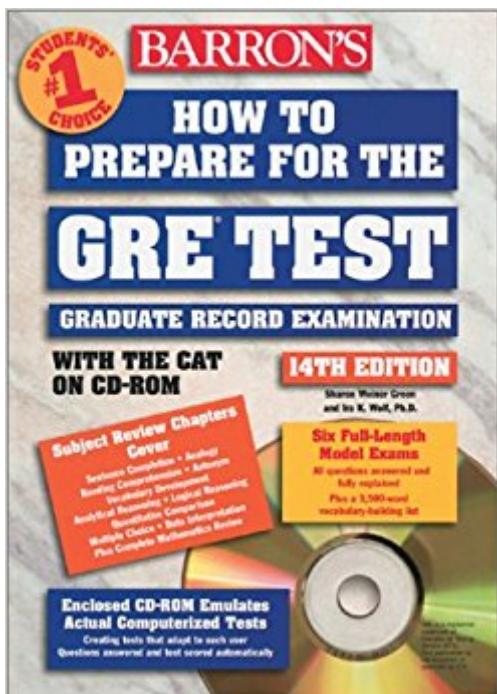


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How To Prepare For The GRE: Graduate Record Examination With CDROM (Barron's How To Prepare For The Gre Graduate Record Examination)



Synopsis

The recently published 14th edition of Barron's Graduate Record Exam test prep manual is now available with a brand new CD-ROM that features an entirely new and up-to-date model computer adaptive exam. That is the way in which the actual GRE test is now given, which makes Barron's CD-ROM the closest possible simulation of test-taking conditions available anywhere. The CD-ROM presents an adaptive test that is unique to each test-taker, based on the way the first question is answered. All model test questions are answered and explained, and exams are scored automatically.

Book Information

Series: Barron's How to Prepare for the Gre Graduate Record Examination

Paperback: 597 pages

Publisher: Barron's Educational Series; 14th edition (2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0764174711

ISBN-13: 978-0764174711

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 7.8 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,370,099 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > Graduate School > Graduate Preparation #460 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > Graduate School > GRE #12763 in Books > Textbooks > Test Prep & Study Guides

Customer Reviews

Thank you, It's wonderful

This Barron's guide to the GRE probably has equivalent information and study tips to the other GRE guides that are available, making it an acceptable guide. This especially applies to the Verbal Ability section and the diagnostic and model tests. The 3500-word dictionary of brainiac words is also useful but takes forever to get through if you tackle it from a study angle. The biggest problem with this guide is the Quantitative (math) Ability section, in which complex solutions are difficult to read and sometimes contain errors and typos. Take this example:

" $x+.25x=1.25x=2000 \Rightarrow y=2000/.75=2666.67$." Now imagine that crammed into the middle of a paragraph containing various fonts and typefaces - and this example doesn't even contain square roots, exponents, fractions, or other hard to read symbols. Add to that some flat-out errors (see some of the other reviews here for examples) and the Quantitative section presents some difficulties. The Analytical Ability section falters in some places as it tries to explain how you should "infer" or "deduce" answers. I found myself just plain disagreeing with some of the answers in the Analytical section, with no explanation as to why I should agree with the guide's answer. One final humbug in this edition is the 2-page synopsis on the new Analytical Writing portion of the test, which is hidden at the end of the book after about 140 pages of model test information. This guide will surely help you practice adequately for the GRE, but the presentation leaves a little to be desired. Also, you can buy this book with the optional CD-ROM, which gives tips on the current computer-based version of the test. If you have at least competent computer skills, the CD-ROM is unnecessary, so skip it and save some money.

Barron's "How to Prepare for the GRE: Graduate Record Examination" is an excellent study guide. Although my book was an older version than the latest edition, it still offers studies in the same areas as the newer books. Of course, math and logic simply do not change very often therefore making this book as good as the newest edition. It is well worth using as a supplement to other study guides as well.

Don't believe me? Let me give you just few examples among many: On p. 281, the solution to question 13 requires the total number of acceptable committees, and fails to include JKJOR, which was an acceptable committee in the answer to question 12! On p. 285, question 15 asks which students could *not* be the last to perform. The fifth choice, "Ellen" is the most obvious choice (the set of conditions on page 283 states she must be first!) but is not the right answer, according to Barron's. On p. 287, just before Question 18, they state that "it is now an easy task to answer question 4". There is no question 4 in relation to the tactic. I know this all sounds boring, but I just wanted to document the glaring errors. And folks, this is within the span of 7 pages. Barron's, if you are reading this, thanks for NOTHING. I have pulled my hair out only to find one incorrect item after another. Go with Kaplan. You've been warned. Scott

I have in my possession about 4 different GRE books that are current. The Barron one is the worst of them all. I choose here to focus my critique on its quantitative part because I am doing well in this part,

not thanks to Barron. Of utmost importance, there are some statement in their statements in mathematics, which is unforgivable.Pros (general):1. Contain the most mock test that has explanations to the correct choices2. Has ONE math trick that no other books have--though it turns out less useful than I thought...Cons (quantitative):1. It's hard to read: sentences and vocabulary inconsistent with what is used in the GRE itself. It could just be me, since I was educated under the British educational system rather than the USA's, thus unfamiliar with the terminology commonly understood.2. The quantitative questions are often vaguely stated, for example:"In 1975 what percent of female college students were at least 25 years old" [ref: pg 328 under the "Data Interpretation Questions"]. This could be interpreted to mean (A) amongst the females, how many % are 25+? or; (B) amongst ALL students, how many are 25+ females? Barron was in fact asking for the former. Many of their questions are like that. Be aware. ETS would NEVER do something like this, think how many hours of complaints would they have to deal with! No other books have this problem.3. The mock quantitative tests' questions are too much harder than the ETS questions, thus rendering them useless as practise.I understand the principle of training on harder questions than one would encounter just to be over-trained. However, Barron's questions so far exceeds the need of the GRE--unfortunately this is mainly due to its ambiguous language--as to make it irrelevant to the GRE.4. Examples of false informationPage 335:"Every integer has a finite set of factors (or divisors) and a infinite set of multiples."EXCEPT FOR ZERO: 0 has an infinite number of factors, since anything multiply by 0 = 0, so EVERY number is a factor of 0.

This book was a waste of money. It is written for the paper test, which is not given anymore. There are a few modifications for the CAT, but it is obvious the authors did not put much time into modifying the book for the CAT. The computer program contains many careless errors. In fact, the analytical section had omitted words and parts of clues. In places, the questions were unanswerable because of these omissions. The quantitative section had many errors, and even gave incorrect answers for some of the graph questions. This book may cause you to do worse on the GRE's. I bought this book along with Peterson's cracking the GRE and the ETS "Big Book". The Peterson's book contains some useful hints on the analytical section, but I strongly recommend the ETS Big Book and the ETS PowerPrep software.

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