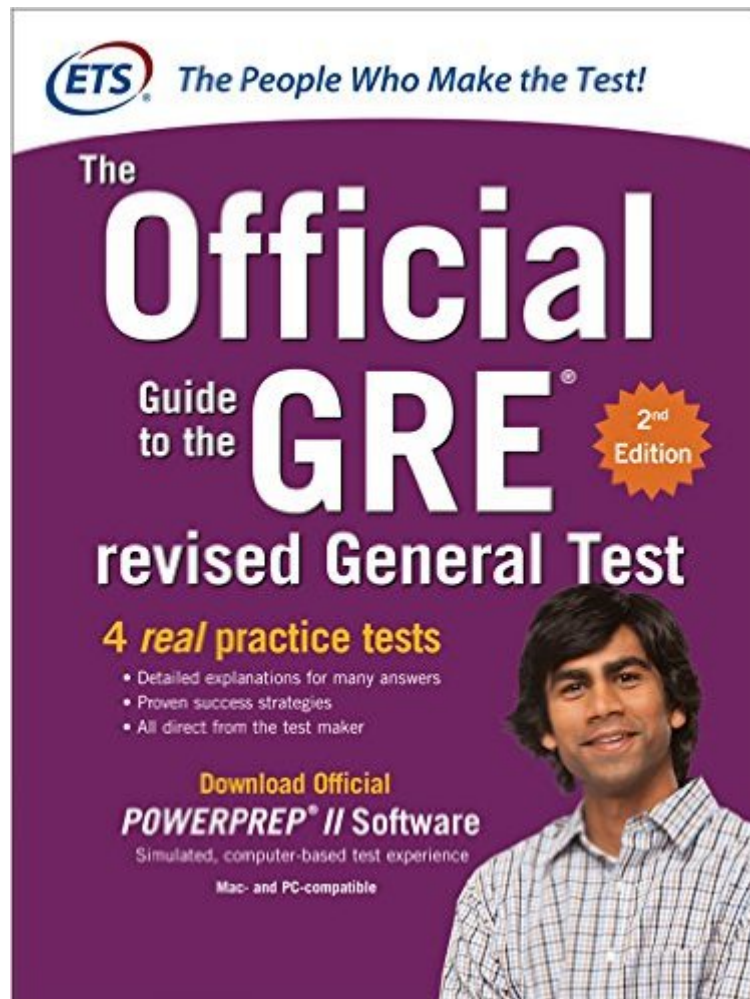


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# GRE The Official Guide To The Revised General Test, Second Edition (Official Guide To The Gre)



## Synopsis

Get the only official guide to the GRE® revised General Test that comes straight from the test makers! If you're looking for the best, most authoritative guide to the GRE revised General Test, you've found it! The Official Guide to the GRE revised General Test is the only GRE guide specially created by ETS--the people who actually make the test. It's packed with everything you need to do your best on the test--and move toward your graduate or business school degree. Only ETS can show you exactly what to expect on the test, tell you precisely how the test is scored, and give you hundreds of authentic test questions for practice! That makes this guide your most reliable and accurate source for everything you need to know about the GRE revised General Test. No other guide to the GRE revised General Test gives you: Online access to additional practice tests Hundreds of authentic test questions--so you can study with the real thing In-depth descriptions of the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures plus valuable tips for answering each question type Detailed overview of the two types of Analytical Writing essay tasks including scored sample responses and actual raters' comments Everything you need to know about the test, straight from the test makers!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As many other reviewers have noted, this is the only book on the market that is produced by ETS, the company that writes and administers the GRE; however, please know that this does not mean that buying this book is a no-brainer. Far from it. The book may be helpful to you in some respects, but I would never recommend purchasing only it to study for the GRE. I would buy it perhaps as a supplement to a book published by a third-party (like Barron's, the Princeton Review, Kaplan, etc) or not at all. These third party books really are likely to serve you FAR better, as I will try to explain. Here are the things I think you should consider as you decide whether to purchase this book:1) The majority of the practice questions in this book are available for FREE on the ETS website. Just check out their "Prepare for the GRE" page for pdfs.2) The POWERPREP II software (including two practice tests) which is contained on the disc accompanying this book is also available for FREE on the ETS website. Just check out their "Prepare for the GRE" page for a download.3) Whether you go with the book or get it online, the POWERPREP II software is Windows/IE-compatible only. (Ridiculous.)4) The Math Review section of this book is also available for FREE on the ETS website. Just check out their "Prepare for the GRE" page for a download.5) Many of the other explanations and general tips contained in the book are also included in the free online materials (I think it's called the Practice Book) on the ETS website.6) All that said, if you prefer to work on paper rather than on a PDF, and you don't want to print out a giant stack of pages, you may like the idea of having ETS' materials nicely printed and bound as they are in this book.

To make this review short I will just say that if you are an individual such as myself, who has struggled with math since grade school and are now trying to learn enough math to get a humble score on the GRE this is not the book you should be purchasing. This book assumes that you already have a decent understanding of mathematical concepts in Geometry, Algebra, and Statistics. For those of us who are majoring in social sciences or another non math related field this book will feel like it is skimming through weeks worth of math concepts on every single page. I found it to be utterly impossible to understand many of the ideas presented in the book due to the cluttering of these concepts and marginal explanation of how they work together. I found the Princeton Review book to be much more organized and easy to follow due to my severe math deficiencies. The Princeton review does not attempt to teach you 3 years of math by giving you a extremely condensed and limited version of concepts that you barely understood the first time around. Instead its focus is on helping you simply get through the GRE. This book does not even allow you to look at the answer choices in the practice problems as A,B,C,D,E as you would have them on the GRE so it forces you to do the problems their way without actually providing you with

enough explanation to understand those problems in the first place. The Princeton review embraces the idea of turning a hard algebra problem into a simple arithmetic problem by plugging in, this book does not even mention this invaluable strategy! Nor does it let you apply it because as stated previously, it does not provide you with A,B,C,D,E answer choices!

As you likely know from either the title or familiarity with the ETS, this book is the Official Guide for the GRE General Test (Revised). I teach the GRE full-time and this is one of two books I require my students to purchase for two primary reasons. This is the only book made by the test-makers, so there is an extraordinarily amount of useful information here: the questions are phrased in the way that the real test phrases them, the content is fairly reflective of the real exam, and the book itself now comes with 2 paper-based and 2 computer-based versions of the test. So, in total, there are hundreds of questions to try your hand at. Secondly, each question comes with a very lengthy explanation as to why certain answers are right and often enough, why other answers are wrong. The ETS is also kind enough to identify which questions are of what difficulty level, so you can even mark your own progress fairly well, too. The book further comes with examples of responses to the Analytical Writing tasks, so you have a very good sense of what the ETS thinks of as "a good essay" and "a bad essay", as well. The book is, however, fairly lacking on a number of other counts. It is not particularly useful as a stand-alone text and once you've exhausted the questions in the book, there are no other resources to use outside of it from the ETS. Additionally--and most importantly--the book lacks a functionally useful set of questions to really build on basic mathematics skills and takes for granted that test-takers will be able to perform particular operations.

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