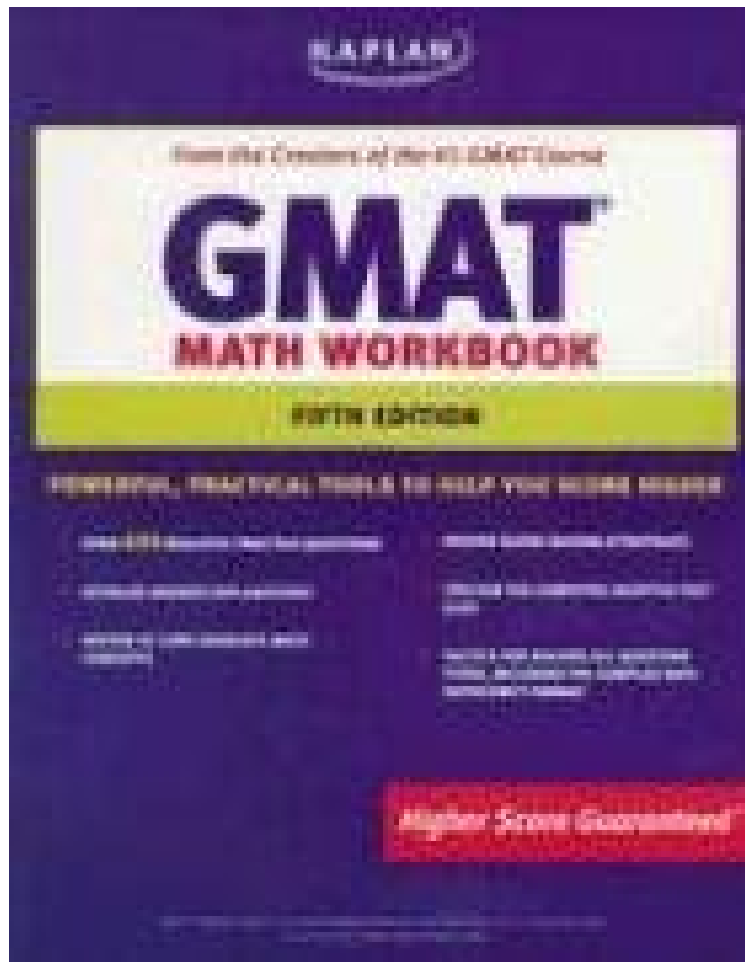


Kaplan GMAT Math Workbook

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Kaplan : Kaplan GMAT Math Workbook before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kaplan GMAT Math Workbook:

66 of 70 people found the following review helpful. Covers the basics, doesn't mimic the real test's nuances By Vince Kotchian I'm a full-time GRE tutor, so I bought this to see if it was a resource I could recommend to my students, who often need to relearn a LOT of math. This book is a solid treatment of the math concepts the GRE tests, as well as a decent overview of the different kinds of questions on the test. But, those with higher than average score goals will need to supplement with other books (and of course everyone should be working with ETS's Official Guide). Things I liked:- covers most of the concepts that can appear on the GRE- each concept has a good number of practice exercises of varying difficulty- the 100 "most important" concepts list at the back is a good checklist Things that could be improved:- the questions are usually too easy - or more importantly, too SIMPLE - the questions on the GRE are usually more creative and complex, especially at the higher score levels- in my opinion, the time management advice

only applies to the top 20 percent of scorers- the book seems to have been modeled on the math concepts that the GRE TELLS us the test covers, NOT on actual observation of GRE tests or practice tests. What the GRE says it will test and what it actually does test are sometimes two different things. So what you're getting is coverage of the concepts you'll need to know without getting the difficulty level or complexity of real GRE math questions. This book will help to a degree, but you'll definitely want to use another source of practice material as well. It's a pretty good resource for those who haven't done math in a long time. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Decent starter book but incomplete for a serious score increase

By GMAT Club (Expert)~~~~~ STRENGTHS ~~~~~ No tricks, just straightforward strategies to every section (3-4 steps). Easy to remember and simple to use- Was just the right length for me (covered it in 3 weeks)- Good number of exercise questions; both 220 GMAT-like (220) and exercises in the chapters; the questions are on the harder side- Style/Usage guide and list of idioms (you must know all of these)- Sets the right expectations (GMAT-style reading is very different from casual reading). You must forget what you know and re-learn reading to succeed- The CR approach to answer the question before reading answer choices works like a charm- The RC section is what really shines in this book~~~~~ WEAKNESSES ~~~~~ I felt the SC section was a little weak (5 pages plus a grammar section in the back). If you are a non-native speaker, you should definitely plan on getting a dedicated grammar book. Kaplan's Verbal Foundations is not bad- One of the question sets/banks overlaps with the online exercises in the Kaplan Premier book- The CR questions are slightly different from the official "flavor", which is typical for third-party questions. Keep this in mind and make sure you train your ear on the Official Guide or GMAT Prep before the test~~~~~ BOTTOM LINE: Though not as detailed as some of the dedicated RC, CR, SC books, it provides a good balance of useful strategies/instruction and time required to cover them. Good number of practice questions and also a grammar/style usage guide at the end. There is a total of 250 verbal questions (no new ones in the 7th edition)SC: 96RC: 82CR: 72There has been no changes besides some minor typo corrections from the last edition, so if you can get the seventh edition cheaper - get it. 7th and 8th edition books are the same.~~~~~ SOME TIPS ~~~~~Here is a list of both tips and mistakes I have seen people make through my years at GMAT Club:- Whenever you practice, do so in a timed environment (give yourself an average of 2 mins). If you don't, you are really wasting your time and setting unrealistic expectations- Follow the strategies to the "T". If you are not getting a good score, it is probably because you are not following the strategies exactly and cutting corners. It is very important to read the CR passages twice, and to read the RC completely- Leverage your strengths and perfect the timing. Strike a balance between the question types. Reading was the hardest for me and I peaked at about 2.5 mins per RC question. (I noticed that if I spent only 2 mins on average, my success rate went down from 90% to about 60-70%) That was not good enough but instead of trying to break through that wall, I worked on answering SC questions in 1 min average and CR's in 1.5 mins average. That gave me enough time to approach RC properly- Have a problem with keeping attention through the long or intense GMAT passages - try to be passionate about the passage. Imagine that it is the most interesting/revolting/provocative/unbelievable stories. Care about it!- Optional suggestion (which I think is very helpful by the way) - read quality fiction books in your spare time. Our minds are not prepared to read the GMAT-level passages (length or intensity or timing wise). You need to train your mind to be open to these and to know how to deal with them. I would recommend getting some quality fiction books - it will help not only with RC but also with SC as your grammar ear will be much more trained. This is how I managed to crack SC's in 1 minute or less.- If you are a non-native speaker, make sure your English is OK before you start on the verbal section. Knowing strategies is valuable only when you understand what you reading. I know this sounds obvious but so many people ignore this- On the test, draw a grid and use it to eliminate answer choices. By the time you reach the verbal section, you are 3 hours into the test and your mind will not be able to hold anything. A grid (which you can draw during a break or as you are reading the instructions) will help eliminate/track answer choices on hard questions- You don't need to take dozens of practice tests. Don't use practice tests to learn material; instead, know it ahead of time and use practice tests to hone your strategies and timing. It should be enough to take 5-10 tests total. Good Luck on your GMAT and let me know if any questions - I Reply to Comments!BB, Founder of GMAT Club750 (q49, v42)

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. GMAT: Only get it if you really need help with AW

By GMAT Club (Expert)The book is great, and will do a fantastic job if you need a lot of help with your essays on the GMAT. However, most people don't, and don't need to spend their time on the AWA section. Admissions don't really care about you essay scores and unless you get less than 4.0, your essays will never be reviewed mentioned or touched by the MBA admissions committee. Most MBA applicants spend 1 - 2 days on AWA. All you need to do is to memorize a couple of templates (one for each of the essay type - issue and argument). Here are the templates I would suggest to use:

ARGUMENT ESSAY: Intro: The argument claims that(restate) Stated in this way the argument: a) manipulates facts and conveys a distorted view of the situation b) reveals examples of leap of faith, poor reasoning and ill-defined terminology c) fails to mention several key factors, on the basis of which it could be evaluated The conclusion of the argument relies on assumptions for which there is no clear evidence. Hence, the argument is weak/unconvincing and has several flaws.

1st Para: First, the argument readily assumes that..... This statement is a stretch.... For example, ... Clearly, ... The argument could have been much clearer if it explicitly stated that... 2nd Para: Second, the argument claims that.... This is again a very weak and unsupported claim as the argument does not demonstrate any

correlation between....and...To illustrate,...While,...However,...indeed....In fact, it is not at all clear...rather....If the argument had provided evidence that.....then the argument would have been a lot more convincing.3rd Para:Finally,...(pose some questions for the argument)....Without convincing answers to these questions, one is left with the impression that the claim is more of a wishful thinking rather than substantive evidence.Conclusion:In conclusion, the argument is flawed for the above-mentioned reasons and is therefore unconvincing. It could be considerably strengthened if the author clearly mentioned all the relevant facts....In order to assess the merits of a certain situation/decision, it is essential to have full knowledge of all contributing factors. In this particular case....Without this information, the argument remains unsubstantiated and open to debate.ISSUE
ESSAY:Intro:Many/some people think that....Others.....(restate)The issue is a controversial one but a closer examination reveals that....(take a position)...for several reasons.1st Para:One reason is that/for...For example,...Furthermore,...Clearly,...2nd Para:Another reason is that/for...To illustrate,...As a result,...3rd Para:Perhaps the best reason is (that)....Specifically,...Moreover/In addition....In fact,...Therefore,...Conclusion:In summary, while there are arguments to be made for both sides, it is clear that there are greater advantages to....(repeat the reasons).Certainly,.....outweigh.....Hence,....(re-affirm your position)***Final tips for essay writing***- During the tutorial type in a few sentences in the mock essay window to get used to the keyboard.- Again during the tutorial, jot down on your notebook the basic structure of your essays or the opening sentences in case you get too nervous and forget them when the clock starts ticking.- Write as much as you can. Try to write at least 500 words per essay.- Always have the e-rater in mind as your potential reviewer. Remember that the human rater will make every effort to grade just like the e-rater. In that sense, keep your structure and volume in mind over actual quality/content.- Be careful of spelling mistakes. Double check words that you normally know you misspell (e.g. exercise). Try to finish 2-3 minutes before time is up so you can slowly re-read your essay for the purposes of spell checking. Do not reorganize/delete sentences/paragraphs with less than 2 min left.- No matter how great you thought your essays went, try to stay humble and focused - remember this was just a warm-up and the real stuff hasn't started yet!- Write the essays during your practice tests (this will help build your stamina)BB - Founder of GMAT ClubGMAT Score 750 (49, 42)Let me know if you have any questions about GMAT books - I have read and reviewed all of them.

Book by Kaplan