

## Quantitative Reasoning

2 sections: 35 min & 20 questions each

Types of questions:

- Quantitative Comparison
  - Choices are always:
    - A) Quantity A is greater
    - B) Quantity B is greater
    - C) The two quantities are equal
    - D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given
  - If the quantities only involve numbers eliminate choice D “The relationship cannot be determined from the information given”
  - Plugging in method: Always pick 2 easy and opposite numbers such as 2 & -2 or 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  (+/- or whole # and fraction). (Avoid 0 and 1 bc they have special properties)
  - Always try to make the quantities look the same. Always do the same thing to both sides!
  - Never assume, rely only on what you know, figures aren't always drawn to scale
  - Don't forget other possibilities ( $\sqrt{4} = \pm 2$ )
  - Don't fall for look alikes!
- Problem Solving
  - Some questions will have one or multiple answers
    1. RTFQ x2: read the question carefully! Before you look at answer choices figure out what are you trying to find and what kind of answer do you expect (estimate).
    2. Pick a method
      - Straight forward math (not the quickest, there is usually an easier trick)
      - Pick numbers and plug in (difficult looking problems)
      - Back Solve \*notice the choices are in numerical order\*
        - Start with choice B or D
        - If B is too large it is A, if B is too small check D
        - If D is too large it is C.
      - Strategic Guessing, process of elimination
    3. Check that your answer makes sense with your estimate and answers the correct question.
- Data Interpretation
  - Some questions will have one or multiple answers
  - Take your time to look at the title, scale, notes, and key on figures
  - Don't be afraid to touch the computer screen, put your finger on the values you need

Concepts Covered:

- Percentages: helps to memorize the decimal # and fraction equivalents of common %s

These strategies and tips are taken directly from Kaplan's *GRE Premier 2015*, 2014 Edition.

- Simultaneous equations: Use combination method first, then substitution if that won't work)
- Symbolism: Don't freak out, they're easy substitution!
- Special triangles: Memorize!
- Multiple and oddball figures: know your area formulas
- Mean, median, mode and range=average, middle, most, big-small
- Probability: # desired outcomes/# possible outcomes

General strategies:

- Always guess
- Skip often
- Always use scratch paper
- Questions are not intended to do lots of complex math, look for the shortcuts
- Don't rely on a calculator in practice. You will only have access to a basic on screen one
- Process of elimination!
- Always factor or unfactor
- Don't get caught watching the time! Hide it if you find yourself stressing over the time