# GRE COURSE SECTIONS

1. Introduction
2. Quantitative Reasoning
   1. Quantitative Questions Formats
   2. Arithmetic & Algebra
   3. Geometry
   4. Data Interpretation
3. Verbal Reasoning
   1. Verbal Questions Formats (Sentence Equivalence & Text Completion)
   2. Reading Comprehension
4. Analytical Writing
   1. General Writing
   2. Argument Writing
   3. Issue Writing
5. General Writing
   1. Writing Ideas
   2. Cohesion & Coherence
   3. Writing Sentence Variety
   4. Grammar
   5. Punctuation
   6. The magic of 3

# GRE VERBAL REASONING QUESTION TYPES

- **Sentence Equivalence**

- **Text Completion**

- **Reading Comprehension**

# SENTENCE EQUIVALENCE

**Example: Select *two* answer choices that (1) complete the sentence in a way that makes sense and (2) produce sentences that are similar in meaning.**

- Given her usual need for attention, we were _____ when Carole celebrated her birthday quietly and alone.

| A | pertubed |
| B | optimistic |
| C | unconcerned |
| D | Taken aback |
| E | enlightened |
| F | dumbfounded |

Answer: D & F

# TEXT COMPLETION

**Example:** Dramatic literature often _____ the history of a culture in that it takes as its subject matter the important events that have shaped and guided the culture.

Blank (i)

| | |
|---|---|
| Ⓐ | confounds |
| Ⓑ | repudiates |
| Ⓒ | recapitulates |
| Ⓓ | anticipates |
| Ⓔ | polarizes |

Blank (ii)

| |
|---|
| |
| |
| |

Blank (iii)

| |
|---|
| |
| |
| |

Answer:

# TEXT COMPLETION

**Example: Complete the text by picking the best entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.**

- The very first Russian *Matryoshka,* or nesting doll, was created in a workshop in Moscow in 1890. Russia was going through a period of artistic (i) _____. Artisans were searching for a new, (ii) _____ Russian craft.

|  | Blank (i) |
| --- | --- |
| Ⓐ | doldrums |
| Ⓑ | revitalization |
| Ⓒ | prudence |

|  | Blank (ii) |
| --- | --- |
| Ⓓ | distictively |
| Ⓔ | politically |
| Ⓕ | comprehensively |

|  | Blank (iii) |
| --- | --- |
| Ⓖ | |
| Ⓗ | |
| Ⓘ | |

Answer: B & D

# TEXT COMPLETION

**Example:** It is refreshing to read a book about our planet by an author who does not allow facts to be (i)_____ by politics: well aware of the political disputes about the effects of human activities on climate and biodiversity, this author does not permit them to (ii)_____ his comprehensive description of what we know about our biosphere. He emphasizes the enormous gaps in our knowledge, the sparseness of our observations, and the (iii)_____, calling attention to the many aspects of planetary evolution that must be better understood before we can accurately diagnose the condition of our planet.

| Blank (i) | | Blank (ii) | | Blank (iii) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ⓐ | overshadowed | Ⓓ | enhance | Ⓖ | plausibility of our hypotheses |
| Ⓑ | invalidated | Ⓔ | obscure | Ⓗ | certainty of our entitlement |
| Ⓒ | illuminated | Ⓕ | underscore | Ⓘ | superficiality of our theories |

Answer: A & E & I

# READING COMPREHENSION

**Read the passage and choose the best answer for each question.**

Most people know that Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner." Many of those people know it was written during the Battle for Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. However, this is where popular knowledge typically ends.

One unusual fact about the American national anthem's history is that the tune to which it is set was not an original composition for the song. In fact, the music originated as a festive British folk song. Another is that while the song was composed and became popular in the first part of the nineteenth century, it was not treated as a song representing the United States for some time thereafter. At the first "modern" Olympics in 1896, it was played for American athletes, but it was not adopted as the country's official song until 1931.

- Which of the following best states the author's main point?

(A) The national anthem evolved from a song that celebrated war.

(B) "the Star-Spangled banner" was first sung at the Olympics.

(C) There are facts about our national anthem that we may not know.

(D) Our national anthem is really an old British folk song.

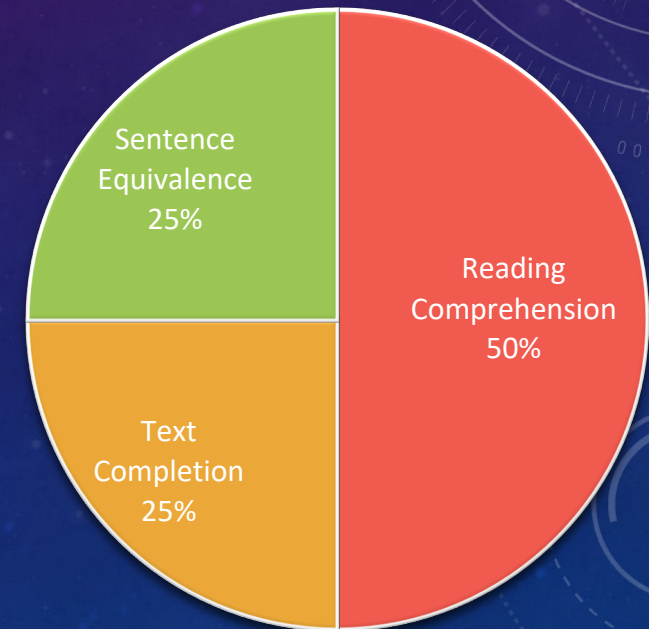(E) Many popular songs have along and interesting history.

Answer: C

# VERBAL REASONING

| Time | Question Type | Answer Format |
|---|---|---|
| You will have 30-35 minutes to complete the entire section, which will include a mixture of different question types | Reading Comprehension | • Multiple choice: Select one answer choice<br>• Multiple Choice: Select one or more answer choices<br>• Highlight a selection of text |
| | Text Completion | • Multiple choice: Fill in one or more blanks to complete the text |
| | Sentence Equivalence | • Multiple choice: Select the two options that produce two sentences with the most similar meanings |

## Verbal Reasoning

- Sentence Equivalence 25%
- Reading Comprehension 50%
- Text Completion 25%

# QUESTION FORMAT SECTIONS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Verbal<br>40 questions<br>(3 min)<br>Ave = 1.5<br>(min) | Sentence Equivalence | | 20<br>t0<br>26 |
| | Text Completion | 1 Blank | |
| | | 2 Blank | |
| | | 3 Blank | |
| | Reading Comprehension | Multiple choice (select one answer choice from 5 choices) | 10<br>to<br>14 |
| | | Multiple choice (select one or more answer choices from 3 choices) | |
| | | Select-in-passage | |
| Quantitative<br>40 questions<br>35 (min)<br>Ave = 1.75<br>(min) | Multi Choice Questions (1 Answer) | | 19 |
| | Multi Choice Questions (More Than 1 Answer) | | |
| | Numerical Data Entry | | |
| | Quantitative Comparison | | 15 |
| | Data Interpretation | | 6 |

# SKILLS TESTED IN VERBAL REASONING

- **About half the questions will test your vocab skills, and the other half will test your reading comprehension skills.**

# TOP 4 VERBAL REASONING TIPS

**1: Memorize High-Frequency Vocab Words**

**2: Practice Reading Scholarly Texts**

**3: Use The Process of Elimination**

**4: watch TOEFL Reading clip in www.shayesteh.ir**

# SENTENCE EQUIVALENCE FORMAT

**Example: Select *two* answer choices that (1) complete the sentence in a way that makes sense and (2) produce sentences that are similar in meaning.**

- Given her usual need for attention, we were _____ when Carole celebrated her birthday quietly and alone.

A    pertubed

B    optimistic

C    unconcerned

D    Taken aback

E    enlightened

F    dumbfounded

Answer: D & F

# SENTENCE EQUIVALENCE QUESTION STRUCTURE

- Consists of:
    - a single sentence
    - one blank
    - six answer choices
- Requires you to select **two** of the answer choices; no credit for partially correct answers.

# SENTENCE EQUIVALENCE STRATEGY FOR ANSWERING

- you'll be presented with a sentence with a blanked-out word, and have to choose **two words from a list of six** that could **both complete the sentence**—and give it a similar meaning.

- You can expect to see **about 4 sentence equivalence questions** on each 20-question subsection of the Verbal section. That adds up to about eight total.

- **Identify synonym pairs**

- **Eliminate "outlier" words**

- Be aware of **signal words** like transitions and conjunctions, which can give you clues as to where the sentence is going.

- Learn vocab, both by **memorizing words** and encountering them **in context**

- **watch TOEFL Reading clip in [www.shayesteh.ir](www.shayesteh.ir)**

# TEXT COMPLETION FORMAT

**Example:** It is refreshing to read a book about our planet by an author who does not allow facts to be (i)_____ by politics: well aware of the political disputes about the effects of human activities on climate and biodiversity, this author does not permit them to (ii)_____ his comprehensive description of what we know about our biosphere. He emphasizes the enormous gaps in our knowledge, the sparseness of our observations, and the (iii)_____, calling attention to the many aspects of planetary evolution that must be better understood before we can accurately diagnose the condition of our planet.

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| Ⓒ illuminated | Ⓕ underscore | Ⓘ superficiality of our theories |

Answer: A & E & I

# TEXT COMPLETION QUESTION STRUCTURE

- Passage composed of one to five sentences

- One to three blanks

- Three answer choices per blank (five answer choices in the case of a single blank)

- The answer choices for different blanks function independently; i.e., selecting one answer choice for one blank does not affect what answer choices you can select for another blank

- Single correct answer, consisting of one choice for each blank; no credit for partially correct answers

# READING COMPREHENSION FORMAT

**Read the passage and choose the best answer for each question.**

Most people know that Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner." Many of those people know it was written during the Battle for Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. However, this is where popular knowledge typically ends.

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- Which of the following best states the author's main point?

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(B) "the Star-Spangled banner" was first sung at the Olympics.

(C) There are facts about our national anthem that we may not know.

(D) Our national anthem is really an old British folk song.

(E) Many popular songs have along and interesting history.

Answer: C

# READING COMPREHENSION REQUIRED RANGE OF ABILITIES

- understanding the meaning of individual words and sentences

- understanding the meaning of paragraphs and larger bodies of text

- distinguishing between minor and major points

- summarizing a passage

- drawing conclusions from the information provided

- reasoning from incomplete data to infer missing information

- understanding the structure of a text in terms of how the parts relate to one another

- identifying the author's assumptions and perspective

- analyzing a text and reaching conclusions about it

- identifying strengths and weaknesses of a position

- developing and considering alternative explanations

# READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- The questions on this part of the Verbal Reasoning section are **based on passages anywhere from one to several paragraphs in length.** These passages come from any number of disciplines: the sciences, business, the arts, or the humanities. Although they aren't written in academic prose, you have to be ready to handle the elevated language of formal writing.

- The good news, however, is that you don't need to know anything about the passage's subject matter because the questions focus not on content but on structure. You have to demonstrate a good understanding of how paragraphs are constructed, how to extract meaning from what you are reading, how to paraphrase the key ideas of a passage, how to draw conclusions from the passage, and how to make inferences about things that aren't directly spelled out in the passage

# IDENTIFY SIGNAL WORDS AND PHRASES

- **Use Signal Words**

Certain words, especially transitions, can function as "signal words" in sentence equivalence questions. **They'll tell you something about what purpose different parts of the sentence serve.** This can help you infer what can best go in the blank. For example, if you see a word like "although," you know that you're about to see a caveat or clarification. Words like "furthermore" and "indeed" mean that part of the sentence will offer further support or emphasis. "Instead" and "but" mean you're about to see a counterpoint or different perspective. If you can notice what transitions (and conjunctions like "and" and "but") signal in sentences, you'll have a much easier time telling what words could belong in the blank for sentence completion.

There are certain words/phrases in the short passages for text completion that function as "signal words." Signal words, commonly transitions, **indicate the overall structure of ideas in a sentence** and thus can help point you towards the correct answer. For example, "however" or "although" means you are about to hear a caveat or mitigation, while "furthermore" and "indeed" mean you're about to see further support or elaboration on a point. This information is very helpful in filling in the blanks.

# SIGNAL WORDS

- **Signal words are usually transitions** and indicate whether some previously presented piece of information is going to be supported, contradicted, clarified, and so on.

- Here are a few common groups of GRE signal words, what they signal, and a brief, simple example sentence:

- **However/although** – offering a caveat or mitigation

  - Although the author was social by nature, he did not particularly enjoy book tours.

- **Indeed/furthermore** – offering further support or emphasis

  - The author was social by nature; indeed, he loved meeting hundreds of new people on book tours.

- **By contrast/rather/instead** – offering a different perspective, counterpoint, or purpose

  - The author was not social by nature; rather, he was forced into sociability by the necessities of book tours and signing.

# CONSIDER WORD POSITIVITY/NEGATIVITY

- Context will often indicate if a **generally positive or negative word belongs in a particular blank.** If you can figure out if a positive or negative word belongs in a given blank, you'll be able to narrow down possible answers as you can eliminate incompatible choices. So if you know you need a positive word, and your answer choices are "dutifully" "deviously," and "dedicatedly," you can strike "deviously" out.

# USE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

- If you need to guess, **always use process of elimination first.** You can combine this with the strategies above (like word positivity/negativity and considering what you would put in the blank) to help you eliminate wrong answers. Even if you can't confidently pinpoint the correct answer, the more wrong choices you can strike out, the better your chances of guessing correctly!

# TIPS

- **Look for prefixes, suffixes, and** [vocab games](#) to figure out potential meanings of unfamiliar vocab.

- **Use the process of elimination** on Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence questions to strike out vocab words you know for sure don't work and to get rid of words whose connotations don't match the overall tone of the sentence or passage.

- **Try to identify the overall tone** of a Reading Comprehension passage.

- **Only rely on the information written in the passage** — avoid making any assumptions that aren't explicitly stated in the text itself.

- **Pace yourself** at around one and a half minutes per question.

# REMEMBER ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH THE SAME POINT AMOUNT!

- Remember that all questions—whether they have one, two, or three blanks—are **worth the same amount of points.** So in terms of test strategy, it's not worth it to spend tons of time agonizing over a three-blank question when you still have simpler questions left.

# ANKI AND MEMORISE VOCABULARY

- drill GRE flash cards with the waterfall method.

- Customise word lists

- Magoosh

- Barron's

- Kaplan

- Vibrant

# GRE VOCAB GAMES

Some of our top picks for GRE vocab games are:

- **GRE Vocab Challenge:** an iPhone app created by The Princeton Review and offering four unique word-based challenges.

- **Quizlet:** a free gaming website containing numerous GRE flashcards and a simplistic matching game.

- **Cram:** a free study website offering a colorful and interactive matching vocab game.

- **Memrise:** a free learning website with hundreds of vocab flashcards and elaborate timed practice sessions.

# GRE ROOT WORDS: THE STRATEGY

- https://www.learnthat.org/pages/view/roots.html
- https://www.etymonline.com/word/manna

# GRE VERBAL QUIZZES

- **GRE Verbal Practice :** https://freegretest.net/Gre-Verbal-Practice

- **Major Tests :** https://www.majortests.com/gre/

- **GRE Guide :** http://www.greguide.com/

- **Quiz Tree :** https://gre.magoosh.com/builder/vocabulary/app#/sections

- **Tyrannosaurus Prep :** http://gre.tyrannosaurusprep.com/

- **Many Things :** http://www.manythings.org/fq/m/2991.html

- **Quizlet :** https://quizlet.com/subject/gre-vocab/

# OTHER SOURCES

- RC 260, RC 300, RC 320 : https://shayesteh.ir/Book/1056

- TC 1400 : https://shayesteh.ir/Book/1048

- TC 1450 : https://shayesteh.ir/Book/1049

- TC 1800 : https://shayesteh.ir/Book/1050

- 1000 Plus (Math 1451) : https://shayesteh.ir/Book/1055

- GRE Chinese 2500 Anki word list : https://shayesteh.ir/Book/1054

- ….

# THANK YOU

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