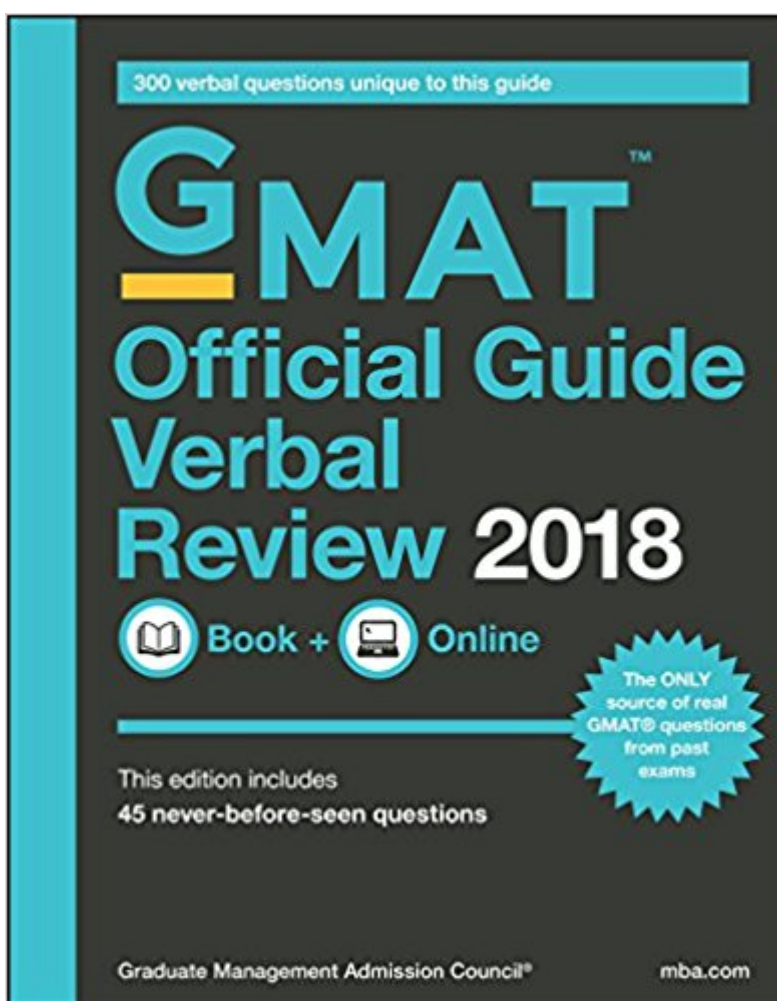


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# GMAT Official Guide 2018 Verbal Review: Book + Online (Official Guide For Gmat Verbal Review)



## Synopsis

A supplement to the Official Guide with 300 additional verbal questions  
The GMAT Official Guide 2018 Verbal Review provides additional practical preparation focused on the verbal portion of the exam. Written by the Graduate Management Admission Council, this guide contains 300 real GMAT questions from past exams, including 45 never-before-seen questions, plus the following features:  
An overview of the exam to help you get familiar with the content and format  
Comprehensive grammar review  
Detailed answer explanations that explain how the test maker thinks about a question  
Questions organized in order of difficulty from easiest to hardest to focus your study  
Access to the same questions online at [gmat.wiley.com](http://gmat.wiley.com), where you can build your own practice sets  
Don't waste time practicing on fake GMAT questions. Optimize your study time with the GMAT Official Guide 2018 Verbal Review using real questions from actual past exams.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

GMAT Official Guide Verbal Review 2018  
Book + Online BUILD YOUR OWN PRACTICE SETS with questions from this guide at [gmat.wiley.com](http://gmat.wiley.com)  
SUPPLEMENT THE GMAT OFFICIAL GUIDE with 300 additional questions organized in order of difficulty from easiest to hardest Visit [mba.com](http://mba.com), the official GMAT website

I am a Harvard grad, 99% GMAT scorer and professional GMAT tutor since 2002, and am fairly

obsessed with this test. I also take the GMAT about once a year to stay up-to-date, including a personal best of 770 (47Q / 48V / 8 IR / 6.0 AWA). The GMAT Official Guide Verbal Review 2018 (currently \$12) receives my strong recommendation because it provides a great source of real GMAT questions at a decent price. One aspect of this book that you must understand is that it is not meant to teach you GMAT test-taking strategy. For that, look elsewhere (see product links below). However, it includes some of the very best practice materials available, straight from the test-maker, and although the answer explanations are often convoluted, they are still useful in understanding how the GMAC thinks. Why are the 2018 Official Guides the very best place to start your GMAT preparation, other than the free GMATPrep software? Because the questions within are super-realistic. They are just like the questions on the real GMAT, because the book is written by the test-maker and uses actual, retired GMAT questions. Don't waste your time and money practicing on questions made by any other companies--these are merely inferior imitations of the real thing. If you must use other materials for test strategy, then that's fine, and in most cases necessary, but try your best to stick to official questions whenever possible. Pro tip: You can take each of the 6 GMAT Prep CATs more than once, because the GMAT is an adaptive test (it adjusts the difficulty level of later questions based on your previous responses). There are about 4 to 16 times as many questions in the GMAC's question pool as there are in any given test, which means that every test you take will be different. Tests 1 and 2 draw from a (gigantic!) pool of about 1,500 questions, and tests 3, 4, 5, and 6 draw from a more modest pool of about 400 questions each. To re-take your GMAT Prep tests, click "reset" in the lower-left hand corner of the GMAT Prep software window, but make sure to take screenshots of your previous test sessions beforehand--frequent screenshots are a good idea anyway because the software is prone to crashing and losing your data. For your screenshots, use either the "Print Screen" (Windows Key + PrtScn) button on a PC or (Shift + Command + 3) on a Mac. It's important to remember that although physical GMAT books are extremely helpful, the GMAT is still a computer-based test, which means that you should still spend at least 50% of your preparation time reading a screen instead of reading a piece of paper. For this reason, consider buying the Kindle versions of the guides, as well as making full use of the computer-based practice options (Exam Packs, Question Packs, Mobile App, etc.) available from the GMAC (see detailed product links below). Or, if you prefer to buy the physical books, then you can also use the access codes located in the sealed pouches in the back covers of the books to access a free web-based version of the books, where you can try most of the questions in the books in an online format, and organize quizzes by question type / difficulty level (easy, medium, hard). You will also have to create a Wiley account, which is mostly painless. I strongly suggest that you

save your login information on your browser so that you won't have to enter your username / password every time you access the Wiley site. Instead of giving you a paper and pencil, the GMAC also requires you to use a water-based marker and a laminated sheet like this one: Manhattan GMAT Test Simulation Booklet w/ Marker. I don't recommend always using the laminated sheet when you study, because it's messy and harder to keep track of your notes that way. But it makes sense to at least use it a few times, just to get the feel of it before test day.

**45 NEVER-BEFORE SEEN QUESTIONS / 15% NEW QUESTIONS** Approximately 15% of the questions in this 2018 edition of the OG are new to the Official Guide. However, it is worth noting that "never before seen" is not entirely true, since all of these questions are retired questions from past GMAT computer exams (it says so right there on the cover). A more accurate description would be "never before seen on paper," but that probably wouldn't sell as many copies. (For explanations and classifications of every question in the 2017 Official Guide, google "GMAT Club Guide to the GMAT Official Guide 2017.") Are the questions from the 2018 version any better than the questions they are replacing from the 2017 edition? No, not really. All of the questions within are old questions from past GMAT exams ("retired questions"), so there is no guarantee that these 130 "new" questions are either any newer or any more helpful than are the questions they supplant from the 2017 edition of the GMAT OG. Moreover, early adopters of the 2018 edition will find that certain questions are so new that it's hard to access online explanations until GMAT tutors like me (GMATClub username: mcelroytutoring) start posting them, which could take weeks or even months. While I will concede that the questions in this book are roughly ordered from easy to hard, there are some curious places where low-numbered questions are quite difficult for most of my students, and vice-versa. Thus, I think that we can't necessarily take GMAC at its word here, especially since there has already been evidence in past official guides of the GMAC moving the exact same questions to radically different locations in the books, which suggests that we shouldn't trust the GMAC at its word in this regard. If the questions are truly ordered from easy to hard, for example, then why would a question numbered in the 30s suddenly show up numbered in the 90s in the next year's edition?

**A WARNING ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF THE QUESTIONS IN THE OFFICIAL GUIDES:** It is important to note that the difficulty level of questions in this book is sufficient for most test takers, but is admittedly a bit lacking on the high end. High scorers take note: If you are aiming for a GMAT score of 700-plus,

then you should spend more time practicing on questions from the GMATPrep software and Exams Pack 1 and 2, which offer more difficult questions that will bear a closer resemblance to the questions you will see on your actual test day. Remember: the GMAT is an adaptive exam. If you answer a lot of questions right, then the test keeps getting harder (as your score rises), and if you answer a lot of questions wrong, then the test keeps getting easier (as your score lowers). And especially on the Quant section, the questions on the test are “front-loaded” so that the first 1/3 of questions have a much larger impact on your score than does the final 1/3 of questions. (There is a SEVERE penalty for not finishing the sections, however, so make sure that you give yourself time to answer all the questions before time expires, even if they are just random guesses. At all costs, make sure to answer every question before time expires.) If you do run out of official GMAT Prep computer tests (the first two are free, and you can buy four more from GMAC), then I can recommend the Manhattan GMAT CATs (computer adaptive tests). Just buy one book from the Manhattan GMAT series, and it will give you access to all 6 online CATs: GMAT Sentence Correction (Manhattan Prep GMAT Strategy Guides) For free video explanations to all the math questions in these books, google “GMAT Quantum,” or if you prefer to read your explanations, then just try google searching the first few lines of your question’s text. I would also strongly recommend that you check out informative websites such as GMAT Club, Beat the GMAT, and Atlantic GMAT, and that you consider retaining the services of a qualified private tutor such as myself.

For those of you who are just getting started, here is the overall structure of the GMAT:

- 1) Analysis of an Argument Essay (AWA or Analytical Writing Assessment): 30 minutes, 1 question.
- 2) Integrated Reasoning (Multi-Source Reasoning, Table Analysis, Graphics Interpretation, Two Part Analysis): 30 minutes, 12 questions. Please note: unlike the Verbal and Quantitative sections, the IR section is not adaptive. For this reason, every time you try a GMATPrep Exam you will see the same 12 IR questions.
- 3) Optional 8-minute break
- 4) Quantitative Section (Problem Solving, Data Sufficiency): 75 minutes, 37 questions (2 minutes per question)
- 5) Optional 8-minute break
- 6) Verbal Section (Reading Comprehension, Critical Reasoning, Sentence Correction): 75 minutes, 41 questions (1.8 minutes per question)

The GMAC has also recently announced that it will be rolling out a program, starting July 11, 2017, where GMAT test-takers will be able to select (out of 3 possible options) the order of their test sections! This promises to be a huge advantage, because the Verbal and Quant sections, which are not only the two toughest sections of the GMAT, but also the only two sections that contribute to one’s 200-800 composite score, have always been located at the end of the 4-hour test, when it’s harder to maintain focus. You will have the option

to choose 1) Quant, 2) Verbal, 3) IR and 4) AWA or 1) Verbal, 2) Quant, 3) IR and 4) AWA.

Personally, I prefer the final option. Keep in mind that on the GMAT you cannot go back or skip any questions, and that the first 12-15 questions of the Verbal and Quantitative sections have the most impact on your score due to the adaptive scoring algorithm. A correct answer will yield a slightly harder question in most cases, and vice versa, and the GMAT will gradually determine your score as you go. The largest adjustments are made at the beginning of the test, which is why the first 1/3 of questions are so essential. Also, approximately 10 to 25% of the questions on the actual GMAT (and 4 of the 12 IR questions) are experimental – you don't know which ones they are, and they don't count toward your score.

### HOW TO STUDY FOR THE GMAT:

My core philosophy: use official GMAT questions only! It's OK if you end up memorizing all the solutions and answers that are part of the point, as is repetition of certain questions until you fully understand them. There are thousands of real GMAT questions available from the GMAC, so it's unlikely that you will ever run out. Imitation questions are not quite the same, so why settle for anything less than the real deal? For purposes of brevity, I am only including a one-month study plan, but the truth is that most students need at least 3-6 months to study for the GMAT. To turn this 1-month study plan into a 3-month or 6-month study plan, simply break the study plan into smaller increments. Ideally, your studying should be done at regular intervals throughout the day, instead of one large chunk, to maximize retention. Take frequent breaks, but also try to get used to working for 4 hours straight at least once a week, to simulate test conditions. If you don't have time to take a full section, then don't use the GMAT Prep Exams, because you will need to finish the entire test in order to review the questions afterward. Even if you only want to try a Quant section, for example, you will have to click through the rest of the test, or wait for time to expire, which is annoying. Better to use the Question Packs, the OGs or the Mobile App for smaller increments of time. Also, if you're a Mac user like me, then you should know that the "Escape" button does not work on the GMAT Prep software. Instead, try (Command + Tab) to switch to other open applications. Don't forget to utilize GMAT club for explanations to any questions whose explanations in the books don't make sense. Just google search the first few lines of your question's text.

### MY RECOMMENDED GMAT STUDY PLAN:

"Section" = a timed, scored section from the GMAT Prep Software (Exams 1 through 6). Helps you practice test-taking techniques, and leveraging the GMAT algorithm. "Practice" = unscored (no composite score, only correct/incorrect) and the time limit is less strict. Take as long

as you need for understanding. Remember that you don't necessarily need to pay for Exam Packs 1 and 2, because there are approximately 1,500 potential questions in (free) Exams 1 and 2, so you can just keep resetting the tests and using them again. The IR sections will be exactly the same (not adaptive!), but the quant and verbal sections will be different every time. Another option is to install the GMAT Prep software on 2 different computers. 2 different computers = 2 different versions of the test = nearly twice as many questions to practice. Here is a sample weekly schedule that I would recommend IF YOU ARE TRYING TO PREPARE IN ONLY ONE MONTH (see modifications for 2-6 month study plans below).

**Day 1: COMPUTER DAY**

- 1) 75 minute Quant Section - GMATPrep
- 2) 75 minute Verbal Section - GMATPrep
- 3) Review Incorrectly Answered Quant Questions + Math Concepts and Strategies
- 4) Review Incorrectly Answered Verbal Questions + Verbal Concepts and Strategies
- 5) 30 minute IR Section or Practice - GMAT Prep / IR tool from Wiley
- 6) 30 minutes Essay Practice

**Day 2: BOOK (OG) / WILEY DAY**

- 1) 37 Quant Questions in OG / Wiley
- 2) 41 Verbal Questions in OG / Wiley
- 3) Review Incorrectly Answered Quants
- 4) Review Incorrectly Answered Verbals
- 5) 12 IR Questions - Any Source

**Day 3: COMPUTER DAY**

- 1) 37 Quant Questions in GMATPrep (Question Packs)
- 2) 41 Verbal Questions in GMATPrep (Question Packs)
- 3) Review Incorrectly Answered Quants + Math Concepts and Strategies
- 4) Review Incorrectly Answered Verbals + Verbal Concepts and Strategies

**Day 4: BOOK (OG) / WILEY DAY**

- 1) 37 Quant Questions in OG / Wiley
- 2) 41 Verbal Questions in OG / Wiley
- 3) Review Incorrectly Answered Quants + Math Concepts and Strategies
- 4) Review Incorrectly Answered Verbals + Verbal Concepts and Strategies
- 5) 12 IR Questions - Any Source

**Day 5: COMPUTER DAY**

- 1) 75 minute Quant Section - GMATPrep
- 2) 75 minute Verbal Section - GMATPrep
- 3) Review Incorrectly Answered Quants + Math Concepts and Strategies
- 4) Review Incorrectly Answered Verbals + Verbal Concepts and Strategies
- 5) 30 minute IR Section or Practice - GMAT Prep / IR tool from Wiley
- 6) 30 minutes Essay Practice

**Day 6: BOOK (OG) / WILEY DAY**

- 1) 37 Quant Questions in OG / Wiley
- 2) 41 Verbal Questions in OG / Wiley
- 3) Review Incorrectly Answered Quants + Math Concepts and Strategies
- 4) Review Incorrectly Answered Verbals + Verbal Concepts and Strategies
- 5) 12 IR Questions - Any Source

**Day 7: Take a rest! You're only human.** Repeat for three more weeks, and you've completed approximately 2,160 real GMAT questions out of the approximately 4,000 official GMAT questions available. Here are my modifications for 2-6 month study plans:

2-month study plan: complete 3 assignments (numbered above) per day.

3-month study plan: complete 2 assignments per day.

4-month study plan: complete 1-2 assignments per day.

6-month study plan: complete 1 assignment per day.

The founder of the GMAT Club forum has also written an excellent GMAT Study Plan on GMAT club. To see it, google "GMAT

Strategies. **• A QUICK AND IMPORTANT NOTE ON HOW TO REVIEW INCORRECTLY ANSWERED GMAT QUESTIONS:** Yes, the correct answers (along with mildly helpful explanations) are all right there in the books. But at all costs, don't check the correct answer right away, because in many ways it ruins the utility of that question. When it comes time to re-try the questions that you answered incorrectly, I recommend that you either buy a 2nd copy of the books to keep blank, or that you simply re-try the questions on your computer screen **BEFORE** checking the answer. It's what I call a "blind review": going over all the questions you got wrong without first checking the correct answer/explanation, or seeing any of your previous work. Yes, I know when you get something wrong that you thought you got right, your first instinct is to immediately check the correct answer choice. However, try your best to avoid this temptation. In my opinion, blind review is one of the key facets of effective test prep. Thus, when using the physical book, you should only mark your answers in the book as correct or incorrect (this is easier when working with a partner). Most importantly, don't write down or look at the correct answers before you get a chance to review / re-try them at least once. Obviously, this type of study is much easier with a partner. If you're working by yourself out of the physical books or the Kindle editions, then there is no way to check your answers without actually looking at the correct letter answers. So, if you're studying solo, then I recommend that you write your answers **only your answers, not your work** on a separate sheet of paper. Do at least 40 questions at a time, to get a feel for what a GMAT Quant or Verbal section feels like. When you correct them, don't indicate the correct answers in the book **simply mark incorrect answers as incorrect**. And try to correct your questions all at once instead of one at a time, so that when you review the actual question afterward, you are less likely to remember the correct answer. In contrast, if you go over questions by checking the correct answers right away, then you can create false confidence by fooling yourself into thinking that you understand the questions fully, when in fact you are still prone to those types of mistakes. The best way to know for sure is to try the questions again, from scratch, **\*without\*** the aid of the answer key, your previous answer, or the answer explanations. Only then should you confirm the correct answer and read the explanation provided. **Here are my recommended GMAT Resources:** Practice: 1) Free GMATPrep Software - 2 diagnostic CATs (Exams 1 and 2: 180 questions total) and 90 practice questions out of 1,500 possible questions 2) GMAT 2018 Official Guide Bundle - 1 diagnostic test and over 1,500 practice questions and answer

explanations - GMAT Official Guide 2018 Bundle: Books + Online - about \$453) GMATPrep Exam Pack 1 - 2 diagnostic CATs (Exams 3 and 4: 180 questions total) out of 400 possible questions - GMATPrep Exam Pack 1 [Online Code] \$504) GMAT Prep Exam Pack 2 (New Release with 2 New Tests -- not yet available on ) - 2 more diagnostic CATs (Exams 5 and 6: 180 questions total) out of 400 possible questions - \$50 Please note: you can save \$10 by buying #3 and #4 together as an Exam Pack Bundle from the GMAT website for \$90.5) GMATPrep Question Pack 1 - 404 questions with answer explanations and ability to sort questions by type and difficulty - \$30 - GMATPrep Question Pack 1 [Online Code] 6) The Official Guide for GMAT Review 2016 Mobile App - The Official Guide for GMAT Review 2016 - \$5 for 50 questions and \$30 upgrade for an additional 800 questions 7) GMAT Focus Quizzes - 24 questions per quiz (math only) - \$30 per quiz and 4 total. GMAT Focus Online Quantitative Diagnostic Tool: Single Use - GMAT Focus Online Quantitative Diagnostic Tool: Single Use [Online Code] 8) IR Prep Tool - 48 Integrated Reasoning Questions - GMAT IR Prep Tool [Online Code] - \$209) GMAT Write - 4 Auto-Graded Essays for \$30 10) GMAT Enhanced Score Report - Technically this is not a practice tool, but it provides an in-depth look at your score, including overall rankings, rankings by question type, time management information and a summary of your strengths and weaknesses, which can be helpful if you plan to take the test more than once. - \$25 Strategy: 1) GMAT Club Forum - Free explanations to nearly every official GMAT question, as well as questions written by other companies (I do not recommend practicing on non-official questions). 2) GMAT Quantum - Free video explanations to nearly every official GMAT quantitative question. 3) GMATPrepNow - Free video explanations to many GMAT questions in both Quant and Verbal. 4) Manhattan Prep GMAT Series: \$144 for the entire series - Complete GMAT Strategy Guide Set (Manhattan Prep GMAT Strategy Guides) - or about \$49 for access to 6 online CATs. 5) Ace the GMAT by Brandon Royal: \$8 for Kindle version - Ace the GMAT: Master the GMAT in 40 Days 6) LSAT Pretests for Extra Critical Reasoning and Critical Reading Practice: \$20 for 10 tests - 10 More, Actual Official LSAT PrepTests: (PrepTests 19 through 28) (Lsat Series) 7) Magoosh Free Online Materials 8) Powerscore Critical Reasoning Bible: \$21 - The PowerScore GMAT Critical Reasoning Bible 9) Powerscore Reading Comprehension Bible: \$35 - The PowerScore GMAT Reading Comprehension Bible 10) The Complete GMAT Sentence Correction Guide by Erica Meltzer - The Complete GMAT Sentence Correction Guide Princeton and Kaplan are OK for strategy too. I prefer Princeton Review's GMAT guide (full disclosure: P.R. is my former employer) to Kaplan's (in my humble opinion, a mediocre, corporate behemoth who somehow always manages to rank #1 on with lots of suspect 5-star reviews), but

any effort to write an "all in one" guide to a test as complex as the GMAT is destined to be at least a partial failure. The Kaplan and Princeton guides can be helpful if you are a below-average scorer trying to obtain an above-average score without too much effort, but the perfectionists among us will be frustrated by their lack of depth and unrealistic practice questions. Finally, you can google "GMAT Action Plan - McElroy Tutoring" to read my personal, frequently updated recommendations for GMAT Prep. Please feel free to leave comments and/or ask questions below--I enjoy analyzing the intricacies of this challenging test.

The book is new and the paper is with good condition.

Founded by a Stanford MBA, GMAT Genius offers the highest quality GMAT preparation services to GMAT aspirants worldwide. Our mission is crystal-clear: to help you achieve GMAT success. We provide extensive free GMAT prep advice on the GMAT Genius website: read all about the GMAT, gain crucial strategy tips, learn how to best approach each question type, obtain optimal test preparation methods, discover effective GMAT study habits, and much more. In addition, we offer personalized GMAT tutoring to students worldwide. Please let us know if we can provide any assistance with your GMAT prep. GMAT Genius has thoroughly analyzed the 2018 Official Guides and we want to share our insights with you. Feel free to read our detailed analysis of the 2018 GMAT Verbal Official Guide or skip down to our conclusions. Please note that you can view this same review with the data in nicely formatted tables on the GMAT Genius blog. Wishing you tremendous success with the GMAT!

**OVERVIEW of OFFICIAL GUIDE**

The Official Guides for GMAT Review contain retired real GMAT questions, and are an essential component of your GMAT preparations. The GMAC places questions in order of increasing difficulty, based on its assessment of difficulty. The Verbal Official Guide has no overlap with questions in the main Official Guide. The 2018 edition of this book contains 45 new questions out of the 301 total questions, representing 15% new content. These are new questions that we have not encountered before; they are not questions recycled from older GMAC resources.

**SENTENCE CORRECTION**

This book contains 113 Sentence Correction questions. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows:

Difficulty	Count	Percentage	Change from 2017
Easy	35	31%	4 more
Medium	26	23%	25 fewer
Hard	52	46%	21 more

In the Sentence Correction section, questions are not fully presented in order of progressive difficulty, contrary to what the back cover of the book claims. Based on difficulty levels provided in the online version, Medium and Hard difficulty questions are interspersed. The following lists the question numbers for each difficulty level:

Easy

Easy 189-223 Medium 224-247, 259, 261 Hard 248-258, 260, 262-301 The Sentence Correction section contains 17 new questions, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 8 / 0 / 9. This is in lieu of 17 questions from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 4 / 8 / 5. The GMAC has also upgraded the difficulty of 17 Medium questions from the prior edition to Hard difficulty in this edition. GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Our assessment skews towards the easier side, but contains notable differences from the GMAC. Our difficulty assessment is only 63.8% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, clearly showing that there is subjectivity involved in assessing question difficulty. Here's our breakdown: Super Easy 4 (4%, 1 fewer than 2017) Easy 34 (30%, 4 more) Medium 43 (38%, same) Hard 27 (24%, 1 fewer) Very Hard 5 (4%, 2 fewer) Although Sentence Correction questions typically entail multiple grammar concepts (as described on our website), GMAT Genius classifies questions based on our assessment of the primary tested concept. We break down the 113 Sentence Correction questions as follows: Verb Agreement: 7 (6%, same than 2017) Verb Tense: 13 (12%, 1 fewer) Pronoun Ambiguity: 9 (8%, same) Pronoun Agreement: 11 (10%, same) Parallel Construction: 28 (25%, 4 fewer) Misplaced Modifiers: 17 (15%, 2 more) Idioms: 11 (10%, 1 more) Comparison & Quantity: 8 (7%, same) Expression & Meaning: 9 (8%, 2 more) Here's a list of the 17 new Sentence Correction questions: 198, 202, 204, 207, 209, 211, 212, 220, 267, 268, 270, 274, 284, 285, 286, 292, 293 Here's a list of the 113 Sentence Correction questions categorized by primary grammar concept: Verb Agreement: 202, 203, 229, 242, 269, 284, 287 Verb Tense: 200, 201, 204, 219, 221, 223, 228, 250, 262, 266, 276, 278, 289 Pronoun Ambiguity: 214, 241, 252, 255, 263, 271, 273, 277, 288 Pronoun Agreement: 190, 206, 208, 218, 233, 235, 253, 268, 281, 292, 298 Parallel Construction: 191, 193, 194, 196, 205, 210, 212, 213, 226, 227, 244, 245, 246, 248, 249, 251, 254, 256, 265, 270, 279, 280, 285, 293, 294, 296, 297, 301 Misplaced Modifiers: 189, 195, 197, 198, 209, 211, 224, 230, 231, 236, 238, 257, 258, 259, 282, 283, 290 Idioms: 192, 220, 222, 234, 237, 243, 260, 264, 272, 274, 295 Comparison & Quantity: 215, 225, 232, 239, 247, 286, 291, 299 Expression & Meaning: 199, 207, 216, 217, 240, 261, 267, 275, 300 CRITICAL REASONING This book contains 83 Critical Reasoning questions. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows: Easy 31 (37%, 3 fewer than 2017) Medium 27 (33%, 1 more) Hard 25 (30%, 2 more) In the Critical Reasoning section, questions are not fully presented in order of progressive difficulty, contrary to what the back cover of the book claims.

Based on difficulty levels provided in the online version, Easy and Medium difficulty questions are interspersed. The following lists the question numbers for each difficulty level:

Easy 106-135, 139  
Medium 136-138, 140-163  
Hard 164-188

The Critical Reasoning section contains 12 new questions, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 1 / 5 / 6. This is in lieu of 12 questions from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 4 / 5 / 3. The GMAC has downgraded the difficulty of Hard questions from the prior edition to Medium difficulty in this edition. GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Our assessment skews slightly more towards the middle, but contains notable differences from the GMAC. Our difficulty assessment is only 70.5% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, demonstrating tremendous subjectivity involved in assessing question difficulty. Here's our breakdown:

Super Easy 1 (1%, same as 2017)  
Easy 18 (22%, 6 fewer)  
Medium 40 (48%, 2 more)  
Hard 16 (19%, 2 more)  
Very Hard 8 (10%, 2 more)

We have grouped the questions based on the question type categorization that GMAT Genius uses for Critical Reasoning (as described on our website). We break down the 83 Critical Reasoning questions as follows:

Weaken: 20 (24%, 1 more than 2017)  
Strengthen: 16 (19%, 1 fewer)  
Assumption: 7 (8%, 1 more)  
Reasoning: 3 (4%, same)  
Conclusion: 7 (8%, same)  
Explain: 5 (6%, 2 fewer)  
Evaluate: 7 (8%, 1 more)  
Boldface: 4 (5%, same)  
Complete the Passage: 14 (17%, same)

Here's a list of the 12 new Critical Reasoning questions: 112, 141, 144, 154, 161, 162, 166, 173, 175, 179, 182, 187

Here's a list of the 83 Critical Reasoning questions categorized by CR question type:

Weaken: 122, 124, 125, 128, 131, 136, 141, 143, 159, 164, 168, 171, 173, 176, 177, 179, 182, 185, 186, 187  
Strengthen: 106, 110, 112, 115, 121, 138, 139, 140, 142, 155, 158, 167, 170, 175, 181, 188  
Assumption: 119, 144, 156, 166, 172, 180, 184  
Reasoning: 123, 150, 157  
Conclusion: 107, 113, 117, 118, 126, 147, 165  
Explain: 114, 132, 135, 153, 154  
Evaluate: 111, 120, 146, 149, 162, 163, 178  
Boldface: 133, 160, 169, 183  
Complete the Passage: 108, 109, 116, 127, 129, 130, 134, 137, 145, 148, 151, 152, 161, 174

READING COMPREHENSION

This book contains 105 Reading Comprehension questions across 19 passages. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows:

Easy 34 (32%, 6 more than 2017)  
Medium 27 (26%, 10 fewer)  
Hard 44 (42%, 4 more)

The Reading Comprehension section contains 16 new questions in 4 passages, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 6 / 4 / 6. This is in lieu of 16 questions in 3 passages from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 0 / 10 / 6. The GMAC has

upgraded four Medium questions to Hard. GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Whereas the GMAC assigns the same difficulty to all questions for a given passage (except for one passage split between Medium and Hard), GMAT Genius assesses the difficulty of each question individually. Our assessment skews easier, but contains notable differences from the GMAC. Our difficulty assessment is only 67.0% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, in large part due to different difficulty assessment methodologies.

Here's our breakdown: Super Easy 6 (6%, same as 2017) Easy 32 (30%, 3 more) Medium 38 (36%, 1 fewer) Hard 21 (20%, 1 fewer) Very Hard 8 (8%, 1 fewer) We have grouped the questions based on the question type categorization that GMAT Genius uses for Reading Comprehension (as described on our website). We break down the 105 Reading Comprehension questions as follows: Primary Purpose: 14 (13%, same than 2017) Author's Tone: 6 (6%, same) Organization: 3 (3%, same) Function: 15 (14%, same) Specific Reference: 24 (23%, 1 fewer) Inference: 40 (38%, 1 more) Critical Reasoning: 3 (3%, same) Here's a list of the 16 new Reading Comprehension questions: 5 to 10, 54 to 57, 89 to 94 We have not provided a list of Reading Comprehension questions by category because it makes sense to practice on one passage at a time, rather than attempting all the Primary Purpose questions (for example) at one go.

**ONLINE INTERFACE** The book includes an access code (see inside front cover) that provides 12-month usage of an online version of this Official Guide only. The online practice interface is the same as it was previously, except that the onerous limit of 10 saved sessions has been increased to 25 saved sessions in Exam Mode plus 25 saved sessions in Practice Mode (which you should not use, as mentioned below). The 100 questions from the Diagnostic Test chapter of the main Official Guide, but that are not contained in this printed book, are available in a separate tab that works with Exam Mode functionality. Since the GMAT is a computer-based test, we believe that it is advisable to work through the questions online. We strongly suggest that you use Exam Mode rather than Practice Mode, since we recommend that students practice using timed question sets that replicate test day conditions. The functionality of the online platform is good overall. You can choose practice sets by question type and difficulty level. Every question lists the corresponding book question number for easy cross-referencing.

**OTHER NOTES** The Official Guides are for practicing with real GMAT questions, not for learning the underlying concepts. The brief introductions to the concepts tested on the verbal section are highly inadequate. We recommend that you use additional study materials to learn the verbal concepts. Although all questions include answer explanations, many GMAT test takers are far from satisfied with these explanations. Most GMAT test takers consider

the Sentence Correction explanations quite cryptic. The Critical Reasoning and Reading Comprehension explanations, however, are reasonably good overall.

**CONCLUSION** The Verbal Official Guide has three primary weaknesses, in our opinion:

- 1) An insufficient amount of difficult practice questions, particularly based on GMAT Genius's assessment of difficulty.
- 2) Sentence Correction explanations are too cryptic.
- 3) In the Critical Reasoning and Sentence Correction sections, questions are not fully presented in order of progressive difficulty, contrary to what the back cover of the book claims.

Despite these flaws, the Verbal Official Guide is an essential source of GMAT practice, and nicely supplements the main GMAT Official Guide for additional practice questions. We believe that every GMAT aspirant must use this book (or the prior edition). For these reasons, we give this book a 5-star rating. For the best value, we recommend purchasing this book as part of the GMAT Official Guide 2018 Bundle: Books + Online. If you already have the 2017 edition of this book, however, the replacement of 45 verbal questions is not sufficient to make this edition worth purchasing.

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