

# The GRE<sup>®</sup> revised General Test

## eUPDATE



JUNE 2010

Welcome to our Top Story for the June 2010 issue of the GRE<sup>®</sup> revised General Test eUPDATE. If you haven't already signed up to receive future issues of the eUPDATE, sign up now: [www.ets.org/gre/updates](http://www.ets.org/gre/updates) >

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### TOP STORY

## Talking to Test Takers: Educating Your Candidates About What the GRE revised General Test Will Mean to Them

For more than 60 years, the GRE<sup>®</sup> General Test has been recognized as the standard for measuring the verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills that are critical for success in graduate and business school.

The GRE revised General Test is still the premier measure of a graduate's academic potential, but now it provides a better overall test-taking experience. Test takers will benefit from a friendlier, more flexible test design which offers more freedom to use many of their own test-taking style and strategies. In addition, new questions will better reflect the kind of thinking they'll do in graduate or business school.

Here's an overview of what your candidates can expect:

#### NEW TEST-TAKER FRIENDLY DESIGN

Test takers can change/edit, skip and come back to questions within a section, and a new on-screen calculator is available in the Quantitative Reasoning section.\*

#### NEW TYPES OF QUESTIONS

The Verbal Reasoning section focuses more on text-based material, while the Quantitative Reasoning section includes new types of questions, many featuring real-life scenarios.

#### SPECIAL 50% SAVINGS

Exclusive Offer! Your candidates save 50% on their test fee when they take the GRE revised General Test between August 1 – September 30, 2011. Scores will be reported by mid-November 2011 if candidates test during this period.

#### IMPORTANT SCORE REPORTING NEWS

If your candidates need their test scores reported before November 2011, tell them to take the current GRE General Test before August 1, 2011.

\*For those taking the paper-based GRE revised General Test, calculators will be provided at the test center for use during the test.

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### WHAT WILL THE GRE REVISED GENERAL TEST BE LIKE FOR YOUR CANDIDATES?

When the GRE revised General Test launches on August 1, 2011, some of the most notable changes for your candidates will be a friendlier, more flexible test design and questions that better reflect the kind of thinking they'll do as part of a graduate-level program.

Test takers will now be able to:

- **Change or edit their answers** within a section.
- **Preview and review questions** within a section.
- **Skip questions and go back** to them later within a section.
- **Experience new answer formats**, such as numeric entry.
- **Use an on-screen calculator** in the Quantitative Reasoning section.\*

There are also new types of questions in the **Verbal Reasoning** and **Quantitative Reasoning** sections.

**Verbal Reasoning** section changes:

- **Antonyms and analogies have been removed from the test.** So there are no questions that test vocabulary out of context.
- **New Text Completion questions.** These will assess a test taker's ability to interpret, evaluate and reason from what they've read.
- **New Sentence Equivalence questions.** Test takers will be tested on their ability to reach a conclusion about how a sentence should be completed, while focusing on the meaning of the whole sentence.
- **More Reading Comprehension questions.** More focus has been placed on reading comprehension, and some new types of questions will require test takers to select multiple correct answer choices instead of just one, or highlight a sentence within a reading passage to answer the question.

**Quantitative Reasoning** section changes:

- **More real-life scenarios.** There is still a focus on basic math concepts (arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data analysis), but many questions will be based on real-life examples that better reflect the thinking required from students in a graduate-level program.
- **New multiple-choice and numeric-entry questions.** Some multiple-choice questions will have more than one correct answer, requiring test takers to select all of the correct answers from the choices provided. Numeric-entry questions will require a candidate to enter an answer in a box instead of selecting an answer from a list.
- **An on-screen calculator.** Test takers will be able to use an on-screen calculator in the Quantitative Reasoning section, which will reduce the emphasis on computation.\*

\*For those taking the paper-based GRE revised General Test, calculators will be provided at the test center for use during the test.

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The **Analytical Writing** section of the GRE revised General Test will not change significantly from the way it currently is, but questions will require test takers to provide more focused responses and less generalization. Changes include:

- **For each writing task**, test takers will be given one topic rather than a choice of topics.
- **Tasks are now more specific** and responses will be measured to ensure test takers can integrate critical thinking and analytical writing to fully address the topic they're being asked to write about.

### SPECIAL 50% SAVINGS FOR YOUR CANDIDATES

The GRE revised General Test launches on August 1, 2011 — and there will be a limited-time offer to **save 50% on the test fee** for those who test between August 1 – September 30, 2011.

Candidates taking advantage of this offer will have exactly the same test experience and test advantages as those who take the GRE revised General Test after the special discount period ends, but their scores will be reported by mid-November 2011, instead of the regular reporting period of 10 – 15 days after the test date.

Registration for the GRE revised General Test opens on March 15, 2011. If test takers wish to take advantage of the 50% savings offer, make sure to tell them to **register early**. There will be high demand during this special offer period.

### SCORE REPORT TIMING

Make sure your candidates are aware that if they require their test scores before November 2011, **they must take the current GRE General Test** before the revised test is launched on August 1, 2011.

Score reporting for the GRE revised General Test will begin in November 2011, but will be on a special reporting schedule until December 2011.

Depending on your admissions deadlines, if your candidates need to take the current GRE General Test, you need to tell them to **register early** to ensure they get the test date and location they want.

**We recommend you display this important information clearly on your admissions website and include a link to [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre) for further details.**

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### WHICH TEST SHOULD YOUR CANDIDATES TAKE?

The most obvious question the upcoming launch of the GRE revised General Test presents to a potential candidate is: “Which test should I take?”

Because the GRE revised General Test will benefit both institutions and candidates, test takers should take the GRE revised General Test after it launches in 2011 if the timing and reporting schedule is appropriate for them.

The GRE revised General Test — in addition to offering your candidates a better test-taking experience — features new questions that better reflect the skills needed in today’s demanding graduate and business school programs.

However, some candidates may still need to take the current GRE General Test depending on when the graduate programs they’re applying to require their test scores.

Make sure your candidates are aware that if they need their test scores before November 2011, **they must take the current GRE General Test** before the revised test is launched on August 1, 2011. This is because test scores for the GRE revised General Test taken between August and October will be reported in November 2011.

If any of your candidates need to take the current test, you can reassure them that their test scores still remain valid for five years, even after the GRE revised General Test begins. The test scores for the GRE revised General Test will also be valid for five years.

### HOW YOUR CANDIDATES SHOULD PREPARE FOR THE GRE REVISED GENERAL TEST

Test takers may have questions about how to prepare for the GRE revised General Test, so they should familiarize themselves with what resources will be available to them.

Just as we currently do for the GRE General Test, ETS will offer **free test preparation material** for the GRE revised General Test. Your candidates can get a quick sample of the types of questions featured in the revised test on the GRE website now, and in July 2010 free test prep will become available for the GRE revised General Test — giving candidates ample time to prepare.

When the free test prep becomes available in July 2010, two versions will be offered — one to help prepare for the computer-based test, and another for those preparing for the paper-based test. These test prep resources include a full-length practice test for test takers to try out before their test date.

Please direct your potential candidates to the GRE website at [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre) for these test prep materials, plus extensive information about the GRE revised General Test.

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### INTERNATIONAL TEST TAKERS

ETS administers the GRE General Test all over the world — and there are some important timing considerations that candidates testing in locations outside the United States need to be aware of, as these can affect when they need to register for and take the test.

Regardless of where one lives or plans to test, candidates should find out what the admissions deadlines are for the schools they are considering applying to. If students need their GRE scores before November 2011, they *must* take the current GRE General Test before August 1, 2011. Since seats for the current test will fill up quickly, it's important that you advise students to **register early** to make sure they get the date and test location of their choice.

### TESTING IN CHINA (INCLUDING HONG KONG), KOREA AND TAIWAN

With the introduction of the GRE revised General Test, test takers from China (including Hong Kong), Korea and Taiwan will be able to take the entire GRE revised General Test on a computer, in one session and on the same day — instead of the current split-test administration.

As a result, the test will be available more frequently in these locations. There will now be one to two administrations per month. The first fixed computer-based administration in these regions will be August 8, 2011.

However, if potential candidates from these countries need their test scores before November 2011, **let them know they *must* take the current GRE General Test**, in the current split-test format, in order to receive their scores in time. They should **register as early as possible** as seats will fill up quickly. More information about important timing, including final test dates, can be found on [ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/international](http://ets.org/gre/revised_general/international).

### PAPER-BASED ADMINISTRATIONS

Students who need to take the GRE revised General Test in parts of the world where computer-based testing is not available can take a paper-based version of the test. Starting this year, with the current GRE General Test, there will now be three paper-based administrations per testing year (October, November and February). The paper-based GRE revised General Test will also be administered three times per testing year when it is launched in 2011.

The paper-based version of the GRE revised General Test features almost all of the important enhancements made to the computer-based version, including new question types such as text completion and numeric entry, as well as an ETS-issued calculator.

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It is **very important** that you inform any candidates who require their GRE General Test scores before November 2011 that they must take the current paper-based version of the GRE General Test. There are only a few remaining paper-based administrations of the current test, and not all locations administer the paper-based test on all dates, so it is also very important to advise test takers that they need to **register now** to get the preferred test date and location. More information about timing, including final test dates and score report timing for those taking the paper-based test, can be found on [ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/international](http://ets.org/gre/revised_general/international).

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The GRE revised General Test will deliver a great many benefits for institutions and test takers when it is launched in August 2011. To help ensure a smooth transition, share this news with your test takers.

As always, if you have any questions, contact our Helpline: [GREhelpline@ets.org](mailto:GREhelpline@ets.org). And if you'd like more information on the GRE revised General Test, please go to [www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general\\_institutions](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general_institutions). That website is specifically designed for the graduate community. You can direct candidates to information created for test takers at [www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general).

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50% discount offer applies to the GRE<sup>®</sup> revised General Test administration fee only for tests taken from August 1, 2011 – September 30, 2011. Examinees who take the test during this testing period will be sent their scores by mid-November 2011. Fee and discount does not include all applicable fees, Value Added or similar taxes. Cannot be applied to previous registrations or combined with any other offers. Examinees who register within the promotional period may reschedule during such promotional period, subject to applicable fees, however, any and all other cancellations and rescheduled exams are non-refundable. Not valid for cash or cash equivalent. There are no guarantees of seat availability, so examinees must register to reserve a seat. All other GRE terms and conditions are in effect. ETS may modify or discontinue this offer at any time without notice.