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A 8 min read Every GMAT taker aspires to score 700+ on the GMAT. Breaking the 700 barrier is an achievement on its own. There are a few students who tend to take the brute force approach and end up exhausting themselves during the test. Therefore, we always suggest a methodical approach to get a high score of 700 or above on the GMAT, in which we focus on building ability. This ability can be built not only by mastering the concepts but also by learning the efficient application of those concepts. Other than building the question-solving ability explained above, you need to learn a few supporting skills, like understanding how GMAT works as an adaptive test and how to manage time. We have written detailed articles on both these topics. In this article, we'll explain a stepwise process that will help you score 700+ on the GMAT. Here are the 7 steps: Want to achieve a 700+ score on the GMAT? Start by taking our free GMAT mock test and trial. Identify your strengths and weaknesses, and get insights on how to improve your performance. We are the most reviewed GMAT prep company on the GMAT club with more than 2500+ reviews and have delivered more 700+ scores than any other GMATClub partner. Don't miss this opportunity to kickstart your GMAT journey towards a successful MBA career. Take the test today!   Step 1: Attend a GMAT strategy session and decide your target score As a starting point to scoring 700+ on the GMAT, you can attend this free strategy webinar in which GMAT experts will talk about the following How the GMAT testing algorithm works.How to score high on GMAT – what skills are neededGMAT score vs. Admissions and ScholarshipsHow to create a study plan that is personalized to you This will help you to decide on a good GMAT score for you according to your target business schools. Take a look at this video, where we have answered some frequently asked questions on the GMAT: Step 2: Set up your baseline – Take a diagnostic test | Scoring 700+ on the GMAT The next step is to assess your starting ability level or your baseline GMAT score. The best way to find out your baseline score is to take a diagnostic test. It will tell you the gap between your starting score and your target score. If you have already taken the GMAT, then you can consider your last GMAT score as your starting score. Here is a free GMAT mock test to get your baseline score. You can identify your strengths and weaknesses, and get insights on how to improve your performance through our free mock test Attention test takers! GMAC has recently announced a new version of the GMAT test called the GMAT Focus edition. This new test will be launched in the latter part of 2023, while the current version of the test will be available till at least early 2024. Read this article to know the key differences between the current version and the GMAT focus edition. Also, watch the following video to learn all about the GMAT Focus edition and also understand how to decide which version of the exam to take- The current version or the GMAT Focus edition. Step 3: Decide on a quant and a verbal score Let us explain this step with an example. If you want to score 760 on the GMAT, you can achieve this score through different Quant and Verbal score combinations. 760 on the GMATQ51V41Q50V43Q49V45 One of our students, Anupriya scored a 760 with a Q48, V46 combination. Anupriya's strength was verbal, and therefore, she focused more on Verbal than Quant. This step will help you identify what should be your target Quant and Verbal score according to your strength. To help you figure out your target Quant and Verbal scores, we've built a great tool called GMAT Personalized Study Planner. Step 4: Estimate the amount of time you'll need | How to score 700+ This estimation depends on which type of study resources you have chosen to use. You can either study from GMAT books or online GMAT courses. Most people study using a combination of both. According to our experience, when studying using a data-driven online course, you require 7 hours for every 10 points of score improvement. This number increases to 12 hours when studying from books. Why does this happen? Because audiovisual content is more interactive and hence, it is easier to focus on and requires half as many revisions as compared to books. Read the 5 reasons why GMAT online resources are better than books. For 90% of the students this score improvement estimate works quite well as long as: You study consistently studying for at least 12 hours per week.You study using only one resource.You don't change your study direction frequently; i.e. don't follow a strategy to study Sentence Correction for 3 days, and then switch to studying Critical Reasoning or Quant without completing Sentence Correction. As a rule of thumb, Time required (in hours) = [Target GMAT Score – Starting GMAT Score] X [7/10] X [1+CBT] Where: Target GMAT Score = final score that you desireStarting GMAT score = Starting score on an official mock test7/10 = 7 hours of effort for every 10-point score improvementCBT = Confidence Building Time factor; its value can be 0.0 or 0.25 CBT is something that depends on how confident you feel about your preparation at the starting level. If you are at a 600 GMAT score then CBT will be 0.25 as your ability level is low. According to the above formula, if you are currently at a score of 600 and your target score is 760 then you'll require 140 hours of preparation. If you prepare using books then this number would increase to 200 hours. An alternate way to estimate your GMAT preparation time There is a much efficient alternative to estimate your preparation time. Take a look at the personalized study planner tool and create your own study plan in 5 minutes. To help you effectively plan for the GMAT we have created an amazing tool called the Personalized Study Planner (PSP) tool. Create your own milestone driven GMAT study plan in 5 minutes.Here are the features of this GMAT study plan tool.Watch the following video to know how to create your own study plan: Step 5: Create a sequence of study and allocate hours You know the number of hours you'll need to put in order to achieve a 700+ score on the GMAT. But which section should you start with? We always recommend starting with your stronger section. Our logic behind this approach is that once you move on to preparing your weaker section, your stronger section will remain intact in your mind in the meantime. Use our personalized study planner (PSP) tool and let the tool create the sequence of your GMAT preparation for you. Take a look at this video explaining how the PSP tool works. Let's assume that Quant is your stronger section out of the two. For maximum effectiveness of the course, you must execute a Learn-Refine strategy. Let me share with you the gist of this strategy. Learn each section at a timeAfter learning a section, Refine it using mocks, tests, or advanced quizzing platforms like Scholaranium You'll start with the Quant section and the sequence of the topics should be as follows: Number Properties → Algebra → Word Problems → Geometry → Advanced Problems Once you finish the Quant section, you'll move on to the Verbal section. The sequence of the topics for the verbal section will be: Sentence Correction → Critical Reasoning → Reading Comprehension The number of tentative hours you'll take to complete the Quant and Verbal section are as follows. You can adjust the study hours per your strengths and weaknesses. Quant SectionRequired hoursLearn Number Properties10 hoursRefine Number Properties5 hoursLearn Algebra10 hoursRefine Algebra5 hoursLearn Geometry10 hoursRefine Geometry5 hoursLearn Word Problems10 hoursRefine Word Problems5 hoursLearn Advanced Problems10 hoursRefine Advanced Problems5 hours Verbal SectionRequired hoursLearn SC50 hoursRefine SC20 hoursLearn CR30 hoursRefine CR10 hoursLearn RC20 hoursRefine RC10 hours We can give you access to quality online content to prepare. Write to us at acethegmat@e-gmat.com. We are the most reviewed GMAT prep company on GMAT Club with more than 2500 reviews. Why don't you take a free trial and judge for yourself? Step 6: Track your improvement – A study plan The best way to track your improvement is through study plans. With the information from steps 3, 4, and 5 you'll be able to create your own study plan. Just to make sure you have made a correct study plan we recommend you compare it with our study plan templates. Please refer to these articles on study plans to compare: Assuming you start preparing with the verbal section, here is how a study plan would look for the first month. Your study plan would differ depending on how many preparation hours you can devote on weekdays and weekends. Step 7: Take mock tests Mock tests will help you isolate your weaknesses in concepts or the application of concepts. They will also expose gaps in test-taking strategies and fairly estimate your preparedness for the GMAT. If you get tired while taking a full mock, then mock tests will also build your concentration and stamina for the GMAT. The two important questions which arise now are How many mocks should you take, and how often?What things should you keep in mind while taking a mock? We would suggest you read this article on mock test strategy where we have answered these questions. We have also discussed the dos and don'ts of taking a mock test. Below is a sample plan for taking mocks. However, the number of mocks you should take will depend on your level of preparedness. So, how to score 700+ on the GMAT? These 7 steps will help you achieve your target GMAT score. The only thing that a high GMAT score demands from you is consistency. Take Anuj's journey, for example – He scored a 770 with a 60+ hour workweek. He didn't even waste a 15-minute break and utilized it to study because when you are a working professional, it's difficult to predict how your day will go. Therefore, be consistent and follow these 7 steps, and you'll be able to score 700+ on the GMAT. We hope this article has provided you with valuable insights into how to score 700+ on the GMAT. Now it's time to put that knowledge into practice! Take the first step in your GMAT preparation journey by taking our free GMAT mock test. Act now and increase your chances of success! Scoring 700 or above on the GMAT is no walk in the park, but it's still quite an achievable goal with the right preparation and strategy. A 700+ GMAT score not only places you in the top percentile of candidates but also significantly improves your chances of securing admission to top-tier business schools worldwide. However, achieving this requires a combination of core concept understanding, time management, and smart study techniques! We believe you can majorly improve your potential to reach that 700+ on the GMAT and we'll tell you how as you keep reading further. Key Highlights: The GMAT Focus Edition evaluates Quantitative Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning, and Data Insights, with a total score range of 205–805. Time management and targeted preparation can help tackle sections like Data Insights (60–90 points range). Scoring 700+ on the GMAT places you in the top percentile, with top B-schools like Harvard (average GMAT: 740) and MIT Sloan (average GMAT: 730) valuing such scores. Guessing is a useful strategy, even for a 700+ goal. Remove clearly wrong answers and make an educated guess to save time and improve your chances. Quality prep resources and consistent practice can turn a competitive GMAT score into an Ivy League-worthy application. How is the GMAT Scored? The GMAT Focus Edition is a new version of the GMAT with a score range of 205-805. It gauges key skills most crucial for success in graduate management programmes. This version focuses on three main sections: Quantitative Reasoning (QR), Verbal Reasoning (VR), and Data Insights (DI). These sections test your ability to analyse and interpret information, solve problems, and think critically. Here is a holistic view of the score division for each section: Section Score Range Point Increment Total Score (QR + VR) 205 - 805 10-point increment Quantitative Reasoning (QR) 60-90 1-point increment Verbal Reasoning (VR) 60-90 1-point increment Data Insights (DI) 60-90 1-point increment Cracking a 700+ on the GMAT isn't some far-fetched dream, it's all strategy-based. Yocket Prep aids with personalised practice and insights, along with study-plans made to suit your schedule. How to Score 700+ in GMAT? To score 700+ on the GMAT, apart from having a consistent routine, incorporate the tips below and get a step closer to your ideal score. Scoring a 700+ on the GMAT is common for candidates aiming to enter top business schools. Achieving this score requires a blend of strategic preparation, time management, and a deep understanding of the exam format. Here are 10 essential pointers that can help you achieve a 700+ GMAT score: 1. Understand the GMAT Format and Structure Familiarity with the GMAT format is crucial for achieving a high score. The GMAT is divided into three main sections: Quantitative Reasoning (QR), Verbal Reasoning (VR), and Data Insights (DI). Understanding each section's format allows you to better anticipate the types of questions and manage your time effectively during the exam. Know the number of questions, the time limit for each section, and how your performance is scored. This knowledge will help you make decisions regarding your focus areas during the GMAT preparation. 2. Master the Core Concepts Each section of the GMAT tests specific skills. To score well, you need to master the core concepts in each section: Quantitative Reasoning (QR): With 21 questions, make sure you focus on algebra, arithmetic, geometry, and word problems. Practice applying formulas, solving equations, and interpreting data. Verbal Reasoning (VR): Strengthen your grammar, reading comprehension, and critical reasoning skills. Improve your ability to evaluate arguments and spot errors in the 23 questions in this section. Data Insights (DI): Learn to interpret data presented in tables, charts, and graphs. Get comfortable with drawing conclusions and identifying trends in all 20 questions here. 3. Practice Regularly with Official GMAT Questions Using official GMAT practice materials is essential. These materials closely replicate the actual exam and offer a realistic sense of question difficulty. Consistent practice with GMAT questions will help you become familiar with the types of problems you'll face, build your test-taking stamina, and identify areas for improvement. Set aside time each week to solve GMAT practice questions, and try to simulate exam conditions by timing yourself. Regular practice will help you refine your strategies and increase your chances of scoring high. 4. Focus on Your Weak Areas To achieve a score above 700, it's essential to target your weaknesses. Review your practice tests to identify areas where you consistently make mistakes or take longer to solve questions. Whether it's advanced math problems or reading comprehension, devoting time to your weaker areas will boost your overall score. For example, if you struggle with data interpretation, spend extra time working through practice questions related to graphs, tables, and charts. A focused approach to your weaknesses will help you maximise your strengths and close gaps in your knowledge. 5. Learn Time Management Skills Time management is one of the most important aspects of the GMAT. You have a limited amount of time to answer all questions in each section, and it's easy to get stuck on a particularly challenging question. To optimise your time: Set a time limit for each question (e.g. 2 minutes per question in the Quantitative and Verbal sections). Skip difficult questions and come back to them if you have time at the end of the section. Don't get bogged down in lengthy calculations or overly detailed reading. Learn to identify key information quickly. 6. Take Full-Length Practice Tests Simulating the real test environment is necessary to build stamina and improve your test-taking strategy. Full-length practice tests will help you understand the pacing of the exam, improve your ability to manage stress, and get a sense of how your performance may translate to your final score. Try to take at least one or two full-length tests per week as you approach your GMAT test date. Analyse your performance after each test to identify trends and areas for improvement. 7. Develop a Strategic Approach for Each Section Each section of the GMAT requires a different strategy. For instance, in the Quantitative Reasoning (QR) section, start with the easier questions first to build momentum, then tackle the more difficult ones. In Verbal Reasoning (VR), focus on understanding the meaning of the passage rather than memorising every detail. For Data Insights (DI), practice quickly extracting key data from tables and charts, and use the process of elimination when faced with challenging questions. A tailored strategy for each section ensures that you use your time effectively and make the most of your skills. 8. Focus on Mental and Physical Well-being Your physical and mental well-being play a huge role in your GMAT performance. It's important to maintain a healthy study routine, get adequate rest, eat well, and exercise regularly. The GMAT is a long, intense exam, and being well-rested and in a good mental state can help you think more clearly and manage stress effectively. Be sure to schedule breaks during your study sessions, and get a full night's sleep before the exam day. 9. Avoid Overloading on Content While covering all the GMAT content is important, it's easy to overwhelm yourself by trying to learn everything at once. Focus on understanding core concepts deeply, rather than trying to memorise every detail. The GMAT tests your critical thinking and analytical skills, so the ability to apply your knowledge in different contexts is more important than rote learning. In addition, avoid studying 12+ hours a day. Overloading yourself with too much information can lead to burnout. Aim for regular, balanced study sessions and take time to review what you've learned. 10. Use Quality GMAT Prep Resources Using high-quality prep resources is critical for reaching a 700+ score. Invest in GMAT prep courses, books, or online resources that are known for their accuracy and relevance to the exam. Official GMAT prep materials, as well as trusted third-party resources, can provide valuable practice questions and strategies. Consider investing in a GMAT prep course that includes personalised feedback, as well as an adaptive learning platform that customises the material based on your strengths and weaknesses. Suggested: GMAT Question Papers with Answers PDF Download Impact of 700+ GMAT Score on your MBA application A GMAT score of 700 or above places you in the top 10% of test-takers, giving your MBA application a major push. This score shows your strong analytical and problem-solving skills, qualities highly valued by top business schools. With a score of 700+, your chances of getting into elite schools improve significantly. Here's a look at the average GMAT scores for some of the top business schools: Top B-Schools and Average GMAT Scores The average score for top B-schools ranges from 710 to 740. Getting a spot at a top business school often relies on more than just a strong profile. Your GMAT score plays a major role. Many elite MBA programmes have high average GMAT scores, reflecting their high standards and competitive applicant pool. Here's a list of the averages to help you: Top 10 B-Schools 2024 Average GMAT Scores Stanford GSB 737 Harvard Business School 740 The Wharton School 732 Northwestern Kellogg 733 Chicago Booth 729 Columbia Business School 732 MIT Sloan 730 Dartmouth Tuck 727 Berkeley Haas 730 Virginia Darden 718 From the Desk of Yocket Achieving a 700+ GMAT score is not just a goal, it's a way to get into some of the most elite business schools in the world. With a score like that, you'll stand shoulder-to-shoulder with top candidates aiming for spots at Harvard, MIT Sloan, and Stanford GSB. But it takes more than just hard work, it takes the right strategy, disciplined practice, and a deep understanding of the exam. Yocket Prep encourages and enables you to reach that 700+ mark by providing tailored study plans, targeted practice, and expert guidance. With our resources, you'll not only understand your weaknesses but also turn them into strengths, giving you the edge you need to dominate the GMAT and secure a spot at your dream B-school. Scoring 700 or above in the GMAT examination can increase your chances to get admission into a prestigious university abroad. Colleges usually look for a GMAT score of above 550, but the best ones only select those students who have managed to score 700 and above in their GMAT. Getting into a better university will give you access to better infrastructure, faculty, and other resources such as networking. The higher the GMAT score the better the university and vice versa. Hence it is important that every student puts in the time and effort into preparation to achieve a high GMAT score and secure admission into an esteemed university. How difficult is it to score 700 in GMAT? Usually, a score of 700 and above signifies that you have done better than 90% of the applicants appearing for the GMAT exam. Achieving a score of 700 is not simple, it requires a proper plan of action which entails a significant amount of time and effort towards the preparation process. Students looking to achieve a score of 700 usually begin preparations 2 to 4 months ahead of the exam. Students need to understand and plan significantly for this exam to achieve satisfactory results. Achieving a score above 700 will surely guarantee admission into a prestigious University as you progress towards your career objectives. Tips for scoring 700 in GMAT: The following section will provide you with some tips that will guide you to achieve a score of 700 in the GMAT examination. Before you start your preparation for GMAT, it is advisable to understand a little more about the examination and how the process works. You can attend a free webinar session where GMAT experts will provide an insightful talk on the GMAT examination. The webinar will cover topics like: The GMAT testing algorithm and how it works. How to achieve a high GMAT score How the GMAT score will help with admissions and scholarships Study plan initiatives This will be a good starting point and will provide you with constructive ideas on the functionalities of the examination. Apart from attending webinars, students can also check blogs and videos that are available online to know more about the GMAT examination.   Sample tests to diagnose your abilities It is highly recommended that in the initial stages of preparation students should try out a couple of sample GMAT papers to assess their (own) abilities. By solving these sample papers you will get an idea of the GMAT paper and the kind of questions that are asked, it will also help you to recognize your strengths and shortcomings. This will enable you to strategize accordingly on how to tackle each section and what to set as the top priorities in the preparation process. How to tackle the Verbal and Quantitative sections Based on your strengths and weaknesses you can decide what combination scores you want to achieve in the quantitative and verbal sections. To achieve a score above 700, many combinations will help you in your goal. Time analysis and management This is an extremely important part of the strategizing process that will help you create an efficient study plan. Estimating how much time you require to prepare for the examination is important and dependent on the type of study resources you opt for. Students can choose between GMAT books and online GMAT courses for their study material. Most students use a combination of the two to effectively manage their learning. Studies have shown that books tend to increase the time of preparation because of the lack of interactivity as compared to audiovisual courses available online.   Strategizing a Plan of Action The plan of action will enable you to determine where to start from. It is always recommended to start preparing with your strengths as these sections will take less time to prepare and will remain in your mind as you prepare for the other sections. For example, let's assume that the quantitative part is your strength. Once you have diagnosed your strength you can move towards a 'learn-refine strategy' where you learn each section at a time and then refine each section through mock exams or other tests. Once you have completed the first section you move on to the next section and use the same process to ensure maximum progress in your learning curve. Tracking your improvement is a quintessential part of the preparation process. Tracking your progress will not only act as a confidence booster it will also help you focus more on your shortcomings. It will be easier to track improvements by setting up a proper study plan and taking mock tests from time to time. Mock tests are the best ways to isolate your weaknesses when it comes to the preparation process. Regular mock tests will help you mark your progress and will also act as a major confidence booster while preparing for the GMAT. These tests will not only help you determine your abilities but will also help in improving your speed and concentration level. The GMAT exam puts a lot of focus on speed while answering questions. So, it is important to take regular mock tests to ensure brushing up on your skills and abilities. To score a GMAT score of 700 and above is a dream for many students. Those who cannot achieve this score on the first attempt, land up taking the exam more than once to qualify to study in the university of their choice. It is important to pay attention to the guidelines and strategize accordingly. By setting your targets it will be clear to you how to tackle each section depending on your strengths and weaknesses. This exam is a mandatory process and a ticket to getting admission to some of the world's most prestigious universities and must not be taken lightly. As an aspiring MBA candidate, achieving a score of 700 or above on the GMAT is crucial for gaining admission into a top business school. However, with the vast amount of study materials available, developing an effective study plan can take time and effort. This is why, according to GMAC, only 12% of the students score more than 700 on the test. In this blog post, we will discuss how to score 700+ on the GMAT. Take Free GMAT 2023 Daily Targets Subscribe To GMAT Preparation Channel Why Do You Need A 700+ score? A GMAT score of 700 or higher would improve your chances of getting into your dream b-school. Here are some important reasons why aiming for a high GMAT score is essential: Necessary for Applying to Top B-Schools: Many top business schools require a GMAT score of 700 or above for admission. Achieving this score can help you meet the minimum requirement and increase your chances of acceptance into a highly-ranked business school. Makes Your Application Stronger: A high GMAT score can make your application stand out in a competitive pool of applicants. Admission committees use GMAT scores to assess an applicant's academic ability and potential for success in a rigorous MBA program. A high score can demonstrate your academic excellence and potential to excel in a business school environment. Provides Opportunities for Merit Scholarships: Many business schools offer merit-based scholarships to students with exceptional GMAT scores. A high GMAT score can help you qualify for these scholarships, significantly reducing business school costs. Offers Job Opportunities: A high GMAT score can also open job opportunities after graduation. Employers often consider GMAT scores when evaluating job candidates for positions that require strong analytical skills and strategic thinking. A high score can demonstrate your ability to excel in these areas and make you a more competitive candidate for top job opportunities. Now, let us see five essential tips to score 700+ on the GMAT First Tip: Take Your Time There is a famous quote – "It takes twenty years to become an overnight success." Although you will not need twenty years to get a 700+ score, you will need to spend enough time to ace the exam. On average, a 700+ scorer spends 4-6 months preparing for the exam. You should find out where your strengths and, more importantly, weaknesses lie. Find out how much you need to prepare to get to 700, then estimate how much time and effort is required. An excellent way to figure out all this is to give a mock diagnostic test, available for free on the official GMAT website. After the mock test, analyze your strengths and weaknesses and get to work. Second Tip: Consistency is Key GMAT is not an exam you can cram. You need to learn the basics, and practice problems and concepts you need to improve in. This is the only way to improve your verbal and quantitative skills. For this, in the six months you have allotted to GMAT, you must practice every day within those six months. An excellent tool for students to achieve consistency is taking the Free Daily Targets by GMATPoint. In Daily Targets, you will get 5 Verbal and 5 Quants problems of GMAT level daily and have to solve them within a limited time. You can check the detailed video solutions & text solutions provided after you take the test. This will help you build better habits and will also help you build concepts of topics in which you are uncomfortable. A good way to ensure consistency is to make a short-term and long-term routine for your preparation. Your short-term routine is made at the beginning of each week and consists of your study goals for each day of the week. Your long-term plan consists of the entire preparation duration and how you devote all four to six months to different topics, giving your entire preparation an overall structure. It is also recommended that you create study goals based on specific accomplishments rather than the time you spend studying. For example, set a goal that you will solve ten problems of ratios instead of setting a goal that you will study QA for an hour. Third Tip: Give Mocks and Analyze It is crucial for you to give mocks right from the beginning of your preparation. Mocks are, arguably, the only way you can significantly improve your score on GMAT. However, there is a caveat: simply giving mocks is not enough. You need to analyze each and every question of every mock. Mock analysis serves two purposes: First, it will show you where you are going wrong and where you have done well, and second, it will make you practice problems from a set of diverse questions from the entire syllabus while analyzing the mock. Both aspects are crucial and make mocks indispensable in your GMAT preparation. You can start by giving a free mock by GMAC on their official website. You will get two free GMAT Mocks when you register for the GMAT exam, after which you need to pay to get more mock tests. While giving mocks, it is also important to simulate the exam environment to the greatest extent possible. When you schedule a mock test, make sure that you give the mock test in an ambient environment with a clear frame of mind. Fourth Tip: Finish Each Section While giving the exam, you will encounter questions where you think you can find the answer, but it keeps escaping you. These questions are time guzzlers. The best thing to do while solving them is to give them an honest try, after which, if you cannot find a solution, guess the answer and quickly move on to the next question. Perfectionism is the greatest enemy of a good GMAT score. When you try to attempt each question with absolute certainty, you risk not completing a section, which will cause your overall scores to drop significantly. Hence it is always better to guess and move on to the next question than to remain stuck trying to find the correct answer. Fifth Tip: Believe in Yourself This may sound obvious and trivial, but it is probably the most essential step. GMAT preparation is an arduous process that will take a lot from you. You will have both good and bad times. As you'd be working alongside GMAT prep, you will also need to sacrifice your sleep or your social life in exchange for study time. The most important thing that will carry you through all these adversities is your belief in yourself and the 'The Why', which made you decide to prepare for GMAT in the first place. All the best! For further queries regarding GMAT preparation, reach out to us at support@gmatpoint.com. Also Read: GMAT B-school Predictor If you are starting your GMAT preparation from scratch, you should definitely check out the GMATPOINT Join GMATPoint Telegram Channel 7 Insider Tips to Score Above 700 in the GMAT main image Sponsored by EDHEC Business School To support your postgraduate application to EDHEC Business School, whatever the course, be it for a master's degree in finance or business management, it might be wise to sit a computer-based standardized test called the GMAT (short for Graduate Management Admission Test). Sitting the GMAT will make your application file stand out, increase your chances of securing admission or obtaining an internal scholarship, or qualify you for prestigious government (and EDHEC) scholarships that are designed specifically for international students. As with most standardized tests, success on the GMAT largely comes down to being well-prepared and familiar with the test format. To help you fulfil your potential and land a place on your dream course, EDHEC Business School reveals seven insider tips to achieve top marks in the GMAT. A survey carried out by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC, the organization that runs the GMAT) found a positive correlation between the total numbers of hours spent studying and final GMAT score. GMAT test-takers who scored 700 and above spent on average 121 hours studying, while test-takers who scored 400 and below spent an average of 75 hours preparing. For more information about EDHEC's GMAT requirements, please get in touch with an admissions manager. Created by GMAC, this free handbook features information about what will happen before, during and after the exam, as well as very helpful study tips. Use it to understand how the exam will be structured, what each section is about, what to expect on test day, and what to bring to the exam. EDHEC Business school put together a free simulation tool for you to practice the exam! Depending on the time you have, you can opt for one test-type and get first-hand an idea of what would your score be! There is also, the GMATPrep® Software you can use for free. Following the same format and scoring rubric as the actual GMAT exam, the software is designed to help you practice the exam in the same conditions as on the day. You'll also get free personalized performance diagnostics and insights on how well you did and how to approach question types. Outline a study plan based on your results for each section. Spend a week or two focusing on each section – that is, Analytical Writing, Integrated Reasoning, Quantitative, and Verbal. You might want to start with the quantitative component of the exam. While GMAT math is fairly basic, you might find, especially if you've been out of uni for a while, that you need to re-learn everything you've forgotten, which could take some time! Investing in a dedicated GMAT prep textbook could be a worthwhile investment – search online for second-hand copies. Don't neglect the verbal sections. Evaluate your performance on the practice papers and decide which questions you found the most difficult. Was it sentence correction or critical reasoning? Whatever it is, try doing a couple of problems every day covering the sections you struggle with most. Spend the last few weeks before the exam taking as many practice tests as possible, to get used to the format. Review your mistakes to understand what went wrong and avoid making the same errors twice! When taking practice tests, try simulating the test environment as closely as possible, keeping track of timings and pace. You must answer all the questions on the GMAT, and will be penalized harshly if you fail to complete the test in time! Train yourself to stay calm, pace yourself well, and be strategic in the amount of time you spend on each task.

Figure out the logistics at least a week before the exam. How will you get to the testing center?

What are you allowed to bring with you? When will you eat, to make sure your energy levels are stable? Make a note of your university's institution code – 3QQWQ01 for EDHEC – and bring it to the testing center with you. Request that your scores be sent to the institution! During the last few days before the test, make sure to eat well, rest and get as much sleep as possible, so you're feeling at your best. It's also important to remember that while the GMAT is an important component of your business school application, it is just one of many admissions criteria (such as your career goals, academic performance and background). EDHEC also accepts other assessment tests results (i.e. GRE, Tage Mage and CAT). A high score won't guarantee a place in your dream business school in the same way a lower score won't automatically disqualify you for admission. Don't focus on the test to the exclusion of other elements of your application, or to the point where you're putting too much pressure on yourself. Put in the hours, keep a clear head, and you'll ace it. To find out how EDHEC Business School is making an impact on business, talent and careers, watch this short film. This article was originally published on February 23rd, 2017. + 7 others saved this article + 8 others saved this article Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Scott Woodbury-Stewart June 24, 2016 Getting your Trinity Audio player ready...Reading Time: 37 minutesLast Updated on December 15, 2023So you want to score 700+ on the GMAT? There's no question that such a score will help you maximize the effectiveness of your application to top business schools. To break the 700 barrier, you'll need to study hard, and you'll need to study smart. In addition, you'll have to make some sacrifices along the way.Although I could write an entire book on just this subject, I think the following discussion will be of major help to test-takers with ambitious GMAT goals.Let's begin by discussing some reasons why a 700+ GMAT score is desirable.MBA programs are seeing a dramatic increase in the mean GMAT scores of their matriculants (perhaps part of the reason why GMAC has decided to release a new version of the GMAT, the GMAT Focus Edition). For example, Stanford GSB's Class of 2022 has a mean GMAT score of 733 — a 96th percentile score. In other words, only 4 percent of all GMAT-takers worldwide score 733 or above.In addition, business school applications are at record highs. Because of this increased number of applicants, admissions committees can be more selective with potential students. This increase in selectivity helps account for the higher GMAT scores at top programs.Although it's not the only factor in your application, your GMAT score can be a wind in your sails during the application process. Conversely, a poor score can be a mark against you. Why let it be the latter? Why not put your best foot forward?It is improbable that you will earn a 700 after only a week of quick studying, so be prepared for some hard work in the coming months. Let your friends and family know that you're pursuing a top score — their support will help you stay positive after long nights of studying. If you start to get discouraged by all the practice problems ahead, remember what you're working toward. An awesome score will help open doors to top business schools, and that success will be a great reward for your time spent studying now. Dedicate yourself to earning a high score, and get excited about the results you will be able to achieve.Don't make the mistake of going into your GMAT without a plan. I sometimes see test-takers who say the following: "I just want the highest GMAT score possible." Earning the "highest GMAT score possible" is not a plan. In fact, this mindset will make it difficult for you to follow a strategic plan for improvement. After all, if you don't know where you're going, how do you navigate there? Research the schools you'd like to attend. See what the class profiles consistently look like. Does almost no one secure admittance without a 700+ GMAT score? Or, do many matriculated students have 680s? Once you have a reasonable idea of what your GMAT score will need to be, work backward from that score and set up a study plan. For example, if your goal is to earn a 730, you'll have to master trickier and more complicated concepts and problems than if your goal is a 680. To earn that 730, you'll also have to study moreOnce you know what your GMAT goal is, it's time to figure out what your current abilities on the GMAT are.In order to develop a strategic study plan, you must determine your current abilities. Some of you will already have taken an official GMAT, but many of you will not. If you've taken an official GMAT, then you already have an accurate baseline indicator of your abilities. You can also order an Enhanced Score Report from the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), the company that administers the GMAT.The enhanced score report will give you insight into how you performed on each section — in particular, you'll have feedback about your weakest areas. If you don't have an official GMAT score, it's important to take a free official practice test from www.mba.com. Make sure to take the test in a quiet place where you can concentrate and simulate test-like conditions, and, above all, try your best! Although your practice test score provides a baseline indication of your abilities, you should interpret those results carefully. For example, if you incorrectly answered one rate-time-distance question, does that mean that you struggle with rate-time-distance questions in general? Probably not. Similarly, if you correctly answered one probability question, does that automatically mean you're well-equipped to answer every probability question you'll encounter? Probably not. In other words, use the practice test score as a rough estimate of your abilities, and then spend time analyzing your skills and abilities more closely.First, remember that the GMAT is most amenable to test-takers who are properly prepared, that is, those who have actually developed the necessary skills. The first key to being properly prepared is to set a realistic and strategic study plan over several months. Using data derived from over 4,200 people who took the GMAT in 2014, the GMAC reported that test-takers who scored a 700 or higher studied for an average of 121 hours. In my opinion, 121 hours is on the low side for most test-takers. I'd say that, in general, 300-400 hours of hard study is necessary for most test-takers to attain an a 700+ score. Hard work and devoted study are the norm, not the exception!More than ever, students preparing for the GMAT have a variety of test prep resources available. However, not all of these resources are created equal. The materials you use while you study can be either assets or liabilities. Content matters! Do your due diligence on the GMAT courses and prep material you're considering. See what other students have had to say. Look at prep course reviews on sites such as Beat the GMAT.Most GMAT courses offer a free or low-cost trial — pick several resources and give them a test drive. Your goal is to find a prep course that presents clear, practical, and actionable content, in a way that makes sense to you, along with skills, strategies, and techniques for acing the exam. If you need outstanding GMAT math help, sign up for a free trial of Target Test Prep's GMAT Quant Course. The entire course is designed to help test-takers break through longstanding barriers to success on the quant section. In addition to helping students master content tested on the GMAT, the TTP Quant Course introduces novel approaches toward developing sophisticated critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and decision making skills. Mastery in these areas pays off on the GMAT. Whether you're completely new to the exam or whether you've been studying with limited success for some time is immaterial — either way, Target Test Prep will provide you with the tools necessary to achieve an impressive GMAT score. Once you've found excellent test prep material to fit your needs, the next step is to create a strategic plan of attack.To cross the 700 barrier on the GMAT, you'll need to understand the content tested (have conceptual knowledge), be able to apply your knowledge and skills to practice problems (have procedural knowledge), and be comfortable performing under test day conditions (have operational knowledge).This means you have three goals: (1) know and understand all of the material tested; (2) apply your knowledge to realistic practice GMAT questions; and (3) be cool, calm, and confident come test day, because you know your stuff, can apply your stuff, and have taken enough practice tests to make test day a day just like any other. Thus, a good strategic plan is to divide your studying into three major phases with some overlap between each phase. For a more granular look at the phases of learning that you can expect to go through when preparing for the GMAT, check out this article.To set up a strategic GMAT study plan that allows for the systematic construction of conceptual, procedural, and operational knowledge, divide the number of months you plan to study for the GMAT by three. During the first third of your study months, spend 75% of your time building conceptual knowledge and 25% building procedural knowledge. During the second third, spend 75% of your time building more procedural knowledge and 25% building operational knowledge. During the final third, spend 50% of your time building operational knowledge and 50% building conceptual and procedural knowledge.For more information on the types of knowledge necessary for a great GMAT score and on putting together a strategic plan, check out 3 Critical Types of Knowledge for a High GMAT ScoreOnce you've planned a strategic course of study, the next step is to make time in your busy schedule.How many times have you heard someone say, "I don't have time for X," or "I don't have time for Y?" We hear such statements constantly. Here's the reality — there is only time for the things we make time for. With a demanding job, it's important to make time for yourself and for your personal growth and development. Otherwise, you may find that your days become occupied only with the demands of your job. This lack of growth can lead to self-stagnation. Don't let self-stagnation happen! Your first step on the path toward career development is to create time for studying.Many busy students who go on to earn competitive GMAT scores study early in the morning before work, during lunch breaks, while running on the treadmill, and late into the evening. In addition, these students maximize weekend study time. If you carefully organize your schedule and make your GMAT study a top priority, you can find the time to rack up an impressive number of study hours.If you'd like to read more about how to prepare for the GMAT while working full-time at a demanding job, here's a helpful article.Because many test-takers are more worried about the quant section than the verbal section, they spend most of their time studying math. Although having a competitive math score is absolutely necessary for top mba applicants (recall that most of the top schools are unapologetically quant-driven), achieving a balanced GMAT score is key. In other words, it's important that the percentile rankings of your math and verbal percentile scores are reasonably close to each other. Scoring 80% in quant and only 65% in verbal would not look strong on an application. Thus, don't neglect your verbal preparation. One way to fit in math and verbal studying each day is to do an hour of math work and then an hour of verbal work. In fact, you may find that you learn better by breaking up your studying into alternating chunks of math and verbal.Some might find that a 50/50 time and topic split helps, but others may see that after spending equal time on quant and verbal, they're still struggling with math and acing verbal questions. If that's the case, try a 60/40 split in favor of math, or, if necessary, an even higher split. Furthermore, if your verbal (or quant) score is already high, you can adjust the study ratio to better suit your needs.In general, a good rule of thumb is to strive to be above the 80th percentile in quant and above the 90th percentile in verbal — this strategy is sometimes called the "80/90 rule." In general, having scores above the 80th percentile in math and above the 90th percentile in verbal will make you a competitive applicant as far as your GMAT score is concerned.Since its inception a few years ago, the integrated reasoning section of the GMAT has continued to grow in importance, and it seems likely to continue to grow in importance in the future. Make the most of your GMAT score by putting in the time and effort required to master this section. Because many of the skills that IR demands are also skills that the quant and verbal sections demand, it makes sense to begin by mastering quant and verbal and then moving onto IR. Too many students make the mistake of solving tons of practice questions without first taking the time to understand the fundamental skills being tested. Instead of wasting your time solving questions without understanding the foundational skills needed, take the necessary time to master the fundamentals. That is, first you must build your conceptual knowledge. Once you've developed your conceptual knowledge, it makes sense to put that new knowledge into practice by solving many realistic sample GMAT questions.Practice does not always make perfect. In fact, when you practice with a lack of understanding of what you're practicing, or worse, when you practice improperly, you can actually become less rather than more skilled. Golf presents us with a great analogy. Imagine hitting golf balls at the driving range all summer without a coach and without anyone helping you understand how to fix your swing and your technique.Will you be a better golfer at the end of the summer? Probably not. You will have likely ingrained your mistakes into your swing. However, if you understand how to swing a golf club and you put this understanding into action with each swing, you can improve substantially. Proper practice makes perfect.Too many students make the mistake of taking multiple practice tests before they have properly learned the fundamental material and have properly drilled those skills. If you make this mistake, all continuing practice tests will do is tell you what you already know: you haven't mastered the content — for example, you're weak in functions or slow with geometry, but that's only because you have not studied these areas sufficiently. Instead of spending your valuable time taking practice tests and hoping that a higher score will magically appear on the screen, work hard to master the essential concepts behind the GMAT questions. Once you've mastered the fundamentals, then you may begin taking practice tests.With this said, integrating practice tests at the appropriate time in your training is important.You now know that it's a mistake to jump right into practice tests before you've put in study time. Some students make the opposite mistake — they study content and solve practice questions until right before their GMAT, but they don't take a sufficient number of practice tests. Most of these students find the test-taking experience uncomfortable. Either their timing is off, or they get tired near the end of the quant section, or they, in general, just don't feel they are on their game. Don't let this happen to you.In an ideal world, you'd end your content study and practice problem work a month prior to your GMAT. During the final month, you'd take two or three practice tests each week. After each test, spend a few hours analyzing what you answered correctly and incorrectly. Keep a log of the question types you're getting wrong. Then, go back and further study these specific areas. Also, keep a log of your timing, how you felt while taking the test, and how many of the questions you answered incorrectly because of careless mistakes. At this point in your study, your goal is to fine-tune your test-taking skills, because you're getting yourself in fighting shape for gameday.Remember that your goal is to learn the material well. Don't make the mistake of blazing your way through a chapter just to say you "read" it. Unfortunately, self-deception often works too well. Be honest with yourself. Instead, read deliberately and methodically. And if you fail to do so the first time through, make yourself repeat the material. Take the necessary time to truly master the material.The same goes for practice problems. I see too many students who binge problem-solve. They solve dozens and dozens of problems at each sitting, only to realize that they've learned little that can be applied in the future and have "burned" through an already limited set of useful practice problems. Don't make this mistake. Instead, when you solve problems, squeeze as much juice out of them as you can. Ten thoughtful attempts at ten practice problems in which you learn how to overcome your mistakes will help you far more than answering fifty questions in a rush.In other words, focus on the quality of your studying, not on the quantity. If you get a question wrong, stop and analyze why you chose the wrong answer. Then you won't make the same mistake with future questions on the same topic.Students often have a hard time gauging their level of knowledge. Here's a simple, effective rule of thumb that I call the "Tabula Rasa Rule." If you could not sit down with a pen and a blank sheet of paper and teach a concept to somebody else, you need to keep studying until you can. When you study a new topic, use this rule to help you gauge whether you've sufficiently learned that topic.Too often, students spend an inordinate amount of time working on the most difficult material they can find, such as probability and advanced combinations and permutations. This study happens at the expense of other crucial, more fundamental material. Don't adopt this inverted strategy. Instead, take the necessary time to build a strong foundation. Learn the basics. Master the integral ideas. Then, once you have a solid foundation, invest any remaining time into working on the difficult stuff.Remember the scoring mechanism on the GMAT. Incorrectly answering easy questions on the GMAT will drop your score by a greater amount than the increase you'll realize by correctly answering difficult questions. In other words, it hurts your score if you flub the easy questions. Don't let this happen to you. Make sure you pick the low hanging fruit before you break out the ladders and ropes and climb high into the tree.The added benefit of mastering the fundamentals is that once you're ready to attack the more difficult material, you'll be more efficient because you'll have a solid foundation. Instead of rushing to the challenging concepts, first ensure you have the basics down cold.If any of you have ever played the piano, you know that there are a number of similarities between how one masters music and how one masters the GMAT. For example, some of the worst piano players continue to play the parts of a song that they know well and avoid the parts with which they struggle. Why? I'm not completely sure, but the reason probably has to do with wanting the instant gratification that comes with an easy win and not wanting the discomfort that hard work and struggle can induce. However, the best pianists know that the way to get better at playing a difficult song is to spend most of their time on the tough spots.So, when it comes to your GMAT prep, your goal should be to determine your weak spots. Rectifying mistakes in these areas offers you your biggest opportunity for growth and for score improvement. Once you've determined these weaknesses, be a pianist of the GMAT and attack these weaknesses with gusto. You'll be amazed at how much more quickly you will improve.Of course, devote some time to nurturing your strengths — the amount of time depends on your memory. If you're a person who retains knowledge and skills for a long period, you'll be able to spend fewer study hours on your strengths. But if your skills deteriorate quickly, you'll want to engage in frequent and well-spaced reviews.Speaking of memory, it's always important to frequently review the material you've been learning.Knowledge and skills are perishable. That is, once you learn something, you can't expect that knowledge to last forever, unless you nurture it.Quite often, I see students who work hard at mastering some GMAT material and who, in fact, get really good at it. Then they happily move on and master new material. At some point, they realize that they have forgotten the earlier material. Don't let this happen to you.In your studying, plan to review often. If you tend to have a strong memory, maybe you can get away with one hour of dedicated review for every three hours of new material. However, if your memory is not so great, then perhaps you should consider doing a dedicated hour of review for every two hours of studying new material.If you read GMAT forums or listen to people talking about their scores, you can be easily convinced that every person who takes the GMAT scores 700 or higher after only a few "hard weeks" of studying. First, statistically speaking, the number of people who score 700 or higher is small. Second, the number of people who score 700 or higher and do so after studying for a "few hard weeks" probably approaches zero. If you focus on these rare animals and

convince yourself that they're the norm, you'll drive yourself bonkers and probably throw in the towel. Instead, focus on doing the best job you can do. Don't listen to the guy in the office who claims he earned a 730 without studying or to your friend's sister who scored a 740 supposedly by doing nothing more than read the Official Guide for two weeks.Many native speakers of English make the incorrect assumption that the verbal section of the GMAT will be easy because they have been speaking English all their lives. However, many of these test-takers soon discover that they have not developed the specific reasoning that CR problems demand or that their "ear" is not enough to deal with the complex written sentences written in formal standard English presented to them in the SC section. Additionally, some native English-speaking test-takers approach reading comprehension passages the same way they do when reading any other written material without analyzing them as arguments — a big mistake.Learn the RulesWhen it comes to sentence correction questions, be sure you learn the important grammatical rules and are clear about what have to be violations of those rules. Don't use your "ear" to solve problems unless you've tried all other tools in your belt. You may not hear the error in, "The truth about seals are..," because are seems to agree with seals. You need to know that a noun that is the object of preposition (about in this case) cannot also be the subject of a verb. Many problems are designed to use your ear against you. Eliminating what must be wrong can often be the road to uncovering what has to be right.When it comes to critical reasoning questions, don't pick answers that seem correct. Answers that seem bold and forceful, and thereby attractive, are often overstatements that tempt you from more modest inferences that seem feeble but are, in fact, more accurate. Instead, master the black and white fundamentals of the logic that CR demands.When it comes to reading comprehension problems, starting from the first sentence and ending with the last sentence without re-organizing the material in your mind will often ensure that you spend more time answering the questions at a much lower rate of accuracy than you would if you spent some time organizing and analyzing the material before attacking the questions. Learn some basic principles of critical reading to supplement your logic training in approaching the RC section of the GMAT.Put Your New Sentence Correction Skills Into ActionWe live in a digital world, and, as a result, we write constantly: emails, texts, meeting minutes, Powerpoint presentations, etc. It is probably no exaggeration to say that you use no tool as often on a daily basis as you do your language. Proper practice makes perfect. So you might as well study while you do other daily writing tasks. If you learn some new grammar rules during a Monday night study session, make sure you weave these rules into your writing on Tuesday at work. Stop crafting sloppy, ungrammatical emails and texts; use your new skills for each. Whenever you can, use proper grammar in your everyday speech. For example, instead of saying "Like I said," say "As I said." Instead of saying "I don't know if it will rain," say "I don't know whether it will rain." If you consistently practice your new skills, you'll see that they can quickly become second nature to you.Be the Sherlock Holmes of Sentence CorrectionSherlock Holmes once said: "Once you've eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."Such thinking is paramount to success on sentence correction problems because the correct answer to a question may actually sound incorrect to you. Thus, in approaching sentence correction questions, your job, often, is not to seek out the correct answer. Instead, your job will frequently be to eliminate four incorrect answers. If you can correctly accomplish that, then, the remaining answer will have to be correct. Furthermore, don't look for the most difficult, most subtle mistakes made. Instead, look for the more obvious, clearer errors occurring in the incorrect sentences. Often, eliminating bad answers based on simple, easily-resolved issues such as pronoun usage or subject-verb agreement will rescue you from having to deal with more difficult issues.It's essential to determine your weak spots. These areas present the greatest opportunity for score improvement. However, it's easy to learn important material and then later forget it. Avoid that!As you come across valuable skills, strategies, or techniques that you want to remember and practice, keep a clean, neat "hit list" or set of flashcards with these valuable nuggets. Don't clutter up this list with scratch work or anything else that will diminish the list's clarity or usability.Your list may look something like this:Scott's Crucial Math Concepts to Remember1) The difference of squares: x^2 – y^2 = (x + y) (x – y) 2) algebra rule: (x – y) = -1(y – x) 3) exponent rule: (a^p)(b^p) = (ab)^p 4) simple interest formula: I = PRT 5) look out for 3-4-5 and 5-12-13 right triangles! 6) 0! = 1Scott's Crucial Verbal Concepts to Remember1) "Whether" is used when we have alternatives. Ex) I don't know whether he'll become king. 2) You can never have only one comma between a subject and its verb. 3) Participles, such as "including, licking, and jumping," can modify nouns from a distance. 4) Correlation does not mean causation. 5) One way to weaken a cause and effect argument based on a correlation is : If A -> B, suggest that B -> A. 6) That = restrictive relative pronoun. Which = non-restrictive relative pronoun.The beauty of keeping such a list is that it will be your list, and what's more valuable than having a clear account of the skills you need to remember and work on? Review this list every day.If you're like most students, you tend to make some fundamental mistakes again and again. Eliminating these common mistakes presents a great opportunity for growth. For example, let's say that you frequently get questions wrong because you forget that two is the only even prime number. Add this fact to your list. Review this list each day. If you like digital lists, Evernote is a great, inexpensive app you can use to construct and review your list. However, if you are more old school, flashcards are a great option. You can study them on your commute to work or even on your lunch break. However you keep your list, just remember that one of the most powerful ways to grow is to work on your weaknesses.The time limit per question is one major source of the GMAT's difficulty. It's quite common for students to be anxious about the time constraints, and time and pacing must be considered while preparing for the test. However, the way in which a student prepares for these time constraints can make or break a final GMAT score.Too often, students practice as if there were some magical strategy that will increase their speed. In fact, the best way to get faster is to get better! Don't waste your time searching for a fast fix — it does not exist. Instead, invest your time into learning the material thoroughly. Master the concepts. Allow the techniques to become second nature. Ensure that all important facts, figures, and formulas are at the tip of your fingers. Spend ample time practicing these concepts, strategies, and techniques.You'll find that as you become more comfortable with the material, you'll get faster. Learn from the wisdom of others about getting faster at solving GMAT problems.This follows from the previous point. We just discussed how the way to speed up is to know the material better. From time to time, I hear students proclaim that the reason their GMAT scores are low is that they still have to "get the timing down." If your score is not where you need it to be, take a good hard look at your conceptual and procedural knowledge levels. You'll likely find that however much you may need to refine your timing strategy, what you really need to do is strengthen your grasp of the material. In my 15 years of teaching the GMAT, I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of students whose test day timing was the primary thing holding them back. Thus, plan to improve your knowledge of the content. Once you improve your ability to recognize and solve problems, working out any minor timing issues won't be a big deal.Data Sufficiency Questions — Put in the Time and CalculationsToo often, students believe that since data sufficiency questions don't require that an actual numerical value be calculated, these questions don't need very much thought, energy, or ink. In fact, the opposite is often true. These questions typically require just as much thought as their problem-solving counterparts. In addition, solving most data sufficiency questions necessitates substituting appropriate values for the variables and actually testing their sufficiency. It's very difficult to simply "look" at a data sufficiency question and determine the answer. Give these questions the time and energy that they require.Be Careful of Making the Easiest Deduction, Especially on Data Sufficiency QuestionsMany GMAT questions contain a number of trap answers. A trap answer is one that seems correct but is based on a common miscalculation, a common misinterpretation, a classic mistake in reasoning, an incorrect assumption, a faulty inference, or an invalid deduction. Quite often, particularly on data sufficiency questions, the easiest deduction is often the trap.Try to Master the Algebra: Don't Rely Solely on Picking Numbers and BacksolvingStudents are always looking for shortcuts, and who can blame them? Quite often students will master the art of picking numbers and backsolving. They typically master these techniques at the expense of actually learning the underlying math.When you rely on picking numbers and backsolving, you create an unfortunate situation in which each problem is a never-before-seen island that must be tamed. That is, you're not actually learning skills that will allow you to be successful on future problems. However, if you invest the time to learn the math, you're building a set of tools that will be available to you for use on problems where backsolving won't yield a reliable answer. With these tools, you'll have a much easier time recognizing how to solve a problem and then execute that solution.With that said, there is a time and a place where backsolving and picking numbers can be handy. For example, these techniques can make solving extremely difficult data sufficiency problems much easier. In addition, they can help you to solve some problems that require complicated algebra.If you choose to practice using backsolving and number picking, make a deal with yourself. Learn how to solve each problem algebraically before you pick numbers or backsolve. If you follow this approach, you'll learn more efficiently, and you'll have a much greater command of the material. Come test day, you'll have a powerful array of tactics that you can deploy to quickly and confidently solve whatever the test throws at you.If you are answering incorrectly because you aren't paying enough attention to detail, are missing important parameters of a problem, or are passing over significant remarks that govern the problem, then you are approaching the material in a negligent manner, and it's important to fix this issue right away. You absolutely need to read the material more carefully.Careless mistakes can destroy your GMAT score, and in my eyes, errors due to negligence are the worst type that a student can make for two big reasons. First, it's a shame not to get credit for a GMAT question that you are able to solve and thereby able to answer correctly. Second, focus and practice can usually reduce or eliminate a the majority of these errors.Here are some strategies that should help:Slow DownWe make mistakes when we go too fast. When you try to calculate faster than your brain can process, you will make mistakes. To cut down on the number of careless errors you make, slow down. Take your time. Focus. It makes little sense to spend an hour rushing through fifty problems only to get thirty of them wrong. Instead, work at the fastest pace you can while still approaching the problems efficiently. Focus carefully on each problem. Remember, the goal is to learn, not to speed through a bunch of problems.Be More PresentIt's so important to be centered and focused when attempting to solve a GMAT problem. I see two types of behavior that tend to destroy student accuracy. First, sometimes a student's mind is clearly someplace other than on his or her GMAT practice. It's easy to lose focus, but real learning requires a student to develop the skill of compartmentalizing. To compartmentalize is simply to stop yourself from thinking about anything before the present moment and to stop yourself from worrying about what will come after the present moment. When you can compartmentalize, you can fully devote yourself to the task at hand. When you allow your brain to be fully immersed in whatever you are doing at that moment, you'll be amazed at how much more accurate you can be. Second, some students really are focused on their GMAT practice, but their pens are not in sync with their brains. For example, a student may be writing a given line of a solution to a problem while her mind is already visualizing the next step in the problem. It would be great to always be a step or two ahead, but that's just not practical for most students. It's difficult to be accurate when the pen and brain are out of sync. The way to fix this problem is to focus intensely only on the step you're on at that moment. In fact, watch carefully as you write. Focus on each letter, number, and variable. When you focus as you write, your brain has the opportunity to catch simple, yet score-eroding errors that would likely be otherwise missed. If you're thinking one or two steps ahead of what you're doing, you're bound to make mistakes. Keep your pen, eyes, and brain in sync at all times.Read More CarefullyBeing a strong reader will help you significantly on all sections of the GMAT. Strive to read everything carefully and methodically. Focus when you read. Make sure that you understand the main point of each sentence and the key concepts in each problem. It's not unusual to have to reread math and verbal questions, so if you don't fully understand what you just read, read it again. Visualization can also help you to read more carefully. When you read, imagine what you are reading unfolding as if you were watching a movie. Picture what you read. By engaging in this visualization process, you'll help your brain better assimilate and connect the information.Write Neatly and LegiblyIt's easy to make silly mistakes when your own writing is illegible. For example, if your numeral "2" has a funny habit of morphing into the letter z, you're likely to make mistakes. As someone with shockingly poor handwriting, I've found that by writing in capital letters, my handwriting has become much less prone to misreading. You may like this penmanship strategy as well.In addition to writing neatly, it's important to organize your work carefully. Get in the habit of using well-defined regions for each problem. Don't spread your work across the page haphazardly.Regularly Practice Multiplication and Division by HandI can't tell you how many times I've seen students elegantly power through a tough math problem only to mess up a multiplication or division step. Don't be this person. Each day, solve one or two ugly multiplication and division problems by hand.Watch Out for Unit ConversionsMany GMAT quant problems contain unit conversions. For example, a rate may be presented in miles per hour, but the answers are given in miles per minute. Be on the lookout for unit conversions in GMAT quant problems, since it's easy to choose an incorrect answer with incorrect units just because the number looks correct.Watch Out For "Except" ProblemsSome problems say "All of the following would weaken the argument except?" Or, "n is divisible by all of the following except?" Pay close attention to the specific language given in the problem. It stinks to do all the work properly only to forget that the question was asking for "all of the following except." You might even want to actually say to yourself, "I am looking for the wrong answer," or "there will be four right answers and one wrong answer."Before You Select an Answer, Double Check Whether You're Answering the QuestionRead carefully and double check what you read before choosing the answer. Imagine a complicated word problem involving two Shiba Inus, Blaze and Molly. What if you carefully and elegantly solve for Molly's age, which happens to also be an answer choice, but the question is actually asking for Blaze's age? Make sure you're actually answering the question being asked.Pay Careful Attention to Restrictive Information in the Question StemQuite often, particularly on data sufficiency questions, there will be restrictive information provided in the stem. For example, we may be told that "k is an integer" or " 0 < m < 1." Pay close attention to such information. In the heat of solving a problem, it's easy to forget about a small but important piece of data that may change the outcome. Sometimes taking a second to write this information down can help make it stick in your mind.Don't Perform Calculations in Your HeadWhat are surefire ways to make mistakes? Do mental math. For most people, doing calculations in their heads is a bad move. Instead, do as much work as you can on your paper. If you'd like additional tips on how to become more accurate, read this articleKeep A log of Your MistakesEach time you commit one the above mistakes, put a hash mark in your log. The goal of tallying your mistakes is to make yourself fully aware of them and, most importantly, to AVOID them in the future. For example, if you consistently make careless mistakes on "except" problems, be aware of that fact. Make sure the word "except" sets off alarms to be extra careful.Peer learning can be a great way to stay motivated and accelerate your learning rate and even have some fun. Get five or six people together who are studying for the GMAT and meet up one night a week. Pick five or ten questions to solve. Each person individually tries the questions, and then the group discusses them. It should be interesting to see how different people solve problems differently. You are almost guaranteed to pick up some new tricks and techniques. Also, having to explain what you do is probably the best way to fix it in your own mind. Don't worry if the group is composed of students with varying abilities. If you're the strongest member of the group, you learn a ton by showing others how to do things well. If you're the weakest member of the group, you'll benefit from the knowledge and expertise of the stronger members.For many students, planning to take the exam more than once is a smart move. For example, if you'd like to sit for your final GMAT on October 31st, it would be be wise to schedule one or two real GMAT exams prior to that date. For example, you may schedule a real GMAT on September 1st and on October 1st. By taking one (or two) GMATs prior to the "real deal," one of two things can happen. First, you may end up earning the score you need earlier than you expected. Great! Reward yourself with a trip to the Italian Riviera (or a night out on the town). Second, if you don't reach your target score early, you'll be better positioned the next time you sit for the exam. You'll have an increased understanding of the test, and you'll become more comfortable with the testing process.Research from Harvard and other universities suggests that students who get excited about taking standardized exams, such as the GMAT, perform better on those tests than students who don't.Your state of mind can have a significant impact on your performance. Gain more insight about this profound strategy of getting excited about a stressful situation, which you can use to help increase your GMAT score by simply changing the way you internalize thoughts and emotions.So — pump yourself up about taking the test. Get excited. Don't be stressed or anxious. Be bold!It's hard to thrive when you live a Spartan life of only GMAT study. Though I'm a huge proponent of rolling up the sleeves, making some strong coffee, and working until a task is done, there's something to be said for balance. It's difficult to make yourself sit with the Official Guides or with the Target Test Prep Quant Course all day, every day. In fact, for some, such a colorless few months can be downright depressing. Do some yoga. Go for a run. Drink the proper amount of water. Go out and eat some healthy food. Meditate. Go hiking once in awhile. See a movie or two each month. I'm not saying you should turn your GMAT study into Club Med. I'm saying take good care of yourself during this study process.Years ago, you could use sheets of plain paper for in-test scratchwork, but now students taking the GMAT need to fit all their scratchwork onto laminated scratch paper using a wet-erase pen. Building the necessary habits required to master this procedure requires some practice. Since you'll take several practice tests each week during the month before your exam, you'll have ample time to start using a wet erase pen and laminated paper for scratchwork and to get comfortable with this test-taking tool. Try to develop the right strategy for your needs and to arrive at a good way of using the available space to solve your problems. Working out questions in a neat and organized way on your practice tests will pay off during the exam because you'll be used to these materials and will know how to best integrate them into your problem-solving steps.Proper pacing on the GMAT is essential. If you work too quickly, you'll likely make careless mistakes or not fully solve the problems, falling for the easiest (and most likely incorrect) deductions that can be made. If you work too slowly, you'll run out of time near the end of a section and have to guess on the final questions, a far from ideal strategy.Assume you spent 4 minutes on each of the first eight questions. You would then have spent 32 minutes on questions that should have taken about 16 minutes. Now assume that you were spot on with your time for the next 10 questions (2 minutes per question). You would then be at question 19 with 10 minutes remaining (62 minutes – 52 minutes). How will those next 13 questions go? Well, we know that getting a number of questions wrong in a row (say three or four) deteriorates your score significantly.You're looking for a Goldilocks timing strategy – not too slow and not too fast. During the test, you can't set a kitchen timer to keep yourself on track, nor can you worry about your question-by-question timing performance. You need to concentrate on answering questions. One good strategy is to set benchmarks for yourself. When you finish question 5, roughly 10 minutes should have passed. Question 15 should be completed around the 30 minute mark, and so on. If you notice, at any of these benchmark points, that you are running behind, catching up will only require hustling through one or two questions, rather than a large block of 8-10 questions at the end. You also have more opportunity to pick and choose which questions to hustle through, rather than being stuck with what is left. You can make quick guesses on the questions that represent your areas of greatest weakness, thereby leaving yourself adequate time for the questions you know you can ace.And remember, proper, extensive practice makes perfect. Be sure to use those time benchmarks when you practice full tests or full test sections. The more you practice, the more the timing will become second nature.Many myths surround the GMAT. It's important to know what's true (or at least what's supported by reasonable evidence) and what's clearly false.For example, many students believe that the first few questions on each section have an inordinately large impact on their scores. As a result, these students over-invest time in these questions at the expense of later problems. The reality is that all questions on the test count, and you should do your best on all of them. It would be unwise to try to game the test by spending extra time on the first ten questions.Another myth believed by many is that one must answer every question correctly in order to earn a high score. In fact, one can incorrectly answer a reasonable number of questions and still earn a 700+ score. Furthermore, the scoring algorithm heavily depends on the difficulty level of the questions you're answering.It's not enough to answer a bunch of easy questions properly; you must also answer a number of hard questions correctly. Remember, to earn a high score on the GMAT, you must perform better than most of your peers. You can use the scoring algorithm to your advantage by over performing on the difficult questions.Also, many students are worried that if they miss one or two easy questions, they will earn a low score. First, this notion is statistically inaccurate. Think about it this way. Imagine having 36 people in a room who earn $5,000,000 each per year. If one person who earns $500,000 per year enters the room, does the the average salary of all the people drop much? No, it does not drop much at all.The person earning $500,000 a year is referred to as an outlier. An outlier is a value that is far away from the other values. Outliers (a few easy questions missed in an otherwise strong performance) will not have a major effect on your score. An important corollary to this is the reality that the first question can't make or break your score. However, too often students say that because the first question did not "go well" or because it seemed foreign, they became unhinged and their performance on the rest of the section suffered. Don't fall into this state of mind!Here's one key concept to consider. While taking the GMAT, you should never try to determine how well you're doing. Besides the fact that you are almost certain to be mistaken, anything that distracts you from the next problem can only be a drag on your performance. Have a short memory, and forget what has already happened in favor of focusing on doing your best going forward. A baseball player who can't forget his last at-bat has a lot more trouble hitting the pitch coming toward him!Finally, some students are under the impression that it's ok to leave a few answers blank at the end of the test. In fact, there is a large penalty for not finishing the test. Be sure that you answer all of the questions on each section, even if the final responses reflect nothing but guesses.After all your hard months preparing for the GMAT, it all comes down to test day. It's important to understand what to expect on test day and what to do in the days leading up to the exam.I've written in more detail about the test day experience, but I'll summarize some of the most important points.In the Days Before the Test:Don't take practice tests. You'll want to be well rested. Hydrate well. Eat healthy food. Get proper exercise. Taper off your studying and give your brain a rest. Determine your score cancellation threshold, which is the lowest score you won't cancel. Remember, if you don't cancel your score, schools will see it. Prepare yourself for some ups and downs on test day, but be confident and excited. Do some light studying and review.On Test Day:Eat a healthy breakfast. Hydrate well, but remember that you will only have a few breaks during the exam. Listen to some inspirational music — get pumped up. Rocky 4 montage, anyone? Get to the test center early. Do a few problems in the car before the exam to get your brain warmed up. Say some positive affirmations out loud.During the TestManage your time properly — don't get behind on the clock. Take each question as it comes — stay focused. Don't think about anything except the question you're on. Never try to determine how well you're doing. Remember that you can get a number of questions wrong and still do well. If you don't know an answer, make an educated guess and move on. Don't worry too much if you have trouble with the first few questions — you have lots of opportunities to improve. Remember that you'll see some experimental questions. You can always get additional laminated scratch paper, so don't worry if you run out of room. Take your breaks. Remember that you can cancel your score and retake the exam in 16 days. Show the GMAT what you know! Have fun!So, it's November 15, and you just decided that you'd like to submit round two applications for a number of top ten business schools. Furthermore, you have not taken the GMAT yet. How well, on average, can the next few months go? Why do this to yourself? Wouldn't it be better (and less stressful) to plan ahead and give yourself enough time to prepare for the GMAT properly?Realize that there is never a better time than the present to begin a project. Get started on the GMAT. Put in a few solid months of studying. If you earn the score you need, awesome! If you need more study time, give yourself the latitude to study into the spring and take the test at a later date.Here's a secret. When smart, hardworking students study hard and study smart yet still don't reach their goals on the GMAT, it's typically because they threw in the towel too soon. Consider this scenario.On July 1, a certain student decides she will sit for the GMAT on September 1. Her goal is a 720. To determine her initial abilities, she takes a practice GMAT test and earns a 500. Subsequently, she studies really hard and really smart all summer. She earns a 660 on her real GMAT, a decent score but well below her target. Frustrated by this score, she tells herself that she's done everything she can and decides not to retake the GMAT.Instead, our student could have said to herself, "Look – my score has come up 160 points in a few months. I now know so much more than I did when I began studying. If I can improve this much in only a few months, just think about how much more I can improve if I continue to work for another few months. I can do this!!"It would be sad for a student in this situation to give up. Don't tell yourself that you've done all you can. Very rarely in life do we ever even come close to doing all we can. Quite often, tasks, especially complex ones, take more time and more energy than we initially expect – get used to it.This is the best advice I can give you. If you have worked hard for a number of months yet still have not earned the GMAT score you need, keep studying! Many others have found themselves in a similar situation. The ones who haven't given up but have worked past their seemingly permanent plateaus are the ones who have finally reached the summit. Consolidate what you have learned and then add to that knowledge, and you too can be among them!There are a number of hazardous, self-defeating attitudes that can do nothing but hold back your progress. You should learn to recognize them and do your best to eliminate them.Below is a summary of some common ways in which students allow themselves to be defeated. Beware — I'm about to dispense some tough love.See the GMAT as an Opportunity, Not as a CurseIf your plan is to attend a top business school, then you'll be taking the GMAT (or GRE). You have little choice in the matter. However, you do have a choice about how you view the GMAT and about your attitude in approaching the test. You can spend your days disgruntled over the fact that this thing called the GMAT is standing in the way of your dreams, thus turning your study time into an even greater torture.Conversely, you can look at the GMAT as an opportunity to separate yourself from peers who may be less committed, less devoted, or less prepared. This is also an opportunity to learn things you've always known you should have learned in the first place. I suspect that you'll progress much faster if you take the latter course, treating the GMAT as an opportunity and as a tool for personal and professional advancement. The GMAT is designed to separate people. The more frustrated or angry or upset you become over the GMAT, the less likely your chances of ending up on the favorable side of that separation.Realize That You Won't Be Rewarded Just For Putting in the TimeMost of you reading this are likely to be successful business professionals. Some of you may have succeeded by "dressing up, showing up, and putting in the time." This is not a bad thing. However, don't expect to earn a 700+ on the GMAT just by showing up and putting in the time. Though putting in the time is certainly necessary, it isn't enough to guarantee a top score. One needs to work both hard and smart.So, if you're just putting in the time and letting the information wash over you, months could pass without your getting any closer to your goal. Strive to understand. Flush out your weaknesses and eliminate them. Become the master of your material, and thereby, the captain of your own success. Don't make the mistake of believing that the passage of time itself guarantees you a higher score.Don't Tell Yourself the Story That You are Bad at Standardized TestsThat story will make you defeat yourself before you start. Maybe you didn't do so well on the SAT or ACT. Maybe you don't like taking tests. Maybe you've bombed a practice GMAT or two. So what? One great thing about life and about living in the United States in general is that people can change the paths they're on.In other words, past performance does not perfectly predict future performance. You control your own destiny and have the ability to alter your behavior, to work harder, smarter, and better, and to improve your overall performance as a consequence. Don't accept the past as a barometer of your future! At one point, you weren't able to walk. You learned. Take a stand! Make it happen!Training yourself to do well on standardized tests is no different than training yourself to make any type of change: difficult at first, but easier as you gain steam. Instead of defeating yourself ahead of time by telling yourself that you can't do well, start off correctly by telling yourself that you can do well. Then, tell yourself that you will do well. Then, your job is to take a different approach than you have in the past and force yourself to consciously practice that approach rather than fall back into those old self-defeating habits. This article should be a good starting place in helping you do things differently.Don't Tell Yourself the Story that Others Are Acing the GMAT Quickly and EasilyIt's easy to begin feeling that the process is taking longer than it "should." It's also easy to begin feeling that your peers are earning great scores effortlessly. In fact, they are working hard at improving, and there is no "should" about the length of time it takes to prepare. It's easy to assume that others are having an easy time with the GMAT since you don't see their paths to action. In other words, you don't see their late nights of studying. You don't see their Saturdays spent taking practice tests. You don't see the dozens of hours they spend with private tutors. You don't see that they took the GMAT three times before they finally earned their scores. You don't get to see any of the hard work and elbow grease that went into the final product. It's easy to look at someone's final product and assume that no effort was expended in producing it. Also, sometimes people try to make the process look easy. Think about watching Tiger Woods play golf. Does it look hard? No – he makes it look as if he never breaks a sweat. However, Tiger has spent probably 20,000 hours practicing in order to make it look easy.I've Done Great Things in Both My Personal and Professional Life, so the GMAT Shouldn't Matter MuchYour personal and professional achievements will serve you well; there is no question about it. Don't ever let anyone discount what you have done. Be proud of your hard work and your accomplishments. Continue doing great things. Find your passions and pursue them. However, please also be savvy enough to view the strength of your candidacy dispassionately and honestly. Take a look at the students at HBS or Wharton, or Booth, or Stanford. See anyone who has not done seriously impressive stuff with her life? I didn't think so. Although your accomplishments may be considerable, the accomplishments of your competition are also likely to be great. And, at the end of the day, if you'd like human eyes to actually read your application and take notice of all the great things you've done, a strong GMAT score will certainly help.A few coaching tips can go a long way in the pursuit of a 700 on the GMAT. Take note of the following.Believe You Can Do It, and Say You Can Do itDo not talk yourself out of a great GMAT score. Instead, talk yourself into a great GMAT score! Remember, your thoughts become your words, and your words become your actions. Believe in yourself!!Embrace Your IndividualityYou have a number of things that make you special. Embrace them. Maybe you like studying at 3am while listening to punk rock. Maybe you learn math very quickly but struggle with reading comp. Maybe you are super hardworking. Discover what makes you different from your peers and use these differences to your advantage.Forget About What Others ThinkOne of the easiest ways to fail is to worry about what others think of you and then change your study habits because of that apprehension. Try your best to be the best person you can be. Strive to climb the highest peaks. Strive to find your passions. Strive to make a difference. However, forget about the impression on others that your efforts may make. You're studying for the GMAT on Friday nights – so what? You've already taken the test twice and are sitting for it again – so what? You goal is HBS or bust – so what? You're an obsessed perfectionist what it comes to learning quant – so what? Just let your light shine and forget about what others think or say.Get Rid of Negative PeopleWhen studying for the GMAT, one of the best things you can have is a positive network of people who are supporting and encouraging you. If your friends are urging you not to spend an extra hour mastering sentence structure, ignore them. Stay close to people who understand how important it is that you meet your goals, not to those clueless folks who can't see into you and don't have your best interests at heart.Be Optimistic, Not PessimisticYou can do this! As with many activities in life, attitude has a big role to play in success. When you are optimistic about something, you are more open to it and more likely to absorb it and take advantage. Attitude also plays a big role in your well-being during your months of study.If you're inwardly, or outwardly, grumbling each time you sit down to study, you're likely to be less focused, and you're definitely going to be unhappy. You're going to spend a lot of time with your GMAT study materials; don't poison that time with unnecessary misery!Don't Unnecessarily Criticize Yourself – Don't be Overly Judgmental About YourselfWe all experience bad days. We all encounter problems that are tough to solve. It's important not to magnify the bad while discounting the good. Try to look at your progress objectively. If you've made significant progress over the last few months, it's important not to criticize yourself over one unproductive day. Instead, take a step back and look at the big picture. Look at how you're trending over time. Be fair and kind to yourself.Be Inquisitive and CuriousI'll be the first to admit that some GMAT issues are difficult to master. However, I've found that the students who develop a genuine interest in learning the material are the ones who, in general, perform the best on the GMAT. If you really care about what you are learning and if you become inquisitive about the content, you just may begin to see the elegance that exists within the GMAT, and you may just earn that higher score that sets you on a path for higher personal and professional prosperity.I'm sorry for making you read such a long article. I have much more insight to share, and I could have continued writing, but to spare your sanity, I didn't. I genuinely hope this article helps you to earn an impressive GMAT score. If you have further questions or need advice or just need someone to bounce ideas off, I'd be more than pleased to help you. You can email me at: Happy studying! Scott Woodbury-Stewart is the founder & CEO of Target Test Prep. A passionate teacher who is deeply invested in the success of his students, Scott began his career teaching physics, chemistry, math, and biology. Since then, he has spent more than a decade helping students gain entry into the world's top business schools, logging 10,000+ hours of GMAT, EA, GRE and SAT instruction. Scott also served as lead content developer and curriculum architect for the revolutionary courses Target Test Prep GMAT, Target Test Prep EA, Target Test Prep GRE and Target Test Prep SAT Quant. Expert Tips and Study Strategies The GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) is an essential exam for anyone aiming to pursue an MBA or other graduate business programs. Achieving a 700+ score in the GMAT can significantly enhance your chances of being accepted into top business schools and help you stand out in a competitive pool of applicants. While scoring 700+ may appear challenging, with the right preparation strategy and approach, it's very much achievable. Moreover, with expert guidance from Team Get My University, you can confidently navigate your MBA journey. This blog will provide you with proven strategies, expert tips, and a detailed study plan that has helped many candidates achieve 700+ on the GMAT. Ready to crack GMAT Exam? Let's dive in! About GMAT The GMAT Exam is a standardized exam widely used by business schools globally to evaluate applicants for graduate management programs such as MBAs. The test assesses skills in four key areas: Analytical Writing, Integrated Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Verbal Reasoning. It is designed to test your ability to think critically, solve complex problems, and communicate effectively, which are crucial for success in business school and the workplace. The GMAT is a computer-adaptive test, which means the difficulty level of questions adjusts based on your performance as you progress. A high score, especially 700+, can greatly improve your chances of admission to elite business schools and increase your eligibility for scholarships. To get into top business schools, a score of 700+ is often essential. Let's explore some of the key tips from Team Get My University to help you achieve this goal. Tips to Secure 700+ in GMAT 2025 Here are some of the pro tips to secure 700+ in GMAT Exam and get admission in Top Tier School, namely- 1. Understand the GMAT Structure Inside-Out The GMAT is a comprehensive test that assesses your analytical, quantitative, verbal, and reasoning skills. Understanding the test format and each section's requirements is the first step in building a strong foundation for your preparation. Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA): A 30-minute essay task where you must analyze an argument. Integrated Reasoning (IR): 12 questions (30 minutes) that test your ability to evaluate data from multiple sources. Quantitative Section: 31 questions (62 minutes) assessing problem-solving and data sufficiency skills. Verbal Section: 36 questions (65 minutes) focused on reading comprehension, critical reasoning, and sentence correction. 2. Create a Custom Study Plan A personalized study plan is critical to success. Begin by assessing your current strengths and weaknesses through a diagnostic test. This will allow you to allocate more time to your weaker areas while ensuring you maintain proficiency in your strengths. Most candidates aim for 2-3 months of preparation, dedicating around 15-20 hours per week. You may need more time if your baseline score is below the 700 target. Use official GMAT prep materials, such as the GMAT Official Guide and GMAT Prep software. Supplement with high-quality resources like Manhattan Prep, Kaplan, etc. 3. Master the GMAT Math Section The GMAT Quantitative section tests your ability to solve problems quickly and accurately. To score 700+, you need to demonstrate strong math fundamentals. Focus Areas: Algebra, arithmetic, word problems, and geometry are the most tested concepts. Time Management: With only 2 minutes per question, speed is key. Practice solving problems under timed conditions to improve your pace. Data Sufficiency: This unique question type can be tricky, but with practice, you'll learn to spot the right approach. 4. Excel in the GMAT Verbal Section The Verbal section tests your ability to comprehend complex material and assess logical reasoning. A high score in this section requires strong critical thinking and grammar skills. Focus Areas: Sentence correction, reading comprehension, and critical reasoning. Reading Comprehension: Practice reading dense texts on a variety of topics. Focus on understanding the main idea, tone, and structure of the passage. Critical Reasoning: Work on identifying assumptions, evaluating arguments, and drawing logical conclusions. Sentence Correction: Master English grammar rules, including subject-verb agreement, parallelism, and modifiers. 5. Take Full-Length Practice Tests Full-length practice tests simulate the actual exam and help you assess your readiness for test day. These practice tests are essential for building endurance and improving your time management skills. Frequency: Take at least 4-6 full-length practice tests throughout your preparation. Simulate Test Day: Take these tests under timed conditions and replicate the real test environment to get used to the stamina required for a 3.5-hour test. Analyze Results: After each test, thoroughly review the questions you got wrong, understand the mistakes, and adjust your strategy accordingly. 6. Get in Touch with Team Get My University for Expert Guidance If you're looking for personalized guidance, expert strategies, and a tailored study plan to help you score 700+ on the GMAT, Team Get My University is here to support you. Our experienced mentors and consultants provide in-depth insights and strategies that can take your GMAT preparation to the next level. Don't leave your GMAT preparation to chance—get in touch with Team Get My University and ensure you achieve your 700+ goal! GMAT Focus Edition Scoring System Section Score Range Increment Scale Total Score 205-805 10-point increments Quantitative 60-90 1-point increments Verbal 60-90 1-point increment Data Insights 60-90 1-point increment Consult Team GMU for GMAT Registration 2025-26 Scoring a 700+ on the GMAT is a challenging yet achievable goal with the right approach. By following these expert tips and maintaining consistent practice, you can increase your chances of scoring 700+ marks. Remember, preparation is key. Stay disciplined, stay focused, and most importantly, stay confident! Connect with Team Get My University for expert guidance and strategies that can help you crack your GMAT Exam and unlock your dream business school!