

Chapter 1 Introduction

Introduction

I. What is the GMAT™ Official Advanced Questions?

The GMAT™ Official Advanced Questions is a compilation of 300 hard Quantitative Reasoning and Verbal Reasoning questions, similar in difficulty level to hard questions found in the GMAT Official Guide series. Some of these questions have appeared in earlier editions of the GMAT Official Guide series; others have never been published before.

Like all GMAT questions, *hard* GMAT questions test higher-order reasoning skills identified as key factors of success in classrooms and job performances by educators and employers. They are unlike questions on other types of achievement-based exams, which focus more on mastery of mechanical cognitive skills and domain-specific knowledge. To solve GMAT questions, a test taker needs to demonstrate higher-order reasoning skills by understanding the underlying relationships between multiple concepts or arguments, identifying patterns, synthesizing information presented in various formats, and/or evaluating relevant information from different sources. What makes some GMAT questions harder than others is the level of complexity: hard GMAT questions typically involve multiple reasoning tasks or concepts and require more than one step to solve. They do not require mastery of skills and knowledge such as advanced-level mathematics, extensive calculations, or a large vocabulary in order to be solved.

II. Who should use the GMAT™ Official Advanced Questions?

The GMAT™ Official Advanced Questions is designed for test takers who have studied the questions in the GMAT Official Guide series and desire additional practice with hard questions.

For a simulation of the real exam experience, there are six GMAT Official Practice Exams—the first two are free to all mba.com registrants—which are available on mba.com and feature questions from past GMAT exams and use the same scoring algorithm as the actual exam.

III. How should I use the GMAT™ Official Advanced Questions?

Use the GMAT™ Official Advanced Questions for additional practice. The questions are organized by fundamental skills tested on the GMAT exam to better help you locate the specific skill type that you may want to improve. The fundamental skills are the same ones listed in the GMAT™ Enhanced Score Report, a non-official score report that provides more detailed information about your performance on the actual GMAT exam, which include:

Quantitative Reasoning

- *Geometry*—3-dimensional geometry; angles in the plane/lines and segments; circle/area; combo: circle/quadrangle/area/perimeter; coordinate geometry; polygon (5 or more sides); Pythagorean Theorem; quadrilateral area
- *Rates/Ratio/Percent*—conversion of fractions/decimals/percentages; graduated rate; percent (basic); ratio, proportion
- *Value/Order/Factors*—absolute value; computation-decimals; exponents; factors, multiples, divisibles; number line and order; place value; positive and negative numbers; remainders
- *Equalities/Inequalities/Algebra*—algebraic manipulation; applying formula; linear equation; linear inequality; measurement conversion; newly defined functions; quadratic/other equalities/inequalities; systems of equations/inequalities; translation to algebraic expression
- *Counting/Sets/Series*—counting (combinatorics); estimation; series and sequences; sets

Verbal Reasoning

- *Critical Reasoning Analysis/Critique*—ability to analyze given information and make reasoned judgments by evaluating and breaking down an argument
- *Critical Reasoning Construction/Plan*—ability to construct a plan of action to find the best logical solution
- *Reading Comprehension Identify Inferred Idea*—ability to comprehend what a passage implies but does not explicitly mention
- *Reading Comprehension Identify Stated Idea*—ability to recognize and understand the ideas explicitly expressed in a passage
- *Sentence Correction Grammar*—ability to identify the answer that will create a sentence which is grammatically and structurally sound
- *Sentence Correction Communication*—ability to identify the answer that will create an effective sentence which expresses an idea or relationship clearly and concisely, as well as grammatically

For more information about the Enhanced Score Report and a description of each fundamental skill area, go to www.mba.com/esr-demo. *Note: The ratio of questions across different question types (e.g., data sufficiency, problem solving, etc.) and fundamental skills in GMAT™ Official Advanced Questions do not reflect the ratio of questions on the actual GMAT exam.*

Spend time reviewing the answer explanations and understanding the methods discussed. Like those in the GMAT Official Guide series, the answer explanations are written by GMAT subject matter experts with decades of experience writing and editing GMAT questions. Review these explanations carefully to understand the solution and identify techniques or approaches which may be applied to other GMAT questions.

Lastly, go online to gmat.wiley.com and access the Online Question Bank. The GMAT exam is administered on a computer, and it may be beneficial for you to practice answering on a computer. The Online Question Bank contains all of the questions that are in this book and allows you to create customized practice sets, use the timer, track your progress, and view performance metrics. You can also study on-the-go by accessing the Online Question Bank through the Wiley Efficient Learning mobile app, available in both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.