



## Barron's GRE

*Sharon Weiner Green, Ira K. Wolf*

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This 17th edition of Barron's GRE manual reflects recent Graduate Record Exams and presents six full-length model exams with all questions answered and explained. Tests are similar to recent actual GREs in length, question types, and degree of difficulty. The manual also reviews all GRE test topics: antonym, analogy, and sentence-completion questions, reading comprehension, analytical writing, quantitative comparison questions, data interpretation, and math.

## Barron's GRE Details

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## From Reader Review Barron's GRE for online ebook

### Vi says

This prep book helped me immensely by giving me a structure to start studying, in conjunction with the class I attended (that required this book). Once I started going through this book, the momentum pushed me to seek other resources, most of them free and readily available online (from ETS, the test administrator, in fact).

Besides reviewing the issue and argument topic pools on ETS, I am also using some of the materials from Manhattan Prep, such as some of the individual topic books and the 5 lb. book of practice problem. I have 2 more weeks till I take the GRE! (Wish me luck.)

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### Lobna sameer says

its good as a source of practice question, however its not balanced. meaning it has a very strong focus on the quantitative section and completely ignores the writing section.

you'll need something else on the side when you study from this book. Magoosh videos were a lot better in explaining problem solving strategies

note that there were around 2 mistakes in the final practice tests so be careful there.

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### Dusty says

I consider this three-star rating an average. The first half of this book -- which treats the verbal section of the exam -- is quite good. The second half -- the part that deals with the math/quantitative section -- is not so good, especially for a test-taker who may need more than a one- or two-sentence explanation for certain problems.

Tomorrow morning is the test. Do I feel prepared? Yikes...

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### Lamadia says

It was a really comprehensive review and the right length for a three month prep. I did find two big errors on surface area equations (they gave completely incorrect equations) but otherwise it helped a lot. There were math concepts I don't remember ever having learned and I was able to do them on the exam. I wish it had included standard deviation though. I had two questions on my GRE test about standard deviation and I couldn't remember anything about it.

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### Cain says

This book was very useful in helping me prepare for the GRE. The vocabulary list is extensive (~4,000 words and definitions). The math review was very well explained, although a couple of topics were left out (e.g. standard deviation and distribution). I was so pleased with this book that I don't need it anymore. Hooray!

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### **Ro Givens says**

(I actually had the 2009/18th version.) This prep book provides a ton of information. 3000+ words, a diagnostic test plus 2 practice tests, multiple section reviews, a math overview to rival many high school texts books. I only had a week to study, so I was a little overwhelmed by the information in this book. I think it's definitely important to use the Barron's verbal flash cards (sold separately) along with the verbal unless you want (and have time to) create a ton yourself. This book definitely contained more review and practice than the Princeton Review's Cracking the GRE, 2011 Edition. My biggest problem with the book is that the math and verbal questions seemed a little trickier than the ones actually on the GRE, and I thought the Princeton Review did a better job with simulating the quantitative questions. It also seems that scoring higher on the computer generated GRE is easier than with the paper practice tests in this book (I scored at least 300 points higher on the real test). Overall, it's probably best to use at least 2 different review books when studying, if possible (I'd suggest starting with Princeton Review then moving on to Barron's).

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### **Kristin says**

This is a very good test practice book. Five practice tests in the book, a CD with yet another practice test, a dictionary with practice questions for each of 50 alphabet segments, etc. If anything, it might have a bit too much information to digest. I used this as a supplement to a simpler practice book I also checked out from the library. I found the analytical writing section advice to be a bit lacking. I'm sure there's more they can tell you than make sure you can spell and use philosophical logic. This is the only area of the test that I'm feeling unprepared for after using this book.

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### **Anittah says**

I spent so much cognitive load during the second Barron's practice test wondering why the correct answer wasn't an option (turns out I was right; they screwed up) that for the first time in the history of my standardized test taking, my verbal was higher than my math. WTF.

I've already found two glaring errors in one of their practice tests and a third error in their section on analogies. Game over. How can I confidently prepare for the GRE's using Barron's when I keep tripping over their mistakes? I can't.

The one quasi-useful portion, the vocab list, is moot as I just downloaded the GRE flash card library via iFlash. So, sorry Barron's, but you suck and are going into the recycle pile.

Princeton Review it is.

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### **Audrey says**

Not for everyone. A full 300 pages deal with the math section, at the expense of the verbal and essay sections. Apparently more people need help with math? The chapters on the essay section contained some helpful info: links to the actual essay topic pool from ETS, tips on what the readers are looking for, suggestions for other resources. The practice tests and review problems in the book were helpful, but the CD practice tests still have some bugs. Sections to read, followed by a question that has NOTHING to do with the passage. Math questions with no units. (Which is bigger: 40 miles or 45? Well, 45 what? miles, inches?) Questions marked incorrect, but when you review your answer explanation, the answer was correct. Buy this if you want a great math review, a not-so-great verbal review, some general information, 4 full length practice tests, and decent practice problems for all sections.

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### **Elizabeth says**

The Quantitative explanations skip steps and are difficult to follow. Furthermore the practice tests don't offer explanations of what exactly to study in accordance with the questions you got wrong. The book I used by manhattan prep is incredibly MORE helpful in aligning your trouble areas with specific problems to practice. Barrons gives a few problems with unclear explanations and no assistance in developing a study plan based on your problem areas. In all I found Manhattan Prep's 5 lb book of GRE practice problems WAY MORE HELPFUL. In fact I threw Barrons across the room this morning in frustration and I plan to burn it after my test date. Hope this helps in your selection of GRE study materials. Best of luck!

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### **Ariel says**

Barron's devotes quite a bit of space to math review, which I think is a positive thing overall. It also has detailed tactics for the writing section, which I found useful. While I consider myself a good writer, standardized test essays are a different game.

While I thought the book was well done, I didn't give this 5 stars because I didn't see the improvement I had hoped to after working my way through the entire book. The diagnostic test at the front of the book placed me at 161V and 156M. I hoped to significantly improve my math score, but after working through the book my GRE scores (preliminary) were 168V and 156M. While nothing to whine about, I had hoped to see improvement after practicing with Barron's.

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### **Vahid says**

Finally! The vocabulary presented in this book are completely formal and academic . These words can be handy when writing papers and essays ....

. My favorite words from this book are; abeyance , adulterate , megalomania , and precarious ... .

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## **Johnny says**

### ***Post-Thoughts:***

This is a very well organized study guide but not exactly balanced. Oppose to the other study guide I used, The Official Guide to the GRE Revised General Test With CDROM , the background information is superb in explaining every minuscule features such as describing where the calculator on the computer-based exam is located, how is it different from a TI-83 calculator, and how many breaks you get in between each section when taking the exam.

I mentioned that the study guide was unbalanced, and here's why. This thick book is roughly 500 pages of practice problems and reviews but only ~65 pages comprise of the verbal section. Basically less than ~13% of the book consist of the essay, verbal, and reading portion. To tack on, the essay portion is the least offered in verbal section in respect to the review and providing exercises. Only 2% was the essay portion and there were no example essays to reference a high scoring to a low scoring one.

Despite the essay portion, everything else was fully supported with precise answers.

### ***Cover:***

The main reason why I bought this was due to the ribbon stamp on the right hand corner printed "STUDENTS' #1 CHOICE". I know this is a marketing tactic but it sure allured me into purchasing the book. The simplistic colors and words of the cover seems to palliate the actual intensity of the exam. The calm before the storm.

### ***Conclusion:***

I've always purchased Barron's and ETS study guides for my previous standardized, comprehensive test: SAT and AP (Advance Placement) courses. Overall there needs to be a more balance guide of each section to get an equal amount of practice. ★★★ is what it gets.

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## **Hosein says**

This book was fabulous, it made me well prepared for the real test. Although the writing section seem a little insufficient but in overall it is useful and the No. 1 choice. A model test exist at the end of the book that has a indeed hard quantitative questions. Don't lose your self-confidence the real exam is rational in their questioning your skills.

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## **Shersta says**

No, the start and finish dates are not typos. This book is so cram-packed with vocabulary, math reviews, and testing strategies that it took me months to get through it all! At times, I felt like pulling my hair out over the difficulty of the practice questions (mostly quantitative), but after taking the GRE I can say that they were right on target as far as the difficulty level of the questions I saw on the test. I would have like more sample tests (the copy I had was a library copy, and missing the CD), but otherwise definitely an excellent starting

place for anyone planning to take the GRE.

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