



Chapter 8 Study Guides

DO I NEED A STUDY GUIDE?

In the opening letter to this book, we referenced the lessons The Princeton Review has learned throughout the years. Among those lessons are two that have influenced the construction of this book. The first is that no two students are the same—where some students struggle, others excel. Your journey to GMAT success is going to depend on fine-tuning your strengths and minimizing your weaknesses.

The second is that not every student has the same amount of time to prepare for the test. Some students purchase this book well in advance of test date and have the luxury of that time to work their way methodically through this book, chapter by chapter. Others will buy this book with only a matter of weeks to spare before test day.

Because of these lessons, we've built study guides into this book based on your performance in the first diagnostic test. You're under no obligation to follow these and are free to skip this chapter and get right into the meat of the content. But if you want something a little more personalized or want to leverage our decades of experience in guiding students to success, then following one of our study guides is a good option for you.

CHOOSING A STUDY GUIDE

The right study guide for you is based on three factors:

1. How much time you have to devote to studying
2. What your goals are for your score
3. How you performed on the first diagnostic test

The study guides are broken into 2-week, 4-week, and 6-week blocks. Before choosing a study plan, you need to know how much time you have to prepare. The 2-week plans are going to focus your attention on the content that is most likely to impact your score; the 4-week plans expand on that content by adding in a couple of additional high value areas; and the 6-week plans are going to guide you through the entire book.

Once you've determined how much time you have to study, take a minute to think about your goals for test day. Do your target schools only care about math or verbal scores? Do you need to maximize your score on both sections? Knowing what your goals are can help direct you to the appropriate study guide.

Finally, look at your performance on the first diagnostic test. Did you score under 70% on any of the Test Sections? If so, look to the study guide that best attacks that area of weakness.

Here's a table that can help guide your decision-making.

| I have... | I need to improve in... | On Diagnostic Test 1, I scored below 70% on... | The choose... |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2 weeks to study | Math | | 2-Week Study Guide (Math Focus) |
| | Verbal | | 2-Week Study Guide (Verbal Focus) |
| | Both | | 2-Week Study Guide (Dual Focus) |
| 4 weeks to study | Math | Arithmetic | 4-Week Study Guide (Arithmetic Focus) |
| | | Geometry | 4-Week Study Guide (Geometry Focus) |
| | | Algebra | 4-Week Study Guide (Algebra Focus) |
| | | None | 4-Week Study Guide (Hard Math Focus) |
| | Verbal | | |
| | Both | | |
| 6 weeks to study | Math | | 6-Week Study Guide (Math Focus) |
| | Verbal | | 6-Week Study Guide (Verbal Focus) |

FINAL NOTES ON THE STUDY GUIDES

The study guides are here for your use, but don't feel like you need to stick to them exactly as written. Your particular circumstances may require you to adapt one of these study guides to meet your needs. That's OK! The guides provided here are representative of the majority of students needs, but feel free to customize them to meet your own.

2-WEEK STUDY GUIDES

| 2-Week Study Guide (Math Focus) | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Week | Math Content | Test |
| 1 | GMAT Math: Basic Principles Data Sufficiency: Basic Principles Plugging In | Online Test 5 |
| 2 | POE and GMAT Math Arithmetic | Diagnostic Test 2 Online Test 6 |

| 2-Week Study Guide (Verbal Focus) | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Week | Verbal Content | Test |
| 1 | Grammar Review Sentence Correction | Online Test 5 |
| 2 | Grammar Review Sentence Correction | Diagnostic Test 2 Online Test 6 |

| 2-Week Study Guide (Dual Focus) | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---------------|
| Week | Math Content | Verbal Content | Test |
| 1 | GMAT Math: Basic Principles Data Sufficiency: Basic Principles Plugging In | Sentence Correction | Online Test 5 |
| 2 | POE and GMAT Math | Critical Reasoning Reading Comprehension | Online Test 6 |

4-WEEK STUDY GUIDES

| 4-Week Study Guide (Arithmetic Focus) | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Week | Math Content | Verbal Content | Integrated Reasoning | Test |
| 1 | GMAT Math: Basic Principles Data Sufficiency: Basic Principles Plugging In | | | Online Test 5 |
| 2 | Arithmetic Applied Arithmetic | | | Online Test 6 |
| 3 | POE and GMAT Math | Grammar Review Sentence Correction | | |
| 4 | | Critical Reasoning | Basics | Diagnostic Test 2 Online Test 7 |

| 4-Week Study Guide (Geometry Focus) | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Week | Math Content | Verbal Content | Integrated Reasoning | Test |
| 1 | GMAT Math: Basic Principles Data Sufficiency: Basic Principles Plugging In | | | Online Test 5 |
| 2 | Geometry Advanced Data Sufficiency | | | Online Test 6 |
| 3 | POE and GMAT Math | Grammar Review Sentence Correction | | |
| 4 | | Critical Reasoning | Basics | Diagnostic Test 2 Online Test 7 |

| 4-Week Study Guide (Algebra Focus) | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Week | Math Content | Verbal Content | Integrated Reasoning | Test |
| 1 | GMAT Math: Basic Principles Data Sufficiency: Basic Principles Plugging In | | | Online Test 5 |
| 2 | Algebra Number Theory | | | Online Test 6 |
| 3 | POE and GMAT Math | Grammar Review Sentence Correction | | |
| 4 | | Critical Reasoning | Basics | Diagnostic Test 2 Online Test 7 |

| 4-Week Study Guide (Hard Math Focus) | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Week | Math Content | Verbal Content | Integrated Reasoning | Test |
| 1 | GMAT Math: Basic Principles Data Sufficiency: Basic Principles Plugging In | | | Online Test 5 |
| 2 | Hard Math POE and GMAT Math | | | Online Test 6 |
| 3 | Number Theory | Grammar Review Sentence Correction | | Online Test 7 |
| 4 | Geometry | Critical Reasoning | Basics | Diagnostic Test 2 Online Test 8 |

| 4-Week Study Guide (Verbal Focus) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Week | Math Content | Verbal Content | Integrated Reasoning | Test |
| 1 | | Grammar Review Sentence Correction | | Online Test 5 |
| 2 | | Critical Reasoning | | Online Test 6 |
| 3 | GMAT Math: Basic Principles Data Sufficiency: Basic Principles | Reading Comprehension | | Online Test 7 |
| 4 | Plugging In POE and GMAT Math | | Basics | Diagnostic Test 2 Online Test 8 |

6-WEEK STUDY GUIDES

| 6-Week Study Guide (Math Focus) | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Week | Math Content | Verbal Content | Integrated Reasoning | Essay | Test |
| 1 | GMAT Math: Basic Principles Data Sufficiency: Basic Principles Plugging In | | | | |
| 2 | Arithmetic Applied Arithmetic | | | | Online Test 5 |
| 3 | Geometry Algebra | | | | Online Test 6 |
| 4 | Advanced Data Sufficiency POE and GMAT Math | Grammar Review Sentence Correction | | | |
| 5 | Number Theory Hard Math | Critical Reasoning | Basics | | Online Test 7 |
| 6 | | Reading Comprehension | Strategies | Analytical Writing Assessment | Online Test 8 Diagnostic Test 2 |

| 6-Week Study Guide (Verbal Focus) | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Week | Math Content | Verbal Content | Integrated Reasoning | Essay | Test |
| 1 | | Grammar Review Sentence Correction | | | |
| 2 | | Critical Reasoning | | | Online Test 5 |
| 3 | GMAT Math: Basic Principles Data Sufficiency: Basic Principles Plugging In | | | | Online Test 6 |
| 4 | Arithmetic Applied Arithmetic | Reading Comprehension | | | |
| 5 | Geometry Algebra | | Basics | | Online Test 7 |
| 6 | Advanced Data Sufficiency POE and GMAT Math Geometry | | Strategies | Analytical Writing Assessment | Online Test 8 Diagnostic Test 2 |