

GRE Sample Paper 10

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)

"The best way to understand the contemporary world is to study the history of the past, rather than to focus on current events and the latest technologies."

2. Analyze an Argument (30 Minutes)

The following appeared in a report from the CEO of 'Opti-Flow' Software Development.

"Last year, our competitor, 'Creativ-Zone,' removed all individual cubicles and private offices, replacing them with an open-plan workspace. Since this change, they have reported a 30 percent increase in the number of patents filed and their employees have consistently rated their workplace collaboration as 'excellent' in industry surveys. To foster innovation and increase our own productivity, Opti-Flow should immediately dismantle all internal walls in our headquarters and adopt a completely open-plan layout. This will ensure that our developers collaborate more effectively and will lead to a surge in new product development."

SECTION II: VERBAL REASONING - PART 1

Q1. The judge was celebrated for her _____; in a municipal legal system often plagued by graft and favoritism, her career was a testament to unwavering integrity.

- A. Probity
- B. Venality
- C. Mendacity
- D. Lethargy

Q2. The data collected from the initial pilot study were ultimately _____, providing no clear evidence to either support or refute the researchers' primary hypothesis.

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

Q3. The CEO's (i) _____ was often mistaken for arrogance; in reality, he was simply a (ii) _____ man who preferred data-driven results over small talk and social niceties.

- A. (i) Laconicism; (ii) Gregarious
- B. (i) Loquacity; (ii) Reticent
- C. (i) Laconicism; (ii) Reticent
- D. (i) Diffidence; (ii) Loquacious

Q4. While the critic initially (i) _____ the director's debut film as a masterpiece, his (ii) _____ of the sequel was far more measured, noting several flaws in the pacing and character development.

- A. (i) Extolled; (ii) Panegyric
- B. (i) Derided; (ii) Evaluation
- C. (i) Extolled; (ii) Evaluation
- D. (i) Ignored; (ii) Condemnation

Q5. The passage suggests that the "Harlem Renaissance" was not merely a literary movement but also:

- A. A failed attempt to integrate European classical music into African American culture.
- B. A sophisticated socio-political effort to redefine the African American identity through the arts.
- C. An economic initiative designed to increase property values in Northern Manhattan.
- D. A movement that focused exclusively on the experiences of rural Southern sharecroppers.

Q6. According to the passage, Zora Neale Hurston's work was unique because it:

- A. Rejected the use of folk dialects in favor of high-status academic English.
- B. Incorporated anthropological research and authentic regional speech into its narrative structure.
- C. Focused entirely on the industrial growth of New York City in the 1920s.
- D. Was primarily written for a European audience rather than a domestic one.

Q7. The author mentions "The Great Migration" primarily to:

- A. Explain the demographic shift that provided the cultural foundation for the Harlem Renaissance.
- B. Argue that the movement was a direct result of improved transportation technologies.
- C. Highlight the differences between Northern and Southern architectural styles.
- D. Explain why most artists of the period eventually moved to Europe.

Q8. The billionaire's lifestyle was famously _____, featuring a private fleet of gold-plated jets and several palatial estates across three continents.

- A. Opulent and Sumptuous
- B. Spartan and Austere
- C. Frugal
- D. Penurious

Q9. The graduate student was remarkably _____, spending nearly sixteen hours a day in the library to ensure every citation in her dissertation was perfectly accurate.

- A. Sedulous and Assiduous
- B. Negligent and Remiss
- C. Indolent

D. Cursory

Q10. A city banned all plastic grocery bags to reduce litter. However, after the ban, the city's landfill volume actually increased. Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain this paradox?

- A. Residents began using heavy-duty paper bags which take up significantly more physical space in landfills.
- B. The city also implemented a new recycling program for glass bottles during the same year.
- C. Plastic bags are generally more difficult to recycle than paper bags.
- D. Most residents reported that they preferred the aesthetic look of the new paper bags.

Q11. Choose the sentence that correctly utilizes the word "latter":

- A. Of the three options provided, the latter is clearly the best choice.
- B. He had two choices: stay and fight or flee; he chose the latter.
- C. The latter half of the book was much more exciting than the first three chapters.
- D. I have four siblings, and the latter one is currently in medical school.

Q12. In the sentence "The city council decided to appropriate the abandoned lot to build a public park," the word "appropriate" most nearly means:

- A. To behave in a socially acceptable manner
- B. To set aside or take for a specific use
- C. To be suitable for a particular occasion
- D. To offer an apology for a mistake

SECTION III: VERBAL REASONING - PART 2

Q1. The artist's retrospective was (i) _____; while it showcased his (ii) _____ early works, it also revealed the (iii) _____ of his later period, which many critics had previously ignored.

- A. (i) Illuminating; (ii) Derivative; (iii) Genius
- B. (i) Obscure; (ii) Brilliant; (iii) Mediocrity
- C. (i) Illuminating; (ii) Innovative; (iii) Mediocrity
- D. (i) Boring; (ii) Derivative; (iii) Genius

Q2. The museum's expansion was (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ support from local patrons ensured that the project was completed on schedule.

- A. (i) Ambitious; (ii) Unwavering
- B. (i) Modest; (ii) Fickle
- C. (i) Ambitious; (ii) Negligible
- D. (i) Practical; (ii) Unwavering

Q3. To the purists, the digital restoration seemed (i) _____, but the public saw it as a (ii) _____ way to experience classic films in high definition.

- A. (i) Sacrilegious; (ii) Beneficial
- B. (i) Respectful; (ii) Destructive
- C. (i) Sacrilegious; (ii) Irrelevant
- D. (i) Necessary; (ii) Beneficial

Q4. The collector found the painting (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ price tag forced him to pass on the acquisition.

- A. (i) Captivating; (ii) Exorbitant
- B. (i) Hideous; (ii) Modest
- C. (i) Captivating; (ii) Reasonable
- D. (i) Common; (ii) Exorbitant

Q5. The sculptor's reputation for _____ was well-earned; he often used discarded industrial metal and scrap wood to create his massive installations.

- A. Resourcefulness
- B. Extravagance
- C. Profligacy
- D. Wastefulness

Q6. The gallery's layout was so _____ that visitors often found themselves walking in circles, unable to find the exit.

- A. Labyrinthine
- B. Linear
- C. Straightforward
- D. Manifest

Q7. According to the passage, "Aesthetic Functionalism" argues that:

- A. Art should only be judged based on its beauty, regardless of its utility.
- B. The beauty of an object is derived primarily from its fitness for its intended purpose.
- C. True art must be entirely useless in a practical sense to be considered pure.
- D. Functional objects like tools cannot be considered art under any circumstances.

Q8. The author mentions "Bauhaus design" primarily to:

- A. Provide an example of a movement that integrated artistic craft with industrial functionality.
- B. Criticize the lack of color and ornament in modern architecture.
- C. Explain why traditional woodcarving became obsolete in the 20th century.
- D. Highlight the differences between German and Italian artistic traditions.

Q9. Which of the following best expresses the "subjective nature of beauty" discussed in the text?

- A. Aesthetic value is determined by individual perception rather than universal rules.
- B. There is a scientific formula for beauty based on the golden ratio.
- C. Only trained critics can truly appreciate the quality of a work of art.
- D. The beauty of an object increases as its monetary value rises.

Q10. A study found that people who visit art museums have lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol. However, museum visitors also reported higher-than-average incomes. Which weakens the conclusion that art itself reduces stress?

- A. Cortisol levels can also be lowered by physical exercise.
- B. High income is a strong predictor of lower stress levels due to financial security.
- C. Many museums offer free admission days once a month.
- D. The study was conducted only during the weekend.

Q11. The music was _____, with a slow, heavy beat that made the listeners feel drowsy and relaxed.

- A. Soporific and Somniferous
- B. Invigorating and Stimulating
- C. Enervating
- D. Jarring

Q12. The actor's style was _____, with grand gestures and a booming voice that reached the very back of the theater.

- A. Flamboyant and Ostentatious
- B. Subtle and Understated
- C. Modest
- D. Unobtrusive

Q13. The sunset was _____, with vibrant streaks of orange, purple, and gold that lit up the entire horizon.

- A. Resplendent and Splendid
- B. Dull and Drab
- C. Mundane
- D. Standard

Q14. The critic's remarks were _____, cutting through the director's excuses and identifying the fundamental flaws in the script.

- A. Incisive and Trenchant
- B. Vague and Ambiguous
- C. Nebulous
- D. Obscure

Q15. The old building's facade was _____, featuring a complex array of stone carvings and decorative tiles.

- A. Ornate and Elaborate
- B. Simple and Austere
- C. Stark
- D. Plain

SECTION IV: QUANTITATIVE REASONING - PART 1

Q1. The value of a certain investment increased by 25% in Year 1 and decreased by 20% in Year 2.

Quantity A	Quantity B
The value of the investment at the end of Year 2	The original value of the investment

- 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. If the sum of five consecutive even integers is 120, what is the value of the smallest integer in the set?

- A. 18
- B. 20
- C. 22
- D. 24
- E. 26

Q3. A regular hexagon has a perimeter of 36. A square also has a perimeter of 36.

Quantity A	Quantity B
The length of one side of the hexagon	The length of one side of the square

- 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. $x > 0$ and $y < 0$.

Quantity A	Quantity B
$x - y$	$ x + y $

- 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 $2(3x - 5) = 4x + 12$, what is the value of x^2 ?

- A. 11
- B. 49

- C. 100
- D. 121
- E. 144

Q6. A machine can produce 15 parts in 45 minutes. At this constant rate, how many parts can 4 identical machines produce in 3 hours?

- A. 40
- B. 80
- C. 120
- D. 160
- E. 240

Q7. A box contains 5 red pens, 3 blue pens, and 2 black pens. If two pens are selected at random without replacement, what is the probability that neither pen is red?

- A. $\frac{1}{2}$
- B. $\frac{2}{9}$
- C. $\frac{1}{3}$
- D. $\frac{5}{18}$
- E. $\frac{7}{15}$

Q8. A right circular cylinder has a radius of 4 and a height of 5. What is its total surface area?

- A. 20π
- B. 40π
- C. 72π
- D. 80π
- E. 96π

Q9. If x is a positive integer and x^2 is divisible by both 4 and 9, which of the following must be true? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ x is a multiple of 6.
- ☐ x is a multiple of 36.
- ☐ x^2 is a multiple of 36.

Q10. A train travels 180 miles in 2 hours and 15 minutes. What is its average speed in miles per hour?

Q11. If $4^n \times 2^n = 64$, what is the value of n ?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4
- E. 6

Q12. The average (arithmetic mean) of six numbers is 25. If the average of the first four numbers is 20, what is the average of the last two numbers?

SECTION V: QUANTITATIVE REASONING - PART 2

Q1. $x > 1$.

Quantity A	Quantity B
$\frac{x}{x+1}$	$\frac{x+1}{x+2}$

- 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 distinct prime factors of 15^n	The number of distinct prime factors of 45^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. The average of x , y , and 10 is 20.

Quantity A	Quantity B
The average of x and y	25

- 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. A merchant buys an item for \$60 and sells it at a markup of 40%. During a sale, he offers a 25% discount on the marked price. What is the final selling price?

- A. 60.00
- B. 63.00
- C. 64.00
- D. 84.00
- E. 105.00

Q5. Two cyclists start at the same point and travel in opposite directions. One travels at 12 mph and the other at 15 mph. In how many hours will they be 81 miles apart?

- A. 2.5
- B. 3.0
- C. 3.5
- D. 4.0
- E. 5.0

Data Interpretation: Quarterly Export Volume (Metric Tons)

Quarter	Region A	Region B
Q1	1,200	800
Q2	1,500	1,000
Q3	1,400	1,200
Q4	1,800	1,500

Q6. What was the percent increase in Region B's export volume from Q1 to Q2?

- A. 10%

- B. 15%
- C. 20%
- D. 25%
- E. 30%

Q7. In Q4, Region A's exports accounted for what percent of the total export volume for that quarter?

- A. 45%
- B. 54.5%
- C. 60%
- D. 66.7%
- E. 75%

Q8. What was the total export volume for Region A over the four quarters combined?

Q9. In the xy -coordinate plane, the line L has the equation $3x - 2y = 6$. What is the y -intercept of Line L ?

- A. -6
- B. -3
- C. -2
- D. 2
- E. 3

Q10. If $f(x) = \frac{x^2-1}{x+1} + 5$, what is the value of $f(9)$?

Q11. A child has a set of 5 different colored blocks. How many different towers 3 blocks high can be built if the order of the colors matters?

- A. 10
- B. 15
- C. 30
- D. 60
- E. 120

Q12. Line K passes through $(1, 2)$ and $(3, 8)$. Line M is parallel to Line K .

Quantity A	Quantity B
The slope of Line M	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.

Q13. How many integers between 1 and 100 are divisible by 3 and 5, but not by 2?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5
- E. 7

Q14. If $|2x - 4| = 10$, what is the product of all possible values of x ?

- A. -21
- B. -15
- C. 0
- D. 7
- E. 14

Q15. In a group of 100 people, 70 like tea, 40 like coffee, and 10 like neither. How many people like both tea and coffee?

Solutions - Verbal Reasoning Section I

1. **(A)** The sentence establishes a contrast between a legal system "plagued by graft and favoritism" and the judge's "unwavering integrity." "Probity" means the quality of having strong moral principles; honesty and decency.
2. **(B)** If the data provided "no clear evidence" to either support or refute a hypothesis, the results are inconclusive. "Equivocal" means open to more than one interpretation; ambiguous or uncertain.
3. **(C)** For blank (i), "laconicism" (the use of very few words) explains why the CEO might be mistaken for arrogant. For blank (ii), "reticent" (not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily) fits the description of a man who avoids social niceties in favor of data.
4. **(C)** For blank (i), "extolled" (praised enthusiastically) fits the description of labeling a film a "masterpiece." For blank (ii), "evaluation" is a neutral term for an assessment, which matches a "measured" review that noted both flaws and pacing.
5. **(B)** The passage describes the Harlem Renaissance as a movement where African American identity was reconstructed. It was a "sophisticated socio-political effort to redefine the African American identity through the arts," moving beyond simple literature.
6. **(B)** Hurston was trained as an anthropologist. Her work was unique because it "incorporated anthropological research and authentic regional speech," celebrating Southern folk traditions rather than avoiding them.
7. **(A)** "The Great Migration" refers to the movement of millions of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North. The author mentions this to "explain the demographic shift that provided the cultural foundation" for the Harlem Renaissance in New York.
8. **(A)** In Sentence Equivalence, the words must describe a lifestyle of extreme wealth. "Opulent" and "sumptuous" both mean ostentatiously costly and luxurious.
9. **(A)** Working "sixteen hours a day" to ensure perfection is a sign of extreme dedication. "Sedulous" and "assiduous" are synonyms meaning showing great care, central attention, and perseverance.
10. **(A)** The paradox is that banning plastic bags (intended to reduce waste) led to more landfill volume. Choice (A) explains this: "heavy-duty paper bags" occupy significantly "more physical space" than thin plastic bags, thus increasing the total volume of trash.
11. **(B)** The word "latter" refers specifically to the second of two things mentioned. Choice (B) is correct because it compares two choices (stay/fight vs. flee). Choice (A) is incorrect because it mentions "three options."
12. **(B)** While "appropriate" as an adjective means suitable, as a verb (in a GRE context), it means "to set aside or take for a specific use," often without the owner's permission or for a public project.

Solutions - Verbal Reasoning Section II

1. **(C)** For blank (i), "illuminating" describes a helpful retrospective. The contrast "while/also" suggests a mix: (ii) "innovative" (original/new) early works versus the (iii) "mediocrity" (quality of being only average) of the later period.
2. **(A)** For blank (i), "ambitious" describes a large-scale project. For blank (ii), "unwavering" (steady/untiring) support explains how the project was completed on schedule despite its size.
3. **(A)** For blank (i), "sacrilegious" (treating something sacred with disrespect) fits the "purist" view of changing old films. For blank (ii), "beneficial" represents the public's positive view of the high-definition result.
4. **(A)** For blank (i), "captivating" (attracting and holding interest) explains why the collector wanted it. However, the (ii) "exorbitant" (unreasonably high) price explains why he had to pass.
5. **(A)** Using discarded metal and scrap wood to create massive art shows "resourcefulness," which is the ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties or use what is available.
6. **(A)** A layout that makes people "walk in circles" and unable to find the exit is "labyrinthine," meaning irregular and twisting; like a maze.
7. **(B)** "Aesthetic Functionalism" is a philosophical position where the "beauty of an object is derived primarily from its fitness for its intended purpose"—the idea that "form follows function."
8. **(A)** Bauhaus was a German school that famously "integrated artistic craft with industrial functionality," making art applicable to daily life and mass production.
9. **(A)** The "subjective nature of beauty" is the idea that "aesthetic value is determined by individual perception" (the eye of the beholder) rather than by a fixed set of universal mathematical or scientific rules.
10. **(B)** The study links art to lower stress. However, if visitors also have high incomes, and "high income is a predictor of lower stress" (due to security), then income—not art—might be the true cause. This confounding variable weakens the conclusion.
11. **(A)** Music that makes listeners feel "drowsy" is "soporific" and "somniferous," both of which are synonyms meaning tending to induce sleep.
12. **(A)** "Grand gestures and a booming voice" describe a style that is "flamboyant" and "ostentatious," both meaning characteristically designed to impress or attract notice.
13. **(A)** A sunset with "vibrant streaks" of many colors is "resplendent" and "splendid," both synonyms for being attractive and impressive through being richly colorful or sumptuous.

14. **(A)** Remarks that "cut through excuses" to find "fundamental flaws" are "incisive" and "trenchant," both meaning (of a person or mental process) intelligently analytical and clear-thinking.
15. **(A)** A facade with "complex stone carvings" is "ornate" and "elaborate," both of which mean made in an intricate shape or decorated with complex patterns.

Solutions - Quantitative Reasoning Section I

- (C)** Let original value be 100. Increase by 25% $\rightarrow$ 125. Decrease 125 by 20%: $125 - 0.20(125) = 125 - 25 = 100$. Since $100 = 100$, the quantities are equal.
- 20** Let the integers be $n, n + 2, n + 4, n + 6, n + 8$. Sum: $5n + 20 = 120 \Rightarrow 5n = 100 \Rightarrow n = 20$.
- (B)** Hexagon side: $36/6 = 6$. Square side: $36/4 = 9$. Since $9 > 6$, Quantity B is greater.
- (C)** Since y is negative, $-y = |y|$. Since x is positive, $x = |x|$. Therefore, $x - y = |x| + |y|$. The quantities are equal.
- 121** $6x - 10 = 4x + 12 \Rightarrow 2x = 22 \Rightarrow x = 11$. Thus, $x^2 = 121$.
- 240** One machine rate: $15/45 = 1/3$ parts/min. Four machines rate: $4/3$ parts/min. In 3 hours (180 min): $(4/3) \times 180 = 240$ parts.
- (2/9)** Non-red pens: $3 + 2 = 5$. Total pens: 10. Probability: $(5/10) \times (4/9) = 20/90 = 2/9$.
- 72 π** Surface Area: $2\pi rh + 2\pi r^2 = 2\pi(4)(5) + 2\pi(4^2) = 40\pi + 32\pi = 72\pi$.
- (A, C)** x^2 is a multiple of $36(4 \times 9)$. For x^2 to be a perfect square multiple of 36, x must be a multiple of $\sqrt{36} = 6$. Thus x is a multiple of 6 and x^2 is a multiple of 36.
- 80** Time: 2 hours 15 min = 2.25 hours. Speed: $180/2.25 = 80$ mph.
- 2** $4^n \times 2^n = (2^2)^n \times 2^n = 2^{2n} \times 2^n = 2^{3n}$. Since $64 = 2^6$, $3n = 6 \Rightarrow n = 2$.
- 35** Total sum: $25 \times 6 = 150$. Sum of first four: $20 \times 4 = 80$. Sum of last two: $150 - 80 = 70$. Average: $70/2 = 35$.

Solutions - Quantitative Reasoning Section II

1. **(B)** For $x > 1$, $\frac{x+1}{x+2}$ is always greater than $\frac{x}{x+1}$. For example, if $x = 2$, $2/3 \approx 0.66$ vs $3/4 = 0.75$.
2. **(C)** $15^n = (3 \times 5)^n$, so distinct prime factors are 3 and 5. $45^n = (3^2 \times 5)^n$, so distinct prime factors are also 3 and 5. The quantities are equal.
3. **(C)** $(x + y + 10)/3 = 20 \Rightarrow x + y + 10 = 60 \Rightarrow x + y = 50$. The average of x and y is $50/2 = 25$.
4. **63.00** Marked price: $60 \times 1.40 = 84$. Sale price: $84 \times 0.75 = 63$.
5. **3.0** Combined speed: $12 + 15 = 27$ mph. Time: $81/27 = 3$ hours.
6. **25%** Increase: $1000 - 800 = 200$. Percent increase: $200/800 = 25\%$.
7. **54.5%** Total Q4: $1800 + 1500 = 3300$. Region A share: $1800/3300 \approx 0.545 = 54.5\%$.
8. **5900** Total Region A: $1200 + 1500 + 1400 + 1800 = 5900$.
9. **-3** Set $x = 0$: $3(0) - 2y = 6 \Rightarrow -2y = 6 \Rightarrow y = -3$.
10. **13** $f(x) = \frac{(x-1)(x+1)}{x+1} + 5 = x - 1 + 5 = x + 4$. Then $f(9) = 9 + 4 = 13$.
11. **60** Permutation of 5 items taken 3 at a time: $5 \times 4 \times 3 = 60$.
12. **(C)** Slope of K : $(8 - 2)/(3 - 1) = 6/2 = 3$. Parallel lines have equal slopes, so slope of $M = 3$.
13. **3** Multiples of 15 (3 and 5) between 1 and 100: 15, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90. The odd ones (not divisible by 2) are 15, 45, 75.
14. **-21** $2x - 4 = 10 \Rightarrow 2x = 14 \Rightarrow x = 7$. Also $2x - 4 = -10 \Rightarrow 2x = -6 \Rightarrow x = -3$. Product: $7 \times -3 = -21$.
15. **20** People liking at least one: $100 - 10 = 90$. Both: $(70 + 40) - 90 = 20$.