

GMAT-WORKSHOP

GMAT Focus Edition Preparation Guide

for 4 / 6 / 8+ weeks of preparation

Edition 2026 · Prepared by GMAT-Workshop for the ÖH WU



Preface — About This Guide

“Dear students of the WU Wien,

Let’s face it... the GMAT as an entry barrier for the Master Program of your dreams is nothing someone would welcome with open arms. It is the least you need — in addition to your regular academic tasks and deadlines — to accomplish. Nevertheless, you have to somehow navigate your way through this test towards a result high enough to step into the master program of your choice.

My motivation — together with your ÖH WU colleagues — is to give you the best possible support on your GMAT journey!

As a first step I curated information and personal experiences from 13 years of GMAT coaching into this GMAT preparation guide. This guide should help you — amongst other things — to develop a fitting timeline for your GMAT preparation, give you a compass through the different sources of preparation material that is out there, and make sure you derive the perfect individual preparation strategy for the test.

Your GMAT preparation should be effective — in a way to reach your target score on first attempt — and at the same time efficient — in a way that you use only the necessary time and financial resources for your preparation.

If you have any questions about the information provided here, feel free to contact me (see contact information at the end of this guide) or your ÖH team.

All the best for your GMAT — we know you can do it.

Claus Huber and the ÖH WU Team”



What Is the GMAT — Focus Edition

Format & logistics

Format	Computer-based · Language & Math / Logic
Duration	2h 15min (+ optional 10 min break)
Location	Worldwide in test centers + Online
Register at	At mba.com online registration
Flexibility	Free choice of section order
Overall score	205 – 805 (always ends in 5, e.g. 645, 705, 805; ending on 0 signals the old GMAT format)

A word on section order:

You can decide which section to tackle first. For instance, you might want to start with your strongest section to build momentum. As another approach, candidates often save Verbal for later if reading fatigue is a concern... anyway the right order is always the one that works best for you.

Test sections — equal weight

Section	Format	Questions · Time	Score
Quantitative (Q)	Problem Solving	21 Questions · 45 min	60 – 90
Verbal (V)	Reading Comprehension, Critical Reasoning	23 Questions · 45 min	60 – 90
Data Insights (DI)	MSR, Table, Graphics, Two-Part, Data Sufficiency	20 Questions · 45 min	60 – 90

Scoring System & Strategy

- Each section is scored 60 – 90.**
All three sections carry equal weight in the overall score.
All questions you see in the test will count.
- Total score ends in “5” (Focus Edition only).**
This trailing 5 is the visual marker of the Focus Edition.
Classic GMAT scores ended in 0.
- Score validity: 5 years.**
Your test result is usable for any program admission cycle within that window.
- 645 is the new 700 (90% percentile).**
On the GMAT Exam (Focus Edition), a score of 645 is equivalent to a 700 due to the new score scale.
- Retake rules.**
Up to 5 attempts per rolling 12-month period · max 8 lifetime · minimum 16 days between attempts.

SCORE	MEAN SCORE	PERCENTILE RANKING
805		100%
755		100%
705		98%
655		91%
605		70%
555		48%
505	554.67	27%
455		15%
405		7%
355		3%
305		1%
255		0%
205		0%

Sample Size:	531,520
Standard Deviation:	91.19
Data Period:	2020–2025

What Score Do You Need? — Programs at a Glance

GMAT Focus Edition score expectations across leading European Master programs, with select global Master programs as a benchmark.

Program	School · Country	Avg. accepted	Official min.
WU Vienna · Your home programs			
WU SIMC (Strategy, Innovation & Management Control)	WU Vienna	n/a	565
CEMS MIM (Master's in International Management)	WU Vienna / CEMS	n/a	565
Top European Master programs			
HEC Paris — Master in Management	HEC Paris	640	600
ESSEC — Master in Management	ESSEC Business School	635	600
ESCP — Master in Management	ESCP Business School	605	n/a
LBS — Masters in Management	London Business School	660	n/a
Bocconi — MSc International Management	Università Bocconi	640	n/a
SIM-HSG (Strategy & International Management)	Universität St. Gallen	635	n/a
Mannheim Master in Management (MMM)	Universität Mannheim	615	n/a
IE — Master in Management	IE Business School	635	n/a
ESADE — Master in Management	ESADE Business School	615	n/a
SSE — MSc in Business & Management	Stockholm School of Econ.	655	n/a
LSE — MSc Management	London School of Econ.	675	n/a
Top global Master programs · benchmark			
MIT Sloan — Master of Finance	MIT Sloan	685	n/a
Duke Fuqua — MMS Foundations of Business	Duke Fuqua	595	n/a
NUS — MSc Management	NUS Business School	615	n/a

All scores GMAT Focus Edition (205–805). Sources: official school websites · GMAT Club admit data · MIM Compass. As of Edition 2026.

Check the program of your choice:

This table just provides an overview of the score expectations for some major master programs out there. Always check the programs that you are interested in. What is the minimum expected, but also what is the actual average score of the admitted classes.

The Sections: What You'll Face — At a Glance

Descriptive overview — what is tested.

Quantitative — 21 Questions · 45 min

- All questions are Problem Solving style — the Data Sufficiency format has moved to Data Insights.
- Math content is high-school level: arithmetic, algebra, number properties, word problems, etc.
- The challenge is solving accurately under time pressure and without a calculator (not allowed).

Verbal — 23 Questions · 45 min

- Two question types: Reading Comprehension (passage-based) and Critical Reasoning (short argument analysis).
- Sentence Correction has been removed from the Focus Edition, so no dealing with English grammar anymore.
- The challenge is reading carefully and understanding complex content under time pressure, and not falling for plausible-but-wrong answer choices.

Data Insights — 20 Questions · 45 min

- Five question formats: Data Sufficiency, Multi-Source Reasoning, Table Analysis, Graphics Interpretation, Two-Part Analysis.
- On-screen calculator available in this section only.
- The challenge is integrating multiple pieces of information across tabs, tables, or charts.

Choosing Your Section Order

Three sections, six possible orders, one strategic decision.

General principle

Fresh first. Residual focus last. For instance, start with the section you most want to perform well on while you are freshest. End with the section you can power through on residual focus.

Try different orders during your practice exams — not for the first time in the real test. The final two weeks of prep are the right window to lock in your test-day order.

You confirm the order at the start of the exam — you cannot change it mid-test.

Example orderings (illustrative)

- **As an example — Quant → Verbal → Data Insights.** Popular for math-strong candidates.
- **For instance — Verbal → Quant → Data Insights.** Popular when reading fatigue is a concern.
- **Less common — Data Insights first.** Chosen rarely, for candidates who find DI most demanding.

Pacing: Time Management Is a Core GMAT Skill

Why pacing matters. The GMAT is as much a test of pacing as it is of logic. Falling a few minutes behind might create panic. From day one of prep, do timed sets, always pace yourself. Untimed practice teaches you to find the answer eventually — the GMAT does not reward that.

Quantitative ~2:08 per question (21 Q · 45 min)

- Don't get stuck. After ~3:00 on one question, consider an educated guess and move on.
- Speeding up to below 2 min on easy questions is of value, because it builds a time buffer you can use on harder questions.

Verbal ~1:55 per question (23 Q · 45 min)

- Reading Comprehension passages are shared timewise across multiple questions.
- Pre-read the first question before jumping into the RC passage.
- Always read with an eye on structure.
- Critical Reasoning Questions should be faster to solve.

Data Insights ~2:15 per question (20 Q · 45 min)

- Multi-part questions demand information integration across tabs and tables.
- Calculator available — use it strategically, not for every step, only when needed.
- Data Sufficiency might be faster to solve; MSR might take longer.

Across all sections — three rules that protect your overall score

1. Track milestones during the exam
2. Always finish the section. **Unanswered questions hurt more than wrong ones.**
3. Practice educated guessing. If a question is going nowhere within 3:00, make your best call and move on.

Memorize Your Milestones

The on-screen clock only shows time remaining. Your milestones translate that into “where should I be?”



Memorize. Don't calculate during the exam. Real-time arithmetic from question number and remaining time is unreliable under stress. Memorized checkpoints give a 2-second gut check at every milestone — am I on time, or do I need to act? The exam shows no per-question timer; the section countdown is your only feedback signal.

Ahead of milestone — buffer for end-of-section review

Milestones are just-in-time. To use the 3 edits per section on bookmarked questions, you must beat the milestones throughout. Aim ~1 minute ahead at each checkpoint.

Behind milestone — never skip a full passage

Skip a single question, never an entire RC passage. Choose by personal struggle: a topic you dislike, or a question with no clear approach. Bookmark and move on.

What the screen shows — countdown, bookmarks, edits

One section countdown (min:sec); no per-question timer. The clock turns yellow at 5:00 min left (auto-reappears, cannot dismiss). Bookmarks unlimited; edits capped at 3 per section, meaning you can only change the answers on three questions.

Get Started: Diagnostic & Track Choice

Four steps to your starting line.

Helping you finding the right plan for your preparation:

In order to create an idea for you how much time you should invest in your GMAT preparation in order to get the result you shoot for, I propose here a diagnostic process you can do at the beginning of your GMAT journey. Follow the steps here and then derive if you could be fit for a 4 weeks track or if you need more time for your test prep.

4 steps:

1. **Get roughly familiar with the test.** Do at least a handful of easy questions out of every category.
2. **Take a diagnostic.** Register on mba.com and take an Official Practice Exam under realistic conditions (timed, no interruptions, single session). This is your baseline.
3. **Read it honestly.** Note your total score and each section score. Don't analyze individual questions yet — that comes during the prep phase.
4. **Choose your track.** Match the gap to your target with the three options below (rough guideline). Also consider a self-estimation based on your English and Math foundations.

Prep time track decision based on the gap

Gap to target	Recommended track
Gap \leq 60 points between your diagnostic result and your GMAT target score.	4-Week Sprint Track
Gap 60 – 120 points	6-Week Balanced Track
Gap $>$ 120 points or part-time prep or weaker English / Math foundations	8+-Week Long Track

From day one — start your error log. Far more than a list of mistakes — your error log captures concepts you learned, formulas you applied, why correct answers are correct, recurring patterns, and key insights. Review it twice a week. Detailed methodology in “Error Log & Study Habits”.

The 4-Week Sprint Plan

Four weeks to the test — a tight, demanding schedule.

Who this track is for

For candidates close to target. Three preconditions must all be true:

- Basic math fundamentals are already solid.
- English reading is comfortable at academic level.
- You can dedicate at least 20 hours per week.

If any precondition fails, choose the 6-week or 8+ week track.

- If you have a strong math foundation, you might consider starting at Question 100 of the Official Guide and skipping the first, easier questions.
- No use of extra tutorials — learn only from the answer explanations of the questions.

At a glance — 20+ h / week (intensive, focused, unforgiving)

- Diagnostic baseline and foundations in Week 1.
- Quant & Verbal & DI in the Official Guide done in Weeks 1–2.
- Mixed practice (add material) and weakness drilling in Week 3.
- Focus on speed and weaknesses in Week 4.
- Three or more Official Practice Exams across the prep, at least one every week.

The 4-Week Sprint — Day by Day

Example for orientation. Tight, demanding, no spare days. ~20+ hours/week · 4 Official Practice Exams · Test Day = Sunday of Week 4 · Start OG at Q 100.

Week 1 — Diagnostic & OG Sprint · ~20 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	4h	Diagnostic Exam 1 + Error Log setup
Tu	3h	Quant: OG Q 100-130
We	3h	Quant: OG Q 131-160
Th	3h	Verbal: OG Q 100-130
Fr	3h	Verbal: OG Q 131-160
Sa	3h	DI: OG Q 100-150
Su	1h	Error log review + redo 5 + AI generated practice questions

Output: OG Q 100-160 Q+V · Q 100-150 DI · Pacing focus from day 1.

Week 2 — Complete the OG · ~20 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	4h	Quant: OG Q 161-200 (Quant complete)
Tu	3h	Verbal: OG Q 161-200 (Verbal complete)
We	3h	DI: OG Q 151-200 (DI complete)
Th	3h	Re-do incorrect Q from W1 + AI practice
Fr	3h	Start OG Review workbooks (Quant / Verbal / DI)
Sa	4h	Practice Exam 2 + error analysis
Su	1h	Error log + formula log + AI generated practice questions

Output: OG complete (Q · V · DI) · Exam 2 done · Workbooks / add. material started.

Week 3 — Weakness Drilling & add. Mat. · ~20 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	3h	Error log → top 3 weak · 30 mixed Q timed
Tu	3h	Weakness drill #1 · timed + AI
We	3h	Quant Review workbook (timed)
Th	3h	Weakness drill #2 + AI
Fr	3h	Verbal Review + 45-min Q+V timed
Sa	4h	Practice Exam 3 + error analysis
Su	1h	Error log scan + AI practice on top weakness

Output: Workbooks + weakness drilled with AI · Exam 3 done · Section order locked.

Week 4 — Polish & Simulate · ~17 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	4h	Practice Exam 4 in EXACT test-day conditions
Tu	3h	Top weakness final pass + AI practice
We	3h	Mixed Q · 45-min timed sections
Th	3h	Verbal + DI timed sections + AI on weakness
Fr	3h	Final mixed practice + AI on weakness
Sa	Opt.	Optional: light error log review or rest
Su	—	Test day — breakfast, hydrate, execute

Output: Exam 4 done · Test day execution.

The 6-Week Balanced Plan

Six weeks — the more forgiving path.

Who this track is for

The default for most candidates. Suits candidates with reasonable math and English foundations who want time to:

- consolidate weaknesses without sprint-level intensity,
- keep a part-time job or studies running,
- avoid burnout while still making real progress.
- Starting at Question 1 of the GMAC Official Guide.
- If necessary, use a tutorial book on specific individual weakness topics, or let AI help you with foundations.

At a glance — 12 – 22 h / week (ramps up over time as test day nears)

- Weeks 1–2: Diagnostics and foundations routine (10–12 h/week).
- Weeks 3–4: focused section work (14–16 h/week).
- Weeks 5–6: mixed simulations and review (18–22 h/week).
- Four to Six Official Practice Exams spaced across the prep.

The 6-Week Balanced — Day by Day

Example for orientation. Ramps up over time. 10 → 18 hours/week · 4 Official Practice Exams · Test Day = Sunday of Week 6 · Start OG at Q 1.

Week 1 — Diagnostic & Setup · ~10 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	3h	Diagnostic Exam 1 + Log setup
Tu	2h	Quant: OG Q 1-30
We	2h	Quant: OG Q 31-60
Th	1h	Verbal: OG Q 1-20
Fr	1h	Verbal: OG Q 21-40
Sa	1h	DI: OG Q 1-25
Su	—	Rest · log review + AI gen practice questions

Output: OG Q 1-60 Quant · Q 1-40 Verbal · Q 1-25 DI · Diagnostic done.

Week 2 — Quant + Verbal Sprint · ~12 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	3h	Quant: OG Q 61-100
Tu	2h	Quant: OG Q 101-130
We	2h	Verbal: OG Q 41-80
Th	2h	Verbal: OG Q 81-120
Fr	1h	DI: OG Q 26-50
Sa	2h	Quant: OG Q 131-160 (timed)
Su	—	Rest · log update + AI gen practice questions

Output: OG Q 1-160 Quant · Q 1-120 Verbal · Q 1-50 DI.

Week 3 — Complete the OG + Exam 2 · ~14 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	2h	Quant: OG Q 161-200 (Quant complete)
Tu	2h	DI: OG Q 51-100
We	2h	DI: OG Q 101-160
Th	2h	Verbal: OG Q 121-170
Fr	2h	OG sweep: V 171-200 · DI 161-200
Sa	4h	Practice Exam 2 + analysis
Su	—	Rest · log review + AI gen practice questions

Output: OG complete (Q · V · DI) · Exam 2 done.

Week 4 — Workbooks + Extra Practice · ~18 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	3h	Quant Review (timed)
Tu	3h	Quant Review + AI on weakness
We	2h	Verbal Review (timed)
Th	2h	Verbal Review + AI
Fr	2h	DI Review (timed)
Sa	2h	DI Review + mixed 45-min timed
Su	4h	Practice Exam 3 + analysis

Output: Exam 3 done, workbook practice across all 3 sections.

Week 5 — Weakness + Workbooks + Exam 3 · ~18 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	3h	Top 3 weak areas · 30 mixed + AI
Tu	3h	Weakness drill #1 + AI
We	3h	Quant Review + 45-min timed
Th	3h	Weakness drill #2 + AI
Fr	2h	Verbal & DI Review continued
Sa	4h	Practice Exam 4 + analysis
Su	—	Rest · AI practice on weakness

Output: Exam 4 done · Workbooks + AI weakness work.

Week 6 — Polish & Simulate · ~17 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	4h	Practice Exam 5 (test-day conditions)
Tu	3h	Final pass · top weakness + AI practice
We	3h	Mixed Q · 45-min timed sections
Th	3h	Verbal + DI timed sections + AI
Fr	3h	Final mixed practice + AI on weakness
Sa	Opt.	Optional: light error log review or rest
Su	—	Test day — execute

Output: Exam 5 done · Test day execution.

The 8+-Week Long Track

Eight weeks or more — the foundation-building path.

Who this track is for

For foundation-building or part-time prep. Choose this track if any apply:

- You are preparing alongside a full-time job.
- Math or English foundations need strengthening first.
- You prefer a calmer rhythm to avoid burnout.
- You have a flexible test date.

Big risk: losing momentum — counter with consistent short sessions and monthly mini-deadlines. If necessary, spend more time on foundations and work through tutorials.

At a glance — 8 – 12 h / week (calm, sustained, foundation-building)

- Phase 1 — Diagnostics, Foundations and basic questions (Weeks 1–3).
- Phase 2 — Section by section (Weeks 4–6).
- Phase 3 — Integration (Weeks 7–9).
- Phase 4 — Simulation and taper (Weeks 10+).
- Total volume similar to the 6-week plan, spread out. Feel free to add more volume of material to work through if the gap to your target score feels bigger.

The 8-Week Long Track — Day by Day

Example for orientation. Calm and sustained. 8 → 12 hours/week · 4 Official Practice Exams · Test Day = Sunday of Week 8 · Start OG at Q 1 in Week 2.

Week 1 — Foundations Setup · ~8 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	2h	Diagnostic Exam 1 + Log setup
Tu	1h	Foundation: algebra refresh
We	1h	Foundation: arithmetic, %
Th	1h	Reading skills FT / Economist article
Fr	1h	Quant fundamentals reset
Sa	2h	OG intro chapters · skim
Su	—	Rest

Output: Diagnostic baseline · Foundations refreshed.

Week 2 — Quant + Verbal Sprint Start · ~8 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	2h	Quant: OG Q 1-25
Tu	1h	Quant: OG Q 26-45
We	1h	Verbal: OG Q 1-20
Th	1h	Verbal: OG Q 21-40
Fr	1h	Quant: OG Q 46-80 (timed)
Sa	2h	Verbal: OG Q 41-75 (timed)
Su	—	Rest · log review + AI practice questions

Output: Quant 1-80 · Verbal 1-75.

Week 3 — Verbal Sprint + Quant continued · ~8 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	2h	Quant: OG Q 81-115
Tu	1h	Verbal: OG Q 76-100
We	1h	DI: OG Q 1-15
Th	1h	Quant: OG Q 116-135
Fr	1h	Verbal: OG Q 101-130 (timed)
Sa	2h	Quant: OG Q 136-175 (timed)
Su	—	Rest · log review

Output: Quant 1-175 · Verbal 1-130 · DI 1-15.

Week 4 — Complete the OG + Exam 2 · ~12 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	2h	Quant: OG Q 176-200 (Q done)
Tu	1h	Verbal: OG Q 131-160
We	1h	Verbal: OG Q 161-200 (V done)
Th	1h	DI: OG Q 16-65
Fr	1h	DI: OG Q 66-130
Sa	2h	DI: OG Q 131-200 (D done)
Su	4h	Practice Exam 2 + analysis

Output: Exam 2 done + OG complete (Q · V · DI).

Week 5 — Quant Review Workbook + Exam 3 · ~14 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	2h	Quant Review (timed)
Tu	2h	Quant Review + AI on weakness
We	2h	Mixed Quant timed sets
Th	2h	Verbal Review (workbook)
Fr	1h	DI Review (workbook)
Sa	1h	Error log scan + AI practice
Su	4h	Practice Exam 3 + analysis

Output: Exam 3 done + add. Mat. started.

Week 6 — Workbooks + Exam 4 · ~14 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	2h	Verbal Review (timed)
Tu	2h	DI Review (timed)
We	2h	Verbal mixed (use AI if helpful)
Th	2h	Quant maintenance + AI
Fr	2h	Error log scan + AI practice
Sa	4h	Practice Exam 4 + analysis
Su	—	Rest · log review

Output: Workbook practice + Exam 4 done.

Week 7 — Weakness + Workbooks + Exam 5 · ~14 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	2h	Top 3 weak areas · 25 mixed + AI
Tu	2h	Weakness drill #1 + AI
We	2h	Mixed 45-min sections
Th	2h	Weakness drill #2 + AI
Fr	2h	Error log scan + AI practice
Sa	4h	Practice Exam 5 + analysis
Su	—	Rest · log scan

Output: Exam 5 done · AI weakness work.

Week 8 — Polish & Simulate + Exam 6 · ~13 h

Day	Hours	Focus
Mo	4h	Practice Exam 6 (test-day conditions)
Tu	2h	Final weakness pass + AI practice
We	2h	Mixed Q · 45-min timed sections
Th	2h	Verbal + DI timed sections + AI
Fr	2h	Final mixed practice + AI
Sa	Opt.	Optional: light review or rest
Su	—	Test day — execute

Output: Exam 6 done · Test day execution.

Important Methodology: Error Log & Study Habits

How you practice matters more than how much you practice.

Your single most important habit: the error log

Far more than a list of mistakes. Your error log is the single most valuable artefact of your preparation. Build it from day one. Maintain it religiously. Review it twice a week.

What to log:

- Every question you got wrong — and why.
- Every correct question that you were uncertain about answering.
- Every correct question that took you significantly more than 2 min to solve.
- Concepts you learned or relearned.
- Formulas and solution logic that get you below 2 min.
- Recurring patterns you start to notice.
- Key insights about question types or traps.

Consistency over intensity

Five focused 90-minute sessions across the week consistently outperform one 8-hour weekend-only marathon. The GMAT rewards habitual pattern recognition, built through repetition.

Practice with the clock

From day one — or after you finish foundations — work in timed sets. Untimed practice teaches you to find the answer eventually; the GMAT does not reward that. Pacing is itself a skill to train.

Review regularly — at least twice a week. Let AI create exercise questions based on this.

Your Error Log in Practice

Three real entries showing what to capture and how it accumulates.

Consider six fields per entry in your error log:

Treat every entry as a self-contained memory aid.

- **Source** — book / test + question number of the problem you struggle with.
- **Topic** — 1-line subject or short recap of the question.
- **Method / Formula** — the right approach; write formulas, describe the correct concept.
- **What went wrong** — your specific mistake, in your own words, to avoid repeating your mistake.
- **Insight / Trigger** — a phrase that signals this approach if it exists at this type of problem.
- **Time** — how long the question took you.

Also log right-but-slow questions (>2 min) — hidden weak points. Digital or handwritten is up to you, whichever you actually can work best with.

Error Log example entries

OG · PS #142 · Combinatorics · 3:45

Selecting a committee. Q: *In how many ways can a 4-person committee be selected from 10 people?*

- **Method:** $C(n,k) = n!/(k! \cdot (n-k)!)$ → $C(10,4) = 10!/(4! \cdot 6!) = 210$.
- **Wrong:** Used $10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 = 5,040$ — treated the choice as ordered.
- **Insight:** “Committee / team / group” = combination (order doesn’t matter).
-

OG · CR #43 · CR — Assumption · 2:35

Streetlights and crime. Q: *City installs more streetlights → crime drops. Therefore lighting reduces crime.*

- **Method:** Negation test on each candidate; the assumption is what MUST be true.
- **Wrong:** Picked a strengthener (similar effect elsewhere) instead of a necessary assumption.
- **Insight:** Assumption ≠ Strengthen. Negate it — if the argument breaks, it’s the assumption.
-

OG · PS #205 · Probability · 2:50

At least one head. Q: *What is the probability of getting at least one head in 5 coin flips?*

- **Method:** $P(\text{at least one}) = 1 - P(\text{none})$ → $1 - (1/2)^5 = 31/32$.
- **Wrong:** Added $P(1) + P(2) + \dots + P(5)$ — slow and error-prone.
- **Insight:** “At least one” → think complement first. Faster, fewer arithmetic slips.

From error log to formula sheet. Weeks of logged formulas and insights condense into a personal formula sheet with one AI prompt. Feed your error log into Claude → ask for a 1-page formula sheet tuned to your weaknesses.

Preparation Material: Your Compass — The Must-Haves

What to buy, what to use, in which order.

The bible of GMAT preparation: GMAT Official Guide 2025–2026 (GMAC / Wiley)

The only authentic source of real retired GMAT questions. Indispensable. Non-negotiable. If your budget allows, get the full bundle including the additional section reviews. If not, the main Official Guide is the absolute minimum.

Money saver: buying a recent used edition (the 2024–2025 edition also works) or reselling your copy after the test is a legitimate way to keep costs down — just verify the included online code is still valid before buying used.

Bundle price:



Edition 2026/2027 — 95,54 € · Edition 2025/2026 — 83,70 €.

Highly recommended additions — section-specific Official Reviews

- Official Guide Quantitative Review.
- Official Guide Verbal Review.
- Official Guide Data Insights Review.
- Each adds 150–275 extra questions in its respective section.

Your scoring signal — Official Practice Exams

- Exams 1 & 2 — FREE with your mba.com account (must-have).
- Exams 3–6 — paid, closest to real test conditions (recommended).
- Plan three or more across your prep: baseline, mid-prep, final simulation.
- Don't burn through them in the first week.

What to avoid — less trustworthy material

- Third-party “real-feel” tests as primary scoring signal.
- Random YouTube tutorials without clear pedagogy.
- Pre-2024 books still based on the Classic GMAT.
- Aggressively-marketed “score guarantee” courses.

The Major Prep Companies — A Quick Assessment

Beyond the Official Guide — an honest take on the names that come up most often.

Manhattan Prep — conceptual depth

- Explanations of why a question works often go deeper than the Official Guide.
- Useful as a back-up when official explanations feel too compressed.
- They offer really great tutorial books for different foundations.
- Now operates as “Manhattan Prep powered by Kaplan” — Kaplan 800 (advanced practice) still in the lineup.

Target Test Prep — Quant specialist

- Particularly well-regarded for candidates whose weakness is the Quant section.
- Subscription model with affordable monthly access to extensive Quant material.
- Less depth on Verbal — pair with another source if Verbal is your weak point.

e-GMAT — Verbal & non-native specialist

- 2,800+ verified GMAT Club reviews — widely regarded as the dominant Verbal provider.
- Particularly strong for non-native English speakers; AI-driven Critical Reasoning & RC tools.
- Quant depth less developed than TTP — pair with TTP or the Official Guide if Quant is weak.

GMAT Club Forum — community resource

- A large free forum with question discussions, score calculators, and study buddies.
- Use as a second-opinion source and motivator — not a primary curriculum.
- Don't lose too much time here. Threads can be deep rabbit holes.

Cost framing. A thorough preparation typically costs €100–300 in materials new, or considerably less used. Spending much less usually means insufficient practice volume; spending much more usually means you have been oversold. Coachings and live workshops / trainings can be a super useful investment if needed.

Overview: GMAT Focus Prep Providers

Beyond the Official Guide. Assessment basis: score-verified reviews on GMAT Club & Beat The GMAT as well as my own experience.

A · Complete solutions (course + platform + questions)

Provider	Strength	Weakness	Recommendation	Rating
Target Test Prep (TTP)	Top GMAT Club course. Structured platform, 4,000+ Q + AI coach. 130-day guarantee.	Verbal mixed; little DI material.	First choice for Quant weakness + self-study.	★★★★★
e-GMAT	2,800+ GMAT Club reviews. Dominant Verbal, strong for non-natives. AI tools.	Weaker Quant depth than TTP.	Best for non-natives & Verbal/DI; complementary to TTP.	★★★★☆
Manhattan Prep	Gold-standard live courses. 99th-percentile instructors. 6 focus mocks.	Price \$300–1,800 USD depending on format.	For live-class lovers; best third-party book series.	★★★★☆
Magoosh	Cheapest serious provider (~\$350). Clear videos, mobile-friendly.	Question quality not always at official level.	Entry-level for tight budgets; complement with official mocks.	★★★★☆
GMAT Ninja	Best free resource. 45+ hours CR videos, 2M+ Verbal views, DI playlist.	No tracking / task system (pure video).	Free supplement, especially for Verbal & DI.	★★☆☆☆

B · Books & online question banks (no courses / apps)

Provider	Strength	Weakness	Recommendation	Rating
Manhattan “All the GMAT”	Strategy foundation Quant & DI. Books: Foundations of Math, Advanced Quant.	—	Best book series alongside the Official Guide.	★★★★★
PowerScore CR Bible	Most comprehensive CR resource (~\$31). Edition 2021/22, content stable.	CR only — no other sections.	Go-to for Critical Reasoning, especially non-natives.	★★★★★
Princeton Review – GMAT Focus Premium Prep	One of few publishers with “Focus” in title (35th Ed. 2024; new 2026).	Less depth than Manhattan.	Solid all-rounder book.	★★★★☆
GMAT Club Tests / Question Bank	Largest online Q-bank. Quant & DI excellent, GMAT-near UI, partially free.	Verbal less close to the Official Guide.	Best online practice supplement for Quant/DI.	★★★★☆

Modern Tools – Use AI for GMAT Training

A serious accelerator for understanding mistakes and generating targeted practice — used well.

Primary recommendation · Claude Pro

Claude Opus 4.7 — currently one of the strongest reasoning models for GMAT-style work (May 2026).

Claude Pro (Anthropic, ~€20/month) gives access to the most capable model versions. For the most demanding tasks — explaining tricky errors, dissecting Critical Reasoning, generating high-quality variation questions — Claude Opus is the go-to. Claude is particularly strong on structured logical reasoning and patient step-by-step explanation, which fits GMAT-style questions exceptionally well.

Also viable: ChatGPT Plus · Gemini Advanced — paid models also recommended over the free versions, since they provide the better reasoning model versions.

Six ways to use AI for your GMAT prep.

1. **Explain mistakes.** Paste the question + your wrong answer. Ask the AI for the correct path AND the trap you fell into.
2. **Generate exercise questions.** Ask for 3–5 similar-style questions when a type keeps tripping you. Drill the pattern.
3. **Tutor on confusing concepts.** “Explain probability of compound events three ways, simplest first.” Better than a textbook.
4. **Sparring on Critical Reasoning.** Write your analysis first, then have the AI critique it — not just give the answer.
5. **Personalized review summaries.** Dump session notes; ask for a key-concept summary plus a quiz. Spaced repetition built in.
6. **Personal formula log.** Feed your error log; ask for a one-page formula sheet tuned to your weaknesses.

Important caveats. AI is not authoritative — always cross-check against the OG. AI does not replace timed practice — keep the majority of practice in official, timed conditions. AI-generated questions = drill, not scoring signal.

How AI Helps with GMAT Preparation

Seven concrete use cases — each with an example prompt.

1. Generate practice questions

Based on a question that gave you trouble, AI creates similar ones — same logic, variable difficulty.

Example prompt:

“Here is a question I found challenging. Understand the underlying tested concept and create 5 similar questions of the same type with increasing difficulty.”

2. Get solutions explained

Step-by-step walkthrough of the solution path — at the level you actually need it.

Example prompt:

“Explain the solution path for this question step by step, as if I had never seen the concept before. Your explanation must fit the conditions of a GMAT test taker (no calculator, done in 2 min).”

3. Build error log & formula sheet

AI structures your mistakes and distills them into a compact, personalized formula and rules collection.

Example prompt:

“From these questions I had wrong, extract the relevant correct formulas and rules into a compact summary.”

4. Diagnose weak patterns

From a batch of wrong answers, AI identifies recurring mistake patterns and prioritizes what to work on first.

Example prompt:

“Here are 10 questions I got wrong, with my wrong answers, the correct answers and solution paths. Find recurring mistake patterns and prioritize.”

6. Dissect Critical Reasoning

AI explicitly names premise, conclusion, hidden assumption, and the logical flaw — the meta-knowledge that cracks CR questions.

Example prompt:

“Break this CR question into premise / conclusion / hidden assumption and explain why each answer choice falls.”

7. Have distractors explained

Not just why the right answer is right — but why each wrong option is wrong. Especially useful in the Verbal area.

Example prompt:

“For each wrong answer choice, explain what thinking mistake leads someone to pick it.”

Important: Know the limits of AI

AI is a tutor and sparring partner — not a source of official answers. It occasionally miscalculates on Quant and produces non-GMAT-grade questions. Always continue practicing with the GMAC Official Guide and mba.com material.

Registration & Booking

How to sign up — step by step.

Plan early — leave room for a second attempt. Book your test date with enough buffer for a possible retake. If your application deadline is in March, schedule your first attempt 3–4 weeks earlier. That way, if your score lands below target, you have time for a 16-day waiting period plus a second sitting before the deadline.

1. **Create an account on mba.com.** The official GMAT registration site. Free to register.
2. **Complete your profile.** Name must match exactly your government-issued ID.
3. **Choose your format.** Onsite Test Center (~\$275) or Online (~\$300). Same exam, same scoring.
4. **Pick a date and time.** For onsite centers, book 4–6 weeks ahead — longer during May–October peak.
5. **Pay and confirm.** Save the confirmation email and the appointment details.

Reschedule & cancel fees — plan with a small buffer

Timing before test	Fee / refund
More than 60 days	Small reschedule fee · partial refund
15 – 60 days	Moderate reschedule fee
Less than 14 days	Highest reschedule fee · minimal refund
Within 24 hours	No changes possible

Test Day Playbook

From the evening before to the final question — what to do, what to avoid.

Day & evening before — set yourself up

- Review your route to the test centre — or organise no disturbance at home for the online format.
- Lay out clothes, ID, and the bag you will take.
- Set two alarms for the morning (if relevant).
- Eat a balanced dinner you tolerate well.
- Avoid screens for the last 60 minutes before bed.
- Aim for 7–8 hours of sleep — sleep is the strongest performance lever you have left.

The morning of — arrive ready

- Real breakfast — carbs and protein, not just coffee.
- Hydrate — but not so much you regret it mid-section.
- Arrive 30 minutes early at the centre, or log in 30 minutes early online.
- Bring valid government-issued ID. Name must match the registration exactly.
- Confirm your section order in your head one last time.

During the test — stay calm, stay in motion

- Stay calm — a single hard question or weak section doesn't decide your score. Panic does.
- Mark and move. After ~3 minutes on one question: educated guess, bookmark, move on.
- Don't carry one section into the next. Reset (breath, eyes closed) at every transition.
- Don't second-guess without new information. Change a bookmarked answer only when you spot a clear error.
- Take the optional 10-min break. Stand up, stretch, drink water — not last-minute drilling.
- Eyes on milestones, not the clock. Only check the time at quarter-section markers.
- Three edits per section — spend them on bookmarked items only.

What Past Candidates Wish They'd Known

Real reflections from candidates who have taken the test — your blind-spots, condensed.

On Data Insights *“The DI section’s small question count actually makes it harder — every wrong answer weighs more on your score than in Quant or Verbal.” (Past candidate)*

Stay calm mid-test *“Don’t panic when a section feels off. Your gut can deceive you — sometimes you’re scoring better than it feels in the moment.” (Past candidate)*

On daily practice *“Don’t block-train. Mix Quant, Verbal and DI questions every day — that’s how you stay sharp across all three sections, not just one.” (Past candidate)*

Online proctor reality *“I was constantly interrupted because my face or shoulders drifted out of the camera frame. Go to a test centre — or sit very still.” (Past candidate)*

Review & Edit feature *“Don’t change a bookmarked answer without new information — first instinct is usually right. Practise using Review & Edit before test day.” (GMAT Club community)*

Section order *“There is no universal best order. Try several on practice exams and lock yours in by the final week — don’t decide it test-day.” (GMAT Club community)*

Quant vs. mocks *“Quant on the real test felt harder than on the official mocks — wording reads trickier under pressure. Don’t bank your prep on mock Q scores.” (GMAT Club community)*

Don’t downplay RC *“Reading Comprehension is roughly 10 of 23 Verbal questions across 3–4 passages. Each one carries real weight — train RC pacing as hard as Critical Reasoning.” (GMAT Club community)*

Strategic skips *“Top scorers routinely skip 2 of every 7 questions and reinvest the time. Don’t burn five minutes on a single problem to feel honest about it.” (GMAT Club community)*

Compiled from coaching feedback and recurring themes on the GMAT Club community.

Frequently Asked Questions

Quick answers to the most common practical questions.

Q. How long is my score valid?

Five years from the test date.

Q. How many times can I retake the GMAT?

Up to 5× per rolling 12-month period, max 8× lifetime, minimum 16 days between attempts.

Q. Can I send my score after the test?

Yes — 5 free score reports if selected within 48h of release; additional reports ~\$35 each.

Q. Onsite or online — which is “easier”?

Neither. Same questions, same scoring. Choose based on your concentration environment and whether you can guarantee a quiet, distraction-free room with stable internet for 2.5h.

Q. Can I cancel my score after seeing it?

Yes — immediately after the test or within 72h. Canceled scores don't appear on reports sent to programs. Reinstate within 4y 11m for a fee.

Q. When should I start preparing?

At least 4 weeks before test day, ideally 6–8, longer if foundations need building. Book the test first, then prepare toward a fixed date.

Q. When do I get my official score?

Unofficial scores show immediately after the test. The Official Score Report typically arrives within 3–5 business days.

Q. How does the Focus score compare to the old GMAT (200–800)?

Direct number comparison misleads: 645 (Focus) ≈ 700 (Classic). For competitive comparison across editions, percentiles are more reliable than absolute scores.

Q. What does my percentile mean?

It shows the percentage of test takers you outperformed — not the percentage of questions you got right. A 645 typically corresponds to roughly the 90th percentile.

Q. Is a calculator allowed?

On-screen calculator only in the Data Insights section. None in Quantitative or Verbal. No physical calculator is permitted anywhere in the exam.

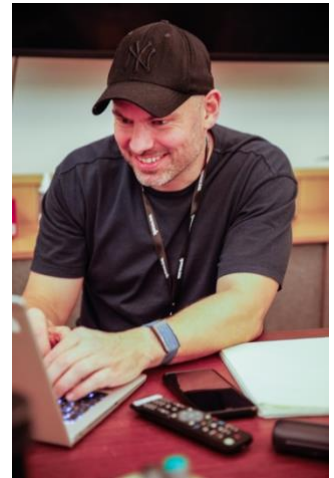
About GMAT-Workshop: Your Coach.

13 years of GMAT coaching, distilled into structured workshops and 1:1 coaching.

Claus Huber, MBA — GMAT Coach & Founder

Coaching GMAT candidates since 2012, with over thousand students prepared across DACH universities and China.

- Education:** Physics at TU München ·
MBA at Universität St. Gallen & ESADE ·
Exec Education at Stanford & INSEAD.
- Career:** German automotive Industry (Audi, Mercedes, VW China).
Lecturer in Strategic Management.
- GMAT:** Workshops at WU Vienna, Mannheim, HHL Leipzig,
St. Gallen, WHU, EBS, Univ. of Augsburg



Primary offering · 2-day workshop

Comprehensive 2-day course. All sections, all question types, all difficulty levels — together. Live methodology + strategy applied on real GMAT-style questions.

Complete GMAT Focus coverage:

- **Quantitative** — 9 thematic blocks (Rate, Ratios, Probability & more).
- **Verbal** — CR frameworks (8 question types) + RC strategies.
- **Data Insights** — All 5 question types — DS, MSR, Table, Graphics, Two-Part.

Individual coaching · 1:1

- Personalised to your weak areas and concrete score target.
- Hourly or package-based, delivered online via video.
- Workshop follow-up or standalone path.

Upcoming at WU Vienna

Workshop dates 2026 / 2027: July 2026 · November 2026 · February 2027.

For more information: visit the ÖH WU homepage — oeh-wu.at

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