The Yoho GRE Preparation Course

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Introduction

The GRE is a test of general reasoning ability. Luckily, the types of reasoning tasks on the GRE are limited in number and so the test is highly predictable. In essence, the questions with which a test-taker will be greeted on test day simply are modified versions of the same GRE questions that are available on practice tests.

Proper preparation, then, has the following components:

* Coming to understand why the right answers are right and the wrong answers are wrong.

* Applying a sensible procedural approach to the test that will maximize one’s score. And,

* Practicing applying these procedures after the course to real GRE questions until one’s practice scores peak.

A good preparation course supplies information about the first two of these. A good test-taker handles the third.

This course is on the revised GRE, implemented in August, 2011. Note: you should bring a basic calculator with you to class.
About the Instructor

Dr. James Yoho has been teaching well-regarded test preparation since 1996 at the request of such institutions as Penn State, La Salle, Lehigh, Seton Hall, Rutgers, Emory, Marist, Binghamton, and Temple. Now a full-time coach on standardized tests of general reasoning ability (like the GRE), he has coached more than 10,000 students on the GRE and similar tests. He also has more than 13 years of experience teaching at colleges and universities, including graduate school. He holds a law degree from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in government from the University of Virginia. Well-published in law, political science, and test preparation, his principal research interests are in the areas of American constitutional law, interest groups, and the strategic dynamics of standardized tests.

Course Outline

First Quarter

The nature of the GRE General Test and how it fits into the larger picture of graduate school admissions

* The principal keys to success on the GRE General Test
* Other keys to success on the GRE General Test
* Why we aren’t referring to just “the GRE”
* How to register
* A history of the GRE General Test
* GRE volumes
* Factors in graduate school admissions
* The basic structure of the GRE General Test
* The order of the GRE
* What types of scores are given on the GRE
* What GRE scores are necessary for admission
* The relationship between the scaled section scores and the percentile
* How many right answers are necessary in order to get a certain score
* The relationship between the Analytical Writing Score and the percentile
* Grade inflation over the years
* Undergraduate grades and graduate school admission
* A suggested procedure for obtaining letters of recommendation
* Suggestions for your personal statement

How to use the computer and approach test questions in general

* How the computer works
* General strategies—including pacing—for a GRE section
* General strategies—including triage—for GRE questions
* The components of a GRE question
* The two most common preparation mistakes on the GRE
* The four most common procedural mistakes on the GRE
* Suggestions for managing the text
* Suggestions for managing the question directions
* Suggestions for managing the answer options
* A summary of how to handle pacing
* How to practice and improve
* How to control anxiety

**Start on the Reading Comprehension question type**

* A reminder of the number of Reading Comprehension questions
* The Reading Comprehension formats
* The basic methodology
* The rules for Reading Comprehension
* How to tackle a Reading Comprehension passage
* Review of sample passages and questions

**Second Quarter**

**Finish the Reading Comprehension question type**

* The most useful Reading Comprehension typology

**The Text Completion question type**

* A reminder of the number of Text Completion questions
* The Text Completion formats
* The basic methodology
* The procedures for Text Completion
* Some options if, at first, you don’t recognize a word
* A list of common roots
* A list of common prefixes
* A list of common suffixes
* Review of sample questions
**The Sentence Equivalence question type**

* A reminder of the number of Sentence Equivalence questions  
* The Sentence Equivalence format  
* The basic methodology  
* The procedures for Sentence Equivalence  
* Review of sample questions

**Third Quarter**

**The Analytical Writing Measure and how it fits into the larger picture of graduate school admissions**

* Essential information about the GRE Analytical Writing Measure  
* The “Issue” Task  
* The “Argument” Task  
* Concerning writing mechanics

**Introduction to GRE math**

* What math you need to know  
* Where to get help with math  
* The general rules for GRE math

**The Quantitative Comparison question type**

* A reminder of the number of Quantitative Comparison questions  
* The Quantitative Comparison format  
* The basic methodology  
* Some general considerations for Quantitative Comparison  
* How to approach a Quantitative Comparison question  
* Review of sample questions
Fourth Quarter

The Multiple-choice question type

* A reminder of the number of Multiple-choice questions
* The Multiple-choice formats
* The basic methodology
* The ground rules for Multiple-choice
* Review of sample questions

The Numeric Entry question type

* A reminder of the number of Numeric Entry questions
* The Numeric Entry format
* The basic methodology
* The ground rules for Numeric Entry
* Review of sample questions

Conclusion: What should happen from now until test day