

Comparing the Current and Shorter GRE® General Test



The world's most widely used test for admission to graduate and professional programs, including business and law, is getting better! On September 22, 2023, the GRE General Test will be shortened from just under 4 hours to just under 2, and will report scores faster, helping you submit your applications sooner! Read on for similarities and differences.

	Current GRE <i>available until September 20, 2023</i>	Shorter GRE <i>launches September 22, 2023 – registration is open now</i>
Acceptance	Thousands of graduate, business and law schools accept GRE scores for their master's, MBA, JD and PhD programs.	
Skills Measured	Both measure verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing.	
Question Types	Both have the same question types with one exception: the shorter GRE does not have the "Analyze an Argument" essay task in the Analytical Writing section.	
Duration	3 hours, 45 minutes	1 hour, 58 minutes
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Analytical Writing essay tasks • 2 Verbal Reasoning sections with 40 questions total • 2 Quantitative Reasoning sections with 40 questions total • 1 unscored section with 20 questions • 1 scheduled break (10 minutes, after the second hour) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Analytical Writing essay task • 2 Verbal Reasoning sections with 27 questions total • 2 Quantitative Reasoning sections with 27 questions total
Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a test center: The test is offered on a continuous basis at hundreds of centers in 160 countries, so there is likely one that is convenient to you. • At home: Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 	
Fees	All fees are the same across both assessments.	
Test Taking Experience	On both assessments, you can move back and forth within each section, mark questions and return to them later and change your answers — as many times as you'd like — as long as time allows!	
Calculator	You can use an on-screen calculator in the Quantitative Reasoning sections.	

	Current GRE	Shorter GRE
Accommodations	Available for those with disabilities or health-related needs. Note, you must apply and be approved <u>before</u> you register. Accessible test prep is also available.	
Preparation	Prep that is specific for the shorter GRE will be available beginning in September. In the meantime, because all of the content and question types will be the same, you can use existing materials to prepare. Find an abundance of free and low-cost options at ets.org/gre/prepare .	
Score Scales	Both use the same score scales (see chart), and care was taken to maintain important technical properties with the shorter test so schools can use the scores the same way across individuals who tested before and after September 2023.	
Unofficial Scores	Both assessments present your unofficial Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores immediately upon finishing the test.	
Official Scores	10-15 calendar days	8-10 calendar days
Reporting Scores to Schools	Four free score reports are included in your test fee, and additional score reports are available for a fee. Scores are reportable for 5 years, so you could change your mind about your graduate major and not have to take another test!	

Which Should I Take?

Ultimately, the decision whether to take the current or shorter GRE is yours to make! We're happy to present a few factors to consider as you think through which option might be better for you.

Critical Consideration Factor: Your application deadlines

If your application deadlines are the first week of October or sooner, it's best for you to take the current GRE General Test because it could take 8-10 calendar days to receive your scores. You may already feel anxious about taking the test, so best not to also need to worry about scores being delivered on time. To register for the current GRE, choose a test appointment before September 20, 2023.

Other Consideration Factors: Your personal preferences

If your application deadlines aren't an influencing factor, it really comes down to your personal preferences.

You might prefer the current GRE if you:

- Don't mind taking a test that is 3 hours and 45 minutes long. If you're testing at a center, the clock stops for 10 minutes so you can stretch your legs. There is not a break during the home version.
- Feel comfortable writing and would prefer two opportunities to show your analytical writing skills.
- Think having more questions might benefit you because you'll have more opportunities to answer questions correctly and those you get wrong won't count as much toward the final score.

You might prefer the shorter GRE if you:

- Feel that you'll be more at ease if the test is only 2 hours long.
- Feel less comfortable writing and would prefer to get it over in one shot.
- Think having fewer questions might benefit you because with shorter testing time, it's easier to stay focused and avoid fatigue.

Whatever you choose, the GRE team is here to help you do your best on test day! Check out our prep materials, our free monthly prep webinar and our social channels (see icons below) for tips, strategies and words of encouragement from other aspiring students like you!