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Barron's New GRE Flash Cards, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

This set of flash cards is designed to serve as a study aid for the Graduate Record Exam. The cards provide a review of GRE vocabulary words and math concepts as well as practice for the test. The set consists of: 250 Verbal Cards--designed to cover the most common vocabulary words on the test; they include definitions, antonyms, and sentence-completion practice 250 Math Cards--these are divided into 6 groups: 75 Math Facts, 25 Math Strategies, 65 Multiple-Choice Questions, 65 Quantitative Comparison Questions, 10 Multiple-Answer Questions, and 10 Numeric Entry Questions Each 4-1/2" x 2-3/4" card features a corner punch hole to accommodate a metal sorting ring enclosed with the set. Students can use the ring to arrange cards in any sequence that suits their study needs. A great study aid to be used alone or in tandem with Barron's GRE test prep manual.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am returning to grad school next year after a long hiatus from any kind of formal education (I received my undergraduate degree in 1991) so although I generally have been pretty successful with standardized tests, I was a little nervous about the GRE, in particular about the quantitative analysis portion. I haven't had a math class in over 25 years, since I majored in literature and communications as an undergrad, and was in an honors curriculum which allowed me write papers about math instead of taking a "real" math class. I took the revised GRE a few weeks ago, so I haven't received my official scores yet, but the range estimates I was given after completing the test

were numbers I was happy with (750-800 verbal, 710-800 quantitative). I won't have the official scores until November. These numbers were fairly close to the practice score numbers I got taking the official ETS sample test, and a bit higher than the practice scores I got taking the Kaplan practice tests. EDITED TO ADD that my final scores on the new scale were 168/170 verbal, 157/170 quantitative, and 5.5/6 on the analytical writing. As I said above, I am not, nor have I ever been, very good at math, so although the quantitative score is only what I'd consider on the high end of average (77th percentile), for me, this score was far beyond my original expectations, so the studying I did paid off enormously. Here is how I studied:

1. I downloaded and took the free ETS test as a baseline. I also downloaded and studied their free math review materials.
2. Based on step one, I reviewed my options here on for supplemental study materials, and decided I wanted about two months to study. Any more than that, and I think you run the risk of overcompensating and second-guessing yourself too much.
3. I chose Kaplan GRE 2011 Premier with CD-ROM (Kaplan GRE Premier Program (W/CD)) as well as CliffsNotes Math Review for Standardized Tests (Cliffs Test Prep Math Review Standardized). I did not feel I needed extra prep materials for the verbal portion.
4. I worked through the Kaplan book, including the practice test in the book, and all the in-book exercises.
5. I worked through the Cliff's Notes book; due to my ineptitude at math I worked through the entire book but if you are good at math, that would of course be unnecessary.
6. I worked through these much more quickly than I expected, so I also purchased, after about three weeks of study, these Barron's New GRE Flash Cards and Gruber's Complete GRE Guide 2012. They were both useful although I did spend more time with the Kaplan book and the Cliff's Notes book.
7. I took a practice exam every couple of weeks. This was more to get used to sitting a 4-hour exam than anything else, and that was helpful as an exercise in endurance.
8. I worked through the CD of included practice exercises with the Kaplan book.
9. The day before the test, I took one final practice test from the online tests available when you purchase this book.

In total, I spent 3-4 hours a day studying for this, for two months, and I work a full-time job so I was more than ready to be done with this exam prep. I do feel it was worthwhile, however. I would estimate that my scores improved from the original time I took a practice test, to the estimated real scores, about 50 points on the verbal section, and at least 200 points on the quantitative section (but as I mentioned, my original quantitative result was pretty dismal, whereas my verbal was quite good in the first place, so I focused my study on quantitative). Remember, the "numbers" will be totally different for my actual scores once I get them since they're changing the score scale, but this should give you a good idea of the improvements I feel that studying helped me make. I do feel it was helpful to write several practice analytical writing essays, just to get a feel for how much I could realistically expect to write

in 30 minutes; however, I don't know my scores there yet since they are hand scored so I don't have an estimate. If I had it to do over again, I would probably not bother with the Gruber book, but the other three purchases I made were helpful. I bought the flashcards in particular because I was going to be traveling, camping, attending events, and sitting in the car a fair bit toward the end of my study time, and I knew I wouldn't really be able to "pen and paper" study, or spend time on a computer. These were fantastic little take-along study guides that helped me refresh my memory on math rules and problems, and I found them very helpful. To be honest I did not even look at the vocabulary flash cards so I can't really comment on their effectiveness or usefulness, but if they are anything like the math flashcards, I'm sure they're just great. I just took a new hunk of cards each time I went on a trip, put them on the included ring and tossed them in my bag, where I could pull them out, review a few, and then put them back in my bag all ready to move on to the next few cards the next time I had a spare few minutes. Just wonderful for my purpose, although I'm not sure I would have bothered with them had I not been doing so much traveling around. In short, I strongly recommend taking at least 4 or 5 hours to study by downloading and using the free ETS study materials, then deciding from there a) how much improvement you want to make, and in which particular areas, and b) how much time you are willing to devote to study. I think I'd have easily scored well enough to get into my desired programs with no study at all, but I wanted to see if the test prep would truly help as advertised, and I also wanted to see if I still liked studying as much as I did 20 years ago before I bothered applying and paying tuition for grad school!

I studied for the GRE while working full time, and this tool was absolutely priceless in terms of getting me prepared to master the verbal section of the GRE. The math cards are OK, but the value is really in the vocabulary cards. You will not be sorry you bought this set.

I like the flash cards but if you don't want to spend money on these cards just download the app called Quizlet and Type in the search GRE words and Kaplan, Barron's, and Manhattan Prep words will pop up. It have these same words. Also you can play games with them. I didn't not like the fact that these word did not give a pronunciation. I use both the flash cards and study from the app Quizlet.

I recently took the gre and bought these cards about 6 weeks before the exam. I memorized all the vocab words and knew them well....only to have 3, THREE, of them appear on the entire gre. Maybe it was my fault for only studying the 250 words provided but i think youll be better off if you

buy one of those books that provides 5,000 words. This was not nearly enough and I would urge you not to depend too heavily on this product.

I recently took the GRE and I found these cards to be super helpful. The cards are broken down into different segments- from vocab flash cards to math rules to math practice problems. The math rules section was probably the most useful part for me. Quite a few of those rules are useful time savers (aka math "tricks") that I didn't see in any of the GRE books I also purchased. They somehow fit really thorough answer explanations into the math questions section which was awesome. Overall, I'm really glad I purchased this set!

I thought these were just vocabulary flash cards so I was surprised to find out that the other content areas are also included. I found this really helpful in studying for the GRE. I also like that you can attach them to the ring that is included and take them with you. The only complaint that I have is that they are a bit thin- I would have liked something more heavy weight. UPDATE: So now that I have taken the GRE, I would like to update my review. I ended up using multiple methods to study for the exam including these flash cards. I found the vocabulary cards to be cumbersome and didn't really use them to study, though. I bought an app for my phone that I found much more helpful in studying vocab because it was easier to travel with and it kept track of the words for me. However, the math cards in this set were very helpful. I used the formula cards and some of the practice problems to supplement my other studying materials. I forget how much I paid for these cards but I know it was under \$20. So I probably spent about \$200 total on practice materials and a subscription to an internet based prep program. I would probably order these again just because they were an inexpensive way to supplement the math materials that I had.

Flash cards have always helped me study and these cards are no exception. However after burning through this box of cards I purchased a GRE Flashcard Ap for my smartphone. The Ap was far less expensive than this product, consisted of far more "cards" and was super convenient to study on the go. If you are considering purchasing flash cards as part of your preparation for the GRE and you have a smart phone I would recommend considering an Ap. It will save you some cash (GRE prep materials are expensive, I spent around \$300 not including the test itself) and provide you with a larger amount of questions. Other than that the cards in this set are beneficial, I give the product 3 stars for comparative value to other competing products.

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