McGraw-Hill's GMAT

James Hasik, Stacey Rudnick, Ryan Hackney
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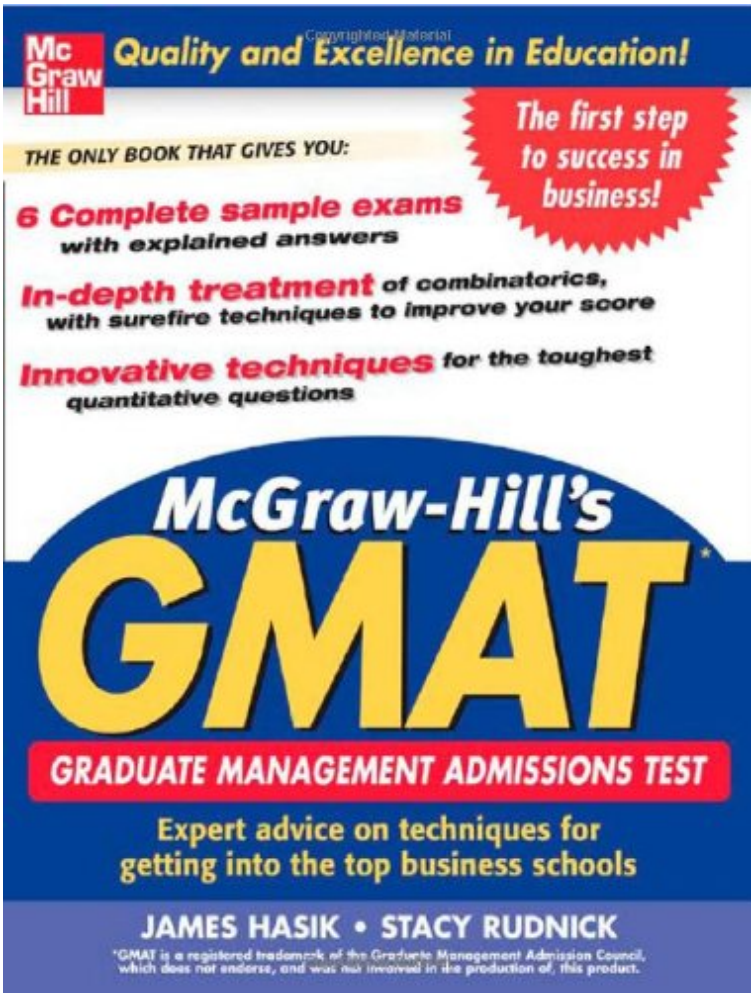

#13531639 in Books 2006-04-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.60 x .94 x 8.50l, #File Name: 0071456856400 pages | File size: 55.Mb

James Hasik, Stacey Rudnick, Ryan Hackney : McGraw-Hill's GMAT before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised McGraw-Hill's GMAT:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not a good choiceBy Brian AldershofI reviewed this book for the book with no CD-ROM. Since that's a mistake, I should also review it here.This book is filled with errata. Not just typos or 'oops, I missed that'-errata, but huge misunderstandings of mathematics and, to a lesser extent, grammar.Some of my favorites:a) Is r prime? (1) [something] (2) r^2 = 17^2Answer from CD: (2) is insufficient because r could be 17 or -17 and each is prime.Real answer: Prime numbers are integers 1 as we all learned in 5th grade or something. This isn't just a little mistake. If negative numbers were prime then 'The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic' (that natural numbers are either prime or UNIQUELY factorable into the product of primes) wouldn't be true. Think the authors of a book teaching math ought to know about 'The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic'?b) A cylindrical barrel is filled

with a chemicals. "If the chemicals weigh 0.9 kg/l what is the total mass of the chemical in the barrel?" (1)[something] (2)[something else]Answer from CD: [verbatim] Neither statement is sufficient, either alone or in combination because althought the statements can be combined to give the diameter [and height] of the barrel, there is no way to determine the density of the chemical in question, so there is no way to determine exactly how much of the chemical will fit in a barrel of that sizeReal answer: I almost fell off my chair laughing. Somehow the authors remembered from high school physics that there is something different between mass and weight and then got confused. There is a little wording problem here because kg can be a unit of mass or weight and they're mixed here. However, anywhere on Earth the 1 significant digit figure means you can mix up mass and weight with no problem. If 0.9 kg/l is not a density, I don't know what a density looks like. Perhaps the authors didn't know that 1000 liters = 1 Cubic meter (fourth grade?).c) [Drawing of 4x4 grid of city blocks of equal length]How many different routes can Casey the cabdriver take from the Northwest corner to the SouthEast corner that travel the shortest possible distance?Answers: A.9 B.11 C.14 D.16 E.18Answer from CD: E. There are 18 routes that drive '3 blocks down and 3 blocks right. If these possibilities are expressed as D and R, the total possibilities are: DDDRRR, DDRRRD, DDRRDR,....'Real answer: Casey needs to go three blocks South (S) and three blocks East (E) so the number of routes are the number of ways of arranging three "S"'s in 6 spots and then filling in the open spots with "E"'s. This is 6 choose 3 = 20, which has the decided weakness of not being one of the answers. Of course for fun, you can find which routes the authors missed in their "exhaustive" list (they are: DRRDDR and RDDRRD). Is this the way the authors want you to solve these problems? What if there were 10 city blocks? BTW - The answers to these city block questions are always numbers from Pascal's triangle and usually near the top and the middle, so if you have to guess it's very likely to be 10, 15, 20, or 35. None of the choices on the exam are reasonable numbers from Pascal's triangle.d) [Bunch of stuff that says a scientist sampled 20,000 fruit flies and found that 6 of them had a genetic mutation] [verbatim] "How many fruit flies would the scientist need to include in his experiment in order to have a reasonable expectation of locating approximately 50 fruit flies with the mutation in question?"Answer from CD: 250,000 because 1/5000 has the mutation.Real answer: I haven't a clue. "Reasonable expectation" is not a mathematical term. "Expectation" is a mathematical term that ought to be used here, but the question needs to be phrased more technically than the GMAT's require. If I appeal to the Central limit theorem here, I have approximately a 50% chance of having at least 50 mutations if I sample 250,000 fruit flies. Is that a "reasonable expectation"? Who knows?And I could go on and on and on (the verbal ones are not as bad, but still pretty bad).The book says 'Aim for the High 600's!' on the cover. Personally, I think that is not a very high aspiration. If you buy this book and try to learn from it, your ceiling will move from 800 to the high 600's (which is probably the ability level of the authors). Want to spend $30 and some time doing that? I think you would be nuts to buy this book when there are a bunch of pretty good alternatives out there.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ok, but could be betterBy Robert CameronI am about half way through the book, reading through the quantitative section of the book. The book seems well organized, and provides a few examples of each subject area. Several sections have useful formula's that I recognize but had long forgotten. The six example tests at the back of the book look like they will be very helpful to prepare for the test. My concerns are: 1) the formulas are not collected anywhere like the inside cover for memorizing before a test from one location in the book; 2) I think I found an error in the book on pages 80 and 81 in the "Positive/Negative Problems" section where the book does not account for the posibility that the "x and y" variables could be 0, changing the answer to the problem; this lead me to 3) I can't seem to find a support web site for the book that contains book errata. The book is ok, and I plan to finish it as part of the test preparation. I just won't be sure when my answer disagrees with the authors if I made the mistake, or there was a mistake in the book because I can't determine if I am the only one with a different answer. The CD version of the book with a computerized test would be beneficial for practicing taking the test on a computer like the real test. I think with a few adjustments, such as addressing issues 1 and 3 above, it could be a great book.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Lots of erratasBy Brian AldershofThe format of this book is nice, but it is filled with errata. The verbal section seems to have fewer than the quant section and the book seems to have fewer than the CD. For example, one of the CD answers includes the fine statement before an incorrect answer that 'There is (probably) an infinite number of prime numbers' when in fact 'There are (easily provably by any college math major) an infinite number of prime numbers'. This lack of erudition is evident throughout the sample tests. Particularly troubling to me were the frequent question asking 'what are the odds?'. 'Odds' is a fine concept but it doesn't mean the same thing as probability, unbeknownst to the authors (if the probability of an event is 1/3 the odds are 2:1 against, but the authors evidently don't know this). Many of the asnwers on the CD are of the ilk 'Statement 1 is true. Plug in numbers to verify'. This is a terrible solution, made worse by the answer being wrong in places. Even simple grammar explanations in the book are incorrect (e.g., 'either ... or' always requires a singular verb according to the authors which just isn't true, as it requires a verb matching the closest antecedent). Other examples include a clumsy and/or incorrect definition of the standard deviation (how many places on the web could they have gotten this?), the statement that 0^0 always equals 1, etc., etc..The front of the book says 'Aim for the high 600's or better!' and this book will help with that. If you need help with basics and you are going to miss the hard questions anyway, buy this book. Otherwise, I think it's best to find a book by authors with higher aspirations and a better grasp on the material they are supposed to be teaching. I don't know who Hasik, Rudnick, and

Hackney are, but there certainly aren't academics or, I would bet, particularly high scorers on the GMAT's themselves.Oh - HarveyWallbanger below - '0' is definitely an integer. The answer and entire solution on 80-81 is incorrect and amazingly unsophisticated.

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