

# FOR GRADUATE MANAGEMENT STUDY WORLDWIDE

## THE GLOBAL STANDARD

The GMAT® exam is the premier entrance exam used by more than 5,400 graduate management programs worldwide. Nearly six decades of research shows that the GMAT exam is a valid, objective measure of skills students need to achieve academic success in graduate-level study of business and management.

## SKILLS MEASURED/QUESTION FORMATS

The GMAT exam measures higher-order reasoning skills rather than facts and does not assume knowledge of business or management. The test measures four different types of reasoning skills:

**Analytical Writing Assessment.** The essay measures the ability to examine the strengths and weaknesses of an argument and express that critique in writing. The Analysis of an Argument prompt presents an argument and asks test takers to analyze it.

**Integrated Reasoning.** This recently introduced section measures the ability to analyze and synthesize data presented in new formats and from multiple sources. The ability to interpret basic statistical graphics is necessary, but advanced knowledge of statistics is not required. There are four question formats, many of which require multiple responses:

**Techniques | Artifacts | Budget**

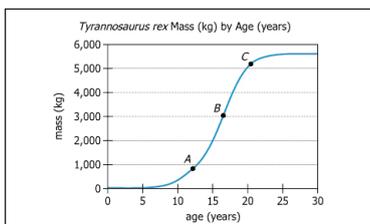
Island Museum analyzes historical artifacts using one or more techniques described below—all but one of which is performed by an outside laboratory—to obtain specific information about an object's creation. For each type of material listed, the museum uses only the technique described:

Animal teeth or bones: The museum performs *isotope ratio mass spectrometry* (IRMS) in-house to determine the ratios of chemical elements present, yielding clues as to the animal's diet and the minerals in its water supply.

**Multi-Source Reasoning:** Different data from two or three tabbed pages must be used to answer questions.

Number of faculty in Fall 1999	Students per faculty member in Spring 2004	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	5,500 $\cdot R$
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	$\frac{5,500}{R}$
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	$\frac{1}{R}$
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	$\left(\frac{100 - S}{100 - P}\right)$
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	$\left(\frac{100 - S}{100 - P}\right)$
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	$\left(\frac{100 - P}{100 - S}\right)$

**Two-Part Analysis:** Solutions involve two components, and possible answers are in a table format with a column for each component.



**Graphics Interpretation:** Graphs or graphical images must be interpreted to fill in the blanks of answer statements accurately.

**Sort By:**

Commodity	Production, world share (%)	Production, world rank	Exports, world share (%)	Exports, world rank
Beef	16	2	22	1
Chickens	15	3	38	1
Coffee	40	1	32	1
Corn	8	4	10	2
Cotton	5	5	10	4
Orange juice	56	1	82	1
Pork	4	4	12	4
Soybeans	27	2	40	2
Sugar	21	1	44	1

**Table Analysis:** A sortable table, similar to a spreadsheet, has to be analyzed to determine whether statements are accurate.

**Quantitative.** The Quantitative section measures the ability to reason quantitatively and discern how much data are needed to solve problems. Basic arithmetic, geometry, and algebra skills are needed, but the difficulty comes from the reasoning skills required and not the underlying math skills. There are two multiple-choice question types:

- **Problem Solving:** Test takers must solve quantitative problems.
- **Data Sufficiency:** A problem and two pieces of data are given, and test takers must specify which and how much data are needed to solve the problem, or if the data provided are not enough. Test takers do not actually have to solve the problem.

**Verbal.** The Verbal section measures the ability to analyze texts, draw inferences, and convey meaning effectively in English. Advanced English vocabulary is not required. There are three multiple-choice question types:

- **Reading Comprehension:** Test takers must answer several questions based on a reading passage of 350 words or fewer.
- **Sentence Correction:** A sentence, part of which is underlined, is provided. Five different ways to express the underlined section are provided, and test takers select the one that conveys the idea most effectively.
- **Critical Reasoning.** A short passage is provided, followed by a question and a series of statements. Test takers select the statement that best answers the question.

## TEST STRUCTURE AND SCORES

The GMAT exam will remain 3 hours, 30 minutes (approximately four hours with breaks).

- Timed, optional breaks may be taken before and after the Quantitative section. Total testing time is 3 hours, 30 minutes.
- The Analytical Writing Assessment and Integrated Reasoning scores are reported separately, and performance on these sections do not count toward the Total score. AWA and IR scores provide separate data points for you to differentiate among applicants to your programs.
- The AWA, Quantitative, Verbal, and Total scores are directly comparable to the previous version of the GMAT exam, although the AWA is now based on one essay rather than two.
- Unofficial score reports provided to test takers immediately after the exam do not include AWA or IR scores; they are included, along with Quantitative, Verbal, and Total scores, on Official Score Reports available within 20 days of the exam sitting.
- Official Score Reports include scaled scores and percentiles, or the proportion of tests from the past three years scoring below the given score. Scaled scores do not change, but percentiles may adjust slightly from year to year. Because the Integrated Reasoning section has been introduced only recently, IR percentiles will be updated monthly throughout 2012 on [mba.com](http://mba.com), on electronic score reports on [gmac.com](http://gmac.com), and on additional score reports requested later.

Section	Time	Number of Questions	Score Scale
Analytical Writing Assessment	30 Minutes	One Essay	0-6, in 0.5 intervals
Integrated Reasoning	30 minutes	12 questions	1-8, in single-digit intervals
Quantitative	75 minutes	37 questions	0-60, in single-digit intervals (scores <7 or >50 are very rare)
Verbal	75 minutes	41 questions	0-60, in single-digit intervals (Scores <9 and > 44 are very rare)
	<b>Total time:</b> 3 hours, 30 minutes, not including breaks		Total score is based on performance on the Quantitative and Verbal sections, reported on a 200-800 scale.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: How long has the current format existed?**

**A:** The GMAT exam with Integrated Reasoning was launched June 5, 2012.

**Q: Why was the Integrated Reasoning section added?**

**A:** The GMAT exam has evolved along with the needs of schools for nearly 60 years. A survey of 740 faculty worldwide showed Integrated Reasoning skills are necessary for today's students and managers.

**Q: How long does it take to get scores?**

**A:** Official Score Reports are available electronically within 20 days of the exam sitting. (Paper score reports may take longer.) Please encourage applicants to test well enough in advance of your deadlines.

**Q: How often do the percentiles change?**

**A:** Percentiles show the proportion of tests from the past three years scoring below a given score and are adjusted annually. Percentiles for Integrated Reasoning, which launched in June, are adjusted every month through 2012 and then on the same yearly scale as the rest of the scores.

**Q: How do I see updated percentiles?**

**A:** Score reports on the electronic score reporting website on [gmac.com](http://gmac.com) will reflect the most current percentiles. Updated percentiles are also available on [mba.com](http://mba.com), and any additional score reports sent will include the most recent percentiles available.

**Q: How do I update my computer system to get Integrated Reasoning scores?**

**A:** Technical specifications are available at [gmac.com/nextgenscores](http://gmac.com/nextgenscores).

**Q: How do I find out more about Integrated Reasoning scores?**

**A:** The Graduate Management Admission Council, which owns the GMAT exam, is holding several webinars about the Integrated Reasoning section and scoring. For registration details and recordings of previous webinars, go to [gmac.com/conferencesandevents](http://gmac.com/conferencesandevents).

For more information about the GMAT exam, go to [gmac.com](http://gmac.com)