

Guide to the GMAT

In Advance

So you are interested in business school and now need to tackle the GMAT. You first need to prepare yourself mentally and physically for the exam. Know that the GMAT is not a test of intelligence, but rather of endurance. It is important that you remain motivated throughout the process, set up a study routine, and look forward to test day. Easier said than done, right? Here are a few tips to help your preparation and build confidence.

- Visit www.gmat.com and download the free practice software and diagnostic exam. Note that test dates vary by location but are held nearly every day in larger cities.
- Check out other resources like websites, books, or prep services.
- Create a schedule and routine around studying, whether your timeline is weeks or months.
- Take a diagnostic test to identify strengths and weaknesses. Diagnostic tests include a breakdown of questions by type, which can be extremely helpful.
- Develop a study plan for quantitative, verbal, writing, and integrated reasoning. Note that on testing day you can select the section order in which you can take the exam.
- Read blogs and websites, like the ones listed here, to understand the many strategies and test-taking tips you can implement into your study plan.
- Practice the concepts you miss the most, relearn information you do not remember, and retest.
- Take multiple timed practice tests throughout your study schedule, trimming 5-10 minutes off each section (verbal, quantitative, integrated reasoning) to eliminate the rush on test day. (Best tip ever!)
- Take several timed tests and study during the time of day you will take the actual exam.



The Day Before

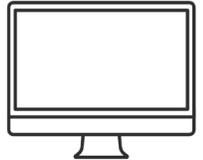


The day before is very important. However, this is not the day to do any last-minute cramming. Instead, focus on relaxing, eating a balanced diet, and sleeping well—at least eight hours. Do something that you enjoy to take your mind off the next day's exam. If your test time is in the morning, get used to waking up early so that on test day your body is used to the earlier time. Finally, double-check you have what you need for test day, like identification, glasses, water bottle, break-time snacks, etc.

Test Day

Today is the big day! Eat well and stay hydrated. Arrive at the testing center early. Check in with your identification. Test officials will take a palm scan and photo, which will be attached to your test file. You will be given a locker in which to place your belongings, including your cell phone, which must be turned off for the duration of the test. Here are tips for taking the test.

- Breathe. Take your time. You have been practicing each section with less time than you are given, so the clock should not be a major concern.
- Select the section order you would like to take the exam, preferably in the order you practiced.
- Use the headphones provided to block out noise from the other test takers.
- Let the proctor know immediately if you are running low on pens or scratch paper.
- Take both breaks, even if to just stretch your legs or run to the restroom. Note there is a checkout and check-in process that could take few minutes, so build in the time.
- Submit your scores when asked. You've worked hard for this, so don't cancel them.



After

Before you leave the testing site, you will be given a printout of your unofficial score. If you did not perform as well as you hoped, don't be discouraged but consider taking the test again. Next time you will know what to expect and how to better prepare. If you do plan on retaking, remember that unless you change the way you studied, scores typically do not improve.

Resources

GMATPrep: Free, gmata.com

GMAT Guides and Practice Test Books: \$19-\$50, gmata.com

Cracking the GMAT: \$25, Amazon or bookstores

Prep Services: Kaplan, Princeton Review, Manhattan Prep, Magoosh, and Clayborne Education

Blogs: Beat the GMAT, Prep Scholar, or GMATHacks

Mobile Apps: Official Guide for GMAT, GMAT Math Flashcards, Manhattan Prep GMAT, Economist GMAT Tutor, GMAT Prep by Ready4, GMAT Prep & Practice from Magoosh, GMAT Toolkit

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