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The GMAT is known to be significantly more challenging than the SAT and ACT, the high school exams. However, it is widely considered less challenging than the LSAT or MCAT, the law school and medical school exams, respectively. Of course, its always good to remember that test difficulty is a subjective matter. Individual opinions vary regarding which test is, in fact, more or less challenging. This is especially true when comparing the GMAT to the GRE: Students who excel at math and struggle with verbal, tend to find the GMAT easier to navigate. Conversely, students who are verbal dynamos but flounder a bit with quantitative subject matter, tend to find the GRE friendlier than the math-heavy GMAT.

Bottom line: Answering the question, How Hard is the GMAT, depends on a host of individual factors such as your background in math and reading, test-taking skills, and the schools you are targeting. Table of Contents Comparing the GMATs Structure to Other Graduate Exams Length The GMAT, including the optional 10-minute break, is 2 hours and 15 minutes long, significantly shorter than the previous GMAT version. Its not quite as short as the GRE, which clocks in at just under 2 hours. Yet, it still requires less time than the LSAT, which takes almost 3 hours to complete and is much shorter than the MCAT, which lasts 7 hours! While this shorter GMAT reduces test fatigue, allowing for more focused performance throughout the exam, its still important to practice your pacing and build up your stamina.

Number of Questions: The GMAT has a total of 64 questions spread across three sections: Quantitative Reasoning: 21 questions Verbal Reasoning: 23 questions Data Insights: 20 questions If we compare the number of questions you have to answer on the GMAT to other exams, the only test with fewer questions is the GRE, and theres only a difference of 10 questions between the two. The other tests, both in the high school and graduate categories, have significantly more questions to slog through. Time Per Question The GMAT provides a different pacing challenge compared to other exams. Heres a breakdown of the average time per question between the GMAT and GRE: Exam Total Questions Total Time Verbal Question Time per Question GMAT 64.25 hours 1.96 minutes 2.15 minutes GRE 542 hours 1.50 minutes 1.75 minutes As you can see, the average time allotted per question for both verbal and quant questions on the GRE is noticeably less than the allotted time for GMAT questions. Yes, the total number of questions plays a part; however, that isnt the whole picture. Rather, the average time allotted per question tells us more. In particular, it gives us an idea of how difficult the test makers think their own questions are. Because GMAT gives you nearly 2 (or more!) minutes per question, we can deduce that the folks who write GMAT questions know that many of their questions are highly complex, requiring advanced analytical thinking and higher-level computational skills.

Additional reading: GMAT Time Management Tips & Strategies Section Adaptivity One thing that sets the GMAT apart from other exams is that its question adaptive. This just means that, within a section, the question you see next is determined by your performance on all the earlier questions you completed. For example, if youve answered 4 hard math questions correctly in a row, your next math question is going to be even harder. The GRE, on the other hand, is section adaptive. The first verbal section is 12 questions of a mix of difficulty. Depending how well you do on that entire section, the 2nd verbal section will either be easier, about the same, or harder. The other graduate exams, the MCAT and LSAT, are not computer adaptive tests (CATs). If you want to dig deeper into the differences between each question adaptivity (GMAT) and section adaptivity (GRE), check out this snippet of the conversation our GMAT expert, Erika, had with representatives from both ETS and GMAC. More on the GMAT vs GRE Why so many mentions of the GRE? Because its a direct competitor to the GMAT. The vast majority of business schools accept either GRE or GMAT scores. Read our full comparison of the two exams to see which test is best for you. What Makes GMAT Test Content Hard Quantitative Reasoning (QR) The Quantitative Reasoning section evaluates a candidates ability to solve complex problems using basic arithmetic and algebra. While the math concepts themselves may not be advanced, the questions often require sophisticated interpretation and application of mathematical principles in real-world contexts. This section features Problem Solving questions, where candidates must decipher and solve multifaceted word problems. These scenarios often involve strategic decision-making, numerical analysis, and data interpretation, reflecting the challenges faced in business and management roles. Verbal Reasoning (VR) Verbal Reasoning on the GMAT assesses a candidates ability to comprehend and evaluate written material, analyze arguments, and apply critical thinking skills. This section comprises Reading Comprehension passages and Critical Reasoning questions. Reading Comprehension tasks candidates with understanding and interpreting complex texts from various disciplines, followed by questions that probe deeper into the passages details, structure, and implications. The other type, Critical Reasoning, challenges candidates to assess arguments by identifying assumptions, strengths, and weaknesses, requiring them to think analytically and logically. All this takes place while working under tight time constraints.

Data Insights (DI) Introduced with the launch of the new version of the GMAT, the Data Insights section underscores the growing importance of data literacy in modern business environments. The data is presented in short paragraphs, tables, charts, and graphs, and answer choices occur in a variety of formats. Given the numerous question types, students must be flexible and pivot quickly amongst the best strategies for each DI question type, which include Multi-Source Reasoning, Table Analysis, Graphics Interpretation, Two-Part Analysis, and Data Sufficiency. Like the previous two sections, effective time management is an essential component of mastering the DI section. Pacing It can be argued that the time crunch is one of the main factors that makes GMAT content so dang hard! Therefore, establishing and practicing a pacing strategy that works to achieve your GMAT goal is an essential early step. You should know exactly how long you should spend answering each question type, and the questions for which you will likely make an educated guess and quickly move on. Almost no one gets every question right on the GMAT, and thats not a goal that most test-takers should strive to achieve. Taking well-placed, educated guesses on difficult questions ensures that youll have enough time to attempt all the questions and avoid careless errors. Check out more in our GMAT Timing Strategy post. What is a Competitive GMAT Score? The GMAT scoring range is now 205-805 (the older exam range was 200-800), with each section (Quantitative, Verbal, and Data Insights) scored from 60 to 90. Within this range, a score above the 50th or 60th percentile is typically necessary for somewhat competitive programs, and scores at or above the 90th percentile are competitive at the most prestigious programs. If you want more detailed information about scores and programs check out this post on Average GMAT Scores: Top 50 MBA Programs. Knowing what score you need to be competitive at the programs to which you will apply is key. Again, this is an exercise in subjectivity. If you are applying to one of the top programs, you will need a much higher GMAT score to be competitive. If you are applying to programs that arent in the upper echelon, then you will not necessarily need a 90+ percentile score to be competitive. To figure out what score you need, you must do the research. Look up the schools to which you want to apply and find out the average GMAT scores. How Can I Improve My GMAT Score? Take a Diagnostic Test First and foremost, taking a free GMAT practice test can help you gauge your starting point and identify your strengths and weaknesses. It will also give you a sense of the test between your current score and the score you need for the program you are targeting. Become a GMAT Expert by absorbing everything there is to know about the format in Magooshs Complete GMAT and Guide. Youll learn how the GMAT is designed and scored, what skills it tests, and how to study for each section. Follow the Rise Study Schedule Next, you need to find the right study schedule. There is a lot of ground to cover in preparing for the exam. The most successful test-takers organize their prep according to the amount of time they have to prepare and the content areas that pose the greatest challenges to master. For example, it typically takes a lot longer to see improvement in VR versus QR. If you know you are weaker in verbal concepts, youll likely want to follow a schedule that is at least 6 months in length. Use the Best Prep Materials In terms of a prep course that will guide you through everything you will need to be prepared for on exam day, check out Magooshs Premium Subscription, which includes a free one-week trial period. For practice material, go with the questions written by the folks who write the GMAT: GMACs GMAT Official Guide (OG) The newest edition of the e-book and online question bank is here: OG 2023-2024. If you are going to buy a new guide, get that one. Track Your Progress We cannot emphasize enough the importance of keeping a record of your progress. Do so by using an error log. If you are sure sure how to set up your error log, check out Magooshs free template. Final Thoughts Only you can truly answer How hard is the GMAT? However, whether the path forward seems daunting or manageable, Magoosh is here to help! Our GMAT Premium Plan has comprehensive lessons and practice questions to help you master the exam and achieve your target score. Happy Studying! More from Magoosh Top GMAT Prep Course 20% OFF Use Code: TP120 Obviously, the better you score on the GMAT, the better your chances are of getting into the MBA program you want. Before getting into the actual difficulty of this test though, it helps to know how this graduate entrance exam is scored. This computer-based test begins with questions that are of medium difficulty. When you answer these questions correctly, you are presented with more difficult questions to further test your abilities on all three sections, except for the analytical writing assessment. As a result, your score on the GMAT is determined by your level of ability using an algorithm that also calculates the level of difficulty of questions you reached during the test. When determining the GMAT difficulty, youll need to know the average scores, statistically speaking. The verbal and quantitative sections are scored from 60 to 90. On average, the mean score for the verbal is 28 and the quantitative is 79. Overall, you have the potential to reach a combined score of 205 to 805, with 805 as the top score. However, the mean score is 546. Each MBA program determines their minimum GMAT score to accept, with some flexibility. Nationally though, the top 10% of students who take the GMAT score an average of 655, with 25% scoring at approximately 605 or above. Its comforting to know, when wondering about the difficulty of the GMAT, that 50% of most test takers score at or around 550. What Makes the GMAT Hard? This is a question that varies in answer, as your ability to score well depends upon your test taking skills, your preparation and your knowledge base. For some, the unique computer format is a factor. With the GMAT, you can bookmark and change your answers for three questions per section. Those who have scored well have found that the best strategy is to be prepared to answer difficult questions at a quick pace. The time limit is another factor that can make the GMAT hard for some. Factoring in breaks (which are highly recommended), the exam totals roughly two hours and fifteen minutes. You are allotted the following time slots when taking this computerized exam: Verbal: 45 minutes Quantitative: 45 minutes Data Insights: 30 minutes Optional Breaks: One ten minute break. Another factor that makes the GMAT tough is how long youve been out of school. For many individuals, they have been out of college for years. Taking a standardized exam is something they havent done in a very long time, and can feel almost foreign. But more than anything, the hardest part for most everyone is the math. Quant doesnt come easy to all, and the GMAT places a big emphasis on it. Background About the GMAT Known as the Graduate Management Admission Test, the GMAT is a computer-based standardized exam with multiple choice questions that is globally required for entrance into an MBA program. Your test score from the GMAT is used, alongside academic transcripts and work experience, to determine eligibility into graduate school programs. Similar to tests such as the GRE and the LSAT, the GMAT is designed to measure your skills and understanding of data analysis, and algebra. The test also features questions that measure critical thinking and problem solving. Breaking Down The Different GMAT Sections The GMAT features three sections that require test takers to apply analytic and critical thinking skills. The sections consist of Verbal, Quantitative, and Data Insights. You do have some freedom when taking the GMAT, as sections can be taken in any order. In order to be prepared for this decision and gain an in-depth understanding of the GMAT, lets look at each section. Verbal: As expected, the verbal portion of the GMAT measures your understanding of written English. The test features questions on reading comprehension, and critical reasoning. Quantitative: Get ready to test your understanding of basic math concepts in this section of the GMAT. The quantitative section includes both data sufficiency and problem solving questions that are focused on algebra, arithmetic and number properties. Data Insights: This portion of the GMAT features two-part analysis questions and multi-source reasoning questions to test your analytical and critical thinking skills. You will also find graphics interpretation questions and table analysis questions to measure how you can interpret visuals and data. Be Sure To Plan Ahead For The GMAT In order to do your best on the GMAT, youll need to plan ahead. Most test takers prepare for at least two months before the exam and take online practice exams or complete worksheets. Others allow up to six months. Pick a timeline that best meets your circumstances. Its best to work on one section of the GMAT at a time, which requires reviewing basic math principles and then moving on to reading comprehension. It will also help to practice your pacing when taking practice tests for the GMAT. Time yourself to see which principles slow you down during the test and spend more time on those concepts so you can answer quickly and advance to the more difficult questions during the test. The bottom line is that the difficulty of the GMAT depends on your level of preparedness, so study, study, study! Is the GMAT hard? Thats a common question MBA hopefuls have, and one thats not easy to answer. In this article, Ill go over the bad news and the good news about the difficulties of the GMAT, who might have the most difficulty in certain areas, and how to overcome any possible challenges of the exam. Is the GMAT Hard? So, how hard is the GMAT? Lets start with the bad news: the GMAT is definitely challenging. Its meant to be, in order to predict your performance in business school. Some students find the timing of the GMAT difficult; youve got a lot to accomplish in a few hours, and youll have to move efficiently through each question in order to answer them all. Some students are stressed by the format of the test itself. Some questions, like on the Integrated Reasoning section, have several parts that need to be answered. This confuses some students and can seem overwhelming at first. But never fear! The GMAT is certainly not impossible, and not a reason for panic, especially if you stay informed. You can learn to do well, particularly if you know what to expect and prepare accordingly. You dont need any business know-how to do well on the GMAT. Instead, it tests basic critical thinking, writing, and logic skills and high school level math concepts. And the GMAT is standardized, which means its highly learnable. We designed PrepScholar GMATs comprehensive online course to take advantage of this fact. The program includes more than 50 lessons that explain exactly how to tackle every part of the GMAT and over 1,000 realistic questions for you to practice these strategies on. If youre worried about taking on the GMAT, consider checking it out! Not sure how or what to study? Confused by how to improve your score in the shortest time possible? Weve created the only Online GMAT Prep Program that identifies your strengths and weaknesses, customizes a study plan, coaches you through lessons and quizzes, and adapts your study plan as you improve. We believe PrepScholar GMAT is the best GMAT prep program available, especially if you find it hard to organize your study schedule and dont want to spend a ton of money on the other companies' one-size-fits-all study plans. The timing of the GMAT might be challenging for you. How Hard Is the GMAT? 7 Major Challenges Lets begin by going over some of the factors that contribute to GMAT difficulty. 1. Its Long The four sections of the GMAT take about three hours, and test day usually takes 3.5 hours or more if you factor in break time, sign-in, and receiving your unofficial score report. The GMAT takes stamina. There are two optional eight-minute breaks, so youll definitely want to take advantage of those to save your mental strength. 2. Timing Is Everything The time limits on the GMAT may be challenging for you. Youll have 30 minutes to complete your Analytical Writing Assessment, 30 minutes to answer 12 multi-part Integrated Reasoning questions, 62 minutes to finish the 31 questions on the Quantitative section, and 65 minutes to complete the 36 questions on the Verbal section. Not answering every question on a given section will affect your score significantly. Make sure you know how long to spend on each question beforehand, and keep track of your timing as you go along. The timer at the top right hand corner of your screen will help you. 3. The Verbal and Analytical Writing Sections Require Strong English Skills International students and non-native English speakers often find the Verbal and Writing sections extremely challenging. These students can struggle with the Analytical Writing Assessment difficult because of its complexity and open-ended nature. Some non-native English speakers might feel uncomfortable writing at length in English due to spelling/and grammar difficulties or timing issues. Those who do should begin practicing timed AWA sections at home right away and read sample essays to get comfortable with the format. While you should obviously do your best, dont stress about it too much. Business schools are advised by the Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC) to take into consideration and be sensitive to the fact that a student may not be a native English speaker. The high-level vocabulary on the Verbal section can also be challenging for international students. If you think you might struggle with the Verbal section, look up any unfamiliar terms in your practice tests and make a glossary for yourself early on in your GMAT prep. Finally, the grammar questions on the Verbal section may be a struggle for non-native English speakers. If you are nervous about this, begin studying basic English grammar concepts right away, and prioritize grammar in your prep. 4. Its a Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT) The computerized adaptive structure of the GMAT confuses some students, but informing yourself about the format can help. Computerized adaptive tests tailor questions to the skill level of each student. If a student answers easier questions incorrectly, he or she wont be given many more difficult questions. Your score will be determined both by the number of questions you answer correctly and by the difficulty of the questions you answer. This structure can cause issues for some students who may be tempted to game the system or evaluate how theyre doing as they go along. Dont its best to stay focused on the task at hand, and its much more difficult than you might think to guess at the relative difficulty or ease of a given question. Also, because of the CAT format, you cant go back to previous questions once youve confirmed your answers. You have to keep it moving and shift gears mentally every time you confirm an answer, or you run the risk of spending too much time on a single question. 5. Questions Are Often Complicated and Involve Multiple Steps Many questions on the GMAT have several parts, all of which must be answered for full credit. You may have to determine whether four different statements about a passage are true or false, for example, and youll have to classify each statement accurately. This is especially true of the Integrated Reasoning section: All questions on the IR section have multiple parts, and no partial credit is given. Secondly, the phrasing of various GMAT question types can be confusing. On Data Sufficiency questions in the Quantitative section, for example, youll be asked to determine whether a certain given piece of information (such as a value of x or an if/then statement) is enough to solve a problem or equation. The best way to prepare for these kinds of strangely worded questions is simply to familiarize yourself with them and to devote a great deal of prep time to the kinds of questions that confuse you most. 6. You May Have Forgotten Most of the Math The Quantitative (Quant) section consists of primarily high school level math concepts that you may not have reviewed in a while. If you havent used secondary (high school) level math skills like trigonometry, algebra, and geometry in a while, or if they were especially challenging for you, you might be worried about the Quant section. Luckily, they should come back to you with practice and review. 7. You Cant Use a Calculator on the Quantitative Section Some students get nervous about not being able to use a calculator on the Quant section, especially if calculations are complex. The good news is that complex arithmetic (such as multiplying 171.24 by 66.935, for example) is not required in order to answer any questions on the Quant section. If you practice estimation skills at home, such as substituting numbers that end in zero for variables in an equation or rounding unsightly numbers up or down to make them more manageable, you can build your calculation-in-your-head muscles in no time. Also, take heart: There is an onscreen calculator on the Integrated Reasoning section. How hard is the GMAT? It depends on how comfortable you are taking a test on the computer! How Hard Is the GMAT? 3 Pieces of Good News While the GMAT is challenging for many reasons, there are also several reasons not to worry: 1. The GMAT Is Predictable The single most important thing to remember about the GMAT is that its standardized. You can learn exactly what to expect and how to approach it so youre fully confident on test day. The questions in all sections except the Analytical Writing Assessment are multiple-choice, so almost nothing is open-ended. This makes it easy to prepare for the GMAT and easy to know what to expect. 2. The Math Doesnt Require Complex Calculations The math concepts tested on the GMAT are fairly basic: remember, secondary level (primarily trigonometry, algebra, and geometry). So even if you dont remember much of it now, your Quant prep should be like riding a bicycle: a little rocky at first if youre rusty, perhaps, but youll regain your confidence quickly. Also, the required arithmetic isnt likely to make you sweat. The calculations are primarily simple and can all be estimated or quickly computed in your head. 3. All Answer Choices Are Objectively Correct or Incorrect In the Verbal section, for example, all the answers can be found directly in the corresponding passage. This means you can easily use the process of elimination to determine your answer choices. Remember to look for evidence: Every question will have direct textual evidence that makes the answer clear. Remember, the GMAT is standardized, so the answer to each question cant be iffy or subjective. It has to be arguable (or the test-makers would get a lot of complaints!). Once you start preparing, youll learn to spot the necessary evidence in the given texts more quickly and confidently. Review other basic math skills to prepare for the GMAT. How to Prepare for GMAT Difficulty Though the GMAT is hard, there is a lot you can do to make the test easier for you. Check out the tips below to make your studying more efficient and During the Test Since the test takes stamina, make sure youre well rested not just the day of the test, but the week before if possible. Take the two optional breaks, and bring snacks and water to keep in your locker at the testing location. You can also bring comfort items like cough drops and a light sweater or jacket. Comfort is key to avoid distractions. If youre worried about the Verbal section, start reading high-level material right away. Review: How Hard Is the GMAT? Lets review: Is the GMAT hard? The GMAT is challenging. In particular, the length of the test and the phrasing of some of the questions may seem overwhelming or confusing at first. Non-native English speakers may find the Verbal and Analytical Writing Assessment sections intimidating, and students who havent reviewed basic math concepts in a while might struggle with the Quantitative section at first. To prepare for the GMAT difficulty, you should familiarize yourself as much as possible with the format of the test, including timing, question types, and structure, by taking computerized adaptive practice tests. You should also practice doing estimation and arithmetic in your head if youre nervous about not having access to a calculator during the Quant section. If you are worried about the Verbal section, begin reading high-level material such as newspaper and academic journal articles as soon as possible. Remember, the GMAT is standardized. And that makes it learnable! Empower yourself by learning as much as you can about what to expect on exam day, and youll feel much more confident as you prepare to take the GMAT. Non-native English speakers might find the GMAT intimidating at first. But dont worry: With preparation, youll become far more comfortable with the exam. Whats Next? Reading our article on the GMAT formats a good first step in familiarizing yourself with what to expect from the GMAT. If youre worried about the Quant section, check out our complete guide to how to prepare for GMAT Math. Concerned about your grasp of sophisticated vocabulary? Our guide to GMAT vocabulary can help you prepare for the Verbal section. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to enhance your navigation, improve site usage, and assist in our marketing efforts. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of our services, and analyze and understand site usage. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. A 10 min read In the realm of business education, the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) stands as a pivotal assessment tool, integral to the admissions process of numerous prestigious business schools globally. The GMAT exam is used by more than 2,400 universities and institutions in 114 countries with testing in over 600 test centers around the world and serves as a barometer for evaluating potential students suitability for the business school. The tests format has evolved over the years, reflecting the changing landscape of business education and the skills deemed essential for future business leaders. The introduction of the GMAT Focus Edition on Nov 2023 is a testament to this evolution. This edition streamlines the exam, reducing its sections and total duration while maintaining its rigorous standards. The GMAT Focus Edition offers a scoring range from 205 to 805. Annually, over 200,000 individuals take the GMAT, yet only a small fraction, approximately 6%, achieve a score of GMAT Focus 665 or higher. These statistics underscore the exams challenging nature, confirming that the GMAT is indeed demanding, particularly for those aiming for a score above 665. This article delves into the specifics of what makes the GMAT a challenging exam and explores the factors that contribute to its reputation as a difficult test to master. Want to know where you stand on the GMAT? Take our free mock test and discover how hard is the GMAT for you. Get valuable insights into your performance, identify your strengths and weaknesses, and make an informed decision about your preparation path. Take a free GMAT Focus mock Exam Structure and Content GMAT Focus Edition November 2023 marks the advent of the GMAT Focus Edition. This revamped version streamlines the test into three sections: Quantitative Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning, and Data Insights, reducing the overall test duration to 2 hours and 15 minutes. This shift reflects a more targeted approach toward evaluating skills pertinent to modern business challenges. What Does Hard Truly Mean in the GMAT Context? When discussing the difficulty of the GMAT, its essential to delve beyond the surface-level understanding of hard. The GMATs challenge lies in a unique blend of factors that go beyond mere academic knowledge. It tests a range of skills that are crucial for success in business school and beyond. The Time Investment Challenge One of the primary dimensions of the GMATs difficulty is the significant time investment required for preparation. Unlike exams that purely test knowledge, the GMAT assesses problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and the ability to apply concepts in different scenarios. This requires not only a thorough understanding of the material but also extensive practice to master the exams format and question types. Candidates often spend months preparing, balancing this with other commitments, which adds to the perceived difficulty. Broadening Knowledge: Understanding GMATs Content The GMAT covers a wide range of content, especially in quantitative and verbal reasoning. While the quantitative section demands a strong grasp of basic math concepts like algebra and arithmetic, the verbal section tests complex comprehension and reasoning skills in the English language. For many, especially non-native English speakers, this can pose a significant challenge. Familiarity with the content is not just about knowing the concepts but also about understanding how they are applied in the context of the test. The GMAT Focus Edition introduces a pivotal new section: Data Insights (DI). As this section is new, its evolving nature adds an element of unpredictability, requiring test-takers to be adaptable and well-prepared for a variety of data analysis scenarios. The DI section is not just a test of quantitative skills but also of critical thinking and strategic decision-making, making it a challenging yet essential component of the GMAT Focus Edition. Here is a link to an article that will help you with all the information on Data Insights section. Beyond Memorization: The Demand for Deep Application The depth of application required in the GMAT is another aspect that contributes to its difficulty. Its not enough to simply know the right formulas or grammar rules; success on the GMAT depends on how well one can apply this knowledge in solving complex problems under time constraints. The test demands high-level reasoning, critical analysis, and the ability to discern and manipulate information quickly and accurately. Psychological Factors Finally, the hardness of the GMAT is also influenced by psychological factors. Test anxiety, the pressure of high stakes (as GMAT scores are crucial for business school admissions), and the stamina required to maintain focus throughout the test add to its difficulty. Overcoming these psychological barriers is as important as mastering the content and strategies for the test. Click here to know if the GMAT Focus is Harder or easier. Key Features of GMAT 1) Computer Adaptive Test: The GMAT is a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT), meaning the difficulty of the test adapts in real time to the test-takers performance. Each questions difficulty is based on the accuracy of previous answers. This adaptive nature makes the GMAT a highly personalized exam, ensuring that it accurately measures a candidates abilities. This feature also implies that no two GMAT exams are the same, adding a unique challenge to each test-taking experience. One of the notable new features of the GMAT Focus Edition is the ability for test-takers to revisit and change their answers to up to three questions per section. This feature presents a significant shift from the traditional GMAT format, where answers, once submitted, could not be revised. The ability to review and change answers introduces a complex strategic element to the test. On one hand, it offers candidates a chance to correct mistakes, potentially improving their scores. However, this feature also adds a layer of decision-making complexity. Test-takers must not only be confident in their knowledge and answers but also astute in determining which answers to revisit and change. This process requires additional time management and can introduce a psychological element, as candidates might second-guess their initial instincts or spend valuable time deliberating over which answers to revisit. We invite you to read our GMAT Focus Edition Series Articles, an invaluable resource to keep you at the forefront of your GMAT preparation journey. 2) Timing Pressure: The GMAT is as much a test of time management as it is of knowledge and skills. The total duration of the GMAT Focus Edition is approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, with each section having strict time limits. This aspect of the exam requires candidates to not only be proficient in the subject matter but also to be quick and efficient in their problem-solving approach. Managing time effectively while maintaining accuracy is a key challenge for most test-takers. 3) Format The GMAT Focus Edition has streamlined the exam into three main sections: Quantitative Reasoning: With 21 questions, it tests mathematical skills and problem-solving abilities. Verbal Reasoning: Comprising 23 questions, it assesses comprehension, critical reasoning, and command of standard English language. Data Insights: A new section with 20 questions, specifically designed to test data analysis and interpretation skills in a business context. Each section in the Focus Edition is allotted 45 minutes, highlighting the GMACs emphasis on depth of understanding and efficiency. Read this article to learn about the GMAT Focus Edition Syllabus. How to Conquer the GMAT? Mastering the GMAT requires more than just understanding the content; its about developing a comprehensive strategy that encompasses various aspects of preparation. Here are key steps to help you conquer the GMAT: Knowing the format and pattern of the exam Creating and following a personalized study plan Choosing the right resources for preparation Improving time management on the test Beating the test anxiety Learning how the analyse the mock tests. Lets discuss one by one : Knowing the Format and Pattern of the Exam The first step is to become intimately familiar with the exams structure. Understand the types of questions asked in each section and how the computer-adaptive nature of the tests works. For the GMAT Focus Edition, pay special attention to the new section, Data Insights, and how it differs from the traditional format. The simplest way to get acquainted with the exam is to take some GMAT practice tests! Heres how we can help (for free): GMAT practice tests Your one-stop solution to getting GMAT ready! Know the test of your ability your quantitative ability and your verbal ability each of which is composed of sub-sections abilities. When a student begins preparing for GMAT, he/she may very well have different abilities in various sections. So, it is only obvious that each student should have his/her own path to the target GMAT score. And to identify ones starting abilities, what better way to do other than take a GMAT practice test? e-GMATs SIGma-X mock test the only GMAT practice test! mock test is the world that provides key insights that even official mocks do not provide. Not only that as the student progresses through the personalized charted-out path SIGma-X mocks provide key insights that enable the student to refine the plan with the aim to reach the target score in the most efficient manner. NOTE the first mock test is free. You can take the same from here. Given below is a list of articles that will enable you to UNDERSTAND SIGma-X mocks so that you can utilize them completely and prepare for GMAT in the most efficient manner after all, time is the most precious commodity. Here is the list of articles that you should read. We recommend you read through them in the order in which they are presented below. But feel free to jump around if you want! Insights from SIGma-X Mocks Creating and following a personalized study plan. Each aspirant has unique strengths and weaknesses. Create a study plan that addresses your specific needs. Allocate more time to areas where you need improvement and maintain your strengths in others. A study plan helps you keep track of your preparation and monitor your progress on the journey to a 645+ GMAT score. Save 60+ hours on your preparation by crafting an efficient and effective study plan. Watch this video to know more about e-GMATs Personalized study planner for GMAT Focus: Create a Personalized Study Plan Choosing the Right Resources for Preparation Choosing the right resources for your preparation can make the difference between scoring a 700+ score on your first attempt or retaking the test. Data-driven online courses to reduce preparation time significantly. Read this article on the best GMAT books and resources to help with your decision. If you are planning to take the exam, we can help you with a personalized study plan and give you access to quality online content to prepare. Write to us at atacthegmat@e-gmat.com. We are the most reviewed GMAT prep company on gmataclub with more than 2600 reviews. Why dont you take a free trial and judge for yourself? Improving Time Management on the Test Practice under timed conditions to get used to the pressure of the exam. Learn to allocate your time effectively across sections and individual questions. Time management is a skill that improves with practice, so make timers drills a regular part of your study regimen. If you think poor time management is the reason why the GMAT is hard for you then read this article on GMAT time management strategies. Beating Test Anxiety High stakes and the challenging nature of the GMAT can lead to significant test anxiety. Develop techniques to manage stress, such as mindfulness, deep breathing, or positive visualization. Being mentally prepared is just as important as being conceptually prepared. Learning How to Analyse Mock Tests Mock tests are not just for practice; they are a tool for analysis. After each mock test, spend time reviewing your answers, especially the ones you got wrong. Understand why you made mistakes, and use these insights to further improve your accuracy. The best way to understand the GMAT exam format is by trying the test out for yourself. Try Free GFE Mock now. We have provided a clear and concise comparison of GMAT Focus Mocks and explained the mocks algorithm. Conclusion We hope this article helps allay your fears about the difficulty of the GMAT and gives you the insights required to answer the question, How hard is the GMAT?. In case of any other queries related to GMAT preparation and strategy, please write to us at atacthegmat@e-gmat.com. Want to know where you stand on the GMAT? Take our free mock test and discover how hard is the GMAT for you. Get valuable insights into your performance, identify your strengths and weaknesses, and make an informed decision about your preparation path. Dont miss this opportunity to start your MBA journey on the right foot. Take the test today! FAQs : How to create a GMAT Study Plan? Here are the 5 steps to create your GMAT Study Plan 1. Decide on your target Quant and Verbal Scores 2. Estimate the amount of time you need 3. Create the sequence of study 4. Follow a structured approach to study for your target score 5. Take mock tests & review your preparation Heres a detailed article explaining each step on how to create your personalized GMAT Study Plan! Are there any GMAT preparation best practices to follow? Yes, there are. Here are the 6 GMAT preparation best practices for 2024-25: 1. Know all about the GMAT exam 2. Look for the Best GMAT preparation resources 3. Have a personalized study plan 4. Follow sub-section strategies 5. Learn the concepts right and then practice questions 6. Follow Exam day test strategies Read in detail about these best practices here. How much time does it take to prepare for the GMAT? It depends on your current level and what is your target score. Ideally, it would take 3-4 months to prepare well for the GMAT. Ashray scored a GMAT 760 with just 20 days of preparation. While Dhanaanjay, who worked 60+ hours a week full-time, needed 18 months to prepare and score the same. Learn more

Is gmat difficult. Is gmat the toughest exam. Is gmat exam tougher than cat. Which exam is tougher gmat or cat. Is the gmat harder than practice tests. Which exam is tougher gmat or gre. Gmat exam is easy or tough. Gmat is tough.

