

## Test FAQ: The GMAT



### Office of Career Development

Vassar College

**Q: What is the GMAT?**

A: The GMAT is the Graduate Management Admission Test. Business schools (e.g., MBA programs) use them to assess the qualifications of applicants for advanced study in business and management. It is a computer-based test that begins with two Analytical Writing Assessments, followed by one Quantitative and one Verbal Section.

**Q: When can I take the GMAT?**

A: The GMAT is offered year-round. Time and day depends on the capacity and schedule of each testing center.

**Q: Where can I take the GMAT?**

A: There are testing centers located all over the country. You can locate a test center at the official website [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com). The nearest testing center is in White Plains.

**Q: How long will I be at the testing site?**

A: The quantitative and verbal sections are each 75 minutes, and the two analytical writing samples are 30 minutes each. The entire examination takes approximately 4 hours.

**Q: What test format does the GMAT use?**

A: The GMAT uses a computer-adaptive format. It begins with Analytical Writing Assessment which consists of two separately timed writing tasks -- Analysis of an Issue and Analysis of an Argument. The remaining two sections, Quantitative and Verbal, consist of 37 and 41 multiple-choice questions respectively. Questions in these sections are dynamically selected as you take the test; they will adjust to your ability level, thus making your test unique. Because the computer scores each question before selecting the next one, you may not skip, return to, or change your responses to previous questions.

**Q: How can I register to take the test?**

A: You may register for the test online, by phone, by mail, or by fax. For more information go to the Schedule a GMAT Appointment section at [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com).

**Q: How much are examination fees?**

A: The examination fee is \$250 US dollars worldwide. There are different tax rates applicable to certain countries. To reschedule an appointment there is a \$50 charge. If for some reason you can't make it to your scheduled appointment, there is an \$80 cancellation refund if you cancel at least 7 days in

advance. The fee to send an Additional Score Report is US\$28.

**Q: How can I prepare for the test?**

A: The Career Development Office has a review book with practice tests. In addition, when you register for the test you will receive a compact disc with topic reviews and practice tests. For \$25 you can download a set of 3 "retired" GMAT paper tests from the official website [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com)

**Q: I'm not going directly to business school. How long are my scores valid?**

A: Scores are kept on file for twenty years; however, most schools will not accept scores after five years.

**Q: Where can I get more information?**

A: You can pick up a GMAT bulletin from the Career Development Office, or visit the official website at [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com).