

GRE 2025 Analytical Reasoning Practice Test

Time Allowed : About 3 hrs 45 mins	Maximum Score : 340 (Verbal+Quant) + 6 (AWA)	Sections : 3 Main + 1 Unscored
--	---	--

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The GRE General Test has a duration of about 3 hours 45 minutes, divided into six sections (including one unscored/experimental section).
2. The test consists of the following sections:
 - **Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA)** – 2 tasks, 30 minutes each.
 - **Verbal Reasoning** – 2 sections, 20 questions each, 30 minutes per section.
 - **Quantitative Reasoning** – 2 sections, 20 questions each, 35 minutes per section.
 - **Unscored/Research Section** – May appear anytime (not counted in score).
3. Scoring Pattern:
 - Verbal Reasoning: 130–170 (in 1-point increments).
 - Quantitative Reasoning: 130–170 (in 1-point increments).
 - Analytical Writing: 0–6 (in half-point increments).
4. No negative marking is applied in the GRE. Test-takers are advised to attempt all questions.
5. Only an on-screen calculator is allowed for Quantitative Reasoning. No physical calculators, mobile devices, or electronic gadgets are permitted.
6. Breaks: A 10-minute break is provided after the third section; one-minute breaks between other sections.

Analytical Writing Questions

Question 1. The best way to solve environmental problems caused by consumer-generated waste is for towns and cities to impose strict limits on the amount of trash they will accept from each household.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

Solution:

I strongly agree that imposing strict limits on the amount of trash each household can generate is an effective way to address the environmental problems caused by consumer-generated waste.

While this approach holds significant potential, it must be seen as one part of a broader set of strategies aimed at mitigating environmental damage. In isolation, it may not be sufficient to solve all the issues associated with waste management, and for this reason, complementary policies should also be considered.

First, imposing trash limits encourages individuals to become more conscious of their consumption habits. This strategy could create a culture of sustainability, where households are incentivized to reduce waste, reuse products, and recycle more efficiently. For instance, limiting trash disposal would force people to think twice about purchasing disposable products or over-packaged items, thus directly addressing one of the major causes of waste accumulation. Studies in various regions have shown that when residents face limits on waste disposal, they often become more active in sorting their waste, opting for reusable materials, and supporting initiatives like community composting programs.

Furthermore, this policy could reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, a key source of pollution. By limiting household waste, towns and cities would lower their landfill usage, thereby reducing methane emissions and other harmful effects on the environment. Additionally, reducing waste in landfills would help to conserve land and reduce the need for landfills to expand, which can harm nearby ecosystems and reduce available green spaces for future generations.

However, critics of this policy may argue that imposing strict waste limits could place undue pressure on families, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. Many families may struggle to adapt to strict waste limits, particularly if they have larger households or if their local recycling and waste management infrastructure is not well-established. The cost of purchasing alternative waste disposal methods or recycling options could also burden these families, leading to unintended negative consequences. Furthermore, limiting waste disposal might inadvertently encourage illegal dumping, where individuals dispose of waste in areas outside of the regulated zones, leading to even more environmental harm.

To mitigate such potential downsides, it is essential for municipalities to complement trash limits with educational initiatives, as well as financial incentives. For instance, cities could offer subsidized recycling programs or provide accessible composting facilities for residents to make it easier for everyone, especially low-income households, to comply with the new policies. Public education campaigns could also be launched to raise awareness about sustainable living, teaching individuals how to reduce waste and make environmentally conscious decisions. Additionally, providing access to more affordable reusable products would support families in adhering to waste reduction efforts.

Lastly, it is important to recognize that while restricting waste disposal is effective in some contexts, it cannot stand alone. It should be part of a more comprehensive strategy that includes policies for reducing industrial waste, promoting environmentally friendly products, and encouraging larger systemic changes. For example, improving product design to reduce packaging, enhancing waste diversion programs, and incentivizing companies to adopt sustainable practices would further support waste reduction efforts.

In conclusion, while limiting the amount of waste each household can dispose of is a good strategy to tackle environmental issues, it must be implemented alongside other efforts such as education, improved infrastructure, and stronger public policy. Only through a multifaceted approach can we hope to reduce the environmental impact of consumer-generated waste and create a more sustainable future.

Quick Tip

When advocating for a policy, it's essential to consider potential challenges and counterarguments. Solutions should be flexible and adaptable to the needs of different communities to ensure effective implementation.

Question 2. Claim: Though often considered an objective pursuit, learning about the historical past requires creativity.

Reason: Because we can never know the past directly, we must reconstruct it by imaginatively interpreting historical accounts, documents, and artifacts.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which the claim is based.

Solution:

I agree with the claim that learning about the historical past requires creativity. While history is often considered an objective pursuit rooted in facts, the process of understanding and interpreting the past inherently involves creativity. This is because historians cannot access the past directly; they must rely on secondary sources such as documents, artifacts, and oral histories, all of which are filtered through human perception. These sources can be incomplete, biased, or contradictory, and it is through the creative application of analytical skills that historians are able to reconstruct an accurate picture of historical events.

For example, historians often use imagination to fill in gaps where evidence is sparse. They infer motivations behind historical actions, examine the societal context of a given period, and speculate on the relationships between different events. This creativity allows historians to propose theories about the past that may not be immediately obvious from the available evidence. Thus, while history is grounded in fact, it is also shaped by the creativity of historians in interpreting those facts.

However, one might argue that creativity should not be confused with conjecture. It is important to recognize that creativity in history should be guided by rigorous methods of evidence collection and analysis. Without a solid foundation in primary sources and a disciplined approach to research, creativity could lead to false or biased interpretations. Therefore, while creativity is an essential tool for historians, it must be grounded in the ethical and analytical standards of the discipline.

Quick Tip

When studying history, always ensure that creative interpretations are backed by reliable evidence to maintain objectivity.

Question 3. The following appeared in a letter to the editor of a Relannian newspaper.

Industry analysts report that the number of dairy farms in Relanna has increased by 25 percent over the last decade. Also, recent innovations in milking technology

make it possible for farmers to significantly increase the efficiency of the milking process, allowing them to collect more milk in less time with minimal human intervention. In fact, data from the Relannian Department of Agriculture indicate that labor costs at the majority of Relannian dairy farms are actually lower now than they were ten years ago. Despite increased efficiency and lower labor costs, a carton of cream — a dairy product made from milk — at the local food market costs twice as much as it did two years ago. The only explanation for this dramatic price increase is that farmers are inflating the price of cream to increase their profits.

Write a response in which you discuss one or more alternative explanations that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanations can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.

Solution:

While the proposed explanation that farmers are inflating the price of cream to increase their profits is plausible, it is not the only possible explanation for the increase in price. There are several alternative factors that could explain the higher cost of cream without relying solely on profit inflation by farmers.

First, the increase in price could be due to increased demand for cream. Perhaps consumer preferences have shifted in favor of cream, leading to higher prices in response to greater demand. For example, as the popularity of dairy-based products like whipped cream or premium coffee drinks has grown, the demand for cream might have surged, prompting a price increase. Another potential explanation could be related to changes in transportation or distribution costs. Even though farmers may be collecting more milk efficiently, the costs of transporting milk and cream to market could have increased due to factors such as rising fuel prices, labor shortages in the logistics sector, or regulatory changes in transportation. This would result in higher retail prices for consumers, even if the costs of production have decreased.

Additionally, the dairy industry might have faced higher costs for raw materials used in the production of cream, such as feed for cattle, which could explain the price hike. If feed prices have risen over the past two years, it would naturally lead to higher production costs for dairy products, including cream, which would be reflected in the retail price.

In conclusion, while profit inflation is a possible explanation, the price increase could also be due to shifts in demand, higher transportation costs, or increased input prices. These factors provide alternative explanations that could account for the facts presented in the argument.

Quick Tip

Always consider multiple factors that could explain a situation before drawing conclusions. Alternative explanations can often provide more clarity.

Question 4. According to an independent poll of 200 charitable organizations, overall donations of money to nonprofit groups increased last year, but educational institutions did not fare as well as other organizations. Donations to international aid groups increased the most (30 percent), followed by donations to environmental groups (23 percent), whereas donations to educational institutions

actually decreased slightly (3 percent). Meanwhile, some of the major economic indicators suggest that consumer spending is higher than average this year, showing that potential donors have ample disposable income. Therefore, the clearest explanation for the decline in donations to educational institutions is that people actually value education less than they did in the past.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the argument and explain your reasoning.

Solution:

While the argument presents a plausible explanation for the decline in donations to educational institutions, it overlooks several important factors that could account for the observed trend. The claim that people value education less than in the past may be overly simplistic and fails to consider other explanations that could better account for the decrease in donations.

One alternative explanation could be that, despite an increase in disposable income, donors may be prioritizing other causes over education. The increase in donations to international aid groups and environmental organizations suggests that people may be more inclined to support causes that they perceive as more urgent or directly impactful. This is particularly evident in times of global crises, where international aid groups and environmental organizations often receive increased support due to heightened awareness of pressing issues.

Additionally, the nature of donations to educational institutions may have changed. Rather than general donations, more donors might be choosing to fund specific programs or projects within educational institutions, which could explain the decrease in overall donations. Moreover, educational institutions may have received larger donations from fewer sources, making the overall increase less significant compared to other sectors.

Lastly, the declining donations to educational institutions could reflect broader trends in public perception about the efficacy or transparency of educational organizations. Some individuals might be hesitant to donate due to concerns about administrative overhead, the allocation of funds, or the effectiveness of educational programs. These factors may influence potential donors' decisions.

In conclusion, while it is tempting to attribute the decline in donations to educational institutions solely to a decrease in the perceived value of education, other factors, including donor priorities and perceptions of efficacy, likely play a significant role in shaping donation patterns.

Quick Tip

When evaluating explanations for trends, always consider multiple perspectives and explore other factors that could influence the observed results.

Question 5. The following memo appeared in the newsletter of the West Meria Public Health Council.

“An innovative treatment has come to our attention that promises to significantly reduce absenteeism in our schools and workplaces. A study reports that in nearby East Meria, where consumption of the plant beneficia is very high, people visit the doctor only once or twice per year for the treatment of colds. Clearly, eating a substantial amount of beneficia can prevent colds. Since colds are the reason most frequently given for absences from school and work, we

recommend the daily use of nutritional supplements derived from beneficia. We predict this will dramatically reduce absenteeism in our schools and workplaces.”

Write a response in which you discuss one or more alternative explanations that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.

Solution:

While the suggestion that daily use of beneficia supplements could reduce absenteeism is compelling, it is important to consider other factors that might explain the lower absenteeism in East Meria. One key alternative explanation is that the reduced absenteeism might not be caused by the consumption of beneficia, but rather by other aspects of the health and wellness practices in East Meria. For instance, it is possible that people in East Meria have better access to healthcare, healthier lifestyles, or a lower stress environment, all of which could contribute to fewer sick days.

Another factor to consider is the cultural differences between East Meria and West Meria. The study might not have controlled for other social or environmental variables, such as work culture, school attendance policies, or even the economic status of individuals in the two areas. Perhaps the people in East Meria have a different approach to illness, such as less frequent use of sick leave, or greater community support for maintaining health.

Additionally, the claim that beneficia prevents colds is based on the assumption that the plant's effects are the primary cause of reduced absenteeism, but this may not be substantiated by scientific evidence. There might be other factors, such as improved sanitation or better nutrition, that contribute more directly to reduced illness rates.

In conclusion, while the idea of using beneficia as a remedy is intriguing, it is essential to consider a broader range of explanations for the observed reduction in absenteeism, including healthcare practices, cultural factors, and the quality of life in East Meria.

Quick Tip

When evaluating health-related claims, always seek alternative explanations and consider broader contextual factors before accepting a single cause.

Question 6. The following appeared in an e-mail sent by the marketing director of the Classical Shakespeare Theatre of Bardville.

“Over the past ten years, there has been a 20 percent decline in the size of the average audience at Classical Shakespeare Theatre productions. In spite of increased advertising, we are attracting fewer and fewer people to our shows, causing our profits to decrease significantly. We must take action to attract new audience members. The best way to do so is by instituting a ‘Shakespeare in the Park’ program this summer. Two years ago the nearby Avon Repertory Company started a ‘Free Plays in the Park’ program, and its profits have increased 10 percent since then. If we start a ‘Shakespeare in the Park’ program, we can predict that our profits will increase too.”

Write a response in which you discuss one or more alternative explanations that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.

Solution:

While the suggestion to start a ‘Shakespeare in the Park’ program is a reasonable course of action, it is important to consider that the decrease in the average audience size may be caused by factors other than the format of the productions. One alternative explanation could be the increasing availability of other entertainment options, which may divert attention from Shakespeare Theatre productions. The rise of digital streaming services and other forms of entertainment, such as online content or streaming platforms, could be responsible for reducing the theater’s audience. People may be increasingly choosing home entertainment over live performances, which would explain the declining attendance.

Another potential explanation is that the productions at the Classical Shakespeare Theatre may not be resonating with the audience’s preferences. Over time, tastes and interests evolve, and perhaps the current style or content of the plays no longer aligns with what the community desires. This decline could be unrelated to the venue or format and more related to the changing nature of the audience’s cultural consumption.

Moreover, the assumption that starting a ‘Shakespeare in the Park’ program will lead to increased profits might be premature. While free outdoor performances could attract larger crowds, they may not necessarily translate into increased profits. People attending free events might not purchase tickets or engage in other revenue-generating activities such as concessions or merchandise.

In conclusion, while starting a ‘Shakespeare in the Park’ program might increase visibility, the theater should also consider other factors such as audience preferences, the competitive entertainment market, and pricing strategies to fully address the decline in attendance.

Quick Tip

Before adopting a new strategy to boost sales or attendance, always analyze the root cause of the problem and ensure the solution aligns with the actual needs of the target audience.

Question 7. The following appeared in a memorandum from the manager of WWAC radio station.

“To reverse a decline in listener numbers, our owners have decided that WWAC must change from its current rock-music format. The decline has occurred despite population growth in our listening area, but that growth has resulted mainly from people moving here after their retirement. We must make listeners of these new residents. We could try playing music tailored to their tastes, but a continuing decline in local sales of recorded music suggests limited interest in music. Instead, we should change to a news and talk format, a form of radio that is increasingly popular in our area.”

Write a response in which you discuss one or more alternative explanations that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.

Solution:

The suggestion to change to a news and talk format may address some concerns but overlooks several potential factors behind the decline in listener numbers. First, the decline may be due

to changes in the radio industry as a whole, rather than issues specific to WWAC's format. With the rise of streaming services, podcasts, and on-demand content, many listeners now have access to personalized content that suits their interests, reducing the need to tune into traditional radio stations. The decline in listener numbers could be a result of this broader trend in the media consumption landscape.

Furthermore, the argument suggests that the decline is primarily due to the influx of retirees, but this group might not be the sole factor. It is possible that younger listeners who grew up with different media platforms are simply less likely to tune in to radio. Even if WWAC switches to a news and talk format, it might not be enough to engage a younger audience that prefers streaming or digital media.

Additionally, the argument assumes that the news and talk format will attract listeners, but this is not guaranteed. People who are interested in talk radio may already be tuning in to other stations or platforms. Without understanding what the new residents of the area truly want, the switch to a talk format might fail to meet their needs and preferences.

In conclusion, while changing to a news and talk format might seem like a solution, it does not address the underlying shift in consumer media habits. WWAC could benefit from exploring digital platforms, podcasting, or other forms of media consumption to engage listeners more effectively.

Quick Tip

When analyzing a decline in customer engagement, consider industry-wide trends and audience preferences before making sweeping changes.

Question 8. Three years ago, because of flooding at the Western Palean Wildlife Preserve, 100 lions and 100 western gazelles were moved to the East Palean Preserve, an area that is home to most of the same species that are found in the western preserve, though in larger numbers, and to the eastern gazelle, a close relative of the western gazelle.

Write a response in which you discuss one or more alternative explanations that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.

Solution:

The claim that the relocation of lions and western gazelles from the Western Palean Wildlife Preserve to the East Palean Preserve is responsible for the decrease in the population of eastern gazelles overlooks several other potential explanations. First, the introduction of lions into the East Palean Preserve may have disrupted the local ecosystem in ways that go beyond the impact on the gazelle population. Lions, as apex predators, could have started preying on the eastern gazelles, which might explain their population decline.

Additionally, it is possible that the relocation of western gazelles, although in greater numbers, has led to increased competition for resources, such as food and water, between the western and eastern gazelles. If the western gazelles have adapted better to the environment or reproduce at a faster rate, they could be outcompeting the eastern gazelles, leading to their decline.

Another alternative explanation could be related to the ecological balance of the East Paean Preserve, which might have been altered by the influx of new species. The presence of the lions and western gazelles could have disrupted the habitats of other species, leading to a cascading effect on the ecosystem. This could include changes in plant life or the displacement of other herbivores that share the same grazing areas as the gazelles.

In conclusion, while the relocation of the lions and western gazelles may have had an impact, other factors, such as predation, competition, and ecosystem disruption, should be carefully considered as potential causes for the decline of the eastern gazelle population.

Quick Tip

When analyzing changes in an ecosystem, consider the broader impact of new species, including potential effects on food chains, competition, and overall habitat balance.

Q9. “Color photography has eliminated the need for realism in artistic painting, in the opinion of a number of art scholars and artists. At the same time, many members of the art community still feel that realistic artwork is still valuable and worthwhile.”

- (A) Agree, because color photography has eliminated the need for realistic art.
- (B) Disagree, as realism in art serves as an important expression of human creativity.
- (C) Agree, but only in some cases, color photography does not affect all artistic forms.
- (D) Disagree, as traditional forms of art hold inherent value independent of color photography.

Correct Answer: (D) Disagree, as traditional forms of art hold inherent value independent of color photography.

Solution: Step 1: Evaluate the claim.

The claim states that color photography has eliminated the need for realism in artistic painting. While color photography indeed brings new opportunities, it does not render traditional realism in painting obsolete. Realism in art continues to hold artistic, cultural, and emotional significance beyond technical constraints.

Step 2: Discuss the value of realism.

Realism is often viewed as an essential artistic approach for expressing detailed perceptions of the world. It serves as a means for artists to convey human experiences, history, and emotions in ways that transcend technological advancements. While color photography offers a different medium, it does not diminish the artistic value of painting in its realistic form.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, traditional realistic painting remains valuable and worthwhile for its cultural relevance and aesthetic appeal, even in the age of color photography.

Final Answer:

Disagree, as traditional forms of art hold inherent value independent of color photography.

Quick Tip

Even as technology advances, traditional forms of art retain cultural and historical importance, allowing them to coexist with new media like photography.

Q10. “Claim: A person in authority should always encourage those under him or her to share their thoughts and ideas. Reason: A leader’s main goal should be to promote innovation and change.”

- (A) Agree, as open dialogue fosters creativity and innovation.
- (B) Disagree, as not all ideas are practical or beneficial to share.
- (C) Agree, but only when it is necessary for progress.
- (D) Disagree, as promoting change without evaluating all ideas can be harmful.

Correct Answer: (A) Agree, as open dialogue fosters creativity and innovation.

Solution: Step 1: Evaluate the claim and reason.

The claim suggests that people in authority should encourage open sharing of thoughts and ideas. The reason aligns with promoting innovation and change. Leaders who facilitate the flow of ideas within an organization can help promote new solutions and foster a culture of creativity.

Step 2: Analyze counter-arguments.

Some might argue that not all ideas are feasible or beneficial, and blindly encouraging idea-sharing could lead to confusion or lack of focus. However, even unrefined ideas can spark innovation when they are open for constructive feedback.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Encouraging open dialogue is a core principle of leadership that leads to innovation and problem-solving, making the approach beneficial in most circumstances.

Final Answer:

Agree, as open dialogue fosters creativity and innovation.

Quick Tip

Leaders should cultivate an environment where ideas are shared freely, encouraging both innovation and constructive criticism.

Q11. The following appeared as a letter to the editor from the owner of a skate shop in Central Plaza.

”Two years ago the city council voted to prohibit skateboarding in Central Plaza. They claimed that skateboard users were responsible for litter and vandalism that were keeping other visitors

from coming to the plaza. In the past two years, however, there has been only a small increase in the number of visitors to Central Plaza, and litter and vandalism are still problematic. Skateboarding is permitted in Monroe Park, however, and there is no problem with litter or vandalism there. In order to restore Central Plaza to its former glory, then, we recommend that the city lift its prohibition on skateboarding in the plaza.”

- (1) What is the current level of litter and vandalism in Central Plaza?
- (2) How much foot traffic has increased in Monroe Park compared to Central Plaza?
- (3) Has the local economy in the plaza improved since the ban on skateboarding?
- (4) How successful has the Monroe Park skateboarding program been in other cities?

Correct Answer: (1) What is the current level of litter and vandalism in Central Plaza?

Solution: Step 1: Identify relevant questions.

To evaluate the argument made in the letter, we need to assess the validity of the claim that lifting the skateboarding ban will reduce litter and vandalism in Central Plaza. The most important question to answer is the current level of litter and vandalism in the plaza. This would help establish whether the problem is genuinely being exacerbated by skateboarders, or if there are other factors at play.

Step 2: Additional considerations.

Also, it would be useful to explore if the success in Monroe Park can be replicated in Central Plaza, as well as the overall economic impact on the area. The recommendation hinges on the assumption that skateboarding will not increase litter or vandalism, so this must be thoroughly examined before implementing the policy change.

Step 3: Conclusion.

By answering these questions, the city council can make an informed decision on whether lifting the ban will help improve the situation in Central Plaza or not.

Final Answer:

What is the current level of litter and vandalism in Central Plaza?

Quick Tip

When evaluating a proposed change or recommendation, it is essential to gather data on current conditions to determine whether the proposed solution addresses the problem effectively.

Q12. The following appeared in a health newsletter.

”Nosinia is an herb that many users report to be as effective as prescription medications at fighting allergy symptoms. Researchers recently compared Nosinia to a placebo in 95 men and women with seasonal allergies to ragweed pollen. Participants in the study reported that neither Nosinia nor the placebo offered significant relief. However, for the most severe allergy

symptoms, the researchers reported that Nosinia was more effective than the placebo in providing relief. Furthermore, at the end of the study, participants given Nosinia were more likely than participants given a placebo to report feeling healthier. We, therefore, recommend using Nosinia to help with your severe allergy symptoms.”

- (1) How reliable is the study’s sample size?
- (2) How does the severity of symptoms affect the results?
- (3) Was the placebo truly effective in reducing allergy symptoms?
- (4) Is there any independent evidence for Nosinia’s effectiveness?

Correct Answer: (1) How reliable is the study’s sample size?

Solution: Step 1: Evaluate the sample size.

The validity of the study results depends heavily on the sample size. A sample size of 95 people may not be large enough to make strong conclusions about the effectiveness of Nosinia. A larger sample could provide more reliable results and minimize the effect of outliers.

Step 2: Consider other variables.

In addition to sample size, it is crucial to examine other factors like the duration of the study and how the severity of allergy symptoms affected the results. The effectiveness of the herb might be more pronounced in people with severe allergies, which could explain the reported improvement.

Step 3: Conclusion.

By answering these questions, the reliability of the study’s findings could be properly assessed, and more rigorous conclusions could be drawn about the effectiveness of Nosinia.

Final Answer:

How reliable is the study’s sample size?

Quick Tip

When evaluating the effectiveness of a treatment, consider the sample size and other methodological factors to ensure the study’s results are statistically significant.