

a. Reading Comprehension

GRE Reading Comprehension is the most significant part of GRE Verbal Reasoning.

The question types in this section are:

i) Main Idea Question

Main idea questions ask you to identify the main idea or the primary purpose behind the passage that is given.

Example questions are:

In this passage, the author is primarily concerned with...?

Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the given argument?

ii) Tone of the author Questions

Considered as a tricky question by many students, tone of the author questions ask you identify the tone of the author, or the passage.

Examples include:

The author's attitude towards contemporary cinema can be best described as...?

The passage regards the idea of modern artistic activity with...?

iii) Specific Fact Questions

These are the questions that ask you to spot information that is specifically included as a fact or truth.

Specific fact questions will often be consequential in nature. They usually look like this:

The author refers to 'example phrase' in line 5, primarily in order to... ?

According to the passage, the critics considered the ideas found in the novelist's work to be... ?

iv) Implied Questions

Implied questions ask you, as a reader, to identify an idea which is suggested or implied, either directly or indirectly. For example, an implied question looks like this:

It can be inferred from the passage that, in evaluating the scientist's theory, some of the critics were....?

The passage suggests that if the predictions of the geological department were to be true, it would be....?

v) Structural Questions

Structural questions, as the name suggests, ask you to identify the technique, or the writing style adopted by the author, in presenting facts or views. For example:

Which of the following best describes the structure of the passage?

Which of the following best describes the organization of the lines 17 through 23?

vi) Extrapolation Questions

Widely regarded as the most twisted of all Reading Comprehension questions, extrapolation questions require you to extrapolate or compare the author's ideas to other situations, including situations that are analogous. In order to answer this type of questions, you must go beyond what is stated in the passage, draw an inference from the passage, and then match it with the situations given in the answer choices. Example questions are:

Which of the following situations is most closely analogous to the situation described by the author as an irony, in lines 11 and 12?

Which of the following describes a situation that is analogous to the situation described in the second paragraph?

vii) Negative or Exception Questions

These are the questions that ask you which of the given answer choices is not true according to the author or the passage, or which of the answer choices with which the author of the passage would not agree. Examples are:

The passage states all of the following about mitochondria, except?

The author asserts that technology has led us do all of the following miraculous experiments, except?

viii) Contextual/Definition of a term or word Questions

These are the questions that test your ability to work out the meaning of an unfamiliar word, based on context within the passage. For example:

As it is used in the passage, the term ‘convivial’ can be best described as?

The term ‘inchoate’, used by the author in line 18, refers to?

b. Reading Comprehension argument(Critical Reasoning)

Here you will be presented with an argument (consider it a short passage) and your ability to reason critically will be put on test. The six most common types of question are:

Weaken/Strengthen

Evaluate Argument

Paradox

Assumption

Bold-faced

Fill in the Blank

c. Text completion

This one tests your lexical resources. You will have a text with one blank, two blanks or three blanks. If there is one blank you will have five options, and if you have two or three blanks you will have six and nine options respectively but with clear indication of what options go to which blank.

Sample question:

- This composer has never courted popularity: her rugged modernism seems to
defy rather than to _____ the audience.
 - Ignore
 - Woo
 - Discount
 - Teach
 - Cow

The figure-skating pair's convincing victory last week was particularly (i)

_____ to their rivals, who were in peak form and complained privately about the judging. That the pair won when their rivals were (ii) _____ too is also impressive.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. Unsurprising | c. terrific |
| b. Irksome | d. nervous |
| c. Gratifying | e. inconsistent |

d. Sentence Equivalence

The approach is similar to TC, just that you need to select a pair of answers. Here you will have six option choices from which you will select two synonymous words.

Sample:

Biologists agree that snakes descended from lizards, but exactly where this first happened has been a matter of debate since the 1800s, when two _____ theories emerged.

- complex
- competing
- dubious
- conclusive
- contending
- irrefutable

*Note for TC with multiple blanks and SE there is no partial scoring, you have to get them all correct.