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Sample GRE Comprehensive Syllabus 16 sessions

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This syllabus offers a complete coverage of the GRE: writing, verbal and quantitative sections. In each section, tutors are encouraged to discuss general test strategy and time management techniques. Homework should be completed in its entirety and each session is designed to provide 5-10 hours of work a week (5 during content review, 10 during testing). If homework needs to be pared down, it is better to pare down a bit of each rather than take out an entire section. This syllabus includes 10 practices tests: 8 online and 2 on paper, 4 provided by ETS and 6 provided by MP. The MP guides are not explicitly included in the text but can be used to supplement learning during specific sessions (i.e. the FDP guide can be used when covering arithmetic).

Required Texts

- The Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test, 2nd Edition + CD (OG)
- Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions (OR)
- Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions (VR)
- Nova GRE Math Bible 2008 (Nova)
- Manhattan Prep GRE online tests (MP)
- 500 word Cambridge Coaching Word List

Optional Texts

- Manhattan Prep Guides (8 total, 5 in quant, 3 in verbal)

Before the First Session

- OG: Read Chapter 1, introduction to exam and preparation methods
- Take MP test 1 online
 - Complete the test under timed/test conditions
 - Share log in information with tutor
 - Record incorrect answers and share log with tutor—this is very important and helps the tutor prepare for first session.



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Sample Sessions

Every GRE student's aptitude and learning style is different, so the focus and pacing of sessions will be set according to student data on problem sets and practice tests. However, the sample sessions below map out the typical progression of a tutoring relationship, including in-session content coverage and related homework assignments.

Session 1: Introduction, Discussion of History/Goals, Reading Comprehension I

In session

- Walk through a 3-session syllabus and discuss academic/GRE history and goals. Discuss test dates and session scheduling.
- Review diagnostic exam and evaluate strengths and weaknesses (don't spend too much time on this because many areas have not been covered)
- Set up a vocabulary plan (recommended 50 words per week).
- Work through a reading comprehension passage to introduce reading strategy

Homework

- OG: Read chapter 3 verbal reasoning, chapter 7.1 arithmetic
- QR: Do Chapter 3 arithmetic
- VR: Do Chapter 3 reading comprehension practice set 1
- 50 vocab words.

Session 2: Arithmetic I and Reading Comprehension II

In session

- Go over homework
- Review key arithmetic points
- Work through a reading comprehension passage to cement reading strategy

Homework

- Nova: Assign targeted practice for weak areas of arithmetic
- VR: Do Chapter 3 reading comprehension practice set 2, 3
- 50 vocab words.

Session 3: Reading Comprehension (I)

In session

- Go over homework
- Review key arithmetic points
- Introduce writing section and strategy for each type of essay.
Drill topics

Homework

- OG: Read chapter 7.2 algebra
- QR: Do Chapter 4 algebra
- Practice writing an Issue essay in timed conditions
- 50 vocab words



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Session 4: Algebra I and Writing II

In session

- Go over homework
- Review key algebra points
- Review essay. Discuss grading, points of improvement and strengths. Drill topics.

Homework

- Nova: Assign targeted practice for weak areas of algebra
- Practice writing an Argument essay in timed conditions
- 50 vocab words.

Session 5: Algebra II and Sentence Equivalence I

In session

- Go over homework
- Review key algebra points
- Introduce sentence equivalence and strategy

Homework

- OG: Read chapter 7.3 geometry
- QR: Do Chapter 5 geometry
- VR: Do Chapter 5 sentence equivalence practice set 1
- 50 vocab words.

Session 6: Geometry I and Sentence Equivalence II

In session

- Go over homework
- Review key geometry points
- Review sentence equivalence strategy and practice problems together

Homework

- Nova: Assign targeted practice for weak areas of geometry
- VR: Do Chapter 5 sentence equivalence practice set 2, 3
- 50 vocab words

Session 7: Geometry II and Text Completion I

In session

- Go over homework
- Review key geometry points
- Introduce text completion and strategy (student should have memorized 350 words by this point)

Homework

- OG: Read chapter 7.4 data analysis
- QR: Do Chapter 6 data analysis
- VR: Do Chapter 4 text completion practice set 1
- 50 vocab words



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Session 8: Data Analysis I and Text Completion II

In session

- Go over homework
- Review key data analysis points
- Review text completion strategy and practice problems together

Homework

- Nova: Assign targeted practice for weak areas of data analysis
- VR: Do Chapter 4 text completion practice set 2, 3
- 50 vocab words

Session 9: Data Analysis II and Reading Comprehension III

In session

- Go over homework
- Review key data analysis points
- Review reading comprehension strategy again, practice a passage together
- Drill writing topics, time permitting

Homework

- OG: Chapter 4, set 1, 2; Chapter 6, set 1
- 50 vocab words
- MP practice test 2

Session 10: Exam Review 1

In session

- Go over practice sets
- Go over exam
- Discuss test strategy and drill practice problems in weak areas

Homework

- OG: Chapter 4, set 3, 4; Chapter 6, set 2
- 50 vocab words
- MP practice test 3

Session 11: Exam Review 2

In session

- Go over practice sets
- Go over exam
- Discuss test strategy and drill practice problems in weak areas

Homework

- OG: Chapter 4, set 5, 6; Chapter 6, set 3, 4
- MP practice test 4
- All vocab should be done by this point



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Session 12: Exam Review 3

In session

- Go over practice sets
- Go over exam
- Discuss test strategy and drill practice problems in weak areas

Homework

- VR: Chapter 6, set 1
- QR: Chapter 7, set 1
- MP practice test 5 quant only
- OG Test 1, paper

Session 13: Exam Review 4

In session

- Go over practice sets
- Go over exam
- Discuss test strategy and drill practice problems in weak areas

Homework

- VR: Chapter 6, set 2
- QR: Chapter 7, set 2
- MP practice test 5 verbal only
- OG Test 2, paper

Session 14: Exam Review 5

In session

- Go over practice sets
- Go over exam
- Discuss test strategy and drill practice problems in weak areas

Homework

- VR: Chapter 6, set 3
- QR: Chapter 7, set 3
- OG Test 3, online

Session 15: Geometry (II)

In session

- Go over practice sets
- Go over exam
- Discuss test strategy and drill practice problems in weak areas

Homework

- MP Test 6
- OG Test 4, online

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Session 16: Exam Review 7 and Wrap up

In session

- Go over exams
- Discuss test strategy and vocabulary
- Review last minute concepts and questions

Homework

- Relax and demolish the test!