GRE

READING COMPREHENSION
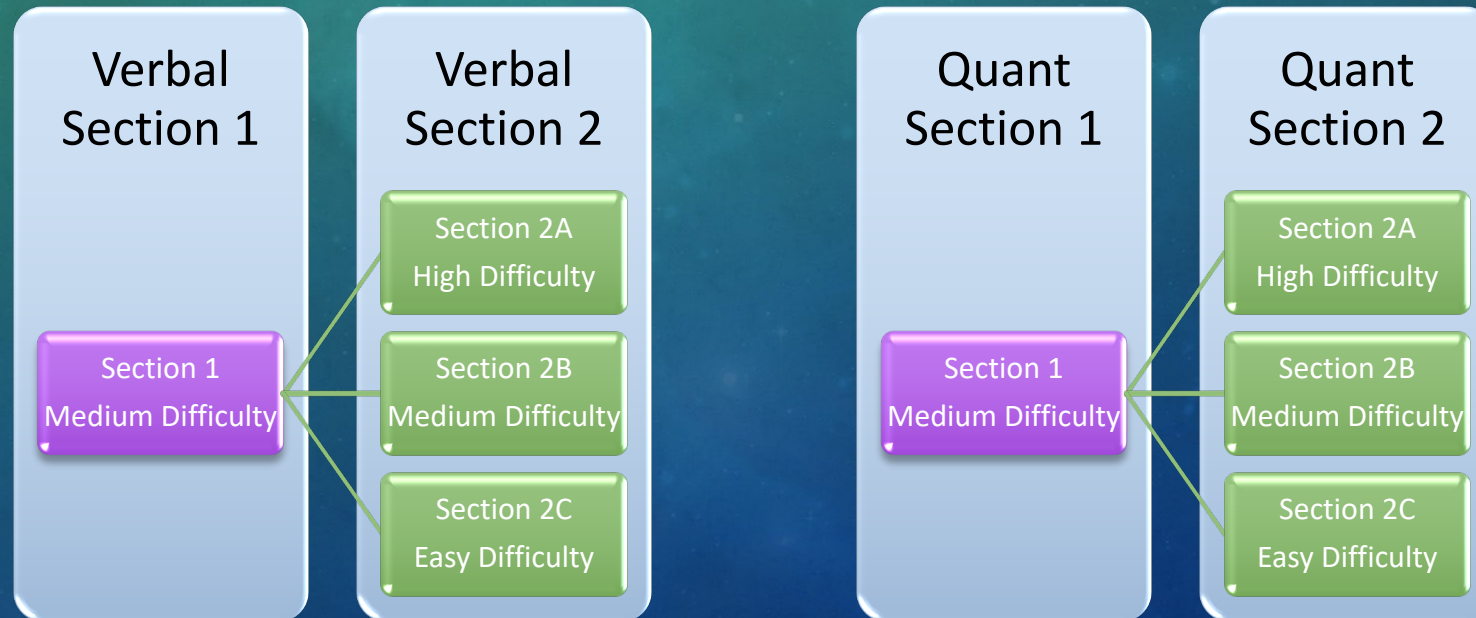
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GRE COURSE SECTIONS

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

HOW DOES THE COMPUTER ADAPTIVENESS OF THE GRE WORK?

- The Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures are section-level adaptive. The computer selects the second section of a measure based on your performance on the first section (easy, medium, or hard section).

Verbal Section 1	Verbal Section 2	Quant Section 1	Quant Section 2
Section 1 Medium Difficulty	Section 2A High Difficulty, Section 2B Medium Difficulty, Section 2C Easy Difficulty	Section 1 Medium Difficulty	Section 2A High Difficulty, Section 2B Medium Difficulty, Section 2C Easy Difficulty

READING COMPREHENSION

- roughly 10-11 Reading Comprehension questions on each Verbal section

- approximately 50% of your GRE Verbal score.

- tests your ability to read, comprehend, and analyze dense, graduate-level reading passages.

- 1-6 questions per passage

- Longer Passage = More Questions

- 5-7 Passage in 2 verbal sections

READING COMPREHENSION ABILITY

GRE Reading Comprehension questions test your ability to do the following

- Find relevant evidence and information in the passage

- Distinguish the passage's main and minor points

- Identify the author's tone, beliefs, opinions, and/or assumptions

- Accurately infer missing information

- Draw logical and relevant conclusions based on the evidence provided

PASSAGE TOPICS

Passage topics will span three general areas:

- Humanities

- Social sciences (including business)

- Natural sciences

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTION FORMAT

three distinct types of GRE Reading Comprehension questions:

- **Multiple choice (select one answer choice from 5 choices)**

- **Multiple choice (select one or more answer choices from 3 choices)**

- **Select-in-passage**

- https://www.ets.org/gre/institutions/about/general/verbal_reasoning_sample_questions/

DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR ATTACKING PASSAGES

- There are two main strategies for approaching GRE Verbal passages:

- **Skim the passage first:** For this strategy, you'll quickly skim the passage before reading the questions. Once you've read a question, you'll look back in the passage for any details/facts that you need to answer that question.

- **Read the questions first:** For this method, you'll read the question first, then read through the passage looking for the evidence that will tell you the right answer.

- **Don't Do This: Read Passage Closely First**

HOW READ PASSAGE IN GRE

- 1 Question Passage ⸱⸱→ Read passage for Answers

- 2 Plus Question passage ⸱⸱→ Skim (fewer words, more meanings)
    - Read for big picture
    - Ignore specific details on initial reading
    - Focus on M-A-P-S
        - M: Main Idea
        - A: Attitude/Tone
        - P: Purpose
        - S: Structure
    - Shortcut: try reading only the first and the last sentence (also transitions sentences) of each paragraph on multi-pragraph passages. (ignore examples)
    - Summarize/ interpret pragraphs
    - Don't waste time with words you don't know the meaning

READ FOR BIG PICTURE

- Reviving the practice of using elements of popular music in classical composition, an approach that had been in hibernation in the United States during the 1960s, composer Philip Glass (born 1937) embraced the ethos of popular music in his compositions. Glass based two symphonies on music by rock musicians David Bowie and Brian Eno, but the symphonies' sound is distinctively his. Popular elements do not appear out of place in Glass's classical music, which from its early days has shared certain harmonies and rhythms with rock music. Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music. His music is not a version of popular music packaged to attract classical listeners; it is high art for listeners steeped in rock rather than the classics.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q1Oi1uFEJc

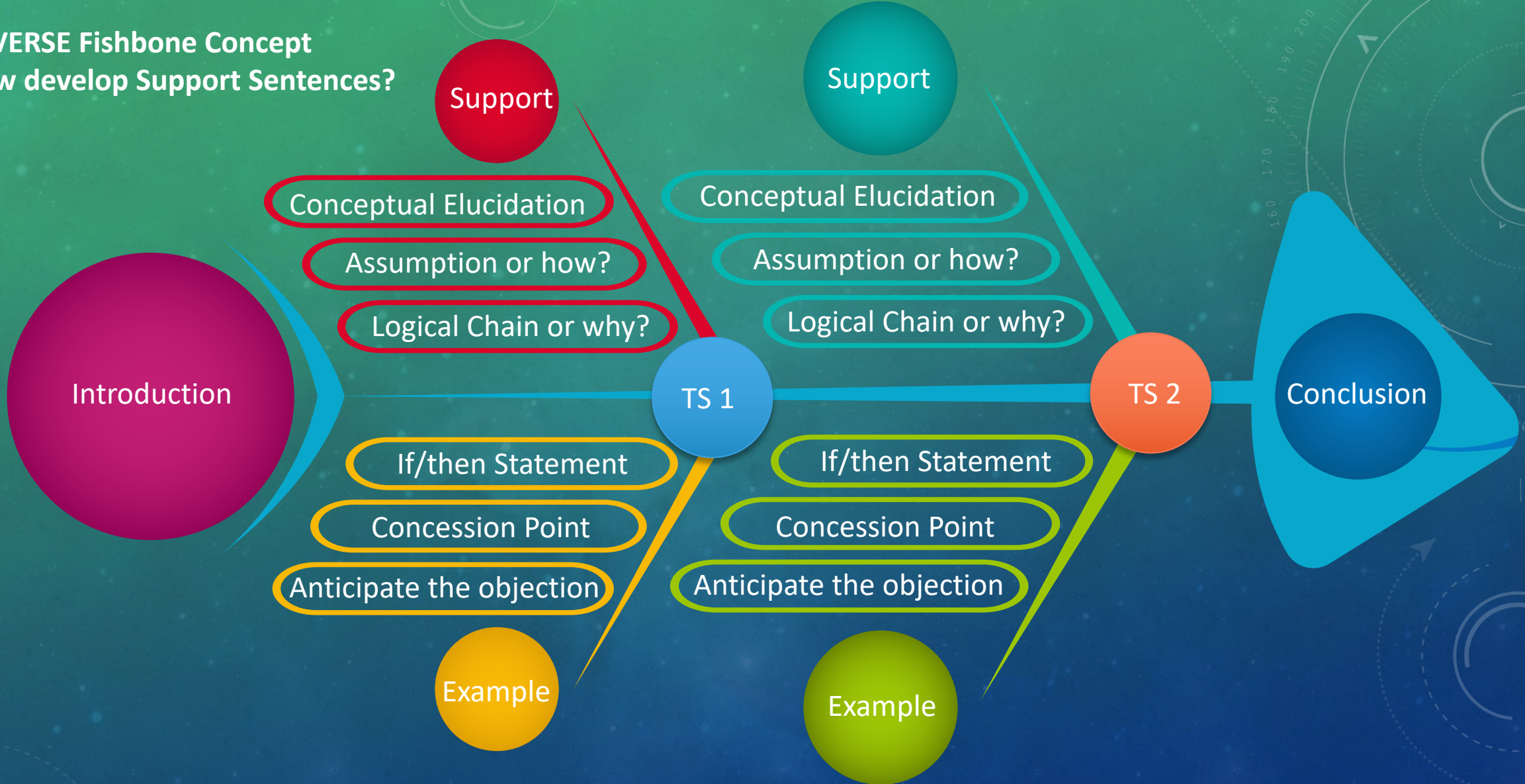- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5_R-DRsAVc

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REVERSE Fishbone Concept
How develop Support Sentences?

Support

Support

Conceptual Elucidation

Conceptual Elucidation

Assumption or how?

Assumption or how?

Logical Chain or why?

Logical Chain or why?

Introduction

TS 1

TS 2

Conclusion

If/then Statement

If/then Statement

Concession Point

Concession Point

Anticipate the objection

Anticipate the objection

Example

Example

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https://www.greedge.com/verbal/gre-reading-comprehension-tips-and-techniques

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GRE READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

- Read questions first in one question from passage

- Read passage first in multipe question from passage

- Be aware of traps

  - Opposite choices

  - Use language directly or closely to the passage

  - Unrelated to the passage/assaumption without support/opposite choices - Beyond the scope of the passage

  - Extremely positive or negative phrases (like all of them, non of them, …)

  - Too extreme - Too broad/Too specific

  - Assumes too much

  - True…but doesn't answer the question

- Make prediction before looking at answer choices

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTION TYPES

1. "What is being said" Questions (Main Idea & Purpose & Big Picture)

2. Author's tone Questions (Perspective)

3. "Find the fact" Questions (Factual Detail & Reading closely)

4. Inferential Questions

5. Contextual definition Questions (Vocabulary-in-Context)

6. Extrapolating Questions

7. Structure & Organization Questions

8. "Except" Questions (Analyzing word choice)

9. "Highlight the Sentence" Question (Select-in-passage)

10. Paragraph Arguments (Critical Reasoning): The Six Most Common Question

1. "WHAT IS BEING SAID" QUESTIONS (MAIN IDEA & PURPOSE & BIG PICTURE)

- These questions ask the test-taker about the main idea, or the primary argument, of the passage. Ask yourself: what is the argument of this passage, if I were to sum it up in one sentence?

- vague language in answer choices (ex: generally accepted position could refer to ...)

- Example: *The passage is primarily concerned with...?*

  - The primary purpose of this passage is to:

  - The primary focus of this passage is on which of the following?

  - The main concern of the passage is to:

  - In the passage, the author is primarily interested in:

  - The passage is chiefly concerned with:

  - The passage contains information that would answer which of the following questions

  - Which of the following most accurately states the main idea of the passage?

  - Which of the following best states the central idea of the passage?

  - The gist of the passage is:

  - Which of the following is the principal topic of the passage?

  - Summarize the passage in one line.

https://magoosh.com/gre/main-idea-questions-in-gre-reading-comprehension/

2. AUTHOR'S TONE QUESTIONS (PERSPECTIVE)

- These are the types of questions asking the test-taker to address the author's perspective, or tone, regarding the issue in question. These can be tricky, because they are not asking what, but rather, how. Ask yourself: what attitude does the author seem to have toward the topic?

- Example: *The passage regards the idea of modern artistic activity with…?*

  - The author regards the idea …

  - According to the passage, which one of the must be true?

  - According to the passage, which one of the must be false?

  - According to the passage, which one of the following would the author agree with?

  - According to the passage, which one of the following would the author disagree with?

3. "FIND THE FACT" QUESTIONS (FACTUAL DETAIL & READING CLOSELY)

- These questions often masquerade as requiring reader's inferences, when they are actually just asking the test-taker to locate a "truth" employed by the author in order to make a point. Look to the passage, it explicitly contains the answer you're looking for.

- Example: *The passage suggests which of the following about the women's historians mentioned in the third paragraph?*

  - Which of the following statements would most logically concluded the last paragraph of the passage?

  - The author refers to a hungry lizard (line 31) primarily in order to

  - It can be inferred from the passage that, when speaking of the "overutilization" (line 17) of the social sciences, the author is referring to the

4. INFERENTIAL QUESTIONS

- These questions require the test-taker to make an inferential leap, based on observations derived from a synthesized comprehension of passage content. To answer them correctly, you'll need to use content from the passage to extrapolate about content beyond the passage's scope.

- Example: *It can be inferred from the passage that the author would agree with which of the following statements?*

  - The author suggests …

  - Which of the following is NOT true …

  - The author implies that …

  - It can be inferred from the passage:

  - It cannot be inferred from the passage:

  - The passage uses _____ to imply that _____"

  - What can be inferred when the author states_____?"

  - The sentence, '_____', implies that

https://magoosh.com/gre/inferences-questions-in-gre-reading-comprehension/

5. CONTEXTUAL DEFINITION QUESTIONS (VOCABULARY-IN-CONTEXT)

- These questions are pretty straightforward, in that they test one's ability to use context clues to work out the meaning of a word. Ask yourself: what other word could you substitute in and retain the sentence's meaning?

- Example: *The word "address" appears underlined and in boldface twice in the first sentence of the passage. In the context of the passage as a whole, "address" is closest in meaning to…?*

  - Identify the meaning of the word, "............", in the given context.

  - In the passage, the phrase _____ refers to

  - In the sentence, _____, what is the meaning of '_____'?

https://magoosh.com/gre/gre-verbal-practice-questions/

6. EXTRAPOLATING QUESTIONS

- These are often regarded as the trickiest type of question on the reading comprehension section of the GRE. For test-takers to score well here, they must be able to isolate the relationship between two passage components and match it with a similar outside circumstance.

- Example: *Which of the following describes a situation that is analogous to the situation described in the fourth paragraph?*

7. STRUCTURE & ORGANIZATION QUESTIONS

- Structure questions address the way in which the passage argument is built. They ask the test-taker to express something about the organization of the information provided.

- Example: *Which of the following best describes the structure of the passage?*

  - Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?

  - The structure of the passage can be outlined as:

  - Which of the following best describes the organization of the first paragraph of the passage?

  - One function of the third paragraph is to:

8. "EXCEPT" QUESTIONS (ANALYZING WORD CHOICE)

- These questions ask the test-taker to spot the statement not expressed in the passage from a selection of statements. Remember, this is not a simple true or false situation—"except" questions aren't asking you whether a statement is correct, they're asking you if the information or assertion was contained in the passage itself.

- Example: *The passage states that Johnson composed all of the following EXCEPT...?*

  - The passage states that:

  - "According to the passage, _____?

  - According to the author, what is _____?

  - Which, out of the following, is true/false?

9. "HIGHLIGHT THE SENTENCE" QUESTION (SELECT-IN-PASSAGE)

- In GRE Reading Comprehension, "highlight the sentence" questions ask you to select the sentence in a paragraph that serves a specific purpose. For example, you may be asked to find the sentence that analyzes and critiques an approach to the scientific method, or distinguishes two different Baroque styles of writing.

- Example: Select the sentence that introduces an important fact about the minimum duration of a type of nonverbal language.

  - **Select the sentence in the passage** in which the author provides examples that reinforce an argument against a critical response cited earlier in the passage

  - **Select the sentence in the passage** that suggests that great comic art can be characterized as optimistic about the ability of humans to act rationally.

  - **Select the sentence in the passage** that supports the idea that prospecting for natural gas and oil can be costly.

  - **Select the sentence in the passage** that indicates certain causes of the alteration of organisms to their habitat.

https://magoosh.com/gre/gre-reading-comprehension/

10. PARAGRAPH ARGUMENTS (CRITICAL REASONING): THE SIX MOST COMMON QUESTION

1. Weaken/Strengthen

2. Evaluate Argument

3. Paradox

4. Assumption (Application)

5. Bold-Faced

6. Fill-in-the-Blank

https://magoosh.com/gre/gre-reading-comprehension/

10.1 "WHAT IF THIS WERE TRUE?" QUESTIONS (WEAKEN/STRENGTHEN & APPLICATION)

- These questions require the test-taker to assess the way a new piece of information strengthens or weakens the argument put forward in the passage. The answer choices for these questions are comprised of new facts which, if true, could help or hurt the passage argument. Your job is to choose the one that would do the most serious damage, or provide the best support, to the argument.

- Example: *Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?*

THE "FIRST WORD" CHEAT MODE

Mostly Works for Attitude, purpose, big picture, …

The primary purpose of this passage is to

- A compare …

- B describe …

- C question …

- D explore …

- E extoll …

THE "FIRST WORD" CHEAT MODE

The author is primarily concerned with

- **A** advocating a more modest view, and less widespread utilization, of the social sciences

- **B** analyzing the mechanisms for translating discoveries into applications in the social sciences

- **C** dissolving the air of paradox inherent in human beings studying themselves

- **D** explaining a peculiar dilemma that the social sciences are in

- **E** maintaining a strict separation between pure and applied social science

THE "FIRST WORD" CHEAT MODE

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- **A** initiate a debate over two approaches to analyzing a field of study

- **B** describe how one field of knowledge can be applied to another field

- **C** point out the contradictions between two distinct theories

- **D** define and elaborate on an accepted scientific principle

- **E** discuss the application of a new theory within a new setting

DO NOT THINK THE CORRECT OPTION WOULD COME FROM OUTSIDE THE PASSAGE

Any of the options that is out of scope is never the correct answer. The right answer is always based on the information given within the passage. Do not focus on any of the options that distract you from the passage.

YOU DON'T NEED TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING

Well, different people have different reading styles and most of them don't get everything they read. Reading speed and comprehension levels may vary but as long as you understand what you read, you are fine. The point is to get the central idea, the core concept; the specifics can be given a miss.

READING MORE

Only one thing can make you better at reading: reading more!

- Hope the given tips will enhance your reading pace, understanding and provide you with valuable insights for your reference.

- New York times science section

- National geographic

- Foreign affairs magazine

MOVE ON IF YOU GET STUCK

- Lastly, **if you feel stuck or lost, move on.** Mark the question to return to later. All correct answers are worth the same amount of points. Therefore, it doesn't make sense to waste time agonizing over a question when there are still other, easier questions to tackle. Plus, chances are you will find things much clearer once you return to the question!

THINK OF YOUR OWN ANSWER FIRST

- If you find yourself getting confused by the answer choices, **think of what you think the answer should be before you look at the answer choices.** This should help you get some clarity on which answer choice is the best. At the very least, it should help you eliminate some obviously wrong answers if they are totally different from or contradict yours.

FEELING INTIMIDATED BY GRE PASSAGES

- If you find yourself doing well during low-pressure prep sessions but getting flustered by the long, complex passages during timed practice tests, **work on staying calm.** If all the practice test passages seem crazy-difficult , it's possible that the material you've been reading isn't difficult enough, or that you aren't reading a big enough variety of sources. But it's also possible that you're just suffering from some test anxiety. In this case, maintain positive self-talk, take deep breaths, and know that you can do it.

GRE VERBAL QUIZZES

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

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

- **Main Tests : https://www.maintests.com/**

- **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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