

GRE Sample Paper 08

A) Test Components: Analytical Writing — Verbal Reasoning — Quantitative Reasoning

B) Total Questions: 108 Questions

C) Total Time Allowed: 3 Hours 45 Minutes

- **Analytical Writing:** 2 Essays — 60 Minutes
- **Verbal Reasoning:** 2 Sections — 82 Minutes Total
- **Quantitative Reasoning:** 2 Sections — 94 Minutes Total

D) Marking Scheme:

- **Correct Answer:** +1 Point
- **Incorrect/Unattempted:** 0 Points (No Negative Marking)
- **Multi-blank/Equivalence:** No partial credit.

SECTION I: ANALYTICAL WRITING

1. Analyze an Issue (30 Minutes)

"Governments should focus on solving the immediate problems of today rather than on trying to solve the anticipated problems of the future."

2. Analyze an Argument (30 Minutes)

The following appeared in a memorandum from the marketing director of the 'Fresh-N-Go' convenience store chain.

"Last year, the 'Bean-Counter' gourmet coffee shop opened a location adjacent to our downtown store, and our sales of generic brewed coffee dropped by 20 percent. However, our sales of premium bottled juices increased during the same period. To regain our lost coffee revenue and increase our overall margins, Fresh-N-Go should replace all self-service coffee machines in every one of our locations with high-end, barista-staffed espresso bars. This strategy will allow us to compete directly with gourmet coffee shops and ensure that our customers stay loyal to the Fresh-N-Go brand."

SECTION II: VERBAL REASONING - PART 1

Q1. The evidence presented in the study was so _____ that both the proponents and the opponents of the new law claimed it supported their respective positions.

- A. Equivocal
- B. Incontrovertible
- C. Pellucid
- D. Unambiguous

Q2. The chef was notoriously _____; he would personally inspect every single vegetable that entered his kitchen, rejecting any that possessed even the slightest blemish.

- A. Fastidious
- B. Negligent
- C. Candid
- D. Haphazard

Q3. The revolutionary leader's (i) _____ rhetoric was ultimately belied by his actions, which served only to (ii) _____ the very groups he had promised to empower.

- A. (i) Egalitarian; (ii) Marginalize
- B. (i) Authoritarian; (ii) Enfranchise
- C. (i) Egalitarian; (ii) Bolster
- D. (i) Narcissistic; (ii) Marginalize

Q4. While some of the poet's works were (i) _____, capturing only the fleeting emotions of a single afternoon, his epic verses have proved to be (ii) _____, remaining relevant for centuries.

- A. (i) Ephemeral; (ii) Enduring
- B. (i) Perennial; (ii) Evanescent
- C. (i) Ephemeral; (ii) Trite
- D. (i) Profound; (ii) Enduring

Q5. The passage suggests that the "Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis" in linguistics:

- A. Argues that human thought is entirely independent of linguistic structures.

- B. Posits that the language a person speaks profoundly influences their perception of reality.
- C. Has been completely debunked by modern neuroimaging techniques.
- D. Suggests that all humans share a universal, innate grammar regardless of culture.

Q6. According to the passage, the study of "color terminology" among different cultures provides evidence for the idea that:

- A. People cannot perceive colors for which their language has no specific name.
- B. Language can act as a filter that prioritizes certain sensory information over others.
- C. All cultures use the same seven basic colors as their linguistic foundation.
- D. Biological evolution is the only factor that determines color perception.

Q7. The author mentions "Inuit words for snow" primarily to:

- A. Provide a classic, though often exaggerated, example of how vocabulary can reflect environmental necessity.
- B. Prove that speakers of Arctic languages have superior visual acuity to those in temperate climates.
- C. Argue that English is a linguistically deficient language compared to indigenous tongues.
- D. Explain the meteorological differences between various types of frozen precipitation.

Q8. The _____ effects of the industrial runoff were not immediately apparent, but decades later, the local fish population had nearly vanished.

- A. Pernicious and Deleterious
- B. Salubrious and Healthful
- C. Innocuous
- D. Anomalous

Q9. There was a _____ of qualified candidates for the position, forcing the company to keep the job posting open for over six months.

- A. Paucity and Dearth
- B. Plethora and Surfeit
- C. Profusion
- D. Abundance

Q10. A new pharmaceutical drug was shown to reduce blood pressure effectively, but it also caused significant dizziness in 20% of patients. Which of the following, if true, most supports the decision to approve the drug for public use?

- A. Dizziness is a common side effect of many medications already on the market.
- B. The drug is intended for patients with life-threatening hypertension who have not responded to any other treatments.
- C. The company spent over ten years and billions of dollars developing the drug.
- D. Most patients reported that the dizziness subsided after they stopped taking the medication.

Q11. Choose the sentence that correctly uses the word "fewer" rather than "less":

- A. The supermarket express lane is for customers with ten items or less.
- B. There are less people living in the rural district than in the city center.
- C. The new engine design produces fewer carbon emissions than the previous model.
- D. The job requires less hours than I originally anticipated.

Q12. In the sentence "The general's decision to retreat was a precipitate move that caught his own officers by surprise," the word "precipitate" most nearly means:

- A. Carefully calculated and planned
- B. Hasty and lacking deliberation
- C. Resulting in a heavy rainfall
- D. Leading to a victorious outcome

SECTION III: VERBAL REASONING - PART 2

Q1. The philosopher's logic was (i) _____; although his conclusions were (ii) _____, the (iii) _____ of his initial assumptions made the entire argument suspect.

- A. (i) Flawed; (ii) Unpalatable; (iii) Dubiousness
- B. (i) Sound; (ii) Rational; (iii) Certainty
- C. (i) Flawed; (ii) Logical; (iii) Certainty
- D. (i) Brilliant; (ii) Unpalatable; (iii) Clarity

Q2. The biological study was (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ sample size made it difficult to generalize the findings to the entire species.

- A. (i) Intriguing; (ii) Insufficient

- B. (i) Trivial; (ii) Massive
- C. (i) Intriguing; (ii) Substantial
- D. (i) Predictable; (ii) Insufficient

Q3. To the ethics committee, the researcher's methods seemed (i) _____, but he argued they were (ii) _____ for the advancement of life-saving medicine.

- A. (i) Questionable; (ii) Essential
- B. (i) Exemplary; (ii) Unnecessary
- C. (i) Questionable; (ii) Trivial
- D. (i) Moral; (ii) Essential

Q4. The hiker found the cave (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ formations of crystals inside made the dark journey worthwhile.

- A. (i) Forbidding; (ii) Resplendent
- B. (i) Welcoming; (ii) Dull
- C. (i) Forbidding; (ii) Mundane
- D. (i) Small; (ii) Resplendent

Q5. The scientist's reputation for _____ was well-earned; she would spend years verifying a single data point before publishing her results.

- A. Meticulousness
- B. Carelessness
- C. Negligence
- D. Haste

Q6. The poem was so _____ that it could be interpreted in a dozen different ways, depending on the reader's perspective.

- A. Ambiguous
- B. Pellucid
- C. Explicit
- D. Lucid

Q7. According to the passage, the "Social Contract" theory in philosophy posits that:

- A. Individuals are born with an inherent right to absolute freedom.

- B. People consent to surrender some freedoms to an authority in exchange for protection of their remaining rights.
- C. The government has a divine right to rule over its subjects without question.
- D. Economic equality is a prerequisite for any functioning legal system.

Q8. The author refers to "The State of Nature" to:

- A. Describe a hypothetical condition of humanity without political organization.
- B. Argue that humans are naturally peaceful and cooperative.
- C. Explain the biological evolution of social behaviors in primates.
- D. Contrast urban life with rural agricultural communities.

Q9. Which of the following best expresses the "sovereign power" discussed in the text?

- A. The collective authority of the people invested in a governing body.
- B. The individual power of each citizen to enforce their own laws.
- C. The absolute control of a single monarch over the lives of citizens.
- D. The power of nature to dictate the survival of human civilizations.

Q10. A study shows that people who drink green tea have lower rates of cancer. However, green tea drinkers also tend to avoid smoking and red meat. Which weakens the conclusion that green tea prevents cancer?

- A. Green tea contains high levels of beneficial polyphenols.
- B. The avoidance of smoking and red meat is strongly linked to lower cancer rates.
- C. Some people find the taste of green tea to be unpalatable.
- D. The study was conducted over a period of only two years.

Q11. The mountain peak was _____, standing high above the surrounding hills and visible from miles away.

- A. Prominent and Salient
- B. Obscure and Hidden
- C. Inconspicuous
- D. Trivial

Q12. The old machinery was _____, often breaking down and requiring parts that were no longer manufactured.

- A. Decrepit and Dilapidated

B. Pristine and Immaculate

C. Robust

D. Vibrant

Q13. The apology was _____, offered only after the negative publicity began to affect the company's profits.

A. Disingenuous and Insincere

B. Candid and Frank

C. Heartfelt

D. Sincere

Q14. The desert sun was _____, making it impossible to travel during the middle of the day.

A. Torrid and Scorching

B. Frigid and Gelid

C. Clement

D. Temperate

Q15. The lawyer's argument was _____, leaving no doubt in the minds of the jury regarding the defendant's innocence.

A. Cogent and Compelling

B. Weak and Feeble

C. Vacuous

D. Inane

SECTION IV: QUANTITATIVE REASONING - PART 1

Q1. An item is sold at a 20% discount, and then a 10% sales tax is added to the discounted price.

Quantity A	Quantity B
The total price paid by the customer	90% of the original price

A. Quantity A is greater.

B. Quantity B is greater.

C. The two quantities are equal.

D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Q2. The ratio of the number of men to women in a room is 3:4. If there are 28 people in total, how many more women are there than men?

A. 2

B. 4

C. 6

D. 8

E. 10

Q3. A cube has a side of length s . A sphere has a diameter of length s .

Quantity A	Quantity B
The volume of the cube	The volume of the sphere

A. Quantity A is greater.

B. Quantity B is greater.

C. The two quantities are equal.

D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Q4. $0 < x < 1$

Quantity A	Quantity B
x^2	x^3

A. Quantity A is greater.

B. Quantity B is greater.

C. The two quantities are equal.

D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Q5. If $g(x) = 4x - 7$, then $g(g(3)) =$

A. 5

B. 13

C. 17

D. 25

E. 45

Q6. In a sequence, every term after the first is 4 more than the term immediately preceding it. If the sum of the first five terms is 100, what is the first term?

A. 8

B. 12

C. 16

D. 20

E. 24

Q7. Two fair six-sided dice are rolled. What is the probability that the sum of the numbers on the top faces is 5?

A. $1/12$

B. $1/9$

C. $1/6$

D. $1/4$

E. $5/36$

Q8. In the coordinate plane, a circle has center $(2, -3)$ and passes through $(2, 1)$. What is the area of the circle?

A. 4π

B. 8π

C. 12π

D. 16π

E. 25π

Q9. If p is a prime number greater than 3, which of the following **MUST** be true? (Select all that apply)

☐ p is odd.

☐ $p + 1$ is even.

☐ p is a multiple of 3.

Q10. A tank can be emptied by a pump in 40 minutes. If the pump operates at a constant rate, what fraction of the tank is emptied in 15 minutes? (Give your answer as a fraction in simplest form)

Q11. If $4^{x+1} = 8^{x-1}$, then $x =$

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4
- E. 5

Q12. The average of n numbers is 18. If the sum of the numbers is 216, what is the value of n ?

SECTION V: QUANTITATIVE REASONING - PART 2

Q1. $x \neq 0$ and $y \neq 0$.

Quantity A	Quantity B
$(x + y)^2$	$x^2 + y^2$

- A. Quantity A is greater.
- B. Quantity B is greater.
- C. The two quantities are equal.
- D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Q2. n is a positive integer.

Quantity A	Quantity B
The number of even factors of n	The number of odd factors of n

- A. Quantity A is greater.
- B. Quantity B is greater.
- C. The two quantities are equal.
- D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Q3. For a set of 10 different positive integers, the median is 15.

Quantity A	Quantity B
The mean of the set	15

- A. Quantity A is greater.

- B. Quantity B is greater.
- C. The two quantities are equal.
- D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Q4. If the price of a stock increases by 25% and then decreases by 25%, what is the net percent change in the stock's value?

- A. 0% increase
- B. 6.25% decrease
- C. 10.5% decrease
- D. 25% decrease
- E. 50% increase

Q5. A right triangle has an area of 20. If one of the legs is twice the length of the other leg, what is the length of the longer leg?

- A. $2\sqrt{5}$
- B. $4\sqrt{5}$
- C. 10
- D. 20
- E. 40

Data Interpretation: Fruit Shipments of Company K

Month	Apples (Tons)	Oranges (Tons)
June	400	100
July	450	150
Aug	300	200
Sept	500	250

Q6. What was the percent increase in orange shipments from July to August?

- A. 25%
- B. 33.3%
- C. 50%
- D. 75%
- E. 100%

Q7. In June, apple shipments accounted for what percent of the total shipment weight (Apples + Oranges)?

- A. 20%
- B. 40%
- C. 60%
- D. 75%
- E. 80%

Q8. What was the total weight, in tons, of all fruit shipped during the month of September?

Q9. If the slope of line P is $3/4$, what is the slope of a line that is perpendicular to line P ?

- A. $-4/3$
- B. $-3/4$
- C. $3/4$
- D. $4/3$
- E. None of the above

Q10. If $x^2 - y^2 = 24$ and $x + y = 6$, what is the value of $x - y$?

Q11. How many different 4-person groups can be formed from a total of 6 people?

- A. 10
- B. 15
- C. 24
- D. 30
- E. 60

Q12. A circle with center $(0,0)$ has a radius of 10. Point Z has coordinates $(6,8)$.

Quantity A	Quantity B
The distance from the origin to Z	10

- A. Quantity A is greater.
- B. Quantity B is greater.

C. The two quantities are equal.

D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Q13. If n is an integer and $10 < n < 20$, how many possible values of n are prime?

A. 2

B. 3

C. 4

D. 5

E. 6

Q14. If $|x - 5| = 10$, what is the sum of all possible values of x ?

A. 0

B. 5

C. 10

D. 15

E. 20

Q15. In a group of 50 tourists, 30 speak German, 25 speak Italian, and 5 speak neither language. How many tourists speak both German and Italian?

Solutions - Verbal Reasoning Section I

1. **(A)** If both proponents and opponents of a law claim that the same evidence supports their conflicting positions, the evidence must be open to multiple interpretations. "Equivocal" means uncertain or questionable in nature, which fits this lack of clarity.
2. **(A)** A chef who personally inspects every vegetable and rejects them for the "slightest blemish" is showing obsessive attention to detail. "Fastidious" means very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail, or very concerned about matters of cleanliness.
3. **(A)** For blank (i), "egalitarian" (believing in the principle that all people are equal) fits a leader who "promised to empower" groups. For blank (ii), "marginalize" (to treat a person or group as insignificant) describes the actions that "belied" (contradicted) his rhetoric.
4. **(A)** For blank (i), "ephemeral" describes something that is short-lived, matching the description of "fleeting emotions of a single afternoon." For blank (ii), "enduring" provides the contrast, matching verses that remain "relevant for centuries."
5. **(B)** The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis is the principle of linguistic relativity. It "posits that the language a person speaks profoundly influences their perception of reality," suggesting that our thoughts are shaped by our linguistic categories.
6. **(B)** Linguists use color terminology to show that while humans see the same spectrum, language "acts as a filter" that determines which color distinctions are prioritized or given specific names in a culture.
7. **(A)** The "Inuit words for snow" is a famous linguistic example. The author mentions it to "provide a classic, though often exaggerated, example" of how a culture's vocabulary expands to meet environmental needs.
8. **(A)** The runoff caused the fish to "nearly vanish," indicating a very harmful effect. "Pernicious" and "deleterious" are synonyms in Sentence Equivalence that both mean having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way.
9. **(A)** If a company must keep a job posting open for six months, it implies a lack of candidates. "Paucity" and "dearth" are perfect synonyms for a scarcity or lack of something.
10. **(B)** The decision to approve a drug with a significant side effect (dizziness) is best supported by a high risk-to-reward ratio. Choice (B) justifies the approval because the drug treats "life-threatening" conditions for which there are "no other treatments."
11. **(C)** "Fewer" is used for countable nouns (emissions), while "less" is used for mass nouns/uncountable quantities (time, money, water). Choice (C) correctly uses "fewer carbon emissions."
12. **(B)** In this context, "precipitate" is an adjective. While it sounds like rainfall, it actually means "done, made, or acting suddenly or without careful consideration." This fits a move that "caught officers by surprise."

Solutions - Verbal Reasoning Section II

1. **(A)** For blank (iii), the "dubiousness" (doubtfulness) of the assumptions is what makes the argument suspect. This leads to the logic being (i) "flawed," even if the conclusions appeared (ii) "logical" on the surface.
2. **(A)** For blank (i), "intriguing" (arousing curiosity) sets up the value of the study. However, for blank (ii), an "insufficient" (not enough) sample size explains why it is difficult to generalize the findings.
3. **(A)** For blank (i), the ethics committee found the methods "questionable" (doubtful as to moral correctness). The researcher's defense is that these methods were (ii) "essential" (absolutely necessary) for medical progress.
4. **(A)** For blank (i), "forbidding" (unfriendly or threatening in appearance) describes a dark cave. The contrast "but" followed by "worthwhile" indicates the crystal formations were (ii) "resplendent" (attractive and impressive through being richly colorful or sumptuous).
5. **(A)** A scientist who spends years verifying a single data point is showing "meticulousness," which is the quality of showing great attention to detail and being very careful and precise.
6. **(A)** A poem that can be "interpreted in a dozen different ways" is "ambiguous," meaning open to more than one interpretation or having a double meaning.
7. **(B)** Social Contract theory (associated with Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau) describes the process where "people consent to surrender some freedoms" to an authority (the state) in exchange for the protection of their remaining rights and social order.
8. **(A)** In political philosophy, the "State of Nature" is a "hypothetical condition of humanity" used to explore what life would be like without government, laws, or civil society.
9. **(A)** "Sovereign power" refers to the supreme authority within a territory. In democratic theory, this is the "collective authority of the people invested in a governing body."
10. **(B)** The conclusion is that green tea causes lower cancer rates. However, if green tea drinkers also avoid smoking and red meat (both linked to cancer), those lifestyle factors are confounding variables. Option (B) highlights this alternative cause, weakening the original conclusion.
11. **(A)** A peak "visible from miles away" and standing above others is "prominent" and "salient." Both words in this Sentence Equivalence context mean particularly noticeable or important; standing out.
12. **(A)** Machinery that is "breaking down" and for which parts are "no longer manufactured" is "decrepit" and "dilapidated," both of which mean in a state of disrepair as a result of age or neglect.

13. (A) An apology offered only after profits were affected is likely fake. "Disingenuous" and "insincere" both describe someone who is not candid or sincere, typically by pretending that one knows less about something than one really does.
14. (A) A sun that makes travel "impossible" is extremely hot. "Torrid" and "scorching" are synonyms meaning very hot and dry.
15. (A) An argument that leaves "no doubt" in the jury's mind is "cogent" and "compelling," both of which describe an argument that is clear, logical, and convincing.

Solutions - Quantitative Reasoning Section I

1. (B) Let the original price be 100. After a $2080 + 0.10(80) = 80 + 8 = 88$
 $80 + 0.10(80) = 80 + 8 = 88$. Quantity B is 9088; 9088 > 88, Quantity B is greater. code
 Code
2. (4) Let the number of men be $3x$ and women be $4x$. Total: $3x + 4x = 28 \Rightarrow 7x = 28 \Rightarrow x = 4$. There are $3(4) = 12$ men and $4(4) = 16$ women. The difference is $16 - 12 = 4$.
3. (A) Volume of cube $= s^3$. Sphere diameter is s , so radius $r = s/2$. Volume of sphere $= \frac{4}{3}\pi(s/2)^3 = \frac{4}{3}\pi\frac{s^3}{8} = \frac{\pi}{6}s^3$. Since $\frac{\pi}{6} \approx 0.52$, $s^3 > 0.52s^3$.
4. (A) For $0 < x < 1$, raising a fraction to a higher power results in a smaller value. Thus, $x^2 > x^3$.
5. (13) First, find $g(3) = 4(3) - 7 = 5$. Then find $g(g(3)) = g(5) = 4(5) - 7 = 13$.
6. (12) Let the terms be $a, a + 4, a + 8, a + 12, a + 16$. Sum: $5a + 40 = 100 \Rightarrow 5a = 60 \Rightarrow a = 12$.
7. (1/9) Possible outcomes for a sum of 5 are (1,4), (2,3), (3,2), and (4,1). Total outcomes $= 6 \times 6 = 36$. Probability $= 4/36 = 1/9$.
8. (16 π) The radius is the distance from the center (2, -3) to (2, 1). $r = \sqrt{(2-2)^2 + (1-(-3))^2} = \sqrt{0^2 + 4^2} = 4$. Area $= \pi r^2 = 16\pi$.
9. (1st and 2nd only) Any prime greater than 2 is odd. If p is odd, $p + 1$ must be even. A prime greater than 3 cannot be a multiple of 3 (otherwise it wouldn't be prime).
10. 3/8 The fraction is 15/40. Dividing both numerator and denominator by 5 gives 3/8.
11. (5) Write both with base 2: $(2^2)^{x+1} = (2^3)^{x-1} \Rightarrow 2^{2x+2} = 2^{3x-3}$. Set exponents equal: $2x + 2 = 3x - 3 \Rightarrow x = 5$.
12. 12 Average $= \text{Sum}/n \Rightarrow 18 = 216/n \Rightarrow n = 216/18 = 12$.

Solutions - Quantitative Reasoning Section II

1. **(D)** $(x + y)^2 = x^2 + y^2 + 2xy$ $(x+y)^2 = x^2 + y^2 + 2xy$. If $x = 1$, $y = 1$ $x=1, y=1$, $2xy = 2$ $2xy=2$ (A is greater). If $x = 1$, $y = 1$ $x=1, y=1$, $2xy = 2$ $2xy=2$ (B is greater). The relationship is inconsistent. code Code
2. **(D)** If $n = 1$, odd factors = 1, even = 0 (B greater). If $n = 2$, odd factors = 1 (1), even = 1 (2) (Equal). If $n = 4$, odd factors = 1 (1), even = 2 (2, 4) (A greater).
3. **(D)** For a set of different integers, the median (middle) does not dictate the mean (average), which is sensitive to extremely large or small values in the set.
4. **(6.25% decrease)** Let value be 100. $100 \times 1.25 = 125$. Then $125 \times 0.75 = 93.75$. Net change = $100 - 93.75 = 6.25\%$ decrease.
5. **($4\sqrt{5}$)** Area = $0.5 \times b \times h$. Let legs be x and $2x$. $0.5(x)(2x) = 20 \Rightarrow x^2 = 20 \Rightarrow x = \sqrt{20} = 2\sqrt{5}$. The longer leg is $2x = 4\sqrt{5}$.
6. **(33.3%)** Increase = $200 - 150 = 50$. % Increase = $(50/150) \times 100 = 33.3\%$.
7. **(80%)** Total June weight = $400 + 100 = 500$. Apple % = $(400/500) \times 100 = 80\%$.
8. **750** Total weight = $500(\text{Apples}) + 250(\text{Oranges}) = 750$ tons.
9. **($-4/3$)** Perpendicular slopes are negative reciprocals. The negative reciprocal of $3/4$ is $-4/3$.
10. **4** $x^2 - y^2 = (x - y)(x + y)$. Substitute values: $24 = (x - y)(6) \Rightarrow x - y = 4$.
11. **(15)** Using combinations formula $\binom{6}{4} = \frac{6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3}{4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1} = 15$.
12. **(C)** Distance from $(0, 0)$ to $(6, 8) = \sqrt{6^2 + 8^2} = \sqrt{36 + 64} = 10$. The quantities are equal.
13. **(4)** The prime numbers between 10 and 20 are 11, 13, 17, and 19.
14. **(10)** Either $x - 5 = 10 \Rightarrow x = 15$, or $x - 5 = -10 \Rightarrow x = -5$. Sum = $15 + (-5) = 10$.
15. **10** Tourists speaking at least one language = $50 - 5 = 45$. Both = $(30 + 25) - 45 = 10$.