Achievable

GRE DUMP SHEET

Verbal Reasoning

Three question types, two sections

Type	Format	Credit
Text completion	1—5 sentences with 1—3 blanks. One blank: **5 choices**; two or three blanks: **3 choices per blank**, each blank with one right answer	All blanks right, or none
Sentence equivalence	One sentence, one blank, **6 choices**: pick the **two** that each complete it and give sentences **alike in meaning**	Both right, or none
Reading comprehension	About half the measure. Passages (most one paragraph) of 1—6 questions: **select one** of 5; **select one or more** of 3; **select-in-passage** (click a sentence)	One or more: every right choice, or none

Two sections: **12 questions in 18 minutes**, then **15 in 23**; the second is harder or easier depending on how you did on the first.

Text completion: predict, then match

- **Read it all first:** later context can flip the meaning
- **Write your own filler word** for each blank, then pick the choice closest in **meaning and tone**
- Choose the **best-supported** word, not one merely possible: she won, so *joyful*, not *confused*
- **Start with the easiest blank**, often the last, and work backward

Sentence equivalence: one meaning

- **Predict the blank:** debaters trading insults → *combative*
- **Group the six into synonym pairs:** three pairs leave **1 in 3** before you read; a random two, **1 in 15**
- Take the pair that matches: *polemical*/*hostile*, not *boring*/*monotonous*
- **But** a pair that doesn't fit the sentence is a trap; the right pair need only give sentences that **mean the same**

Signal words

- **Continuation**, the blank agrees: *and*, *also*, *moreover*, *in fact*, *thus*, *therefore*
- **Contrast**, the blank turns: *but*, *yet*, *however*, *although*, *nonetheless*, *while others*

Mirror and puzzle questions

- **Mirror:** the second half restates the first; give the blank the meaning of its twin (*almost lost all* ↔ *severely* ___)
- **Puzzle:** the sentence can't decide, so **the choices do**: mix and match until one pair is logical (*won*, *lost*)

Reading comprehension: read for the author

- The **author's** point, not your opinion; **prove every answer** in the text, never outside knowledge
- A choice can be **true and still wrong**; **extreme language** is usually a trap
- **Select one or more:** judge each choice alone; all three can be right
- **Select-in-passage:** only sentences in the paragraphs named count

Reasoning prompts: facts, conclusion, gap

- Short, **one question**: what would **strengthen** or **weaken** it, or what it assumes
- **Facts** first, **conclusion** usually last; the **assumption** is the gap
- Raise rates to stay profitable? **Weakened** if customers leave: it assumed they stay
- **Trap:** a choice that explains the facts but leaves the conclusion untouched

Regular prompts: five question themes

- **Main idea:** check the opening and close; wrong choices cite a real detail
- **Author's opinion:** look for *should*; a quoted view isn't the author's
- **Informational:** skim to the line, then read around it
- **Choose a sentence:** beware one revised a few lines later
- **Choose a word:** its meaning **in that sentence**, not in general

Vocabulary: learn words in clusters

- **Quiz yourself**, don't just flip flashcards: committing to an answer shows whether you know a word. Words sharing a meaning make ready-made pairs:
  - **Talkative:** loquacious, garrulous
  - **Changeable:** capricious, mercurial, volatile
  - **Sparing with words:** laconic, taciturn
  - **Trite, dull:** banal, hackneyed, prosaic
  - **Stubborn:** obdurate, obstinate, intransigent
  - **Known to few:** arcane, esoteric, recondite