The GRE® and TOEFL® Tests

An Update from ETS

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
April 11, 2011

Michelle Hampton
Associate Director, Client Relations
Educational Testing Service
What We Will Cover Today

• **GRE® Revised General Test**
  – New Ways to Measure Skills
  – New Test Design
  – New Score Scale
  – Take Aways
The GRE® revised General Test Is Launching Worldwide in 2011

The first administration will be on August 1, 2011
GRE® revised General Test: Better by Design™

Enhanced to provide even better results – with the validity, security and fairness you trust.

Features a new level of sophistication in psychometric design and delivery

- More closely aligned with the skills needed to succeed in graduate school
- More simplicity in distinguishing performance differences between candidates
- More test-taker friendly for an enhanced test experience
Verbal Reasoning Measure

Assesses ability to:

• Analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it
• Analyze relationships among component parts of sentences
• Recognize relationships among words and concepts
Verbal Reasoning Measure (continued)

• An emphasis on complex reasoning skills
  – More text-based materials such as reading passages
  – Less dependence on vocabulary knowledge alone; no antonyms and analogies

• New question types and new computer-enabled tasks, such as highlighting a relevant sentence to answer a question
Quantitative Reasoning Measure

• Assesses:
  – Basic mathematical skills
  – Understanding of elementary mathematical concepts
  – Ability to reason quantitatively and to model and solve problems with quantitative methods

• Mathematical knowledge expected of test takers remains unchanged
  – Basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data analysis
Quantitative Reasoning Measure (continued)

• More real-life scenarios to better gauge candidates’ skills
• An emphasis on quantitative reasoning skills
  – Increased proportion of questions involving real-life scenarios and data interpretation
  – An on-screen calculator to reduce the emphasis on computation
• New question types and new computer-enabled tasks, such as entering a numerical answer
Analytical Writing Measure

• Integrates the assessment of critical thinking and analytical writing

• Assesses ability to
  – Articulate and support complex ideas
  – Construct and evaluate arguments
  – Sustain a focused and coherent discussion

• Does not assess specific content knowledge
Analytical Writing Measure (continued)

• The Analytical Writing measure will not change dramatically
• Test takers will be asked to provide more focused responses to questions, reducing the possibility of reliance on memorized materials
The Computer-Based GRE® Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning Sections Are Section-Level Level Adaptive

• The computer selects the second section of a measure based on the test taker’s performance on the first section
• Within each section, all questions contribute equally to the final score
• Both sections are important, since the final score on each measure is based on the total number of correct answers and the level of difficulty of the questions
More Simplicity in Distinguishing Performance Differences Between Candidates

• Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores will be reported on a **new score scale** of 130–170, in 1-point increments
  – Current score scale: 200–800, in 10-point increments

• The Analytical Writing scores will continue to be reported on the same 0–6 score scale, in half-point increments

Play video
Sample Score Report: Expanded Examinee and Score Recipient Information

SMITH, MARY A.
Last (Family/Surname) Name, First (Given) Name Middle Initial.

Mary A. Smith
23 Allen Street
Jackson, MS 39203
USA

Email: msmith@bdn.edu
Phone: 1-601-974-3212
Date of Birth: 02/02/1983  Gender: Female
Social Security Number: 8766 (Last 4 digits)

Intended Graduate Major:
Code: 0203
Name: Biology

Most Recent:
Test Date: 12/03/2011  Registration Number: 111111  Print Date: 12/15/2011

RECIPIENT
Inst. Code  Institution Name  Dept. Code  Department Name
1234  ETS UNIVERSITY  0203  BIOLOGY
Sample Score Report: Detailed Score Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Verbal Reasoning*</th>
<th>Quantitative Reasoning*</th>
<th>Analytical Writing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prior Format</td>
<td>Current Format</td>
<td>Prior Format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM/DD/YYYY</td>
<td>Scaled Score</td>
<td>Estimated Current Score</td>
<td>Scaled Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/03/2011</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/01/2009</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>---</td>
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More Test-Taker Friendly for an Enhanced Test Experience

• Questions are more aligned with the types of work students will do in graduate or business school
  – includes more text-based questions and more real-life scenarios
• The test experience is enhanced
  – new functionality, including review, go back, change an answer, etc.
  – test takers can navigate freely within a timed section
• An on-screen calculator will be provided on the Quantitative Reasoning measure*

*For those taking the paper-based GRE revised General Test, calculators will be provided at the test center for use during the test.
Example of Some of the New Features

A merchant made a profit of $5 on the sale of a sweater that cost the merchant $15. What is the profit expressed as a percent of the merchant’s cost?

Give your answer to the nearest whole percent.

Click on the answer box and type in a number. Backspace to erase.
Test Administration

• The GRE® revised General Test will be administered in a secure testing environment on a continuous basis at computer-based test centers around the world

• In Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea, the split-test administration will be replaced with computer-based testing 1-2 times per month

• In areas of the world where the computer-based test is unavailable, paper-based tests will be administered up to 3 times per year
**Important Dates You Need to Know**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>March 15: First day of registration for the revised test</td>
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</table>
| August - September  | • August 1 - First day of testing for the revised test  
|                     | • For tests administered in August and September, scores will be reported starting in early November.                                      |
| October - November  | For tests administered in October and November, check the detailed score reporting schedule on the GRE website                             |
| December            | Score reporting returns to the regular reporting period (10-15 days after test date)                                                       |

Score reports for paper-based administrations will continue to be reported six weeks after test date.
Important Dates You Need to Know (continued)

• Concordance information will appear on the new GRE® score reports and in electronic files through SCORELINK® Internet Delivery Service and CD-ROM, starting in early November

• Concordance tables will also be available on the GRE website at that time
What You Can Do to Get Ready

• Inform your admissions, fellowship and scholarship committees, and faculty and staff about the GRE® revised General Test

• Understand that test scores for all individuals who test between August and October 2011 will be reported starting in November 2011

• Become familiar with the new score scale and have procedures in place to review the new scores when score reporting for the revised test begins in November 2011
  – Keep in mind you will likely receive a higher-than-normal volume of GRE score reports starting in November because of the special score reporting schedule
What You Can Do to Get Ready (continued)

• Review your internal and externally published admissions criteria to allow provisions for the new score scale
  – Update your website to include this information next to your admissions requirements

IMPORTANT: Notify potential applicants that if they need their score reports before November, they should take the current GRE® General Test before August.
Help for You and Your Colleagues

• Monthly eUPDATE newsletter
  – Sign up at www.ets.org/gre/updates

• New Webinar: Getting Ready for the GRE® revised General Test
  – Includes live Q&A session at the end of the webinar
  – Register at www.ets.org/gre/webinar

• An ever-expanding GRE® Infocenter
  – View short videos, brochures, newsletters and other helpful and easy-to-use resources
  – Visit www.ets.org/gre/infocenter

• GRE revised General Test Helpline
  – Contact GREhelpline@ets.org or 1-609-683-2662 if you have immediate questions or needs
What to Tell Potential Applicants

- Test takers who need their scores before November 2011 must take the GRE® General Test before August 2011
- If applicants do not need their score reports until after November, they can take the GRE® revised General Test
- Test takers who take the GRE revised General Test between August 1, 2011 – September 30, 2011 can save 50% off their test fee
- Free test preparation materials are available on the GRE website now

Important: Students need to register early for whichever test they plan to take to get their preferred date and location
Need More Information?

To get the most up-to-date information:

- **GRE® Tests and Services**
  - Visit [www.ets.org/gre/institutions](http://www.ets.org/gre/institutions)

- **GRE® revised General Test**
  - Visit [www.ets.org/gre/infocenter](http://www.ets.org/gre/infocenter)
  - Sign up for the *eUPDATE* newsletter at [www.ets.org/gre/updates](http://www.ets.org/gre/updates)

If you have questions:

- Write to us at [GREhelpline@ets.org](mailto:GREhelpline@ets.org)
- **GRE** Academic Help Line: **1-609-683-2662**
Informational Websites

✓ **GRE®** Tests and Services
  www.ets.org/gre/institutions

✓ **GRE®** revised General Test Information Center
  www.ets.org/gre/infocenter

✓ **ETS®** Personal Potential Index
  www.ets.org/ppi

✓ **GRE®** Search Service
  www.ets.org/gre/search
Contact Information

✓ GRE® Tests and Services
  gretests@ets.org
  1-609-683-2002 (GRE® Academic Helpline)

✓ ETS® Personal Potential Index
  ppi@ets.org
  1-609-683-2002

✓ GRE® Search Service
  GRESearch@Hobsons-us.com
  1-513-924-3330
Presenter Information

GRE® Presenter – Michelle Hampton
609-683-2187 or mhampton@ets.org
Questions?
APPENDIX
Why Change the Score Scale?

• The new score scale will help institutions make more meaningful and appropriate comparisons between candidates

• The Verbal and Quantitative score scale must change
  – Because there are substantial changes to the test, professional standards (AERA, APA, NCME) require us to change the scale

• The new score scale was selected to balance
  – changes in content
  – new question types
  – the new psychometric model
  – test length
A New Score Report

- Along with introducing the new score scale, there will be a **redesigned GRE® Score Report**, starting in November 2011 (when the first GRE revised General Test scores are released).
- This score report will include concordance information to help score users compare candidates who took the GRE General Test before August 2011 with those who take the GRE revised General Test.
- Information will be included in both the paper reports as well as electronic files through **SCORELINK®** Internet delivery service and CD-ROM.
- Concordance tables will also be available on the GRE website.
Paper-Based GRE® revised General Test

• Will be offered up to three times per year (in October, November and February)
• First paper administration of the revised test is in October 2011
• Will continue to be a linear test
• Will contain most new question types
• Test takers will record their responses in a scannable test book
• ETS calculators will be provided to test takers for use during the Quantitative Reasoning sections
Testing in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea

- Starting in August 2011, we will expand testing and access in these regions
- Split-test administrations (i.e., Analytical Writing section on computer; Verbal and Quantitative sections on paper) will be eliminated and replaced with more frequent testing
- Computer-based administrations will be offered one to two times per month in these regions
- Candidates will now be able to take the entire test all in one day, all on computer
Important Note

• Test takers who need their scores before November 2011 must take the GRE® General Test before August 2011
  – These candidates should register for the current test early to get the date and location of their choice
  – Early planning is important