

[You can comment in this doc file. Let me know if you find any mistake or have any suggestions]

GRE Prep (Written based on my experience in 2021)

Score: 332 (V164, Q168, AWA 3.5)

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GRE Q/A Session Recording: <https://youtu.be/gw2zbS1EDYw>

Graduate Record Examination or GRE is a standardized test taken by ETS. The scores are used for admission in postgraduate programs of US universities.

1. **To acquaint myself with the GRE** test pattern and all
 - i) I visited the test-taker's website. www.ets.org/gre
 - ii) I used this suggestion prepared by Nafis Mustakin Niloy Bhai (CSE'14, BUET, GRE 336)
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10akaGd-Z0C3rHpo2OR-cErd42p39UoWVVrUiddOdPQ0/edit?usp=sharing>
 - iii) In December, I attended the **CrackingGRE Season 6 by BUET Career Club**. They had six classes. Three on verbal by Zihad Azad (EEE'12, GRE 336) Bhai and another three on quant by Rashik Intisar Siddiquee (ME'13, GRE 328) bhai. Quant sessions were helpful. There were daily tests and a final mock test.
* In Dec, 2021, I instructed the CrackingGRE Season 7
- [Recommended for starters]**
 - iv) Relevant Facebook Groups: সোণামণিদের গ্রি শিক্ষা and NexTop USA
 - v) For structure and scoring, please check the ETS website.
2. **To improve my non-fiction reading habit**, I subscribed to the www.aldaily.com newsletter. (It's free!) I used to read 1 or 2 articles every day from the emails they sent. [I love aldaily! Not only for GRE, but the sheer amount of interesting shit they send me every week.]
Aldaily requires advanced vocabulary and reading habit. If you are not much familiar with academic reading, start with readtheory.org, Harry potter and then The Daily Star.

3. **To improve vocabulary**, I used www.vocabulary.com . Search for Galvanize Test Prep's GRE word list. You will find **13** lists. Copy them to your account and start practicing 20% of a list each day. [It's a little boring at first, but keep going!]
Here are the lists:
<https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/search?query=galvanize+test+prep%27s+gre+word+list>

Alternative can be Magoosh flashcard app.

4. **For practice**, I solved (in order)
[I had good basics in Math and English, so I directly jumped into practice. If you don't, first work on clearing your basic mathematical concepts from Khan Academy/Magoosh and grammar from grammar books.]
-Manhattan 5lb Book of GRE practice problems
-Kaplan GRE Prep Plus
-ETS Official Guide to the GRE general test 3rd Ed
-ETS Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions
-ETS Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions
-GRE Big Book (Only tried Test 1 and 2, then got tired :v)
-GRE Prep by Magoosh (Only AWA)

** Use the latest editions

[I had the physical books, but pdf is also available from here
<https://sites.google.com/view/nextoptestprepresources/>

Kaplan GRE Prep Plus pdf:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Nn3yOSqKv1xEzXHlk9NCvW8d7epANdxT/view?usp=drivesdk>

5. **For AWA and Verbal Strategies**, I followed the Gregmat Youtube Channel. He has a paid website too, but I did not use it. I compiled a playlist with the videos that seemed useful for me. If you are struggling with verbal, check the strategies. Though he follows old GRE questions, his quant walkthrough videos have some nifty tricks.
***Seems like Gregmat removed all their videos from their youtube channel in 2024.**

ETS has the most authentic questions and accurate explanations, so focus on the official ETS materials.

6. **Mock Tests (Don't skip AWA)**
i. You can give two free mock tests from www.ets.org . Open a fake account with a US address to make them available. They have the most authentic test environment and questions. So, try to give these two tests from here.

My Scores:

ETS Powerprep 1 (V163 Q166)

Powerprep 2 (V160 Q166)

[In my GRE test, I had quant sections very similar to the Powerprep. There were even 1 or 2 questions exactly same]

- ii. There are three paid tests available from ETS. Don't waste your money. ETS Powerprep Plus pdfs and some other 3rd party paid tests are available here. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aNKMamw8CAQVpMR_Rp0gDBXD FfW9vPv6
- iii. I sat for Manhattan, Kaplan, Magoosh and Crunchprep Mocktests. All of them are free. Find them in the GRE Practice Test Tab here: <https://sites.google.com/view/nextoptestprepresources/>

7. For AWA,

[I did not spend much time in AWA, my mistake. Should have practiced more than 1 week :p]

- i. Watched the Gregmat playlist in point 5
- ii. Went through the sample essays in the ETS Official Guide to the GRE general test 3rd Ed and ETS Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions. (Only for Score 4,5 and 6)
- iii. Practiced some in the mock tests
- iv. Skimmed through the AWA sections of these books-
Manhattan 5lb Book of GRE practice problems
Kaplan GRE Prep Plus and
GRE Prep by Magoosh. [I liked the strategies provided for Argument Essays in Magoosh book, but did not rely on their sample essays too much]

8. Before Test Day

- i. Ate and slept properly
- ii. Did not take any practice test
- iii. Made a formula sheet for concepts I had trouble with
- iv. Revisited the mistakes I made during practice

9. On test day (Centre: AAA, Banani)

- i. Bring your passport and printed confirmation letter
- ii. Wear warm clothes, it's very cold inside AAA. I took an extra shirt, but my legs were freezing.
- iii. Take water and something sugary to eat in the break. I took a kitkat and pran peanut bar.
- iv. Although you are supposed to get a break of 10 minutes, because of COVID and all those checking, we only got 5/6 minutes. Eat fast!
- v. Unofficial Quant and Verbal Scores will be shown right after the exam ends. You will get an official report with your AWA scores after 7-10 days. The unofficial score rarely changes in the official one.

- vi. You can send your scores to 4 universities for free after the exam. Remember the university codes or at least the US states.

I think I started my preparation back in December, 2020. There were many breaks because of term finals and everything. Overall, it took about 4 months. Initially, I used to study for about 1 hour everyday. Two months before the test date, I started taking serious prep and used to spend 3-4 hours everyday.

I will keep updating this doc in the link below. Best of Luck!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WBX4TW_8-jslmpnFDPKkkBmnT7jLDkcU/edit?usp=drivesdk&oid=113013513391254604842&rtpof=true&sd=true