

# Everything you need to know about the **GRE** but were afraid to ask...

Many graduate school departments for admission to master's or Ph.D. level require the GRE. The GRE General and Subject tests are designed to quantitate your academic knowledge and skills relevant to graduate study. Keep in mind that GRE scores are only one factor in evaluating the applicant's potential for graduate study.

## FORMAT

The GRE is divided into two tests: General and Subject. Some schools/programs require one or both parts; some require neither. Please check with individual programs to which you are applying for specific requirements.

The [General Test](#) is available only in the computer adapted format at [specific test centers](#) and consists of three sections:

- Verbal – (30 questions, 30 minutes) The verbal portion tests your ability to comprehend written material, analyze sentence structure, and recognize relationships between words and concepts.
- Quantitative – (28 questions, 45 minutes) The quantitative portion tests your basic math skills and understanding of mathematical concepts, as well as your ability to reason quantitatively and solve problems in a quantitative setting. The content areas included in the quantitative sections of the test are arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis.
- Analytical - (NEW section) The analytical writing section consists of two analytical writing tasks: a 45-minute "Present Your Perspective on an Issue" task and a 30-minute "Analyze an Argument" task. The "Issue" portion states an opinion on an issue of general interest and asks you to address the issue from any perspective(s) you wish, as long as you provide relevant reasons and examples to explain and support your views. The "Argument" task presents a different challenge — it requires you to critique an argument by discussing how well reasoned you find it. You are asked to consider whether the argument is logical rather than to agree or disagree with the position it presents.

- The [Subject Tests](#) are given only in the paper and pencil form. They are given in one block: 2 hours 50 minutes with no separate timed sections in the following subject areas: Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Literature, Mathematics, Physics, & Psychology

## PRACTICE

Preparation for the tests depends on your ability and confidence in yourself in getting ready for standardized tests. The GRE web site has extensive [practice tests](#) and information. In addition, there are numerous preparation materials that can be purchased at local libraries. GRE prep courses are also available in RI at the following locations:

- Kaplan- 144 Wayland Avenue, 521-3929 (\$999)
- Princeton Review- 216 Hope Street, 861-5080 (\$899)

## FEES

The General test fee is \$115 starting on October 1, 2002. The Subject test fee is \$130.

## REGISTRATION

The easiest way to register for the General test is to call your [local test center](#). Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, so register early to get your preferred test date.

## DATES

The General test is scheduled on an individual basis. The dates for the Subject test during the 2002-2003 school year are:

- November 9, 2002
- December 14, 2002
- April 12, 2003