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2016-17 Interpreting Your *GRE*® Scores

This publication is intended to assist you in interpreting your *GRE*® test scores. The interpretive information is updated annually. *Guidelines for the Use of GRE® Scores*, which is available at **www.ets.org/gre/guide**, encourages institutions to use the scores appropriately.

General Test Score Interpretive Information

- The range of scores for the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures of the *GRE*® General Test is 130 to 170, in 1-point increments. The range of scores for the Analytical Writing measure is 0 to 6, in half-point increments. If you have not answered at least one question within a measure, an NS (No Score) is reported for that measure.
- Scores from the different General Test measures should not be directly compared because each measure is scaled separately. You can use the percentile ranks provided on your score report to compare your relative performance among the measures. These percentile ranks are based on the scores of all examinees who tested between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2015.
- For the computer-delivered GRE General Test Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures, your score reflects the number of questions you answered correctly, as well as the difficulty level of each of the sections. For the computer-delivered GRE General Test Analytical Writing measure, each essay receives a score from one trained reader using a six-point holistic scale. The essay is then scored by the *e-rater*® scoring engine, a computerized program developed by ETS that is capable of identifying essay features related to writing proficiency. If the human score and the e-rater score closely agree, the average of the two scores is used as the final score. If they disagree, a second human score is obtained and the final score is the average of the two human scores.
- For the paper-delivered GRE General Test Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures, your score is based on the number of questions you answered correctly. For the paper-delivered GRE General Test, each essay receives a score from two trained readers. If the two assigned scores differ by more than one point, the discrepancy is adjudicated by a third reader. The Analytical Writing score is the average of the ratings given to the two essays.
- If you took the computer-delivered General Test, select the *GRE*® Diagnostic Service from your ETS Account (**www.ets.org/mygre**) to view information about your performance.
- Table 1 presents General Test mean scores based on the scores of all individuals who took the General Test between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2015.

Table 1: General Test Mean Scores
(Based on the performance of all individuals who tested between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2015)

	Number of Test Takers	Mean	Standard Deviation
Verbal Reasoning	1,694,715	150.22	8.45
Quantitative Reasoning	1,697,401	152.47	8.93
Analytical Writing	1,689,069	3.50	0.87

- Table 2 presents mean scores for the seven broad intended graduate major fields. (Definitions of statistical terms are presented in the glossary on the back page.)
- For additional interpretive information about the GRE General Test, including General Test Percentage Distribution of Scores Within Intended Broad Graduate Major Field, visit **www.ets.org/gre/scores/understand**.

Table 2: General Test Mean Scores Classified by Broad Intended Graduate Major Field
(Based on the performance of seniors and nonenrolled college graduates[1] who tested between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2015)

Broad Intended Graduate Major Field	Verbal Reasoning	Quantitative Reasoning	Analytical Writing
Life Sciences	151	151	3.8
Physical Sciences	151	158	3.4
Engineering	149	159	3.3
Social Sciences	153	151	3.9
Arts & Humanities	157	150	4.1
Education	151	149	3.8
Business	150	153	3.5

[1]Limited to those who earned their college degrees up to two years prior to the test date.

Subject Test Score Interpretive Information

- The range of scores for each *GRE*® Subject Test is from 200 to 990, in 10-point increments, although the actual range for any particular Subject Test is usually smaller. The possible range of subscores is from 20 to 99, in one-point increments.
- The Subject Test score is based on the number of correct answers minus one-fourth the number of incorrect answers.
- Because scores are calculated independently for each test, Subject Test scores should be compared only with other scores on the same Subject Test. A score of 680 on the Mathematics Test, for example, is not equivalent to a 680 on the Physics Test.
- Scores on the same Subject Test generally are directly comparable across years. A Chemistry Test score of 650 in 2016, for example, should be considered equivalent to a Chemistry Test score of 650 earned in 2015.
- Percentile rank information for your Subject Test total score and subscores, if available, is printed on your score report and is based on the scores of all examinees who tested between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2015. Note that although a given score represents approximately the same level of ability regardless of when the score was earned, its percentile rank may vary, depending on the scores of the group with which it is compared.
- Subscores indicate relative strengths and weaknesses of preparation in subfield areas. Subscore percentile ranks may be used for diagnostic interpretation of the total score. For example, an examinee who obtains a score of 600 on the GRE Biology Test is likely to have subscores of 60, assuming the examinee is similarly able in the content areas measured by each subscore. For that examinee, scores much above or below 60 on a subscore would indicate strength or weakness in the content area associated with that subscore. Note that these strengths or weaknesses may reflect the amount of training that was targeted toward specific content areas.
- Table 3 shows Subject Test mean scores for the total test and for subscores, where available. These data are based on the scores of all individuals who took a Subject Test between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2015. For additional interpretive information about the GRE Subject Tests, including Subject Tests Total Score Interpretive Data Used on Score Reports, visit **www.ets.org/gre/subject/scores/understand**.

Table 3: Subject Test Mean Scores
(Based on the performance of all individuals who tested between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2015)

Subject Test	Number of Test Takers	Mean	Standard Deviation
Biochemistry, Cell & Molecular Biology	5,237	522	92
1. Biochemistry		52	9
2. Cell Biology		52	9
3. Molecular Biology & Genetics		52	9
Biology	3,734	668	119
1. Cellular & Molecular Biology		67	12
2. Organismal Biology		67	12
3. Ecology & Evolution		67	12
Chemistry	8,985	694	112
Literature in English	5,285	544	100
Mathematics	14,577	658	136
Physics	18,202	705	156
Psychology	14,624	614	103
1. Experimental Psychology		62	10
2. Social Psychology		61	10

Glossary of Statistical Terms

Mean—an average obtained by adding all the scores from a group of examinees and dividing the sum by the number of examinees in the group.

Percentile rank—the percent of test takers in a group or subgroup who obtained scores below a specified score on a particular test.

Standard deviation—a measure of the extent to which test takers' scores on a test generally differ from one another.