.
- (C) Surveys show many potential students choose universities based on flexible course options.
- (D) Other universities offer fewer online courses.
- (E) Professors need training to teach online.

Section 5: Quantitative Reasoning — Section 2

Questions 40–55. Time: 26 minutes. This section includes Quantitative Comparison, Multiple Choice, Numeric Entry, and Data Analysis questions.

Quantitative Comparison

For Q40–Q43, compare Quantity A and Quantity B and choose:

- (A) Quantity A is greater
- (B) Quantity B is greater
- (C) The two quantities are equal
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given

Q40. If $x^2 = 25$:

Quantity A

The value of x

Quantity B

5

A B C D

Q41. A square has side length 10 cm.

Quantity A

The area of the square

Quantity B

The perimeter of the square

A B C D

Q42. If $x / 4 = 6$:

Quantity A

The value of x

Quantity B

The value of $x + 5$

A B C D

Q43. A number n is an integer between 10 and 20.

Quantity A

n

Quantity B

15

A B C D

Multiple Choice

Q44. If $2x + 7 = 19$, what is the value of x ?

- (A) 4
- (B) 5
- (C) 6
- (D) 7
- (E) 8

Q45. A car travels 240 kilometers in 4 hours. What is the average speed of the car?

- (A) 40 km/h
- (B) 50 km/h
- (C) 60 km/h
- (D) 70 km/h
- (E) 80 km/h

Q46. The sum of the first five positive integers is:

- (A) 10
- (B) 12
- (C) 15
- (D) 20
- (E) 25

Q47. A box contains 8 white balls and 12 black balls. If one ball is selected randomly, what is the probability that it is white?

- (A) $\frac{1}{5}$
- (B) $\frac{2}{5}$
- (C) $\frac{3}{5}$
- (D) $\frac{4}{5}$
- (E) $\frac{1}{2}$

Q48. The length of a rectangle is twice its width. If the width is 6 cm, what is the area of the rectangle?

- (A) 36 cm^2
- (B) 48 cm^2
- (C) 72 cm^2
- (D) 84 cm^2
- (E) 96 cm^2

Q49. A student scored 80, 85, and 90 on three exams. What score is needed on the fourth exam to have an average of 85?

- (A) 80
- (B) 85
- (C) 90
- (D) 95
- (E) 100

Numeric Entry

Q50. A store offers a 25% discount on a product priced at ₹800. What is the discounted price?

Answer: _____

Q51. If $3^x = 81$, what is the value of x ?

Answer: _____

Q52. A triangle has a base of 12 cm and a height of 8 cm. What is its area?

Answer: _____

Data Analysis

Use the table below to answer Questions 53–54. The table shows the monthly sales of a company.

Month	Sales (in thousands)
January	120
February	150
March	180
April	210
May	240

Q53. What was the percentage increase in sales from January to May?

- (A) 50%
- (B) 75%
- (C) 100%
- (D) 120%
- (E) 150%

Q54. The average monthly sales during the five months was:

- (A) 160 thousand
- (B) 170 thousand
- (C) 180 thousand
- (D) 190 thousand
- (E) 200 thousand

Q55. A company surveyed 200 customers about their preferred payment method. 80 customers preferred credit cards, 60 customers preferred digital wallets, and the remaining customers preferred cash. What percentage of customers preferred cash?

- (A) 20%
- (B) 25%
- (C) 30%
- (D) 35%
- (E) 40%

Answer Key – Section 1: Analytical Writing

Issue task evaluation guide for the prompt: "As people rely increasingly on technology to solve problems, the ability to think independently has become less important."

Sample high-scoring response approach (score 5.5–6.0)

Recommended position: Disagree

A strong GRE response should take a clear position while acknowledging complexity.

Argument 1 — Technology supports independent thinking rather than replacing it. Technology provides access to information, tools, and resources, but individuals still need analytical skills to evaluate information and make decisions. *Example:* Scientists use advanced technology for research, but breakthroughs still require human creativity and interpretation.

Argument 2 — Overdependence on technology can reduce critical thinking. Although technology can improve problem-solving, blindly relying on automated solutions may weaken independent reasoning. *Example:* Students who rely only on online answers may struggle to understand concepts deeply.

Argument 3 — The best results come from combining technology with human judgment. Technology is most effective when used as a tool rather than a replacement for human decision-making. *Example:* Doctors use artificial intelligence tools to analyse medical data, but final decisions require professional judgment.

Analytical Writing Scoring Criteria

A score 6 essay would clearly address the issue, present a nuanced argument, use relevant examples, maintain logical organization, and demonstrate strong language control.

Answer Key – Section 2: Verbal Reasoning 1

Q1: B – insightful. "Not only accurate but also remarkably _____" calls for a second point of praise; only "insightful" adds one.

Q2: B – deliberate. "Not a sign of uncertainty; rather" reverses the negative, and the delay was "designed to ensure" problems were addressed.

Q3: A – accessible. Avoiding jargon and using simple examples makes a book easy to approach.

Q4: B – skepticism. Previous campaigns failed to deliver, so the audience would doubt rather than trust.

Q5: A, C – clear, understandable. Both describe an explanation that students from any background could follow.

Q6: B, C – inadequate, insufficient. The response "failed to address the main concerns", so it fell short; the other four options are positive.

Q7: A, E – cautious, hesitant. Wanting more research before a final claim indicates reserve, not certainty.

Q8: B. The passage traces how universities moved from transmitting knowledge to creating it.

Q9: C. Stated directly: modern universities "emphasize research, innovation, and the creation of new knowledge".

Q10: B. The critics are those who "argue that this shift has weakened traditional academic structures".

Q11: B. The researchers cited argue that balancing achievement with cooperation produces better long-term results.

Q12: C. Excessive competition "can negatively affect collaboration and reduce the sharing of information".

Answer Key – Section 3: Quantitative Reasoning 1

Q13: D. For $x > 0$, $x + 1/x$ equals 2 only when $x = 1$ and exceeds 2 for every other positive value, so the relationship is not fixed.

Q14: A. Area = $12 \times 8 = 96$; perimeter = $2(12 + 8) = 40$.

Q15: A. Adding the equations gives $2a = 14$, so $a = 7$ and $b = 3$.

Q16: D. Circumference $2\pi r$ exceeds area πr^2 when $r < 2$, they are equal at $r = 2$, and the order reverses above it.

Q17: B – 5. $3x = 15$, so $x = 5$.

Q18: B – 4% decrease. $1.20 \times 0.80 = 0.96$, a 4% net fall. Equal successive percentage changes never cancel.

Q19: C – 18. Five numbers averaging 18 total 90. The four listed total 72, so the fifth is 18.

Q20: C – 3/10. There are 10 balls and 3 are blue.

Q21: B – 25%. The rise is 20 on a base of 80: $20 \div 80 = 0.25$.

Q22: 200. $230 \div 1.15 = 200$.

Q23: 25. The middle integer is $72 \div 3 = 24$, so the integers are 23, 24, 25.

Q24: D – Computer Science. Increases are Business 25%, Engineering 25%, Economics 20%, Computer Science 30%.

Answer Key – Section 4: Verbal Reasoning 2

Q25: A – useless. "Although" sets up contrast with the later discovery of "significant practical applications".

Q26: A – unsupported. "Rather than" demands the opposite of "extensive evidence".

Q27: C – moderate. Neither strict nor relaxed describes a middle position. "Balanced" is weaker here because the sentence already says the approach "balanced authority with flexibility".

Q28: C – unstable. The warning is about the growth itself becoming precarious without planning. "Risky" describes the decision rather than the condition of the growth.

Q29: B, C – questionable, doubtful. Experts challenged whether the explanation matched the evidence.

Q30: A, C – efficient, streamlined. Removing unnecessary steps makes a process leaner.

Q31: A, B – ambiguous, vague. Comments open to multiple interpretations lack a single fixed meaning.

Q32: B. The passage denies that chance alone drives discovery and stresses preparation and expertise.

Q33: C. Unexpected findings are "most valuable when combined with expertise and careful analysis".

Q34: A. The author endorses both planned preparation and openness to unexpected results.

Q35: C. The passage sets health and recreation benefits against cost and land constraints.

Q36: B. Parks contribute to health "by encouraging physical activity and reducing stress".

Q37: C. Critics cite "significant financial investment and competing demands for land".

Q38: B. If remote workers were already the top performers, their output reflects selection, not the effect of remote work.

Q39: C. Direct evidence that flexibility drives university choice supports the predicted enrollment increase.

Answer Key – Section 5: Quantitative Reasoning 2

Q40: D. $x^2 = 25$ gives $x = 5$ or $x = -5$, so A can equal or fall below B.

Q41: A. Area = 100 cm^2 ; perimeter = 40 cm.

Q42: B. $x = 24$, so $x + 5 = 29$. Adding 5 to a positive value always increases it.

Q43: D. n can be 11 through 19, so it may be less than, equal to, or greater than 15.

Q44: C – 6. $2x = 12$.

Q45: C – 60 km/h. $240 \div 4 = 60$.

Q46: C – 15. $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 = 15$.

Q47: B – $\frac{2}{5}$. 8 white out of 20 balls = $\frac{2}{5}$.

Q48: C – 72 cm^2 . Length = 12 cm, so area = $12 \times 6 = 72$.

Q49: B – 85. Four exams averaging 85 need 340; the first three total 255.

Q50: 600. $800 \times 0.75 = 600$.

Q51: 4. $3^4 = 81$.

Q52: 48. Area = $\frac{1}{2} \times 12 \times 8 = 48$.

Q53: C – 100%. Sales rose from 120 to 240, an increase of 120 on a base of 120.

Q54: C – 180 thousand. The five months total 900, and $900 \div 5 = 180$.

Q55: C – 30%. $200 - 80 - 60 = 60$ customers preferred cash; $60 \div 200 = 0.30$.

How to Review Your Score

Verbal

___/27

Quant

___/28

Essay self-score

___/6

This diagnostic is not designed to predict an official GRE score. Instead, use it to identify where your reasoning breaks down before you commit to a study plan.

If you missed...	What to review next
Text Completion	Signal words, predicting the blank, secondary word meanings
Sentence Equivalence	Pairing synonyms rather than picking two separately plausible words
Reading Comprehension	Main idea, inference, author's purpose, and the function of a detail
Critical Reasoning	Conclusion–premise structure, assumptions, alternative causes, strengthen and weaken logic
Quantitative Comparison	Case testing and recognising when a relationship genuinely varies
Problem Solving and Numeric Entry	Percent change, averages, probability, and basic geometry formulas
Data Interpretation	Reading only the relevant column, computing rates, comparing percentage changes

Best next step: After using this PDF, practice with the official POWERPREP tools on ets.org. ETS provides free practice tests and a set of real GRE practice questions.

Source and Accuracy Note

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