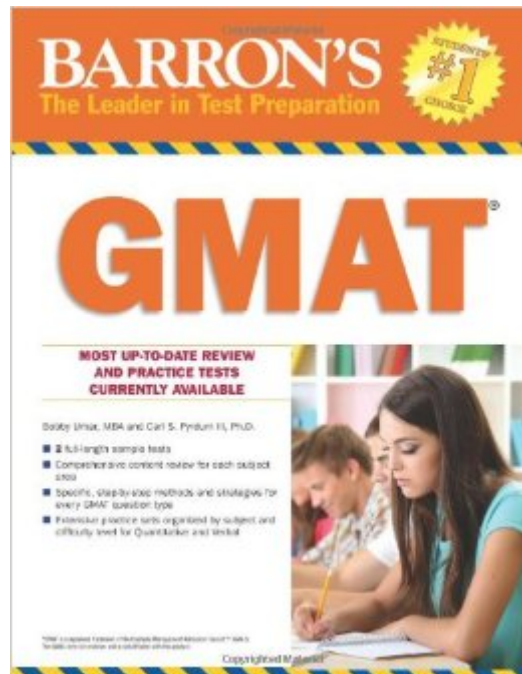


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# Barron's GMAT



## Synopsis

Barron's brand-new GMAT is a game-changer, designed to give you the best balance in both the depth of content and breadth of strategies. Written by two of North America's leading GMAT experts and award-winning instructors, this completely revised new book gives you the confidence to tackle every GMAT problem. You will know what to expect, what theory each question tests, what strategies you have in your arsenal and the step-by-step processes to get the correct answer quickly and efficiently. This new book provides a comprehensive review of all four content areas on the GMAT. Most importantly, it offers solid strategies for managing the particular challenges presented by this high-stakes, computer adaptive exam. For each of the GMAT sections (Verbal, Quantitative, Integrated Reasoning, and the Analytical Writing Assessment), Barron's GMAT provides:

- Diagnostic Skills Tests--initial quizzes that accurately and quickly assess strengths and weaknesses within a topic area
- Targeted Review Questions--additional questions for the frequent problem subject areas (probability, parallelism, data sufficiency) allowing test-takers to focus on their specific needs
- Strategic Step-by-Step Methods--approaches to each question type field tested by the authors on a wide range of test-takers with differing abilities and goals
- Full-Range Content--questions, strategies, and tips for all test-takers, whether they are aiming for a 70th or 95th percentile score, studying while undergrads or after years in the business world

Barron's GMAT includes more strategies, theory, and methodologies than any other stand-alone GMAT book on the market! All questions in the manual come with answers and explanations. The book is also available with an optional CD-ROM, which presents additional questions in all four test areas, also with included answers and explanations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I found Barron's GMAT to be just excellent. The author takes a measured approach to the subject and thoroughly explains the mechanics of preparing for and studying for the GMAT exam. I thought the early chapters on how the GMAT test is designed were very helpful and provided a great background to what the GMAT's are really about. Also, the strategies for dealing with the various types of questions was extremely helpful. The author discusses the little "tricks" that the examiners use when producing the questions. It was somewhat encouraging to learn that many of the math questions do not require tedious solving but have easier ways of being solved as long as you read the questions carefully and use some logic as you approach and answer the question. Tips on how to manage your time are given. Overall this book is not only a great guide to preparing for the GMAT, but also a mini-refresher for people who are a little rusty with their arithmetic, algebra, geometry and statistics skills. Many sample questions are presented along with detailed analysis of how to approach the question and arrive at the correct answer. Plenty of tips along the way for dealing with "trick" questions. There are 2 full-length practice GMAT tests towards the back of the book. I wouldn't think of taking the GMAT without having first read this book.

While I have used Barron's test prep in the past (for the SAT) and was pleased with the program, this book seems to have not been proof-read prior to publication. I am not a mathematics expert (hence why I purchased this book), but this book is riddled with mathematical errors. There are errors on pages 91, 108, 112, 183, 197, 212, 213, 215. I am only on page 221 of this book and am beginning to doubt whether or not there was an editor. In fact, I am starting to think that this book was written at 3 am between double shots of espresso. Lest you doubt my claims that there are errors, allow me to give examples of them. Page 197 claims that  $49/3 = 18 \frac{1}{3}$ . Page 213 loses a 6 in the denominator of an equation with no explanation. Page 215 states that  $70 = 28 + X$  and that  $X = 56$ . The nitty gritty: this book has good tips for test taking, hence the two stars. But if you are a person who likes to really study these test books to learn how to take a test, you may drive yourself crazy trying to figure out what you did wrong on a problem when, in fact, there is an error in the text.

While the idea of "teaching to the test" is not something that educators at any level like to do,

sometimes pragmatism trumps principle -- especially for standardized gatekeeper-type exams for advanced degree programs. When it comes to the GMAT, the multiple sections of the tests call for strategies and tactics tailored to each component -- not unlike the diverse components of the heptathlon. In both cases, effective preparation calls for studying the route, educating yourself on the possible pitfalls and distractions, building stamina and endurance, and becoming attuned to what the judges are seeking. By removing variables and preparing mentally, you provide yourself with ways to clear obstacles from your path and make your test results as competitive as possible. At 747 intensive pages, this book is a single-source preparation manual that encompasses everything from describing the philosophy of the test and how to prepare to practice problems and two full-length sample tests. The authors address how this style of test may impact your mindset, and offer advice on how to avoid getting distracted or discouraged. Particularly helpful is their advice on gauging the "discomfort zone" that is on the upper end of your confidence level in the adaptive sections of the test. They follow this up by explaining how practice and familiarity can help you nudge that upper range higher. "[H]ow well you can recognize and manage your discomfort zone will determine how high your score can go," they note. They provide ways to identify patterns and predictability within the test. In addition, they help you to understand the reasoning behind each section of the test and what measurements each section is gathering. They also address such practical matters as practicing with homemade materials resembling the ones you will be limited to during the test, and replicating test conditions as closely as you can. In addition to generalities such as time management and how scoring is calculated, they provide specific strategies and tactics for each section of the test. They dissect how to identify what is being asked, as well as understanding what sort of answer is desired. This is especially helpful for the essay (AWA) section of the test. The overview of the various sections of the test includes a description of how the adaptive sections play out, since they function differently than other standardized tests you may have taken in the past. The initial questions predict the test-taker's skill level and the testing algorithm fine-tunes that prediction by offering questions at that level, and requiring that the test-taker demonstrate content knowledge by answering several questions correctly before ramping up the difficulty of the questions. Here's an example of how the authors not only provide advice, but explain why it matters. They debunk a number of myths about the GMAT, including the one that maintains you are best off by spending relatively more time on earlier questions. Doing so doesn't necessarily mean you'd get more of them right than you would otherwise, they say, and it may cost you the time you could have used to complete as many of the questions in the section as possible. They note that the score-calculation algorithm makes it more costly to miss answering a question than it is to answer a

question incorrectly. With the publisher's retail price of this book currently at less than 10 percent of the cost of one session of the GMAT, this book is a sound investment if you are able to commit the time to process the strategies and work through the questions over the span of several weeks so that you will be able to reinforce and encode the authors' strategies and tactics. If your prep time is briefer, the book should still help you perform triage, although less effectively than if you had a longer span of time to prepare.

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