

# GRE

## ISSUE WRITING

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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



# ANALYZE AN ISSUE

| Task             | Time Allowed | Answer Format   |
|------------------|--------------|---|
| Analyze An Issue | 30 Minutes   | Short essay on an issue of general interest that clearly and carefully addresses the prompt |

- [https://www.ets.org/gre/institutions/about/general/scoring/issue\\_scoring\\_guide](https://www.ets.org/gre/institutions/about/general/scoring/issue_scoring_guide)
- [https://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/prepare/analytical\\_writing/issue/sample\\_responses](https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/analytical_writing/issue/sample_responses)

a cogent, well-articulated analysis



6

5



generally thoughtful, well-developed

a competent analysis



4

3



demonstrates some competence

demonstrates serious weaknesses



2

1



fundamental deficiencies

# THE SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS ISSUE

Following is a list of the specific directions you will be asked to follow as you analyze an issue in your response.

- [https://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/prepare/analytical\\_writing/issue/pool](https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/analytical_writing/issue/pool)



# ISSUE TASK 1: AGREE/DISAGREE WITH A STATEMENT

- Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.
- What they're really asking: Explain your reasons for **agreeing or disagreeing** with a **given statement**.
- Number of topics in the GRE issue pool on this task: 54/152 (**35.5%**)
- 1, 7, 9, 15, 16, 19, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 36, 39, 40, 41, 43, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 60, 61, 62, 63, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 78, 85, 87, 95, 97, 100, 101, 102, 106, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 117, 130, 134, 136, 137, 139, 140

# ISSUE TASK 2: AGREE/DISAGREE WITH A RECOMMENDATION

- Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.
- What they're really asking: Explain your reasons for **agreeing or disagreeing** with a **recommendation for a course of action**.
- Number of topics in the GRE issue pool on this task: 24/152 (**15.8%**)
- 17, 21, 23, 34, 35, 37, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 57, 58, 59, 75, 76, 77, 84, 86, 122



# ISSUE TASK 3: AGREE/DISAGREE WITH A CLAIM

- Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.
- What they're really asking: Explain your reasons for **agreeing or disagreeing** with a **claim**.
- Number of topics in the GRE issue pool on this task: 25/152 (**16.4%**)
- 2,3, 11, 13, 27, 28, 30, 79, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 98, 104, 105, 116, 119, 120, 129, 138, 141, 144, 145

# ISSUE TASK 4: WHICH VIEW ALIGNS WITH YOUR OWN?

- Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.
- What they're really asking: Explain **which two views you most agree with** and back it up with reasoning.
- Number of topics in the GRE issue pool on this task: 18/152 (**11.8%**)
- 5, 14, 18, 64, 65, 66, 80, 103, 115, 118, 121, 123, 125, 131, 133, 143, 147



# ISSUE TASK 5: AGREE/DISAGREE WITH A CLAIM AND ITS BASIS

- Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.
- What they're really asking: Analyze an issue by explaining your reasons for **agreeing or disagreeing with not just the claim, but the reason on which the claim is based.**
- Number of topics in the GRE issue pool on this task: 19/152 (**12.5%**)
- 4, 6, 20, 38, 42, 47, 67, 81, 82, 83, 99, 107, 114, 124, 126, 127, 132, 135, 146, 148, 149

# ISSUE TASK 6: EXPLAIN YOUR VIEWS ON A POLICY

- Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.
- What they're really asking: Explain your **stance on a policy**.
- Number of topics in the GRE issue pool on this task: 12/152 (7.9%)
- 8, 10, 12, 29, 33, 69, 92, 94, 96, 128, 142



# ISSUE (KAPLAN)

- The GRE Issue essay is similar in structure to the classic 5-paragraph short essay. You may opt for 4-6 paragraphs, but the template given here plans for 5.

# TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 1: THE INTRODUCTION

## 1

- Although the reader will have access to the prompt you received, your essay should stand on its own, making clear the assignment you were given and your response to it. Start your essay by clearly restating the issue you were assigned, followed by a sentence stating your position on that assignment—that is, your thesis. Next, introduce the specific reasons or examples you plan to provide in each of the next three paragraphs, one sentence for each of the forthcoming paragraphs.
- Consider the specific task you were assigned, and make sure the language you use in your initial paragraph demonstrates that you understand the special instructions in your assignment. For instance, if your task tells you to “be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position,” you will be clear to show at least two strong reasons or examples the side opposing yours can use—and then explain why those reasons or examples are incorrect.
- Structure your first paragraph in this way, and you’re well on your way to signaling to the reader that you understand the assignment, are organized, have considered the complexities of the issue, and can use standard written English—all components of a strong score on the essay.



# TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 2: BODY PARAGRAPH 1

2

- Use your strongest, most specific reason first. You should support that reason with examples and/or logical analysis. Your examples can be from history, science, politics, business, entertainment, pop culture, current events or even from your personal experience. Make sure you explain clearly why your examples support your reason, and why this reason supports your main thesis. You have three tasks in your body paragraphs:
  - -Bring up your example.
  - -Explain how it relates to the topic.
  - -Show that it fully supports your thesis.
- You should be spending the majority of your body paragraph doing the third step: showing how it fully supports your thesis.

# TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 3: BODY PARAGRAPH 2

3

- Use a transition phrase and launch into your second reason and supporting example. Repeat the same process as the first paragraph.



# TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 4: FINAL BODY PARAGRAPH 4

- Use a transition phrase again in the first topic sentence. Describe the third example, and explain how it supports your thesis. Make sure it is very clear for the reader **how** each example relates to the topic. This paragraph is a good time to bring up a strong counterargument to your thesis, and then explain clearly why the counterargument is incorrect. You are showing the reader that, not only is your position correct, but the opposite position is also wrong.

# TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 5: CONCLUSION

5

- Your conclusion should be a brief mirror of your introductory paragraph. Remind the reader what topic you were asked to consider and what your position is. Briefly summarize the points you made.
- If you find you are running out of time, it is better to include your final body paragraph and eliminate the conclusion paragraph, because the conclusion doesn't add anything new to your analysis. An otherwise well-developed Issue Essay that lacks a conclusion will not be penalized.



# TOP 4 TIPS FOR A STRONG GRE ISSUE ESSAY

- CHOOSE A SIDE.
- BE SPECIFIC AND RELEVANT.
- MAKE STRONG, DECLARATIVE STATEMENTS.
  - “It is unacceptable for the president to permit Congress to pass the law because it unconstitutionally overextends Congress’ powers...” beats “The president shouldn’t allow Congress to pass the law...” any day.
- REFUTE THE OTHER POSITION.

# ISSUE (GRE.ECONOMIST)

Consider the following example from the Official Guide:

- *As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate.*
- *Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.*
- A good way to structure your essay would be to write an introduction, a paraphrasing paragraph, three main paragraphs and a conclusion.



# INTRODUCTION

1

Introduction: You could start with some examples of how technology is used today.

- Paraphrase the question: You could look at the argument from the point of view of the writer of the question. Try to express what developments could have led a writer to hold such an opinion. In this way, you will show yourself to have considered both sides of the issue.

# FIRST MAIN PARAGRAPH

2

- **First Main Paragraph:** Express your first main point. Let's imagine that you basically disagree that thinking will deteriorate. Here is your chance to say why. For example, you may argue that technology brings new problems that people will have to think creatively about to solve. Be specific about some of the problems that technology does bring.



# SECOND MAIN PARAGRAPH

3

- Second Main Paragraph: Your second main paragraph could list examples of how technology has actually been combined with creative thinking to introduce new and valuable services. Again, be specific about which services you are thinking of.

# THIRD MAIN PARAGRAPH

4

- Third Main Paragraph: Your third main paragraph can simply be another example of how technology coupled with creative thinking has solved a problem.



# CONCLUSION

5

- Conclusion: Your conclusion can express the positive view you have of technology.
- First sentence recaps: Though many feel that technology, in taking over many of the roles that were once under our cognitive domain, will harm our ability to think, they miss the point that much of what is being “outsourced” was not what made us critical thinkers in the first place.
- Second sentence quickly mentions examples: Instead, technology can augment those critical thinking skills that will always be a part of our uniquely human roles—whether they be that of a doctor or a concert pianist.
- Third sentence offers a parting thought: To think otherwise is to forget what truly makes us human

# CREATING A STRONG ARGUMENT FOR THE ISSUE ESSAY

- Avoid neutrality
- Once you've picked a side, simplify
- Choose evidence to bolster your argument points
  - For example, if one of your statements was the argument that dairy consumption is detrimental to diet of human beings, you might make a list of the ways that dairy wreaks havoc on the body—any evidence from the history of human eating habits to sharing facts about cultures that do not include dairy in their diets.
- Understand and acknowledge the other side - REFUTE THE OPPOSING VIEW IN YOUR CONCLUSION.
- Say it like you mean it - AVOID FIRST-PERSON AND SELF-REFERENCE.
  - Don't use phrases like "I think" or "in my opinion."



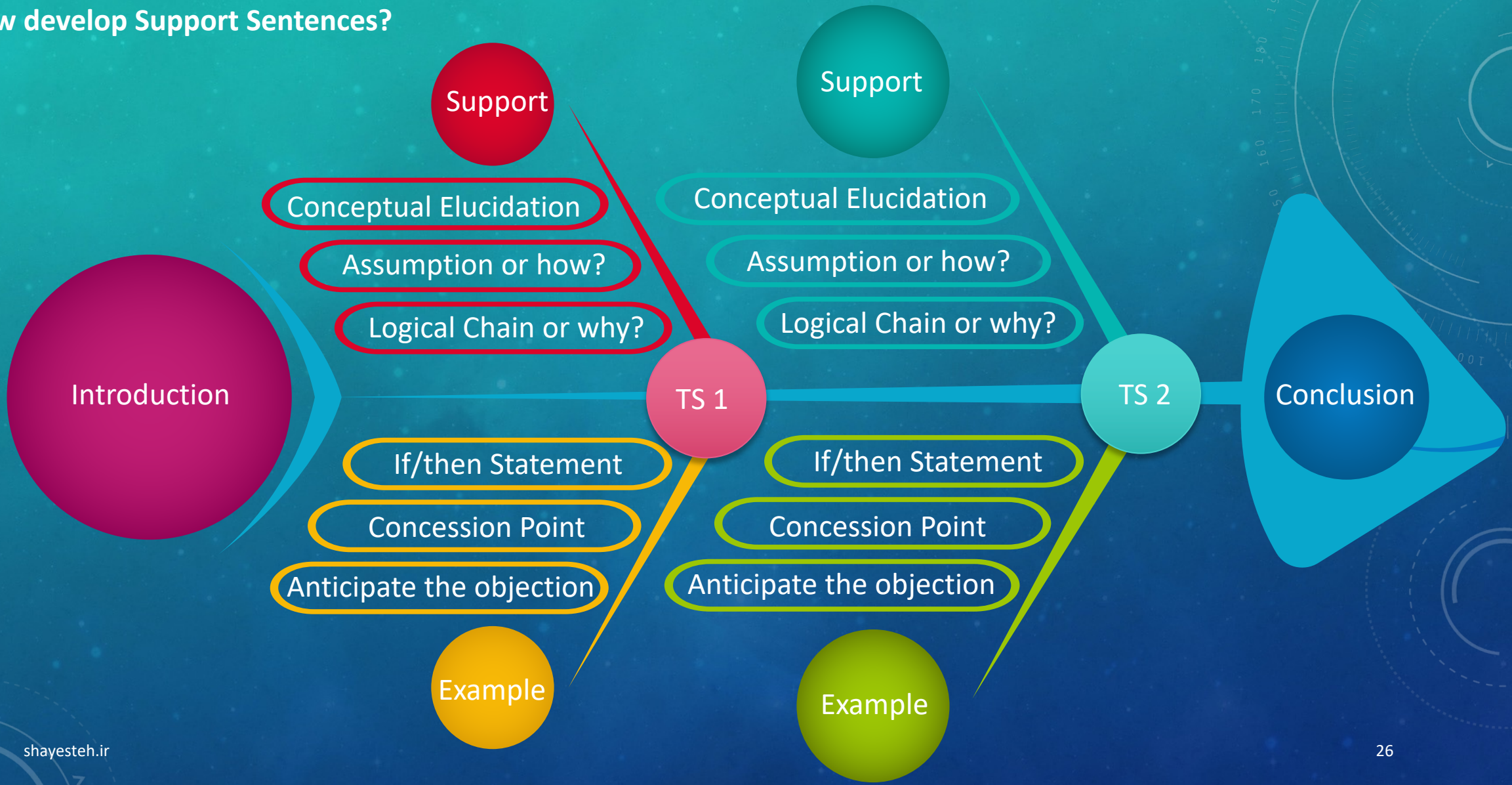
# UNDERSTAND AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

3 way for considering opposite side ([Magoosh](#)):

- Anticipate the objection
- Concession point
- If/then statements

# Fishbone Concept

## How develop Support Sentences?





# HOWEVER & CONNECTION & ...

- However, but, nevertheless, though, although, ...
- <https://www.wikihow.com/Use-However>
- If ... then ... . However/but, if ... then .... . (contrast and compare)

# ANTICIPATE THE OBJECTION

1

- Example:

While many may argue that not all forms of social media are bad and that social media does have advantages, from being able to keep in touch with far-away friends and family to venting your thoughts at three o'clock in the morning, they overlook something important. There is a cost to such convenient connections: we are less likely to reach out to those who matter most.



# CONCESSION POINT

2

- Example:

True, not all forms of social media harm our ability to function in social contexts. Indeed, one could argue that many conflicts that might become more contentious <sup>15</sup>in a face-to-face scenario would be better hashed out<sup>16</sup> with a smiley-face and a “like.” But for the most part, social media can eat away at<sup>17</sup> the fabric<sup>18</sup> of our most intimate bonds.

# IF/THEN STATEMENTS

3

- Example:

If people spend their time constantly “plugged in” to their cell phones, then it will diminish the quality of connections they have. For instance, if a person cannot stop thinking of the latest sports scores or whether they got a “like” on a photo they just posted, then the level of engagement they have with a real-life human being suffers.



# BOOKS

- <https://shayesteh.ir/Book/611> (Template)
- For And Against ([link](#))
- ....



THANK YOU

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