

POWERSCORE[®]
TEST PREPARATION

8-WEEK GRE STUDY PLAN



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	4
General thoughts.....	4
Week 1: Eight weeks until the GRE	6
Week 2: Seven weeks until the GRE	8
Week 3: Six weeks until the GRE	10
Week 4: Five weeks until the GRE.....	11
Week 5: Four weeks until the GRE	13
Week 6: Three weeks until the GRE	15
Week 7: Two weeks until the GRE.....	17
Week 8: One week until the GRE	19
A final note	20

8-WEEK STUDY PLAN

Preface

This guide provides a detailed plan for someone starting about 8 weeks out from the GRE. The plan assumes you have the Recommended Materials listed (the Official Guide to the GRE as well as the PowerScore publications), and we also encourage you to consider the optional/supplementary materials.

General thoughts

Successfully preparing for the GRE is about consistency and diligence. Even though the test measures how you think about the basics of high school- and college-level English and math, training yourself to think like the test makers requires time. Simply put: this isn't a test where cramming proves effective! Instead, your efforts need to be extensive, where you make the most of every study opportunity and spend at least five to ten hours of dedicated time preparing each week (and hopefully much more!).

Two months may seem like a long time, but once you get started you'll find that time moves quickly and your test day arrives sooner than expected. You must be prepared to work diligently and to be very thorough as you follow the assignments provided. With this plan and some hard work you have enough time to read both GRE Bibles and to apply the strategies you learn there to question sets in the Official Guide to the GRE as well. We also outline four full-length practice tests for you to take using the GRE PowerPrep software. If you find that you cannot complete all of the assignments in the time given, prioritize your tasks based on your specific areas of weakness and where you feel you have the greatest opportunity to gain points. And we encourage you to attempt additional practice sets if time permits!

Naturally if you are already extremely strong in one of the areas—say, Reading Comprehension—you can omit portions of the plan tailored to that section and devote that time to further study in another section. Similarly, if you find that you still have room for improvement upon completion of the required material for a given section, our private tutoring is a worthwhile consideration.

Each of the eight weeks in this study schedule provides a list of recommended tasks—from reading specific chapters, to completing problem sets, to taking timed practice tests—and should generally be completed in the order given. However, as mentioned, elements can be adjusted as needed to accommodate variations in your day-to-day commitments and your unique skill set as you get closer to test day.

You will notice that each week's assignments are categorized into one of three types: Quantitative Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning, and Practice Tests. This will give you a good sense of exactly what is to be covered during a particular week, and allow you to better adjust the schedule and content to your own needs as you progress.

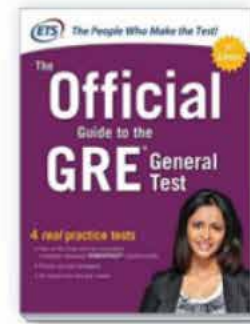
A chart is provided for each week outlining the materials to be used and sections for your notes and progress reports. We strongly encourage you to keep detailed information about exactly what was completed and when, any elements left uncompleted that should be a priority the following week, and your performance and general thoughts on each. These notes will allow you to more accurately measure your progress as well as track any uncompleted assignments.

Let's get started!

Recommended Materials

Real GREs

- [The Official Guide to the GRE](#)
- [GRE PowerPrep Software](#)



PowerScore Publications

- [The GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible](#)
- [The GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible](#)



Optional Resources

- [Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions \(book\)](#)
- [Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions \(book\)](#)
- [PowerPrep Solutions](#)
- [The PowerScore GRE Free Help Area](#)
- [The PowerScore GRE Forum](#)





■ Practice Test

Before you begin your preparation, it is highly recommended that you take a full-length practice exam. While many students are concerned that without knowing what to expect they may feel ill equipped to do a practice test, please set aside your expectations and work through the test knowing what you know right now. Take the time to read the instructions for each section and make your best attempt at the essays and questions.

We suggest Practice Test 1 on the GRE PowerPrep software, which is available online at www.gre.org (you must register for an ETS account to access this test). The Official Guide to the GRE provides further information on this software if you have questions about locating it.

The PowerPrep software mimics the computer-adaptive experience of an actual GRE, and it's extremely important that you become comfortable with this format prior to test day. Be sure to take this exam under timed conditions (even though it is not officially timed by the PowerPrep software) and be diligent and honest in your timing.

Once you are finished you will have (1) an understanding of the test experience, (2) a baseline assessment of your current strengths and weaknesses, and (3) a better ability to approximate the test interface while doing practice work.

■ Test Overview

- Official Guide to the GRE: Read and complete Chapter One (About the GRE revised General Test) and Chapter Two (GRE Analytical Writing)
- The GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible: Read and complete Chapter One (Introduction) and Chapter Two (The Basics of GRE Quantitative Reasoning)
- The GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible: Read and complete Chapter One (Introduction) and Chapter Two (The Basics of GRE Verbal Reasoning)

■ Quantitative Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Five of the Official Guide to the GRE.
- Read and complete Chapter Three of the GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible. This selection reviews basic operation skills that are required on the GRE. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.

■ Verbal Reasoning

- In Appendix B of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible, you will find 700 Repeat Offenders, the most commonly-occurring vocabulary words on the GRE. Each week, aim to review roughly 70 words, or 10 words per day. This week learn the definitions of the words between *abdicate* and *desultory*. If you already know a definition, place a check mark in the box next to the word and skip it. It is important to only study the words you do not know.

For suggestions for retaining the definitions of vocabulary words, see page 152 of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible.

- Read and complete Chapter Three of the Official Guide to the GRE.
- Read and complete Chapter Three and Chapter Four of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This selection discusses strategies for Fill-in-the-Blank questions. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- *Optional: Read and complete the Fill-in-the-Blank questions in the Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions book. In Chapter Four, complete the Easy and Medium Text Completion questions. In Chapter Five, complete the Easy Sentence Equivalence Questions.*

Week 1 Assignments		
Assignment	Completed?	Notes
Timed Practice Test		Practice Test 1 of the PowerPrep Software
Official Guide Ch1		About the GRE
Official Guide Ch2		GRE Analytical Writing
QR Bible Ch1		Introduction
QR Bible Ch2		The Basics of Quantitative Reasoning
VR Bible Ch1		Introduction
VR Bible Ch2		The Basics of Verbal Reasoning
Official Guide Ch5		GRE Quantitative Reasoning
QR Bible Ch3		Operation Mastery
Official Guide Ch3		GRE Verbal Reasoning
VR Bible Ch3		FITB: Solution Strategy Basics
VR Bible Ch4		FITB: Deconstruct the Question Stem
Vocab Words		<i>abdicate</i> through <i>desultory</i>
Optional: VR PQ		Chapter 4 (Easy and Medium) and Chapter 5 (Easy)

Notes: _____

Week 2: Seven weeks until the GRE



■ Quantitative Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Four of the GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible. Chapter Four reveals strategies that can be used to efficiently solve many GRE questions. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Read and complete Chapter Six of the Official Guide to the GRE.
- Read and complete Chapter Five of the GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible. Chapter Five begins our study of the content tested on the GRE and focuses on Arithmetic topics. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Read and complete the Arithmetic section of Chapter Seven of the Official Guide to the GRE.
- *Optional: Read and complete Chapter Three (Arithmetic) of the Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions book. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.*

■ Verbal Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Five and Chapter Six of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This selection wraps up our discussion of Fill-in-the-Blank questions. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Read and complete the Fill-in-the-Blank questions in Chapter Four of the Official Guide to the GRE. Leave the Reading Comprehension questions for next week. Check your answers and review any questions that you may have missed or guessed correctly.
- Continue studying new vocabulary words in Appendix B of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This week, learn the definitions of the words between *diaphanous* and *eulogy*. If you already know a definition, place a check mark in the box next to the word and skip it. It is important to only study the words you do not know. Remember to also review the words from previous weeks.
- *Optional: Read and complete the Fill-in-the-Blank questions in the Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions book. In Chapter Four, complete the Hard Text Completion questions. In Chapter Five, complete the Medium and Hard Sentence Equivalence Questions.*

Week 3: Six weeks until the GRE



■ Quantitative Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Six of the GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible, which discusses questions from Algebra on the GRE. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- *Optional: Take a timed Practice Set from the Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions book. Allow yourself 40 minutes to complete Practice Set 1 in Chapter 7. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.*

■ Verbal Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Seven, Chapter Eight, and Chapter Nine of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This selection begins our discussion of Reading Comprehension questions. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Read and complete the Reading Comprehension questions in Chapter Four of the Official Guide to the GRE (you completed the Fill-in-the-Blank questions last week). Check your answers and review any questions that you may have missed or guessed correctly.
- Continue studying new vocabulary words in Appendix B of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This week, learn the definitions of the words between *euphemism* and *husband*. If you already know a definition, place a check mark in the box next to the word and skip it. It is important to only study the words you do not know. Remember to also review the words from previous weeks.

Week 3 Assignments		
Assignment	Completed?	Notes
VR Bible Ch7		RC: General Reading Strategies
VR Bible Ch8		RC: Strategies for Long Passages
VR Bible Ch9		RC: Strategies for Short Passages
Official Guide Ch4		GRE VR Practice Questions: Complete only the Reading Comprehension questions
QR Bible Ch6		Algebra Mastery
Vocab Words		<i>euphemism</i> through <i>husband</i>
Optional: QR PQ Ch7		Practice Set 1, Quantitative Reasoning: 40 minutes



■ Quantitative Reasoning

- Use this week to catch up on your studies and review previous chapters in the Quantitative Reasoning Bible or the Official Guide to the GRE.

■ Verbal Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Ten and Chapter Eleven of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This selection examines the answer choices and question stems in Reading Comprehension questions. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Take two Analytical Writing timed sections in the Official Guide to the GRE. Take Section 1 and Section 2 of Test 1. Compare your responses to the scored examples after the test and self-score your essay based on your analysis. Review Chapter 2 of the Official Guide if you need to review Analytical Writing.
- Continue studying new vocabulary words in Appendix B of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This week, learn the definitions of the words between *iconoclast* and *knell*. If you already know a definition, place a check mark in the box next to the word and skip it. It is important to only study the words you do not know. Remember to also review the words from previous weeks.

■ Practice Test

- At the end of the week, you'll be near the halfway point in your preparation. It's time to take your second full-length timed practice test to gauge your progress. We suggest Practice Test 2 on the GRE PowerPrep software, available at www.gre.org. The Official Guide to the GRE provides further information on this software if you have questions about locating it.

Be sure to look for opportunities to use the skills you have learned and practiced on your homework, but while you're taking the test focus only on the task in front of you. Your goal is to get as many points possible by any means necessary. You will have an opportunity to analyze the problems in more detail and consider alternate approaches during your review.

Upon completion of the exam, it is essential that you review the questions that you missed and guessed correctly. It is only through examination of your errors that you will learn to prevent them on similar questions in the future. You can find solutions to all PowerPrep questions in the PowerScore GRE Free Help Area on our website.



■ Quantitative Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Seven of the GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible, which discusses questions from Algebra II on the GRE. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Read and complete the Algebra section of Chapter Seven of the Official Guide to the GRE.
- Read and complete Chapter Eight of the GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible, which focuses on Geometry questions on the GRE. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Take a timed Practice Test Section from the Official Guide to the GRE. Allow yourself 40 minutes to complete Test 1, Section 5. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.
- *Optional: Read and complete Chapter Four (Algebra) of the Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions book. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.*

■ Verbal Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Twelve and Chapter Thirteen of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. In these chapters we look at two specific types of questions in Reading Comprehension. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Take a timed Practice Test Section from the Official Guide to the GRE. Allow yourself 35 minutes to complete Test 1, Section 3. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.
- Read and complete Chapter Fourteen of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This chapter identifies and explains Extended Reasoning questions, typically considered to be the most difficult Reading Comprehension question. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Continue studying new vocabulary words in Appendix B of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This week, learn the definitions of the words between *neologism* and *raucous*. If you already know a definition, place a check mark in the box next to the word and skip it. It is important to only study the words you do not know. Remember to also review the words from previous weeks.
- *Optional: Read and complete Chapter Three (Reading Comprehension) of the Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions book. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.*



■ Quantitative Reasoning

- Take a timed Practice Test Section from the Official Guide to the GRE. Allow yourself 40 minutes to complete Test 1, Section 6. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.
- *Optional: Take a timed Practice Set from the Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions book. Allow yourself 40 minutes to complete Practice Set 2 in Chapter 7. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.*
- Read and complete Chapter Nine of the GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible, which discusses questions from Coordinate Geometry on the GRE. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Read and complete the Geometry section of Chapter Seven of the Official Guide to the GRE.
- *Optional: Read and complete Chapter Five (Geometry) of the Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions book. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.*

■ Verbal Reasoning

- Take a timed Practice Test Section from the Official Guide to the GRE. Allow yourself 35 minutes to complete Test 1, Section 4. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.
- Read and complete Chapter Fifteen of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This chapter explains the components of a logical argument and discusses the questions that may follow an Argument passage. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Take two Analytical Writing timed sections in the Official Guide to the GRE. Take Section 1 and Section 2 of Test 2. Compare your responses to the scored examples after the test and self-score your essay based on your analysis. Review Chapter 2 of the Official Guide if you need to review Analytical Writing.
- Continue studying new vocabulary words in Appendix B of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This week, learn the definitions of the words between *pernicious* and *stoic*. If you already know a definition, place a check mark in the box next to the word and skip it. It is important to only study the words you do not know. Remember to also review the words from previous weeks.

Week 7: Two weeks until the GRE



■ Quantitative Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Ten of the GRE Quantitative Reasoning Bible, which discusses questions from Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability on the GRE. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.
- Read and complete the Data Analysis section of Chapter Seven of the Official Guide to the GRE.
- Take a timed Practice Test Section from the Official Guide to the GRE. Allow yourself 40 minutes to complete Test 2, Section 5. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.
- *Optional: Read and complete Chapter Six (Data Analysis) of the Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions book. Be sure to complete any problem sets or drills that accompany the text, checking your answers and reviewing your mistakes at the end of the chapter.*

■ Verbal Reasoning

- Read and complete Chapter Sixteen of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This chapter provides you with the opportunity to practice Reading Comprehension questions. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.
- Take a timed Practice Test Section from the Official Guide to the GRE. Allow yourself 35 minutes to complete Test 2, Section 3. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.
- Continue studying new vocabulary words in Appendix B of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. This week, learn the definitions of the words between *stolid* and *zephyr*. If you already know a definition, place a check mark in the box next to the word and skip it. It is important to only study the words you do not know. Remember to also review the words from previous weeks.
- *Optional: Take a timed Practice Set from the Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions book. Allow yourself 35 minutes to complete Practice Set 3 in Chapter 6. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.*

■ Practice Test

- At the end of this week or the beginning of next week, take Practice Test 1 of the GRE PowerPrep Plus Online software (\$40 from ETS). This test is timed by the computer and will mimic testing conditions. Upon completion of the exam, it is essential that you review the questions that you missed and guessed correctly. It is only through examination of your errors that you will learn to prevent them on similar questions in the future.

Week 8: One week until the GRE



Quantitative Reasoning

- Take a timed Practice Test Section from the Official Guide to the GRE. Allow yourself 40 minutes to complete Test 2, Section 6. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.
- *Optional: Take a timed Practice Set from the Official GRE Quantitative Reasoning Practice Questions book. Allow yourself 40 minutes to complete Practice Set 3 in Chapter 7. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.*

Verbal Reasoning

- Take a timed Practice Test Section from the Official Guide to the GRE. Allow yourself 35 minutes to complete Test 2, Section 4. If time is called before you have completed the set, mark your progress and complete the remaining questions untimed. Check your answers and review any questions that you missed or guessed correctly.
- Continue reviewing all vocabulary words in Appendix B of the GRE Verbal Reasoning Bible. Take Vocabulary Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 at the end of the Appendix B, making sure to review the questions that you missed or guessed correctly.

Week 8 Assignments		
Assignment	Completed?	Notes
OG: T2, S6 Timed		Quantitative Reasoning: 40 minutes
Optional: QR PQ Ch7		Practice Set 3, Quantitative Reasoning: 40 minutes
OG: T2, S4 Timed		Verbal Reasoning: 30 minutes
Vocab Words		Review all words
Vocab Words		Quiz 1-5 of Appendix B
Rock the GRE		You've got this!

Notes: _____

A final note:

We at PowerScore want to thank you for choosing us as your test preparation provider, and trusting us to help you reach your full potential on the GRE. Our hope is that your performance exceeds your expectations and that this Study Guide and accompanying resources are fully sufficient for your particular needs. However please do not hesitate to contact us with additional questions or concerns, or to inquire about the other services we offer! Above all else we want to see our students reach their goals, and we'll do all that we can to ensure that occurs for you.

Finally, feel encouraged to share this study plan with friends, colleagues, or anyone else you may encounter who is studying for the GRE! It's a powerful resource and we're confident others will benefit from it as you hopefully have.

Thanks again, and best of luck in graduate school, business school, or law school!

1. [Free GRE and Admission Help Area](https://powerscore.com/gre/help/)

powerscore.com/gre/help/

2. [Free GRE Forum](https://forum.powerscore.com/gre/)

forum.powerscore.com/gre/

3. [Free Math Secrets Webinar](https://powerscore.com/gre/freeseminars/)

powerscore.com/gre/freeseminars/

4. [GRE and Grad School Admissions Blog](https://blog.powerscore.com/gre)

blog.powerscore.com/gre

We're here to help! Please let us know if you have any questions or need guidance in selecting the right preparation option.

1-800-545-1750

gre@powerscore.com