

## How to get a 700 on the GMAT

Kaplan or PrincetonReview classes offer you basic ideas and frame as to what you should at least know. But they don't go in detail simply b/c some students in your class won't be able to follow. The private is better in terms of providing what you need, but I felt as though the privates usually lack a framework. No discipline or deadline to do your homework or what not since you and the tutor can adjust your schedule. Before taking any classes, I'd suggest learning on your own by using Manhattan GMAT. It's similar to Kap or PR, but it gives you better explanation. If you are targeting 700 or above, it takes a real commitment from you, including your time and money. If I study it again, here's what I'd do.

- 1) Manhattan GMAT: buy all their 6 volumes of explanation and do them all + online questions.
- 2) Official GMAT: this is a must for any course you'd take.
- 3) OG supplements
- 4) take at least one test every week from Kap, PR, and Manhattan (online).
- 5) and at this point, maybe after doing like 3 or 4 tests, if you feel as though you are not improving then you can decide to take the class. I took both PR classes and Kaplan private and I eventually realized that they both won't help me to get 740. You get 670 and even though you want 710, they will say "Great job! you've got 670!" in the end they don't care what score you get. haha.
- 6) PR
- 7) Kap

### TESTS:

- 1) 2 tests from official GMAT website: do one in the beginning and the other later (but never take more than once b/c it will screw your score since you'd see the same questions for the second time)
- 2) Manhattan GMAT tests: I think there are 6 tests --> besides the tests from the official website these are the most comparable tests out there
- 3) PR
- 4) Kap: the most difficult one

Make sure to review all the questions you got it wrong --> this is the 2nd most step besides taking the practice exam every week. Review them until you know them by heart.

Don't follow the bullshit either Kap or PR tells you how the GMAT scoring work. The official guide states that every question counts the same and it has no reason to lie to you. PR and Kap always tells you that the first 10qs are the most important questions. Not true. Give all your questions equal allotted time and make sure to finish all your questions.

But if you are really trying get around 650 to 690. Don't waste your time and money doing all that. If you are well educated and do pretty well on math, the class should be sufficient for you to get the score you want. I think this is because the classes teach you the tricks to solve the problems and the tricks work on the most of the questions. However, if you want to get 700 or higher, you can't just use tricks because it won't work for a couple of questions and you can't afford to miss them. Also, the first 10qs are important if you want to get around 650 but not if u want to get above 700 because again, you have to get almost every question right and surprisingly this is possible for almost everyone who puts his or her mind to it as long as you spend a hell of time and some bucks.

## **Sentence Correction**

### 1<sup>st</sup> week (90min) Subject-Verb Agreement

- 1) Finding a subject and a verb in a sentence
  - a. Simple sentence
  - b. Complex sentence – get rid of the middleman
    - i. Modifier
    - ii. Of
- 2) Sentence with “And” and “Or” and its verb usage
- 3) Singular/plural subject – eg. Furniture, Singular pronouns, usage of word “number,” “majority,” etc.
- 4) OG SC questions: 1, 3, 21, 34, 41, 42, 52, 61, 70, 90, 116, 131, 138

### 2<sup>nd</sup> week (90 min) Verb tense, Mood, Voice

- 1) Verb past tense: simple, perfect, present perfect, past perfect tense
- 2) the difference between “if” and “whether”
- 3) Mood: indicative vs. subjunctive
- 4) active voice vs. passive voice
- 5) OG SC questions: 15, 28, 57, 58, 59, 62, 63, 74, 75, 76, 81, 83, 94, 108, 126, 137

### 3<sup>rd</sup> week (60 min) Pronouns

- 1) what is a pronoun and how do you use it?
- 2) Find what the pronoun refers to
- 3) Pronoun agreement
- 4) Possessive pronouns
- 5) Extra: “No, No, No!” – words or phrases that you must avoid in the GMAT. Eg. Avoid “being”!
- 6) OG SC questions: 5, 25, 32, 43, 89, 127, 130, 133

### 4<sup>th</sup> week (60 min) Modifiers

- 1) How do you know if it is a modifier?
- 2) Adjective modifiers vs. adverb modifiers
- 3) Modifying phrases – how do you recognize it?
- 4) Essential modifier vs. non-essential modifier
- 5) OG SC questions: 7, 20, 24, 38, 45, 50, 71, 72, 78, 93, 98, 102, 105, 107, 109, 110, 114, 125, 135

### 5<sup>th</sup> week (45 min) Parallelism

- 1) Parallel structures – nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs
- 2) Parallelism with pronouns
- 3) Special idioms with built-in parallel structure – if you see these idioms, you must automatically think of the parallelism
- 4) Seek phrases and modifiers that will confuse you to keep parallelism
- 5) OG SC questions: 9, 11, 17, 18, 19, 22, 35, 39, 46 – 49, 54, 56, 60, 64, 65, 84, 86, 88, 91, 106, 112, 113, 115, 117, 119, 129, 132, 134, 136

### 6<sup>th</sup> week (30 min) Comparisons

- 1) “As” vs. “like”
- 2) Comparisons parallelism
- 3) Comparative and superlative
- 4) OG SC questions: 6, 10, 13, 23, 29, 37, 66, 68, 73, 77, 79, 85, 95, 96, 97, 99, 100, 103, 104, 122, 123, 128

## Critical Reading

1<sup>st</sup> week (40 min) Intro, Premise, Conclusion

- 1) Introduction – what is critical reading and how do we attack it?
- 2) Premise finder
- 3) Conclusion finder
- 4) Do we have any assumptions?
- 5) OG CR questions: 3, 18, 34, 56, 64, 65, 67, 73, 78, 79, 102

2<sup>nd</sup> week (40 min) Diagram, Assumption

- 1) Diagram – use diagrams to save time, catch key details, and focus on the argument structures
- 2) Assumptions – find an assumption
- 3) 4 Different types of assumptions
  - a. Assumptions that fill in a logic gap
  - b. Assumptions that establish the feasibility of the premises
  - c. Assumptions that eliminate alternate paths to the same end
  - d. Assumptions that eliminate alternate models of causation
- 4) OG CR questions: 2, 14, 25, 32, 47, 50, 52, 59, 77, 80, 81, 89, 92, 96, 97, 109, 110

3<sup>rd</sup> week (60 min) Conclusion, Strengthen vs. Weaken

- 1) Determine a conclusion
- 2) Strengthen – how can we strengthen the given argument?
- 3) Weaken – how can we weaken the given argument?
- 4) OG CR questions:
  - a. Strengthen: 7, 9, 13, 16, 26, 28, 30, 36, 37, 41, 43, 53, 54, 63, 67, 69, 73, 103, 112, 114, 117, 123
  - b. Weaken: 1, 3, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 27, 33, 38, 39, 40, 42, 44, 48, 55, 61, 62, 64, 65, 68, 72, 78, 79, 83 – 86, 88, 91, 93, 98, 100, 102, 105, 107, 111, 113, 115, 116, 118, 120, 121, 122, 124

4<sup>th</sup> week (60 min) Strengthen vs. Weaken (continuation)

5<sup>th</sup> week (40 min) Inference, Argument structure

- 1) What is an inference?
- 2) Too much inference?
- 3) Analyze the argument structure
- 4) OG CR questions:
  - a. Inference: 21, 34, 70
  - b. Argument structure: 87, 90, 94

6<sup>th</sup> week (30 min) Other minor problems

- 1) Evaluate the conclusion
  - a. OG CR questions: 5, 24, 106, 108
- 2) Resolve a problem
  - a. OG CR questions: 8, 58

## **Reading Comprehension**

1<sup>st</sup> week (30 min)

- 1) Introduction – the right way to attack RC
- 2) Proper RC understanding
- 3) Learn to summarize

2<sup>nd</sup> week (30 min)

- 1) RC understanding
- 2) Learn to summarize
- 3) Practice reading skills

3<sup>rd</sup> week (40 min)

- 1) Learn to summarize
- 2) Practice reading skills
- 3) Type of questions: General questions

4<sup>th</sup> week (40 min)

- 1) Practice reading skills
- 2) Type of questions: Specific questions
- 3) Strategies for all RC questions

5<sup>th</sup> week (40 min)

- 1) Practice reading skills
- 2) Strategies for all RC questions

6<sup>th</sup> week (40 min)

- 1) Practice reading skills
- 2) Complete guide to RC questions

## **Analytical Writing**

5<sup>th</sup> week (30 min)

- 1) Introduction – easy way to get a perfect writing score
- 2) Analysis of an Issue
- 3) Learn to outline the topic

6<sup>th</sup> week (30 min)

- 1) Analysis of an Argument
- 2) Learn to outline the topic

## **Homework**

Idioms – 300 idioms that appear in the GMAT (50 idioms per week)

Vocabulary words – 50 words with similar spellings, but different meanings (10 pairs of words per week)

Reading Comprehension – GMAT related articles to practice and enhance reading skills