

Mastering the GRE: Section by Section

Verbal Section: Practice Questions

Most test takers find this to be the most difficult portion of the test. Luckily, there is a lot you can do to improve your score. You will have 30 minutes to complete a total of 30 questions. They will include reading comprehension questions, sentence completions, analogies, and antonyms. Most verbal reasoning questions ask for one correct answer. However, in November 2007, the ETS introduced a few **new questions** that ask the student to select two or three correct answers, a twist that makes certain problems more difficult.

GRE score requirements may vary by school and program, but the average verbal score is 467 out of a possible 800. (This is based on ETS data, and represents results from all examinees tested between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2005.) Students are frequently frustrated by the level of verbal knowledge needed to obtain a high score. The reading comprehension and the sentence completion sections are less verbally challenging, but the analogy and antonym ones may get a bit tricky. Luckily, many word definitions are reused yearly, and simple word memorization will help you boost your score. GRE books that define commonly used terms are great tools for preparing. To get you started, we have prepared some practice problems similar to those you will find on the exam.

Select the word that is most opposite to the word in bold print.

1. **LITHE**:

- A. outlandish
- B. rigid
- C. dexterous
- D. suave
- E. overbearing

2. **BLANDISHMENT**:

- A. insult
- B. praise
- C. exclamation
- D. question
- E. creation

3. **OSTENTATIOUS**:

- A. ominous
- B. showy
- C. decrepit
- D. clever
- E. modest

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The questions below include a related word pair followed by five additional word pairs. Choose the word pair with a relationship resembling the pair in bold.

4. **CATHOLIC: UNIVERSAL**

- A. egocentric: trivial
- B. candid: creative
- C. caustic: corrupt
- D. limited: restricted
- E. abject: diminutive

5. **SYCOPHANT: FLATTERY**

- A. braggart: sentiment
- B. competitor: improvement
- C. dictator: oppression
- D. minister: consequence
- E. convict: innocence

Fill in the blank with the word or words that best complete the sentence.

6. Despite the senator's attempts to _____ the frustrated protester, the man would not stop _____ about new immigration laws.

- A. exculpate: talking
- B. excite: grieving
- C. propitiate: fuming
- D. emulate: inquiring
- E. tranquilize: eulogizing

7. It is hard to believe that the tape players, once a novelty, are now considered_____.

- A. obsolete
- B. eclectic
- C. effluent
- D. unusable
- E. garrulous

8. There is rising concern that global warming will _____ vital rivers and lakes.

- A. Consume
- B. Fertilize
- C. Desiccate
- D. Diffident
- E. Contaminate

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Read the following passage, and answer the questions that follow. Only base your answers on the stated and implied information.

The single which most caught the attention of black and white audiences alike was Afrika Bambaataa's second release, "Planet Rock". The song became the first to use synthesizers and an electronic drum machine. It was a new sound, and the listeners took notice. In the making, Bambaataa had the chance to add on layers of game noises, chants, and sound effects. The music created was like no other before it, and it gave rise to the new genre, electrofunk. "Planet Rock" quickly climbed the charts and reached number four on the top R&B singles list. The song's cutting edge sound introduced a new musical style. In the following years, other hip-hop artists followed in the footsteps of Bambaataa by using similar technology to create personalized sounds. While still connecting music clips from other artists, deejays experimented with electronically layered sounds. The roots of this music can also be seen in the later genres. In the 1980's and 1990's, the Detroit techno, Freestyle, Miami Bass, and Chicago House all sampled techniques from their electrofunk predecessor.

9. Afrika Bambaataa's introduced all but the following to the music industry.

- A. Synthesizers
- B. The song "Planet Rock"
- C. Electronic Drum Machine
- D. Electrofunk
- E. Detroit Techno

10. Which of the following is not suggested by the author?

- A. Freestyle music would not be what it is without Afrika Bambaataa's sounds.
- B. Most electrofunk songs use chants.
- C. Listeners liked the inclusion of a synthesizer in "Planet Rock".
- D. Afrika Bambaataa was a musical pioneer.
- E. A song that reaches number four on an R&B singles is well-liked.

Answers:

- 1. B
- 2. A
- 3. E
- 4. D
- 5. C
- 6. C
- 7. A
- 8. C
- 9. E
- 10. B