

GRE 2025 Verbal Practice Test Set 1

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.

Verbal Practice

Directions: Questions 1 and 2 are based on the passage provided below.

Called by some the “island that time forgot,” Madagascar is home to a vast array of unique, exotic creatures. One such animal is the aye-aye. First described by western science in 1782, it was initially categorized as a member of the order Rodentia. Further research then revealed that it was more closely related to the lemur, a member of the primate order. Since the aye-aye is so different from its fellow primates, however, it was given its own family: Daubentoniidae. The aye-aye has been listed as an endangered species and, as a result, the government of Madagascar has designated an island off the northeastern coast of Madagascar as a protected reserve

for aye-ayes and other wildlife.

Long before Western science became enthralled with this nocturnal denizen of Madagascar's jungles, the aye-aye had its own reputation with the local people. The aye aye is perhaps best known for its large, round eyes and long, extremely thin middle finger. These adaptations are quite sensible, allowing the aye-aye to see well at night and retrieve grubs, which are one of its primary food sources, from deep within hollow branches. However, the aye-aye's striking appearance may end up causing its extinction. The people of Madagascar believe that the aye-aye is a type of spirit animal, and that its appearance is an omen of death. Whenever one is sighted, it is immediately killed. When combined with the loss of large swaths of jungle habitat, this practice may result in the loss of a superb .

Q1. Based on the information given in the passage, the intended audience would most likely be

- (A) visitors to a natural science museum
- (B) professors of evolutionary science
- (C) a third-grade science class
- (D) students of comparative religions
- (E) attendees at a world cultural symposium

Correct Answer: (A) visitors to a natural science museum

Solution: Step 1: Consider the tone and content of the passage.

The passage provides information about a unique animal, the aye-aye, and it discusses the scientific aspects of its classification as well as the cultural significance it holds for the local people. This suggests that the intended audience is one that is interested in scientific or natural history topics.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A) Visitors to a natural science museum are the most likely audience, as they are typically interested in learning about exotic animals and the natural world.
- (B) Professors of evolutionary science would already be familiar with the information presented in the passage.
- (C) A third-grade science class is unlikely to be the intended audience due to the complexity of the topic.
- (D) Students of comparative religions may find the passage of interest, but it is not focused on religious studies.
- (E) Attendees at a world cultural symposium would likely focus on cultural and social topics rather than specific wildlife issues.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Given that the passage discusses scientific information, the most appropriate audience would be visitors to a natural science museum.

Final Answer:

(A) visitors to a natural science museum
--

Quick Tip

When analyzing a passage, consider the tone and subject matter to help identify the most appropriate audience.

Q2. Consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply. Which of the following statements can be logically inferred from the passage?

- (A) Taxonomic classifications are not always absolute.
- (B) The traditional religion of Madagascar involves augury.
- (C) There are no longer enough resources on the main island to support the aye-aye population.

Correct Answer: (A) Taxonomic classifications are not always absolute.

Solution: Step 1: Analyze the passage.

The passage mentions that the aye-aye was originally classified under the order Rodentia, but later research found it to be more closely related to lemurs. This suggests that taxonomic classifications can change based on new information, implying that such classifications are not always absolute.

Step 2: Review the options.

- (A) This is correct, as the passage indicates that scientific classifications can change based on further research.
- (B) The passage briefly touches on the cultural significance of the aye-aye, but there is no mention of augury or the traditional religion of Madagascar.
- (C) The passage suggests that the government designated an island off the coast as a protected reserve for the aye-aye, but it does not explicitly mention the lack of resources on the main island.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Based on the passage, (A) is the only statement that can be logically inferred.

Final Answer:

(A) Taxonomic classifications are not always absolute.

Quick Tip

When making inferences from a passage, look for key details that directly support or imply the statements provided in the options.

Directions: Questions 3 to 5 are based on the passage provided below. Select only one answer choice.

“Reviving the practice of using elements of popular music in classical composition, an approach that had been in hibernation in the United States during the 1960s, composer Philip Glass (born 1937) embraced the ethos of popular music in his compositions. Glass based two symphonies on music by rock musicians David Bowie and Brian Eno, but the symphonies’ sound is distinctively his. Popular elements do not appear out of place in Glass’s classical music, which from its early days has shared certain harmonies and rhythms with rock music. Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music. His music is not a version of popular music packaged to attract classical listeners; it is high art for listeners steeped in rock rather than the classics.

Q3. The passage addresses which of the following issues related to Glass’s use of popular elements in his classical compositions?

- (A) How it is regarded by listeners who prefer rock to the classics
- (B) How it has affected the commercial success of Glass’s music
- (C) Whether it has contributed to a revival of interest among other composers in using popular elements in their compositions
- (D) Whether it has had a detrimental effect on Glass’s reputation as a composer of classical music
- (E) Whether it has caused certain of Glass’s works to be derivative in quality

Correct Answer: (C) Whether it has contributed to a revival of interest among other composers in using popular elements in their compositions

Solution: Step 1: Understand the focus of the passage.

The passage discusses how Philip Glass has incorporated elements of popular music in his classical compositions, particularly in his symphonies, based on rock musicians. The focus is on the influence of this style on Glass and the impact it has had on classical music.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A) The passage does not focus on how listeners who prefer rock to classical music view Glass’s compositions.
- (B) The passage does not discuss the commercial success of Glass’s music.
- (C) The passage mentions the influence of Glass’s use of popular music, which could contribute to a revival of interest among other composers.
- (D) There is no indication in the passage that Glass’s reputation has been harmed by his use of popular elements.
- (E) The passage does not suggest that Glass’s works are derivative in quality.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C), as the passage discusses Glass’s influence on classical music and how his use of popular elements might inspire other composers.

Final Answer:

(C) Whether it has contributed to a revival of interest among other composers in using popular elements

Quick Tip

When analyzing the main focus of a passage, look for clues about influence and impact rather than just describing details or effects.

Q4. Consider each of the three choices separately and select all that apply from the passage above. Which of the following statements can be logically inferred from the passage?

- (A) The passage suggests that Glass's work displays which of the following qualities?
- (B) A return to the use of popular music in classical compositions
- (C) An attempt to elevate rock music to an artistic status more closely approximating that of classical music
- (D) A long-standing tendency to incorporate elements from two apparently disparate musical styles

Correct Answer: (B), (C), and (D)

Solution: Step 1: Analyze the passage.

The passage discusses Glass's use of popular music in classical compositions, which leads to a return to using such elements in classical music, attempts to elevate rock music to a more classical status, and incorporates elements from rock and classical styles.

Step 2: Review the options.

- (A) Glass's work is not discussed as having specific qualities beyond its influence on music composition.
- (B) The passage suggests that Glass's work is part of a return to popular music in classical composition.
- (C) Glass's incorporation of rock music into his classical works seems like an attempt to elevate rock to a more refined, artistic status.
- (D) The passage discusses Glass's blending of two musical styles, rock and classical.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answers are (B), (C), and (D), as they reflect the core ideas discussed in the passage.

Final Answer:

(B), (C), and (D)

Quick Tip

In a passage discussing influence, look for evidence of trends, patterns, and stylistic fusion.

Q5. From the passage above, select the sentence that distinguishes two ways of integrating rock and classical music from the passage provided above.

Correct Answer: "Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music."

Solution: Step 1: Focus on the distinction in the passage.

The passage describes Glass's music as integrating popular elements but distinguishes it from being "popular music." This distinction highlights two ways of incorporating rock and classical music—by integrating elements while maintaining a classical approach and by creating music that appeals to a different audience.

Step 2: Analyze the sentence.

- The sentence "Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music" distinguishes Glass's method of integrating rock music into a more classical framework.

Step 3: Conclusion.

This sentence directly contrasts Glass's classical compositions with popular music, highlighting the distinction between the two approaches.

Final Answer:

"Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music."

Quick Tip

When distinguishing two concepts, look for phrases that emphasize contrasts, such as "yet," "however," or "despite."

Q6. Complete the paragraph from the given words.

It is refreshing to read a book about our planet by an author who does not allow facts to be (i) ____ by politics: well aware of the political disputes about the effects of human activities on climate and biodiversity, this author does not permit them to (ii) ____ his comprehensive description of what we know about our biosphere. He emphasizes the enormous gaps in our knowledge, the sparseness of our observations, and the (iii) ____, calling attention to the many aspects of planetary evolution that must be better understood before we can accurately diagnose the condition of our planet.

Fill in the blanks from the following:

- (A) overshadowed
- (B) invalidated
- (C) illuminated

- (D) enhance
- (E) obscure

(F) underscore

(G) plausibility of our hypotheses

(H) certainty of our entitlement

(I) superficiality of our theories

Correct Answer: (i) (A) overshadowed

(ii) (E) obscure

(iii) (I) superficiality of our theories

Solution: Blank (i): Since the author aims to keep facts separate from politics, "overshadowed" is the best fit, indicating that politics should not dominate the facts. **Blank (ii):** The author does not want politics to obscure the facts, so "obscure" is the correct choice. **Blank (iii):** The focus is on the limitations and gaps in knowledge, so "superficiality of our theories" best fits the context.

Final Answer:

(i) (A) overshadowed, (ii) (E) obscure, (iii) (I) superficiality of our theories

Quick Tip

In fill-in-the-blank questions, look for contextual clues to help identify the relationship between ideas in the passage.

Directions: Questions 7 to 9 are based on the passage provided below.

Should we really care for the greatest actors of the past could we have them before us? Should we find them too different from our accent of thought, of feeling, of speech, in a thousand minute particulars which are of the essence of all three? Dr. Doran's long and interesting records of the triumphs of Garrick, and other less familiar, but in their day hardly less astonishing, players, do not relieve one of the doubt. Garrick himself, as sometimes happens with people who have been the subject of much anecdote and other conversation, here as elsewhere, bears no very distinct figure. One hardly sees the wood for the trees. On the other hand, the account of Betterton, "perhaps the greatest of English actors," is delightfully fresh. That intimate friend of Dryden, Tillatson, Pope, who executed a copy of the actor's portrait by Kneller which is still extant, was worthy of their friendship; his career brings out the best elements in stage life. The stage in these volumes presents itself indeed not merely as a mirror of life, but as an illustration of the utmost intensity of life, in the fortunes and characters of the players. Ups and downs, generosity, dark fates, the most delicate goodness, have nowhere been more prominent than in the private existence of those devoted to the public mimicry of men and women. Contact with the stage, almost throughout its history, presents itself as a kind

of touchstone, to bring out the bizarrerie, the theatrical tricks and contrasts, of the actual world.

7. In the expression ‘One hardly sees the wood for the trees’, the author apparently intends the word ‘trees’ to be analogous to:

- (A) Features of Doran’s language style
- (B) Details learned from oral sources
- (C) Personality of a famous actor
- (D) Details of Garrick’s life
- (E) Stage triumphs of an astonishing player

Correct Answer: (D) Details of Garrick’s life

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the phrase.

The phrase “One hardly sees the wood for the trees” is an idiom. It suggests that when one is focused too much on the smaller details (trees), they fail to see the broader picture (wood). In the context of the passage, the phrase seems to point to the idea that the small, specific details of Garrick’s life may overshadow the more important or general qualities, such as his stage achievements and overall impact as an actor.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) Features of Doran’s language style: The trees are not directly connected to Doran’s writing style, as the passage is more concerned with Garrick’s life and career.
- (B) Details learned from oral sources: While the passage discusses details of Garrick’s life, it doesn’t specifically focus on how these details were learned.
- (C) Personality of a famous actor: While the phrase might be related to an actor, the focus is on Garrick’s life and stage career, not just his personality.
- (D) Details of Garrick’s life: This seems to be the most fitting answer since the passage deals with the lesser-known details of Garrick’s life, overshadowing his achievements.
- (E) Stage triumphs of an astonishing player: This might be related but not as precisely connected to the idea in the idiom as option (D).

Thus, the correct choice is (D) because the passage seems to emphasize how details of Garrick’s life obscure his broader achievements.

Quick Tip

When analyzing idiomatic expressions, focus on how the metaphor relates to the context in the passage. Here, the phrase highlights the focus on small details that may overshadow the broader picture.

8. The doubt referred to concerns whether:

- (A) the stage personalities of the past would appeal on a personal level to people like the author
- (B) their contemporaries would have understood famous actors
- (C) the acting of famous stage personalities would appeal to us today
- (D) Garrick was as great as he is portrayed
- (E) historical records can reveal personality

Correct Answer: (D) Garrick was as great as he is portrayed

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the doubt in the passage.

The doubt in the passage revolves around whether the greatness of famous historical actors, like Garrick, is accurately captured in records or exaggerated. The author questions if Garrick was truly as great as historical accounts portray him to be.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) The stage personalities of the past would appeal on a personal level to people like the author: This is not the main doubt expressed in the passage. The passage is more concerned with Garrick's greatness rather than personal appeal.
- (B) Their contemporaries would have understood famous actors: This option is not discussed in the passage, which focuses on the doubt about historical portrayal.
- (C) The acting of famous stage personalities would appeal to us today: This is a relevant question but not the specific doubt addressed in the passage.
- (D) Garrick was as great as he is portrayed: This is the correct answer as the passage directly questions whether historical accounts exaggerate Garrick's greatness.
- (E) Historical records can reveal personality: This is relevant to the passage, but it is not the central doubt expressed.

Thus, the correct answer is (D), as the passage directly questions the accuracy of the portrayal of Garrick's greatness.

Quick Tip

When reading for doubts or uncertainties, focus on phrases that express skepticism or question accuracy. Here, the author is unsure whether Garrick was as great as the records suggest.

9. Information supplied in the passage is sufficient to answer which of the following questions? (Select ALL answer choices that apply):

- (A) the stage personalities of the past would appeal on a personal level to people like the author
- (B) their contemporaries would have understood famous actors

- (C) the acting of famous stage personalities would appeal to us today
- (D) Garrick was as great as he is portrayed
- (E) historical records can reveal personality

Correct Answer: (A), (C), (D)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage's context.

The passage discusses the portrayal of past actors like Garrick, their stage triumphs, and whether their greatness is accurately depicted in historical records. It also touches upon the appeal of these actors' personalities to modern audiences.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) The stage personalities of the past would appeal on a personal level to people like the author: The passage touches on how actors of the past, like Garrick, might appeal to the modern audience on a personal level.
- (B) Their contemporaries would have understood famous actors: The passage does not focus on the contemporary understanding of actors; it focuses on historical portrayals.
- (C) The acting of famous stage personalities would appeal to us today: This is relevant to the passage's discussion of modern appreciation of historical actors.
- (D) Garrick was as great as he is portrayed: This is the central doubt raised in the passage, making it a valid answer.
- (E) Historical records can reveal personality: The passage implies that historical records are inadequate for revealing the true personality of actors.

Thus, the correct answers are (A), (C), and (D).

Quick Tip

When determining which questions can be answered by a passage, look for statements that directly relate to the content of the passage. Focus on doubts and implications.

Answer this question based on the information in the paragraph below.

10. It has been suggested that long-term prisoners, on release from jail, be given a reasonable state pension to reduce the likelihood of their resorting to crime. Most people instinctively reject the suggestion as they feel it would be like rewarding criminal activity. The supporters of the prisoners' pension scheme have criticized those who reject this possibility, by claiming that for the critics...

Which of the following is the most logical completion of the sentence above?

- (A) emotion is more important than justice
- (B) punishment for criminals is more important than crime prevention
- (C) crime prevention is not an important issue
- (D) money has too high a value
- (E) the law should not be concerned with what happens after jail

Correct Answer: (B) punishment for criminals is more important than crime prevention

Solution: The sentence speaks of the rejection of providing pensions to prisoners by the majority, with the reason being that it would be considered a reward for criminal activity. Supporters of the scheme counter this by arguing against the critics. Hence, the most logical completion would focus on why the critics are rejecting this idea. The best option here is (B), which reflects that critics are more focused on punishment rather than crime prevention, making the logic consistent with the discussion about penalizing crime.

Quick Tip

Be mindful of how arguments are structured. A good argument builds upon what is most relevant to the issue at hand, such as in this case, focusing on the value of crime prevention versus punishment.

Directions: For questions 11 and 12, complete the sentences with the appropriate word(s)

11 Melvin's little sister was so_____ that she would believe anything he told her, and his burgeoning sense of maturity rendered him increasingly loath to gull her.

- (A) dogged
- (B) tenable
- (C) fractious
- (D) frivolous
- (E) credulous

Correct Answer: (E) credulous

Solution: The word “credulous” means willing to believe things too easily, without critical analysis. This fits perfectly in the sentence, as the little sister believes everything her brother says, and the sentence context supports that meaning. The other options, like “dogged” (which means persistent), “frivolous” (superficial or not serious), do not align with the behavior described.

Quick Tip

When completing sentences, think about the context and whether the word fits the tone. “Credulous” makes sense when describing someone who easily believes, aligning perfectly with the given scenario.

12 Jean Valjean, the protagonist in Victor Hugo’s novel Les Misérables, spends the bulk of his lengthy____plotting a very clever set of revenge schemes, which he executes upon his escape.

- (A) ruination
- (B) peregrination
- (C) immolation
- (D) rumination

Correct Answer: (D) rumination

Solution: The word “rumination” refers to deep thinking or contemplation, which fits perfectly in the context of Valjean’s thoughtful plotting of revenge. The other options like “ruination” (destruction), “peregrination” (travel), and “immolation” (sacrifice or burning) do not align with the reflective and planning nature of Valjean’s actions.

Quick Tip

When trying to complete sentences, focus on the nuances of each word. “Rumination” refers to careful thinking, which is central to Valjean’s long period of plotting his escape and revenge.